

Entertainment

Mind games run amok in Schwarzenegger's Total Recall

Finally there's a movie that has an astronomical budget and that money actually gets translated onto the screen, not to the producer and star's accountants.

Total Recall, which reportedly cost more than \$60 million to make, stars Arnold Schwarzenegger. It has actually been kicking around Hollywood for more than 16 years now as an intricate and fascinating script that went through countless producers, directors and stars, none of which were capable and/or confident that they could translate this unique script to film.

But it wasn't until Schwarzenegger got interested and started pushing the project that *Total Recall* finally got rolling, with Paul Verhoeven (who also directed *Robocop*) at the helm of this futuristic fantasy/nightmare.

It's the year 2084 and Schwarzenegger plays Doug Quaid, a construction worker on earth whose frightening dreams of escapades on Mars sparks him to seek out and innovative travel agency that actually plants complex memories of any vacation into your brain, without you ever having to leave their office.

But it's during the procedure that something goes violently wrong and another personality is unleashed, causing blocked memories to surface, thrusting Quaid right in the middle of inter-planetary espionage, where he is hunted down because of what he is starting to recall. It quickly becomes a terrifying voyage into what's real and what isn't.

Hollywood Beat

with DAVID GIAMMARCO

Total Recall, with its shocking and strange twists and turns, rises far above other sci-fi and fantasy films, due in large part to the sensational special effects and ingenious story. However, the film starts as an in-

ventive psychological thriller but then unfortunately veers off into a typical Schwarzenegger shoot-em-up crusade. It would've been a far more intriguing film had they not forsaken the mind-altering edge, but then again that would've meant a far more skillful actor who consequently wouldn't have the box-office draw of Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Regardless though, the film is a dizzying and dazzling spectacle that is well worth the ride — a ride that you'll most certainly never forget.

Out of ten, *Total Recall* rates a seven.



A mind transportation machine wins the battle of the brains with Arnold Schwarzenegger in a scene from *Total Recall*.

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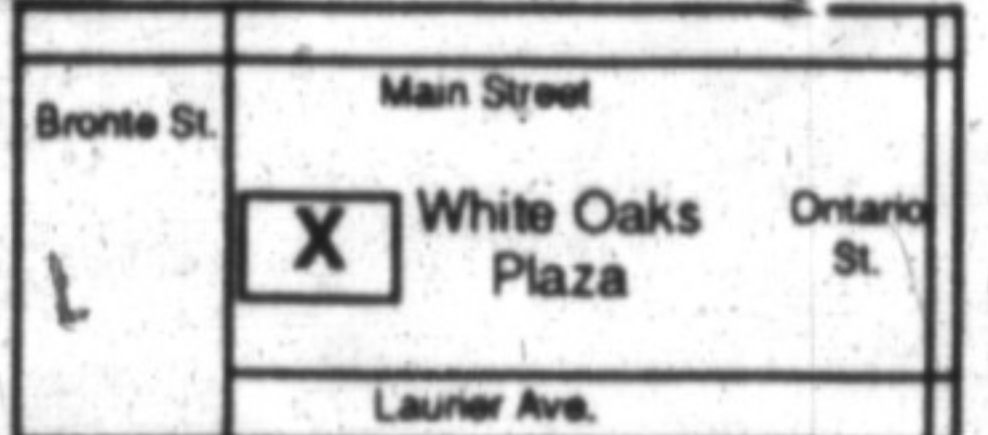
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