‘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.

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 learned in the last film, like flipping a crane-chase scene; however, one can just imagine how incredible a superior T-800 would have been.

In addition, whereas Conner was supposed to be the one who smashed the Skynet defense grid and won for the human race in the future, hence all the trouble the machines have been taking over the last 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 Cybdehyde 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 to be man, that results 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 falls 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, is well written and presents an excellent 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 detail 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 for anyone not strongly attached to the film. However, those who enjoyed it will be pleased with its superior audio/video presentation.

Crossword

ACROSS
1. Euphon x ypes (7)
10. Eat
13. D dis ease (6)
17. Hough loader (9)
18. Line of London (6)
19. Judas’ g red (4)
20. Two-handed p racks (7)
23. Cortisone (5)
25. Tum phke tumor (9)
28. Grapes with content (7)
29. Texas capital (5)
31. S lewing kit r am (5)
32. At titudes of a peop le (7)
33. A cts (4)
34. Fa ura display (5)
35. Laurel of Law (6)
37. Like g um (9)
38. Soup up (6)
39. “... the fields we go.” (9)
40. Big window (7)
41. Piano technician (9)
42. Come (5)
43. Seal on hand (6)
44. Controversial doctrine (9)
45. Port of M.L.T (5)
46. Myrna in “The Thin Man” (4)
47. Expectation (9)
50. End of the world (5)
54. Roman poet (5)
55. N ees of “The Untouchables” (7)
57. Vague amount (6)
58. Giggle (7)
59. On edge (6)
60. Look (5)
61. Formal order (7)
62. Pie (7)
63. Business abbr. (7)

DOWN
1. H ammy (Italian car) (5)
2. Irish wedge (9)
3. Partner of circumference (4)
4. Anatomy lab display (9)
5. Span gles (13)
6. Plane (6)
8. But’s buddy (9)
9. Infini time (10)
10. Gangster (8)
11. French cleric (10)
12. Sorrows (9)
13. X and Y line (7)
14. Ba gful (7)
15. Can’t compose (13)
16. Man of many parts (13)
17. Fat man (9)
18. Snowbird (7)
19. Rain on a winter parade (9)
20. Ultraviolet fl oer (13)
21. Repentent (6)
22. Keen (7)
23. Night chippers (8)
24. Spiesberg Wm. – Paris (7)
25. Yoked pair (6)

Solutions
41. Prison time (7)
42. Chopin piano pieces (12)
43. Wickedness (10)
44. Defraud (8)
45. Sup (6)
46. Long-gone bird (12)
47. Love god (10)
48. Canine cry (10)
49. Permit to

11/14/03

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., BLC Pub

Friday, 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

Rock Climbing
9:30 p.m., meet at BLC

Saturday, Nov. 15
Senior Pub Night
10 p.m., BLC Pub

Sunday, Nov. 16
Equestrian Team Horse Show
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hickory Run Stables

Admissions Open House
12 p.m., BLC

PCM Worship,
Christian Band & Supper,
5 p.m., Gill Chapel

SEC Film: American Wedding
7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

SFC Film: Bad Boys 2
7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

LASO Movie Night
8 p.m., BLC Pub

Monday, Nov. 17

Merce 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

PBMC Study & Faith Talks
6:30 p.m., Gill Chapel

LASO Amateur Night
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

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.

Managing Editor

BY LACEY KOREVEC

What it doesn’t have is the kind of audio-driven action film. While the DVDs for the other Terminator films were loaded with supplements, here T3 falls 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.

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