

February 1975

# "2001: A Space Odyssey" returns to Vermillion

By Ed O'neal

More popular than ever, Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey" is making the rounds again, arriving in Vermillion after breaking box office records in Los Angeles and New York. "2001" is one of the most controversial films of all time. Few films have been so vehemently panned and praised at the same time.

To paraphrase an old joke, you could hear two people discussing "2001" and hear three different opinions. The reason for this is that "2001" is a movie unlike any other, so this will be a review unlike any other. I don't want this review to be just my opinion of the movie because what I think isn't important; it is what you, the viewer, thinks that is important. I just

want to encourage you to see the film and to give some hints as to how to prepare yourself for viewing it.

First of all, don't see it drunk, stoned, or whatever. To truly enjoy "2001" all of your faculties must be running at full efficiency. Despite what some may tell you, it is my belief that "the ultimate trip" should be taken while stone cold sober. (I speak from experience; I've seen it eight times.)

Secondly, don't expect the movie to explain itself. It won't, because Kubrick has left some details out of the movie. Perhaps Kubrick did this because he wanted to challenge the viewer to figure the movie out for himself. The viewer's conclusion may not agree with Kubrick's, but that doesn't matter. In "2001" Kubrick doesn't spell out exactly what is happening; he leaves it up to the viewer to figure it out. So when you enter the theater, be prepared to do some thinking. If you don't, "2001" will be as boring as any space travel will be.

If you're basically lazy and want to know what is going on without figuring it out for yourself, read the book first. It gives Arthur Clarke's liberal interpretation of what Kubrick tried to portray visually in the movie.

Clarke's writing is very lucid and easy to read, and it is clear in the areas where the movie is obscure, telling the reader exactly what is happening and why. It tells, as only writing can, the inner personalities and motivations of the characters.

It differs slightly from the movie in some areas, but this shouldn't confuse anyone. My suggestion is to see the movie first, draw your own conclusions as to what the movie tried to say, then read the book and see if you agree with Kubrick and Clarke.

"2001" is one opinion, drawn by two men, of what our future is. Since our future is being discussed, I urge everyone to see it.

Final paragraph:  
"2001" is one opinion,  
drawn by two men,  
of what mankind's  
future is. Since it  
is our future that  
is being discussed,  
I urge everyone  
to see it.