

THE
BLADE RUNNER
PRINT ARCHIVE



notes:

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BLADERUNNER

40 years futureward

A METROPOLIS with menace. That's the premise of the picture. A world in which Deckard (Harrison Ford) must do or die.

Perhaps both.

The story has hardly begun before we have shock #1. A laser is used--lethally.

Then we're off in a *spinner* for an aerial view of the Grave New World of 2020, a vision of super-scrappers towering to dizzying heights.

The immediate problem:

Replicants.

What, in an earlier stage of their development, were called androids. You remember the humanoids of WESTWORLD & FUTUREWORLD? Well, the replicants have been so refined by science that they're *almost* human. They've become a menace to humanity. The human race is in danger of being replaced by replicants. Then--will androids dream of electric sheep? (The question asked by the late Philip K. Dick in the title of his novel which has been transferred to the screen as BLADERUNNER.)

A BADDY NAMED BATTY

The replicant that can't be permitted to pursue his antihuman ways is named Roy Batty. You'll love the dramatic way he demonstrates to

an ancient Chinese named Chew in his subzero laboratory that he is not a human.

You might say "the eyes have it"--but that would be giving away too much. Wait till you see it with your own eyes!

Suffice it to say that Batty--a Nexus 6 Combat Model Replicant--forces the terrified Asian to reveal him the name of the individual who can inform him of the details of his creation.

WHY NOT ESPERANTO?

In one sequence they do like they did in A CLOCKWORK ORANGE, in QUEST FOR FIRE: speak a language created for the purposes of the picture.

It's called Kangaroo.

It's a combination of Chinese, Japanese, French & Tagalog.

SHADES OF "LOST ARK"

You remember in RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK where Indy is frightened to death in the snake pit? (But interviews with Harrison revealed that he was really *acting* because in reality he isn't afraid of snakes at all!) Well, in one sequence in BLADERUNNER he has another close encounter with snakes.

You see, there's this Egyptian...and a tank full of writhing reptiles...and one is fished out and dropped into a sack...and...



Deckard finds an umbrella can serve more purposes than shedding rain.



A glimpse of the futureworld of 40 years hence.

STATE OF THE ART

Since hydraulic transformations came in with the werewolf transformations in *THE HOWLING* & *AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON*, they've increasingly become part of horror pix, like *THE BEAST WITHIN* & *CAT PEOPLE*.

In *BLADERUNNER*, instead of seeing a woman turn into a lizard we see a lizard turn into a woman.

It's part of an exotic dance in a futuristic night dive, an erotic Yoshiwara out of *METROPOLIS* or the exotic "night" life on *OUTLAND*. Scales burst and a woman-size lizard sheds its skin as a female dancer emerges thru the cinematic magic of hydraulics.

We also get another headsquash in the course of the action.

SCRIPT TEASE

Here's a sample scene the way it reads in the scenario:

A shadowy hallway cluttered with debris.

Spooky.

Nothing moves. We can hear Mary's faint moans.

Then we catch sight of something. Deckard! He enters the hallway, pressed flat against a wall, weapon up.

Very carefully he slides along the wall toward the sounds.

He can see a doorway ahead of him, the doorway to Sebastian's apartment.

Silence.

Then a groan.

Deckard moves to the door. It's open a crack. He peeks in.

[See the picture and see what he sees!]

Shortly after the foregoing scene a big fight ensues.

Furious female feet fly thru the air like guided missiles. *Whap! Thwuck!*

A little later Deckard confronts Batty the replicant. "Batty," he grits thru his teeth, wiping blood from his forehead, "I can be dangerous. I can put so much air in you you'll think you're a windstorm."

But Batty doesn't bat an artificial eyelash. Soon Batty has Deckard figuratively on the ropes and is counting 10.

When he hits 10, there's an explosion.

A shape hurtles across the room.

Batty: "It's time to die."

Does Deckard get deepsixed by a Nexus 6 replicant?

TRAGEDY

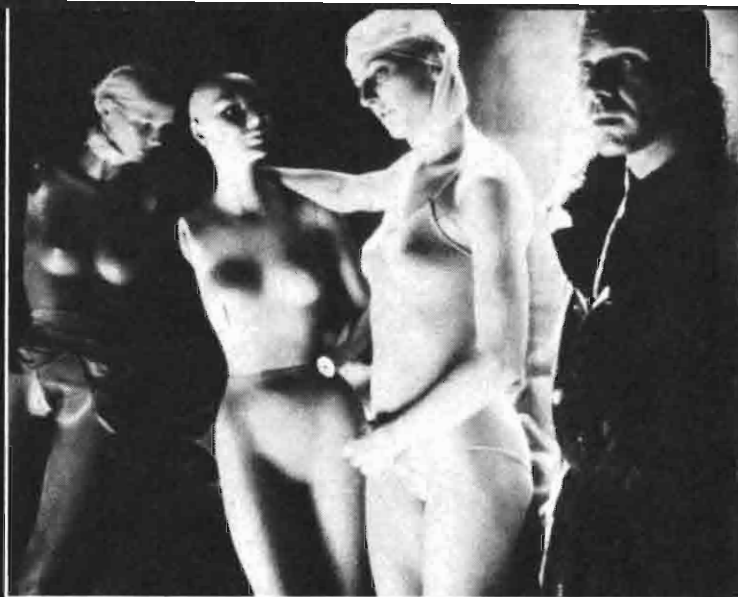
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Editorial:

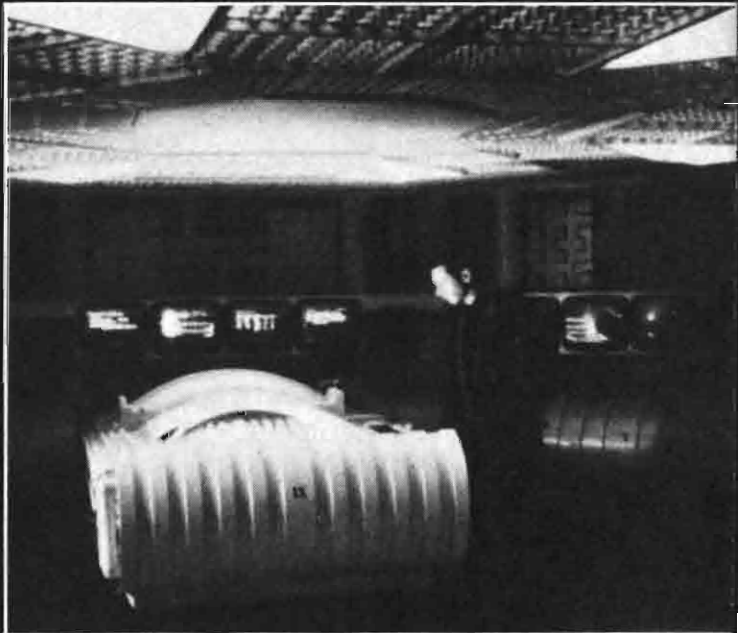
The author of the book from which the cinematic adaptation of *BLADERUNNER* has been made will never see his own movie.

Philip K. Dick is dead.

At a young 53.



Deckard doesn't appear to be waxing too enthusiastic about finding himself in some sort of wax museum.



Has Deckard stumbled upon a replicant plant? Or is it a futuristic hospital room?



How do you get a bunch of dummies to put "Hands up!"?

END