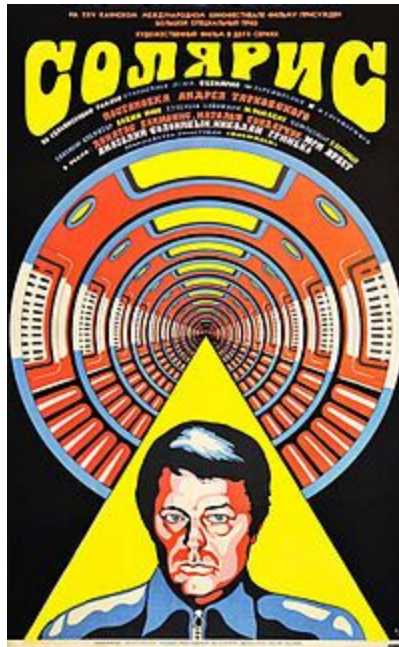


Film Review by Himanshu Upreti (173059004)

Andrei Tarkovsky

Solaris



Director - Andrei Tarkovsky

Release year - 1972

Plot:

The movie starts with narration of the story of pilot Berton and his incident with oceanic planet Solaris. Berton shows the video clip of his investigation and report of his encounter with Solaris planet to his friend and his son. His son Kris Kelvin is a psychologist and is being sent on an interstellar journey to evaluate whether a decades-old space station should continue to study.

Berton's Story: Years earlier when Berton had been part of an exploratory team at Solaris but was recalled when he described seeing a four-meter-tall child on the surface of the water. This was dismissed as a hallucination by a panel of scientists, but now that the remaining crew members are making similarly strange reports, Kris's skills are needed.

Kevin finally goes to Solaris Station, a scientific research station, and the condition there was peculiar. No one was present to greet him at first. He soon learns that Dr. Gibarian has killed himself and the remaining two surviving crewmen—Dr. Snaut and Dr. Sartorius—are uncooperative and evasive.

After a sleep, Kelvin is shocked to find Hari, his late wife, in his sleeping quarters. She is unaware of how she got there. He panicked to see her, he tries to send the replica of his wife into outer space. It was later explained by Dr. Snaut that “visitors” began appearing after the scientists conducted illegal nuclear experiments to understand the nature of the planet. As a side effect, the person that comes to the mind of a member of Solaris in a night became a reality. Hari reappears in Kevin's quarters. This time Kevin accepts her and embraces his lost love. There is a verbal feud between scientists and Kevin regarding Hari and her existence.

Sartorius theorizes that the visitors are composed of “neutrino systems” but that it might still be possible to destroy them through use of a device known as “the annihilator”. Later the scientist discovers that it is Kevin who is able to connect properly with the planet. So they propose Kelvin's brainwave patterns at Solaris, as an effect on the surface of Solaris, the ocean begins to swirl faster into a funnel. Kevin becomes ill and goes to sleep. Meanwhile visitor Hari petitioned the two scientists to destroy her. Kelvin debates whether or not to return to earth or remain with Solaris.

The end of the movie was again cryptic, Kelvin meets his father at their country home. It is later revealed to be on an island in the Solaris ocean.

Analysis of the movie

- The movie was very long and it feels sometimes hard to get what has happened. However, the genre of the movie seems to hold the viewer to watch the movie till the end. That's the beauty of science-fiction.
- The colours were beautiful and acting seems to be contemporary. The sound effect is great but the scene of prolonged travelling of Berton while going out of city is a bit unexplained.

- Despite being the science fiction movie, the movie talks and addresses a lot about the humanity. The fact that visitors related to both scientist were shown and they wanted to get rid of them as soon as possible shows that they weren't such beautiful creation by solaris.
- The reason may be those scientists don't have much emotions and humanity left inside them
- However, the creation by Kelvin thought was beautiful and later able to develop emotions like humans. The reason being the ocean can connects much properly with Kelvin.
- After sending Kelvins brainwaves to the ocean the solaris was able to replicate Kelvin and that why island appears at ocean in the end. The Solaris is new planet and humanity is yet to appear here. I think the solaris wanted only the best humanity to appear in the planet.

Conclusions

The movie is long still holds the viewer. It is science fiction still talks much on emotions , drama and humanity. It is good watch.