

Here are brief summaries, and my personal comments and ratings, for some of the key movies that include A.I. as a significant factor in the drama.

TOP RATED

Ex Machina (2015) Written & directed by Alex Garland. Starring Alicia Vikander, Domhnall Gleeson, Oscar Isaac.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0470752/>

Story: Software nerd participates in a sophisticated Turing test with an A.I. in the form of a young woman, out in the isolated home/lab of the inventor. A.I. passes the test.

Comments: Creepy, but very well done. Beautiful exterior setting shot in Norway.

Key questions regarding A.I.: What are the motivations of a synthetic intelligence?

Bladerunner (1982) Directed by Ridley Scott. Starring Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, Sean Young; with Edward James Olmos, M. Emmet Walsh, Daryl Hannah.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0083658/>

Ridley Scott's sci-fi masterpiece, based on a short story by Philip K. Dick about androids. Harrison Ford, as Deckard, has to hunt down and kill "replicants" (synthetic humans) who have illegally returned to Earth. The most advanced one, Roy, played by Rutger Hauer, gives Deckard a run for his life, but ultimately ... [spoiler omitted]. With Daryl Hannah as one of the other replicants.

In my opinion, this is a classic because of the memorable setting (Los Angeles in 2019) and music (by Vangelis) and the morality tale about slavery inherent in the script and story.

Key questions regarding A.I.: What happens when you can't distinguish between a synthetic human and a real one? Under what circumstances might you not care?

2001: A Space Odyssey (1968) Written by Archur C. Clarke and Stanley Kubrick, directed by Stanley Kubrick. Starring Keir Dullea, Gary Lockwood, William Sylvester; with Douglas Rain as the voice of HAL 9000.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0062622/>

HAL 9000, "The most reliable computer ever built, incapable of making a mistake," decides to kill the passengers on a space voyage to Jupiter, but doesn't reckon on Dave's ingenuity.

With a psychedelic finale and great music (Richard Strauss' *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, and Johann Strauss II's *The Blue Danube Waltz*)

Movies related to A.I.

A.I. and You – Spring, 2016 – Prof. Levy

Key questions regarding A.I.: What happens when an A.I. prioritizes its mission above all else?

I, Robot (2004) Directed by Alex Proyas. Starring Will Smith.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0343818/>

Story: Robots kill? Detective must puzzle out a plot for world domination by – a madman? A CEO of a robot company? A lone evolved robot?

No, by VIKI, the central A.I., who engineers the overcoming of the 3 Laws of Robotics by broadening their interpretation. Will Smith, as Del the detective, starts an investigation into a robot suicide which is just the first breadcrumb in the search for the truth.

Key questions regarding A.I.: (Robot asking) Am I unique? Do I have emotions? Can I kill, if I promise to do so?

ADDITIONAL TITLES

Automata (2014) Written & directed by Gabe Ibañez. Starring Antonio Banderas, Melanie Griffith.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1971325/>

Story: 30 years in the future, most of humans died out due to sunspots & desertification. Robots in the millions build walls to protect the remaining humans. Banderas, as Jacq, investigates a violation of the 2nd law of robotics (as reimagined): a robot is not allowed to modify itself.

Key question regarding A.I.: If you found intelligent robots evolving rapidly towards super-intelligence, would you help them?

Max Headroom (1987) 14-episode TV series written & directed by Annabel Jankel, Rocky Morton. Starring Matt Frewer, Amanda Pays

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0089568/>

Matt Frewer plays Edison Carter, a TV newsman whose consciousness is replicated into a computer program that then takes on a life of its own. Very camp. Kind of a “Doctor Who” but with comic-book-like news stories and a very funny pseudo human computer program who appears on TV sets.

Key questions regarding A.I.: Can you upload a human consciousness to a computer?

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Chappie (2015) Written & directed by Neill Blomkamp. Starring Sharlto Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1823672/>

Story: In South Africa of the future, police engage robots to patrol. The inventor makes a conscious robot that falls in with robbers and ... ends up transferring consciousnesses of humans into other robot models.

Comments: With Ninja and Yolandi, South African pop/rap stars, playing the robbers (and with their music as the score). Teenager shoot-em-up with an A.I./consciousness twist.

Key questions regarding A.I.: Can robots receive and hold human consciousnesses?

A.I. – Artificial Intelligence (2001) Directed by Steven Spielberg. Starring Haley Joel Osment, Jude Law, Frances O'Connor.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0212720/>

Notes: This was a film that Kubrick was going to make, but it never made it into production. Scene: Post-climate-change with A.I. in humanoid robots. Thesis: Robots with human emotions, especially love, are marketed to childless couples. The child-form robot “imprints” on the mother, has sibling rivalry.

Story: “Pinocchio” – robot boy seeks to become human

Haley Joel Osment (the “Home Alone” boy) plays the boy robot; Jude Law plays a robot gigolo.

Comment: The boy’s toy bear, also a robot, reminds me of E.T. The movie has Spielberg’s typical excessive cuteness. There are fun scenes in the amusement park of the future.

Key question regarding A.I.: Can robots feel emotions?

The Terminator (1984) Written & directed by James Cameron. Starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0088247/>

Arnold Schwarzenegger plays the unstoppable Terminator. Continuous chase scenes with a background of A.I. gone rogue, plus time travel.

Key questions regarding A.I.: Will A.I. of the future wipe out humanity?