50 years after 2001: A Space Odyssey launched, it's still the 'movie that changed all movies'

Neel Roberts

Stan Kubrick, one of the greatest and most influential directors in the film industry, was reputed for his revealing, sensational movies that almost seem prophetic.

Starting as a high school photographer, he made many movies until his blockbuster *2001: A Space Odyssey* hit box offices in the spring of 1968.

Based on a narrative of sci-fi British author Sir Arthur C. Clarke, its ideas come from his 1948 novel *The Sentinel* and 1953's *Encounter in the Dawn*.

With a budget of $12 million, it's taken in over $190 million so not only was it a financial success but it's also become one of the best sci-fi works of all time.

It's classified as "hard sci-fi" (a category of sci-fihttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_fiction characterized by an emphasis on scientific accuracy) for its accurate depiction of space flight, pioneering special effects, and ambiguous imagery while emphasizing sound/minimizing dialogue in place of traditional narrative techniques. At two and a half hours long, *2001: A Space Odyssey* is long, but well worth it!

Sky watch

On Sunday, Nov. 11, the Northern Taurids meteor shower peaks after dark. The forecast is for seven meteors per hour. The moon will set at early evening for dark skies until the wee morning hours of Monday.

On Saturday, Nov. 17, the Leonid meteor shower peaks after nightfall into the next morning. The moon sets at about 3 a.m., so look towards the constellation of Leo. Originating from the comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle, this meteor shower should produce meteors at the rate of 10-15 per hour.

On Monday, Nov. 26, look southeast before 9 a.m. with a good pair of solar filters and binoculars or telescope to see a Jupiter-sunrise conjunction.

Public events

Mark down Saturday, Nov. 17, from 8-11 p.m., for the monthly open house at the Rothney Observatory near Priddis. There will be an indoor presentation, and astronomers will be on hand to answer questions. That night, check out Cassiopeia, the vain and boastful queen of the northern sky, under a sliver of a moon. The entrance fee is $30 per car. For further information, contact Jennifer Howse at jhowse@phas.ucalgary.ca or 403-931-2366. The website www.ucalgary.ca/rao is updated regularly.

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