

Arts/Features



Nancy Allen and Peter Weller in 'Robocop'

'Robocop' is futuristic, fast-paced — and gory

Joanne Gordon
Cinema

"Robocop," the story of a robot cop out to save a city from injustice, sounds like a cheap comic book story. Surprisingly, however, "Robocop" is not a remake of "The Six Million Dollar Man"; the movie has an unexpected approach to the futuristic idea.

"From an artistic point of view, 'Robocop' had to be a contradiction . . . elegant, powerful, futuristic . . . yet electronic, human and real," director Paul Verhoeven said. And it — er, he — has all of these qualities.

The robocop has been designed by Security Concepts, Inc. a subsidiary of OmniConsumer Products, the powerful corporation that has assumed control of the Detroit Police Department to cure crime in the city. Murphy (Peter Weller), a naive-but-tough cop who pursues a vanload of

hoods without backup and is gunned down on his first day in the city, becomes Robocop. Using what's left of Murphy, young executive Morton (Miguel Ferrer) puts the Robocop program into action to humiliate old exec Jones (Ronny Cox).

Robocop is "the best of both worlds: the fastest reflexes modern technology has to offer, onboard computer-assisted memory and a lifetime of on-the-street law enforcement." The computer-assisted memory has a small problem: Murphy has recurring dreams of his death. The night-

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