

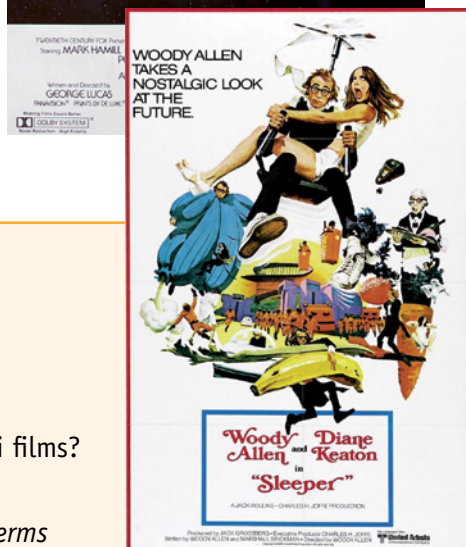
Science fiction films

Science fiction is a literary and cinematic genre dealing with events set in the future and affected by imaginary scientific and technological developments. These stories are often complete with heroes, distant planets, impossible quests,¹ dark villains,² extraordinary monsters and unknown and inexplicable forces. The atmosphere depicted is generally visionary and imaginative.

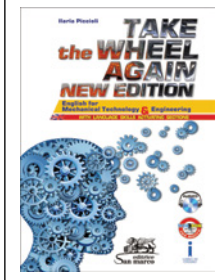
Sci-fi tales usually have a prophetic nature as they try to figure out the future, and for this reason sci-fi films often make use of fantastic special effects. They generally express the anxiety of contemporary society about technology and its potential destructive impact on the environment and on human kind as a whole.

There are often encounters with aliens, strange creatures that fight the eternal struggle of good versus evil. Many other sci-fi films feature fantastic journeys, set either on Earth, outer space, or in the future.

The genre can easily overlap³ with horror films, particularly when technology or alien life forms become malevolent as in the film *Alien* (1979). But there are many other sci-fi films that share some characteristics with other genres, such as fantasy films (*Star Wars*, 1977), westerns (*Outland*, 1980), adventure films (*The Thing From Another World*, 1951), action films (*Terminator 2*, *Judgement Day*, 1991) and comedies (*Sleeper*, 1973).



Ilaria Piccioli
Take
the Wheel
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GLOSSARY

- 1 long searches for something that is difficult to find
- 2 bad characters
- 3 be similar

ACTIVITIES

- 1 Answer the following questions.
 - 1 What is science fiction?
 - 2 What are the main themes of sci-fi films?
 - 3 What kind of atmosphere is depicted in a sci-fi film?
 - 4 What is the most frequent message conveyed by sci-fi films?
 - 5 Where and when are sci-fi films generally set?
- 2 Explain in your own words the meaning of the following terms and expressions.

1 Visionary
2 Prophetic
3 Special effects
4 aliens
5 Malevolent
6 Action films
- 3 Have you seen any of the sci-fi films mentioned in the text above? If so, write a short synopsis.