

MOVIES

It's difficult to pick simply 5 good movies with radical appeal – this media lends itself very well to radical interpretations of society and the future. Even the older films on this list have managed to stand the test of time in terms of vision and message. Here we've profiled five such films, and also listed some honourable mentions.

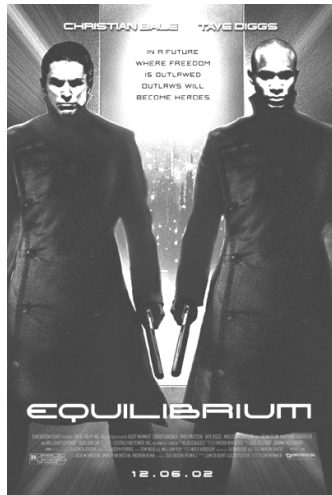
Equilibrium (2002)

Director: Kurt Wimmer

Starring: Christian Bale (*Batman Begins*, *The Prestige*), Tye Digg (Rent)

Rating: US "R"; British Columbia and Alberta "14A"; Ontario "A"; Quebec "13+"

Set in a time in the future after World War Three, a political and military regime has eliminated war by eliminating personal emotions and suppressing anything that might compel them, such as books, art, and music. The punishment for feeling emotion or hiding art forms is death. Government Cleric John Preston is a high ranking agent responsible for tracking down and punishing offenders. However, when he misses a compulsory dose of Prozium, a drug that suppresses emotion, Preston, becomes the only person capable of overthrowing it. Definitely a mash-up of many other classic dystopian stories and elements, but a fresh and visually stunning movie that is reminiscent of *The Matrix*.

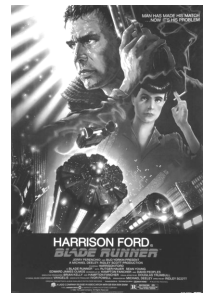


Blade Runner (1982)

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Harrison Ford (*Indiana Jones*, *Star Wars*)

Rating: US "R"; Manitoba "PA"; Ontario "AA"; Quebec "13+"; Nova Scotia "A"



Based on the Philip K. Dick novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, *Blade Runner* is a cult favourite. The year is 2019, and the ability to create human-like androids (so-called replicants) has been developed. These replicants, constructed with limited life spans, are meant to only serve colonies outside of Earth. Rick Deckard is a retired cop, a retired Blade Runner – someone who is responsible for tracking down and terminating rogue replicants. When five replicants escape from one of the colonies and make for Earth, it is Deckard's job to track them down. When it comes to light that the replicants may not be what they seem Deckard has to question what makes someone human.

Omega Man (1971)



Director: Boris Sagal

Starring: Charlton Heston (*Planet of the Apes*)

Rating: US "PG"; Canada "14A"

After an apocalyptic war fought with biological weapons ravages the human population, there are few survivors. On one hand is a group of deformed, psychotic, nocturnal people who call themselves "The Family." On the other, Robert Neville, a doctor, the only person left alive and unharmed. As "The Family" believes science

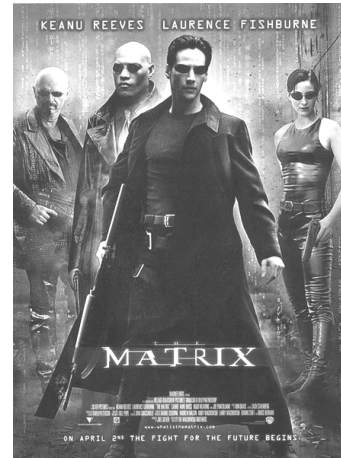
and technology to be the root of all evil, and of course, Neveill represents just these things and must die. Set in a future world of 1976, the movie is certainly an oldie, but the more horror-esq interpretation of a dystopic society is a definite hit with some people.

The Matrix (1999)

Starring: Keanu Reeves (*Speed*, *A Scanner Darkly*); Hugo Weaving (*Lord of the Rings*)

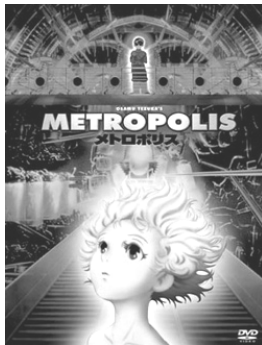
Rating: US "R"; British Columbia and Alberta "14A"; Manitoba "PA"; Ontario "AA"; Quebec "13+"; Nova Scotia "14"

A film that requires little introduction, *The Matrix* is the first movie in the trilogy about Thomas Anderson, a computer hacker who learns that it is not actually 1999, but rather two hundred years in the future, and humans have become nothing more than fuel for *The Matrix*, a massive artificial intelligence system. Naturally, with this knowledge, Anderson becomes the one to overthrow the system. *The Matrix* is immensely popular with Young Adults, and is a must-have for any library collection.



Metropolis (2001)

Director: Rintaro
Voices By: Yuka Imoto, Kei Kobayashi, Kouki Okada
Rating: US "PG-13"; Canada "PG"; Quebec "G"



The only animated film on this list, *Metropolis* is an anime revisioning of the 1927 Fritz Lang film. *Metropolis* also draws on other anime films and more traditional dystopic movies. It is set in a future where humans and robots live together, with robots more frequently being used as servants and routinely terminated. When a young boy, Kenichi, saves a highly complex female robot, Tima, from a fire, a friendship is born. Of course, all is not well politically, and soon Kenichi and Tima find themselves in a political power play and revolution.

**"None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free."
- Johan W. von Goethe**

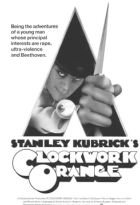
Honourable Mentions

V for Vendetta (2005)



An adaptation of the graphic novel of the same name (see page 30), done by the Wachowski brothers, the same people who brought you *The Matrix*. Despite some violent scenes it is an all around excellent movie.

A Clockwork Orange (1971)



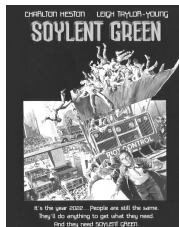
Event though this 1971 Stanley Kubrick film is most likely too mature for most of your YA patrons, this movie continues to be a cult favourite with teenagers. Whether or not you want to loan this movie to your younger patrons will certainly be based on individual library policies.

Dark City (1998)



Another film that may be a bit mature for some of you Young Adult patrons, *Dark City* is another fantastic dystopic film starring Rufus Sewell, Keifer Sutherland, and Jennifer Connoly. Definitely worth suggesting to older patron, or parents.

Soylent Green (1973)



Soylent Green is, of course, made of people. It's also a cult hit that some young adults are certainly going to ask about. Rated PG in Canada, it is a safe choice for those interested in the genre.