



version of VIDEOHOUND's 1996 SCI-FI EXPERIENCE: YOUR QUANTUM GUIDE. The earlier book came in at 464 pages; Barsanti's update tops off at 510 pages. Barsanti's book reviews almost 1,000 sci-fi movies ranging "from the trashy to the epic, from the classics to day's blockbusters." Coverage includes movie and television flicks. Each title has very basic production info and a summary/review. Write-ups range in length from a 1/4 to a 1/2 page. Some films have accompanying photographs. Among the cinema gems found in SCI-FI MOVIE GUIDE are CHARLY, TREMORS, FRANKENSTEIN, OUTLANDER, THE THING, BRAZIL, GRAVITY, PROMETHEUS, DEEP IMPACT, MONSTER A GO-GO, STAR WARS, THE TWILIGHT ZONE, THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH, THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL, THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN, SOLARIS, THE BLOB, THE BOYS FROM BRAZIL, INVADERS FROM MARS, PLANET OF THE APES, GALAXY QUEST, GODZILLA, PITCH BLACK, WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE, etc. As can be seen, Barsanti's book is a sci-fi smorgasbord. It's informative and entertaining, a fun read. Recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A treasure trove for sci-fi fans

By J. Chambers

I saw my first sci-fi movie in 1953 when I was seven years old. It was The War of the Worlds, and it was the start of a lifelong love of sci-fi books and movies. When the author asked if I would review his compilation of sci-fi movies, I didn't even have to think about it - yes, send it. It's marvelous reading for even a casual sci-fi fan, with almost a thousand films listed and briefly described. Yes, you'll get more in-depth information about most of the listed movies on IMDB, , or other review websites, but you have to be looking for a specific title. With the book, the fun was flipping pages and finding gems that I had somehow missed or had seen decades ago and forgotten about. I've already got a dozen or so post-its marking movies I want to look for on Instant Video or cable channels. Movies are listed alphabetically, which makes it easy to look up a title. Most movies get about a half-page or so of text, with some also meriting a black-and-white photo. Each entry lists the release year, MPAA rating (if any), runtime, director, screen writer, and principal actors, followed by a brief summary of the movie, and usually the author's opinion on how watchable the movie is. In selecting the movies in the book, the author used a fairly broad definition of sci-fi. Post-apocalyptic films like On the Beach are included, but some lesser known films like Crack in the World are not. Obvious sci-fi entries like the Star Wars and Star Trek movies are included, of course. Classic horror fantasies like the Dracula films are absent, but Frankenstein is included, since a mad scientist created him. (I don't blame the author for not including fantasy - it would have doubled the size of the book.) At the end of the book is a short section of sci-fi TV series. It looks fairly complete, although I did notice the omission of Science Fiction Theatre, a sci-fi anthology series in the 1950s. It was one of my favorites and perhaps the earliest sci-fi series on TV. The book also didn't include one-offs like "Alas, Babylon," a post-apocalyptic novel adapted for TV in 1960 as an episode of the Playhouse 90 dramatic television series. All things considered, the book is a treasure trove of reading for sci-fi movie fans, and a superb resource for finding sci-fi movies that you may have overlooked. A review copy of the book was provided by the publisher.

Once upon a time, science fiction was only in the future. It was the stuff of drive-ins and cheap double-bills. Then, with the ever-increasing rush of new, society-altering technologies, science fiction pushed its way to the present, and it busted out of the genre ghetto of science fiction and barged its way into the mainstream. What used to be mere fantasy (trips to the moon? Wristwatch radios? Supercomputers capable of learning?) are now everyday reality. Whether nostalgic for the future or fast-forwarding to the present, The Sci-Fi Movie Guide: The Universe of Film from Alien to Zardoz covers the broad and widening range of science-fiction movies. From the trashy to the epic, from the classics to today's blockbusters, this cinefiles guidebook reviews nearly 1,000 of the biggest, baddest, and brightest from every age and genre of cinematic and TV science fiction. You'll find more than just Star Wars, Star Trek, and Transformers, with reviews on many overlooked and under-appreciated gems and genres, such as ... Monsters! Pacific Rim, Godzilla, The Thing, Creature from the Black Lagoon Superheroes: Thor, Iron Man, X-Men, The Amazing Spider-man, Superman Avant-garde masterpieces: Solaris, 2001, Brazil and many, many more categories and movies!!

"Updated to include 2014 releases, this guidebook reads like the best of IMDB as narrated by a trusted friend..." - Library Journal

About the Author

Chris Barsanti is the author of *Filmology: A Movie-a-Day Guide to the Movies You Need to Know* (2010) and the *Eyes Wide Open* annual film guide series. A member of New York Film Critics Online and the Online Film Critics Society, he is a regular film reviewer for *Film Journal International*, *PopMatters*, and *Film Racket*. He has also written for numerous other publications, including *The Barnes Noble*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Playboy*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Millions*, *The Virginia Quarterly*, and *The Chicago Reader*. Barsanti earned his Masters in journalism from Northwestern University and works in publishing. He cried the first time he saw *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* and thinks anybody who didn't has a heart of stone. He resides in New York.