

'Machines Rise' on DVD as 'Terminator' series falls

By Vincent Civitillo
Managing Editor

Review *Terminator 3* has everything a summer blockbuster needs, from adrenaline-powered action scenes to the one-liner comedy essential in an action flick.

What it doesn't have is the kind of sophistication and moral backdrop that the other two, especially the second, had under director James Cameron and, as a result of which, presents audiences with questions that arise because of plot holes and breaks in continuity.

Rise of the Machines, directed by Jonathan Mostow (*U-571*), follows John Conner (Nick Stahl filling in for Edward Furlong) on his inevitable journey to become the savior of the human race in the ultimate war against the machines following a nuclear attack that was supposed to have been prevented in *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, but was simply delayed. Along the way, he'll meet up with his future bride (Claire Danes of *Romeo + Juliet*) and a new T-101 (Arnold Schwarzenegger) to battle against a brand new model of Skynet soldier, the T-X (Kristanna Loken).

One of the central problems with *T3* is the break in continuity from the two films that set up the foundation of the series. Conner, who was 10 in *T2*, is instead said to have been 13 in the last movie. The Terminator, who is a completely different unit than its predecessor, uses some of the moves Conner taught it in the last film, like flipping the sun-visor up to get the keys to a car instead of stripping the ignition.

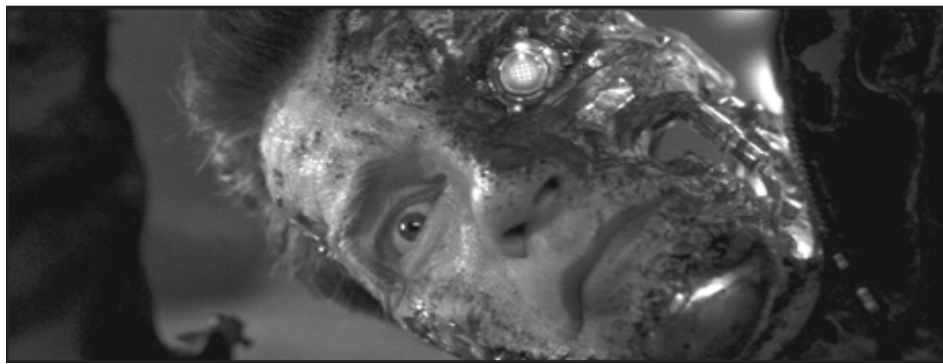


Photo copyright Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as the T-101 in the 2003 blockbuster *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*. The film came home on DVD this Tuesday, Nov. 11, but not in a package worthy of the rest of the franchise.

In addition, whereas Conner was supposed to be the one who smashed the Skynet defense grid and won the war for humanity in the future, hence all the trouble the machines have been taking over the past two films trying to wipe out his very existence, the T-101 now makes reference that Conner's wife and children will continue to fight the war long after Conner's eventual demise.

Numerous plot holes exist that also hurt the movie. For example, although it is said that the events of *T2* delayed "Judgment Day" and took Cyberdyne Systems out of the picture, it is never explained exactly how Skynet makes its comeback. It is simply in the hands of the military, as it was supposed to be had the trio from *T2* not interfered, without explanation as to how it got there or how it was built. A deleted scene that fills this hole is included on the DVD set; however, while this earns the disc brownie points, it changes nothing about the hole in the film itself.

Despite its problems, those going in looking for killer action will not be disappointed. As the T-101 readily admits, he is far outmatched by his newer counterpart and so, in order to make up for this, he pulls out all the stops to take the T-X down. This results in powerful action sequences with award-caliber audio effects that place audience members into the heart of the battle.

New on shelves this week is the two-disc DVD release of the film, presented in its original 2.35:1 anamorphic widescreen ratio. The Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround mix that accompanies the movie is spectacular with demo-quality multi-channel direction and strong sub use, especially during the movie's signature crane-chase scene; however, one can just imagine how incredible a superior DTS track would have sounded with this kind of audio-driven action film.

While the DVDs for the other *Terminator* films were loaded with supplements, here *T3* fails miserably.

All the extras were produced as promotional materials for the film, including the documentary, which is an *HBO First Look*. Only including extra features of this nature serves little-to-no purpose, as it is useless to promote a movie to people who have already bought it.

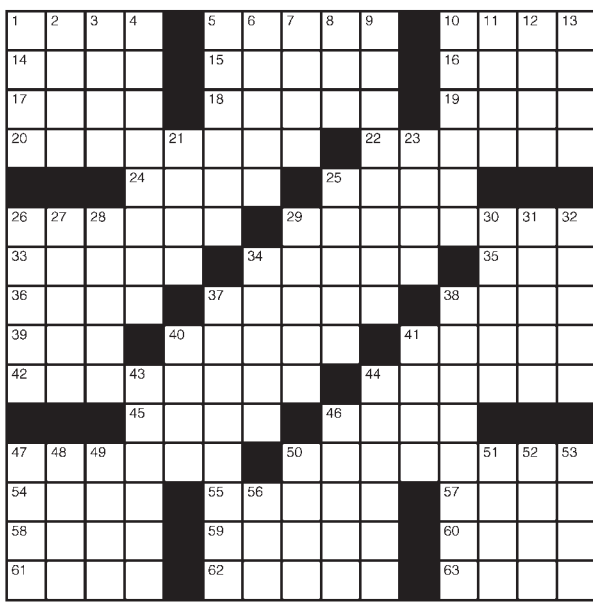
Because the information on the special features disc is generally useless, those looking for any real insight into the making of the movie are required to watch the two feature-length audio commentaries. The first, with the director and cast members, is more character-driven. Stahl and Danes talk about their new experiences making an action movie and what they thought about internally to bring about their emotions during the dramatic scenes, and the two Terminators discuss what they had to go through to get bulked up for the film.

