

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	page ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiii
PART I. APPROACHES	
1 Introduction: The World of the Science Fiction Film	3
Science Fiction as Fantasy, 10 • Genre Determinations, 16 • A Tradition of Trickery, 24 • Genre Thinking, 30	
2 Science Fiction Film: The Critical Context	33
Science Fiction and Humanism, 35 • Susan Sontag, 38 • Ideological Criticism, 40 • Psychoanalytic Criticism, 45 • Feminism, 49 • Postmodernism, 54 • Synthesis, 58	
PART II. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW	
3 A Trajectory of the American Science Fiction Film	63
Antecedents, 64 • Literature, 64 • The Pulp, 69 • Science Fiction Literature, 75 • Early Science Fiction Cinema, 77 • The Machine Age, 81 • The Serials, 90 • Springtime for Caliban, 94 • Post-2001, 102 • A New Myth, 105 • Postmodern Science Fiction, 108 • Science Fiction and Gender, 110 • The <i>Anime</i> Influence, 112 • Special Effects, 116	
PART III. FILM ANALYSES	
4 The Science Fiction Film as Fantastic Text: <i>THX 1138</i>	123
5 The Science Fiction Film as Marvelous Text: <i>Close Encounters of the Third Kind</i>	142
6 The Science Fiction Film as Uncanny Text: <i>RoboCop</i>	161
7 Crossing Genre Boundaries / Bound by Fantasy: <i>The Fly</i> (1986)	179

viii ❖ CONTENTS

8 Conclusion: A Note on Boundaries	197
Critical Consensus, 199 • Dynamics of Genre, 201	
<i>Notes</i>	205
<i>Bibliography</i>	219
<i>Select Filmography of the American Science Fiction Film</i>	225
<i>Index</i>	245