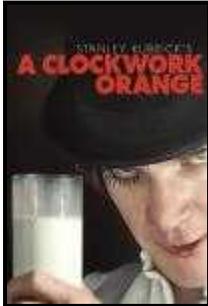


A CLOCKWORK ORANGE

3 July 2022

Heartsill

Sitting through this movie might be the requirement in an advanced class in “terrifying design production” or if reading the book, a post graduate English literature class in “nightmarish fantasy of the future.” **A CLOCKWORK ORANGE**¹ is listed in AFI’s Top 100 Films of All Time – as number 70² - if that means anything.



This is Alex. Not once did he blink his eyes. “...the hoodlums’ drink is doped milk.”

Have you seen the movie or read the book? If so my hat is off to you. You should get a medal - I would ask why you went through the pain? Maybe, like me, there is an interest in Stanley Kubrick. I wanted to see where he went after seeing “2001,” “Dr. Strangelove” “Paths of Glory,” and “Full Metal Jacket” - to name four of his 13 films.

My sense of enduring this movie would be over and against seeing all 13 in a course on movie production or maybe just a course about Kubrick - and then rating/ranking/raving about his splendid work(s). Right now **A CLOCKWORK ORANGE** is not anywhere near my top; however, some have this movie placed as number 5 on his list of 13.



As a suggestion (one I should have followed) if you decide to watch this, spend time getting some background info on what it is all about. Watching cold will kill you. Read about Alex and his three ‘brothers’ and get an idea of what the plot is about. Cliffs Notes would have been helpful.

Maybe you could then get an A in the post graduate class?

¹ Stanley Kubrick (Director, Producer, Screenplay). (1971). **A CLOCKWORK ORANGE** [Motion Picture]. United States: Warner Bros. Pictures.

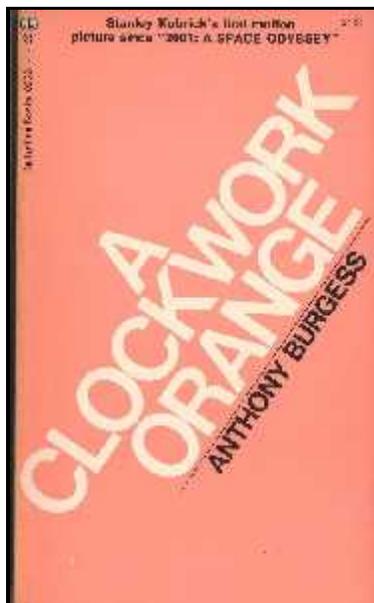
² “2001” is #15, “Dr. Strangelove” is #39, and “Spartacus” is #81.

Even watching this cold I could still see this 60 year old movie was talking about society 60 years later in a socialist country, which raises the question of where we will be 60 years from now - in 2082? Pretty easy to see today. Watching the street people of Los Angeles and Portland or seeing Antifa on CNN or BLM on all networks do their thing by burning courthouses and police cars in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Washington (state and DC), condoned by the NCAA and others, speaks volumes.

The freedom lost (given up) by Alex and then controlled by the state – cared for, fed, and given money – is plain to see in today’s liberal-left news. The images are just sort of frightening in realistic pictures, movies, and sound of the takeover/going green/ and getting “wōk -ed.”

“1984” jumps out. “Two plus two equals five.” In this movie Alex has to lick the sole of someone’s shoe – twice.

This movie came out a few years after the book was written in 1962. This means **A CLOCKWORK ORANGE**, “1984” (pub in 1949), and 2033 are all the same times. You now see the government headlines showing the control of the country and the people giving up - and ‘licking their boots.’



This book³ has six pages of new words added by Anthony Burgess.

A lot of his words are Russian. This was Burgess in the 60s - today we hear about Putin...

“Like any satirist, Burgess extrapolates an exaggerated future to get at present tendencies he abhors. These include almost everything around. He does not like mindless violence but he does not like mechanical reconditioning either; he detests sterile peace and fertile war about equally. Beneath Anthony Burgess’ wild comedy there is a prophetic (sometimes cranky and shrill) voice warning and denouncing us, but beneath that, on the deepest level, there is love: for mankind, and for mankind’s loveliest invention, the art of language” (Hyman, p. 183).

Speaking of language “Alex thinks and talks in the ‘nadsat’ (teenage) vocabulary of the future...I found that I could not read the book without compiling a glossary...’to *tolchoch* (to hit) some old *veck* (person) in an alley and *viddy* (see) him swim in his blood”” (p. 180).

³ Anthony Burgess. (1962). **A CLOCKWORK ORANGE**. New York, NY: Ballantine Books.

Terms:

anti-utopian fiction, dystopian satire, graphic violence, freedom of choice, nude young women, 'Singing in the rain,' technical dazzling and thematical daring, CIA-run mind-control experiments, uncompromising ideological viewpoint, social reintegration, civil recovery, *The Ludovico Treatment* or aversion therapy (controlled tears – eyes forced to stay open).

I raise my sword-pen,
Pavlovian or respondent conditioning,
Alex is flesh and blood on the outside
but merely mechanical on the inside.



A CLOCKWORK ORANGE

a metaphor for
"an organic entity,
full of juice and sweetness
and agreeable odour,
being turned into a mechanism"