

Film titan dies at age 70

Director Stanley Kubrick will be missed by cinephiles everywhere

BY KARAN SHETTY

Director Stanley Kubrick passed away this weekend at his home in Hertfordshire, England much to the sorrow of his family, those he worked with and the millions around the world who adore his movies.

Easily my favourite director, Kubrick ranked among the 20th century's most wildly imaginative auteurs. One newspaper columnist commented that even those films which are generally considered to be Kubrick failures are more ambitious, creative and interesting than other directors' triumphs.

Indeed, Kubrick was never afraid to take risks. He also stood by his final product, refusing to let studios push him around by forcing him to cut scenes which they felt were inappropriate. His flair for visual effects, highly-stylized production and unorthodox storylines made him a forerunner of directors like David Lynch and David Cronenberg. With the exception of *Spartacus* (a film which Kubrick himself disliked) and possibly some of his earlier movies which I haven't seen, any Kubrick film is instantly recognizable as his own.

2001: A Space Odyssey (1968) is generally regarded as Kubrick's best film. A stunning visual film, the movie is very unorthodox in that it only has a few lines of dialogue in a screen time of more than two hours. Based on a story by Arthur C. Clarke, the eerie "emptiness" of the film seems to reflect the vastness of space and the relative insignificance of man in comparison. *2001* is not an easy film to understand and Kubrick says he intended the movie to be a "visual experience, one that bypasses verbal pigeonholing and directly penetrates the subconscious with an emotional and philosophic content... just as music does."

"You're free to speculate as you wish about the philosophical

and allegorical meaning," he said.

Many of Kubrick's detractors think the film sacrifices plot, characterization and heart at the expense of visual technique. It is hard to argue, however, that the film is just a special-effects movie. This film is generally regarded as one of the ten greatest films of all time by professional movie critics and people who just love going to movies.

For those who can stomach the violence, the 1971 film *A Clockwork Orange*, which deals with violence, free will and determinism, is also on this list. A chilling scene in this movie has the main character raping a woman while whistling "Singin' in the Rain". By linking what is possibly

the most happy movie moment of all time with the most horrifying, Kubrick shows just how demented and perverted the hero's actions are.

Other notable Kubrick movies which I recommend are: *Dr. Strangelove* or *How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964), *Full Metal Jacket* (1987) and *The Shining* (1980).

Kubrick's new top-secret film *Eyes Wide Shut* is scheduled for release in July of this year. Set to star real-life couple Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman as a psychiatrist couple who have extra-marital affairs, the film's production has been shrouded in secrecy.

Hopefully it will be a fitting farewell to one of cinema's greatest talents.



ALEX: Kubrick's dark vision of the future's anti-hero from *A Clockwork Orange*.

OUR COLLEGES, OUR UNIVERSITIES: CANADA'S FUTURE

Like students and others in our communities, CAW members are concerned about what's happening to our educational system. Post secondary education is about developing students, our communities and our nation to its fullest potential. Our universities and community colleges are keys to a healthy Canada. Why then is the cost of post-secondary education in Canada skyrocketing out of reach for so many? Why are federal and provincial governments dismantling public support for post-secondary education at a time when it's more important than ever?

The facts are clear. There is a growing problem

- ✦ Between 1990 and 1998, Canadian tuition fees increased 123 per cent.
- ✦ In the last five years, federal cash transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education and for training programs has been cut \$7 billion.
- ✦ On average, 1998 graduates carried a \$25,000 debt load.

The concerns of our students are too important to ignore.

- ✦ We need a post-secondary education system that is accessible through adequate funding to people from all economic backgrounds and from all parts of Canada
- ✦ We need more, not less federal and provincial government support for colleges and universities
- ✦ We need a national system of grants that doesn't leave post-secondary graduates struggling with huge debt loads just as they enter the workforce.

What's occurring to Canada's university and college students isn't an isolated problem. The same short-sighted approach and cuts to public funding is taking place in other sectors like health care and affordable housing.

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