

Science Fiction Films

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- **Perennially popular genre holds a unique fascination for cinemagoers**
- **Many of the all-time greatest box-office hits are science fiction films**
- **By definition the most imaginative of genres**
- **A concise and entertaining introduction to/overview of SF movies**

What is Science Fiction? Although the term was coined in the 1920s, no comprehensive definition exists. Perhaps this is because science fiction's canvas is the infinite universe of ideas and the imagination. It facilitates extrapolation from contemporary reality to paint new and fascinating realities – different worlds, different races, utopias, dystopias, far futures, alternative histories, parallel presents.

It is entirely appropriate that this popular literary genre should have grown and developed alongside the fledgling medium of film; its unique sense of wonder has been memorably translated to the screen many times down the years. The fact is, science fiction and cinema were made for each other. This book examines their intense love affair over the past century, from the glorious to the odious, the excellent to the execrable, the cathartic to the catastrophic.

As well as an introductory essay, the *Pocket Essentials Guide to Science Fiction Films* chronicles and discusses the vast spectrum of SF movies: from *Metropolis* to *The Matrix*; *Things To Come* to *The Thing From Another World*; *Brazil* to *Blade Runner*; *Dark Star* to *Star Wars*; *2001* to *CE3K*. Seminal films are analysed and rated. Turkeys are defeathered. Hollywood blockbusters, international flavours, experimental (space) oddities, low-budget curios, animation, humour, parody – no star is left unturned

John Costello is a Film and Media Studies lecturer and screenwriter. He has written *Pocket Essentials* on *David Cronenberg*, *Writing A Screenplay* and *Science Fiction Films*.



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