

Hey all! What is going on!

Happy new year! I hope everyone had a great week and I wish everyone a tremendous 2021! I don't really have much to say this week. Before I get to this week's film review I wanted to link to a music video called ["Get Out \[Demo\]"](#) by the artist Asher Roth that I thought would give people good vibes to start off this year! Fun fact I once saw Asher perform live. I wasn't planning to, I was at a show and he was an unannounced guest! Anyways, I guess that is all for this spiel! On to the Cavalcade!

[Mortal Engines](#) is a 2018 film based on a series of young adult science-fiction novels currently available to stream on Netflix. The film is buoyed by an intriguing if absurd premise and a few strong performances however unfortunately *Mortal Engines'* narrative fails to gel into anything truly memorable. Still, for a film available to watch at your leisure on Netflix, this film is easily digestible viewing and offers an interesting sci-fi reality for a viewer to be temporarily transported to.

Taking place at an undisclosed year in the future (at least well after 2119), *Mortal Engines* is a reality in which our current civilization was destroyed by Quantum Energy weapons during a "60-minute war" (in contrast to the much more drawn out [100 years war](#) lol). This brief yet devastating war wreaked havoc of such magnitude that the actual continents of the Earth itself were smashed into bits and rearranged. The new human civilization that rose up in the aftermath of all that destruction consists of huge mobile cities in the West and a traditional static world in the East. The mobile cities are mega contraptions which roam the land literally ingesting other cities in a search for resources and energy in what is termed "municipal darwinism." As more and more cities are devoured and the remaining energy resources dwindle, a clash between the mobile West and the stationary East looms. (Within the narrative of this dystopian post-apocalyptic film, not in real life sorry to disappoint lol!).

Ostensibly a film for children, adults may enjoy *Mortal Engines* as well. It has a wonderful steampunk aesthetic and several memorable and charismatic characters. Not only that, but there are a few scenes where the level of violence would shock any child lol. The idea of mobile cities is very imaginative and you would feel like there would be a lot to explore in such a world. But *Mortal Engines*, as impressive a feat of modern commercial art as it may be, just can't reach the sheer storytelling brilliance or the visual effects delight of a series like *Harry Potter*. The narrative in *Mortal Engines* feels rushed. The characters in this film hardly get a chance to breathe. The film could have done with more time spent world-building. And more effort designing the visuals. It was difficult to truly understand the scale of these cities because of the way they were drawn on screen. And while there are plenty of cinematographic treats to

be found in this film, the artistry of the CGI is never able to reach the level of the truly spectacular.

What is the saving grace of *Mortal Engines*, are the strong performances from the leads including Hugo Weaving, Herma Hilmar, Robert Sheehan, and Jihae. What is also the saving grace of this film is that you can watch it casually on Netflix lol. You aren't going to walk away from this film thinking you wasted two hours. At the least you are going to explore an intriguing premise filled with entertaining imagery. In the end it is unfortunate that *Mortal Engines'* weak narrative spoils it's potent premise.

Well that's it for this week's Cavalcade! I hope everyone has a great week! Much more next week and much more after that!

Peace Y'all!

-Nandhish

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