

MichaelAndersonLogansRunMichaelYork1976TextTVS

Logan's Run **

by Tim Van Schmidt

Let's get this straight from the beginning. Even though the pacing, soundtrack, special effects and acting for this movie have aged not so gracefully, hence the two star/poor rating, "Logan's Run" is still worthy watching for the sci-fi fan. That's because the production values of the movie do not particularly overshadow the strong themes running through it- such as perceptions of aging, the cult of youth, blind acceptance of authority and the hope that change brings.

The action takes place in the 23rd Century and Michael York plays Logan 5, a terminator for the society that has developed in domed cities following global disaster. This society has lived in the domes for so long that they have forgotten what is outside the walls and the focus is on comfortable, sheltered living. However, at age thirty, residents are compelled to yield to a ceremony called "Carrousel," a public process where the oldest members of the society are "renewed." Those who do not yield become "runners" and that's where Logan and his "sandman" comrades come in. Most people yield because they believe what they have been told, but some rebels compel the authorities to assign Logan new duties to flush them out.

From there on, "Logan's Run" becomes a journey filled with compelling concepts, if not convincing production. The principal twist has to do with aging and youth. At the time the movie was released- 1976- the "youth culture" that boomed in the 1960s (that everything cool and hip was also young) had become well entrenched in mass America. "Logan's Run" presupposes a society where everybody is young. It becomes a false paradise based on an insidious cycle. When faced with what they are missing- old age- citizens react with curiosity and amazement, not horror. The movie ends up challenging the "don't trust anyone over 30" mindset at the same time as it encourages a "question authority" attitude.

Despite the rating and what I have said about the production values of "Logan's Run"- the best way I can describe that is to say that the movie looks more like a cheesy television show than a big screen effort- I still enjoyed watching it. I loved the fantasy images of the over-grown landmarks of Washington, DC. But the underlying questions the movie brings up elevate it from being just another interesting visual

curiosity. Also featuring Richard Jordan, Jenny Agutter, Farrah Fawcett-Majors, Peter Ustinov and Roscoe Lee Browne. 1976. Directed by Michael Anderson.