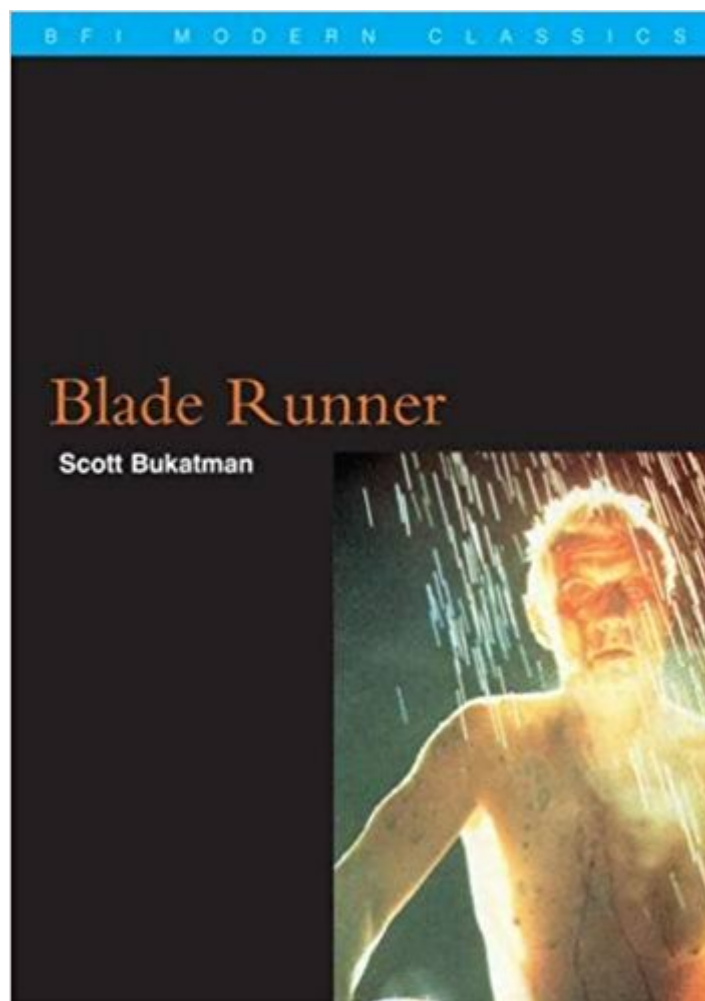


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Blade Runner (BFI Modern Classics)



Synopsis

This text details the making of Blade Runner and its steadily improving fortunes after its indifferent reception in 1982. The film is situated in terms of the debates about postmodernism which have informed the large body of criticism devoted to it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like many movies reviewed in the British Film Institute series, Blade Runner did not start off strong at the box office. Coming on the heels of Star Wars and Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Blade Runner offered movie goers a much bleaker view than they had complacently grown accustomed to in the few years preceding its release. Instead of cute aliens and a disco-inspired cantina, we got rebellious androids who kill humans and bounty hunters who hunt them down in the street of a Los Angeles that looks like the earth split open and vomitted upward. Although this dark vision of the near future might not have resonated with viewers at the time, Blade Runner gained its audience over time as people saw through the surface and started asking some deeper questions. This volume by Scott Bukatman addresses some of these issues as well. This book is broken down into three parts, the first of which is a general overview of the making of the movie. It is the next two sections, however, that are more interesting, although Bukatman has a tendency to digress into typical movie analysis babble that will probably be offputting to most potential readers. Fortunately, this does not undermine the better parts of this book. The second section discusses the role that cities themselves have played in cinema and how Blade Runner taps into and contributes to that history. For much of science fiction, cities were places of potential utopia in the perfected world of

the future. Of course, darker versions existed and Blade Runner itself is a return to a more dystopian vision. The best is saved for last as the third section discusses replicants (the androids in the movie) and addresses the issue of what really makes humans human.

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