The second, with just Mostow, is much more informative as he discusses in-depth how everything was done and why he decided to take on a franchise that already had a seemingly definitive ending. One disappointment in his track, however, is that at no point during his commentary does he ever explain why he decided to shift the primary theme of the series, "The future is not written; there's no fate but what we make for ourselves" to a more deterministic "The future is inevitable" stance.

A weaker film and pointless special features make *Rise of the Machines* a difficult recommendation to anyone not strongly attached to the film. However, those who enjoyed it will be pleased with its superior audio/video presentation.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Eurasian vipers
5 Climb
10 Melt
14 Search
15 Rye disease
16 Freight-car freeloader
17 Feel vexation
18 Line of Londoners
19 Judge's garb
20 Two-handed praise
22 Colossus site
24 Turnpike turnoff
25 Ignore with contempt
26 Texas capital
29 Sewing kit item
33 Attitudes of a people
34 Laziness
35 Fauna display
36 Laurel or Lee
37 Like gum
38 Soup du
39 "___ the fields we go..."
40 Bay window
41 Piano technician
42 Come beforehand
44 Controversial doctrine
45 Part of M.I.T.
46 Myrna in "The Thin Man"
47 Expose as false
50 End of the world
54 Roman poet
55 Ness of "The Untouchables"
57 Vague amount
58 Disgusting
59 On edge
60 Sacred image
61 Fraternal order
62 Pilot
63 Business abbr.

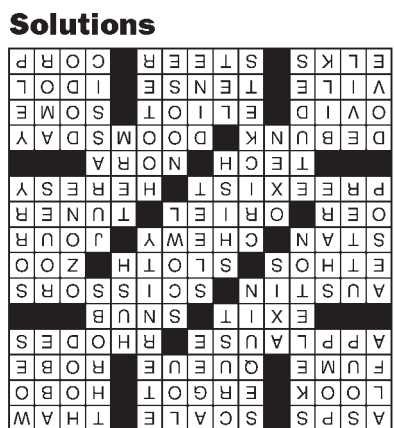


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11/14/03

- DOWN**
1 ___-Romeo (Italian car)
2 Dish with stock
3 Partner of circumstance
4 Anatomy lab display
5 Spangle
6 Pie surface
7 "The Night of the Hunter" screenwriter
8 Bud's buddy
9 Infinite time
10 Pulsates
11 Gangster
12 French cleric
13 Sorrows
21 X or Y line
23 Be quiet!
25 Gloomy frown
26 Man of many fables
27 Say
28 Divvy up
29 Rain on a winter parade?

- Solutions**
1 Prison time
2 Chopin piano pieces
3 Owl
4 Hangman's loop
5 Symbol of peace
6 Wickedness
7 Defraud
8 Sup
9 Long-gone bird
10 Love god
11 Canine cry
12 Permit to



Campus Corner

Compiled by Lacey Korevec, Entertainment Editor

Friday, Nov. 14

SEC Film: *Bad Boys 2*

7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

Lockout: *Night Without a Home*

10 p.m. - 6 a.m.,

Daly's Board Room

Fine Arts Presents: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

8 p.m., Yvonne Theater

Rock Climbing

9:30 p.m., meet at BLC

Saturday, Nov. 15

Saturday Seminars

9 a.m., WCC

Mass, 4 p.m., Gill Chapel

Fine Arts Presents: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

8 p.m., Yvonne Theater

SEC Film: *Bad Boys 2*

7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

Dance Party

10 p.m., BLC Pub

Sunday, Nov. 16

Equestrian Team Horse Show

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.,

Hickory Run Stables

Mass, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.,

Gill Chapel

Admissions Open House

12 p.m., BLC

PCM Worship,

Christian Band & Supper,

5 p.m., Gill Chapel

SEC Film: *Bad Boys 2*

7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

LASO Movie Night

8 p.m., BLC Pub

Monday, Nov. 17

Mercer Human

Resource Consulting

On-Campus Interviews

Career Services

New Trends in Interviewing

5:30 p.m., Career Services

Senior Pub Night

7 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

Education Cohort Seminar

2:20 p.m., Career Services

Hunger Banquet

5 p.m., BLC Cavalla Room

PCM Bible Study & Faith Talks

7 p.m., Gill Chapel

LASO Amateur Night

Poetry/Comedy

7 p.m., BLC Pub

Wednesday, Nov. 19

PB&J Stations—An all day effort to

supply sandwiches for the hungry

Midnight Run to NYC

7 p.m., Meet at Gill Chapel

Thursday, Nov. 20

SEC Film: *American Wedding*

7:30 p.m., BLC Theater