

Review

After reading this review of Blade Runner, I both agree and disagree with Roger Ebert but, this review also left me with a lot of questions and thoughts that I never thought of when watching the movie. This first thing Roger said that stuck out to me was in the first paragraph saying “Even one character we can safely assume is human, the reptilian Tyrell, czar of the corporation which manufactures replicants, strikes me as a possible replicant.” First, calling Tyrell a reptilian made me chuckle but then I thought about it. Calling someone a reptilian means they are emotionless or detached from basic human actions and Tyrell being called that is an interesting thought because the argument that his replicants are more human than him can come up. Reptilian Tyrell also made me raise the question, did Tyrell lose his sense of humanity while making human replicants? Second, Roger’s thought of Tyrell being a replicant himself made my opinions of “Blade Runner lore” drastically change because all I can now think about is who made him, did other Blade Runners run a *voight kampf* on Tyrell, when was the first replicant made and is that even possible. After that paragraph, Roger goes on to talk about the movie and the changes in the final cut, but doing that, he brings up something I disagree with. Roger quotes another film critic Tim Dirks saying “The movie never actually deals with more than five replicants, however, unless, as the critic Tim Dirks speculates, Deckard might be the sixth” Now, I’m not saying Deckard is a replicant or not (personally I don’t think so even though the director said he is), I just don’t think he was with Nexus 6 for many reasons. Deckard was on Earth before Nexus 6 hijacked a ship, Deckard has worked with the police for a while, and if he was, wouldn’t Roy and every other replicant in the movie recognize him? Roger then goes on with the review but then brings up the point, “What I have always wondered is why the Tyrell Corporation made their androids so lifelike. Why not give them four arms and settle the matter, and get more work out of them?” I also thought this while watching the movie. Like if these replicants were made for inhumane labor, why make them look and act like normal humans. Another example I can think of along with give them extra arms is why are the combat replicants “weak” or “human-like”, give them bullet proof skin or something. For example, Leon was a combat replicant and dies with just one shot to the head, yeah I know that’s a vital spot but for a combat bot (combot), I expected more. Roger

goes on after that and says “Is there a buried possibility that Tyrell's long-range plan is to replace humans altogether? Is the whole blade-running caper simply a cover for his scheme?” I agree with Roger here because throughout the movie, Tyrell acts like God. For example, he has a golden pyramid above the clouds, he makes human like robots with superhuman feats, and is referred as the “Maker”. Roger then goes on to say “and with the addition of vast floating zeppelins, individual flying cars, and towering buildings of unimaginable size. When I first saw the film I was impressed by the giant billboards with moving, speaking faces on them, touting Coca-Cola and other products. Now I walk over to Millennium Park and see giant faces looming above me, smiling, winking, and periodically spitting (but not Coke).” This made me realized how crazy advertismet is in our world now. For example, you see ads everytime and everywhere and some people said its gonna get worse later down the line because now subscription services are going to have them. At the end of the review, Roger mention “I have been assured that my problems in the past with "Blade Runner" represent a failure of my own taste and imagination, but if the film was perfect, why has Sir Ridley continued to tinker with it, and now released his fifth version? I guess he's only... human.” Roger saying that made me lead to my opinion that maybe Ridley made 5 other version of Blade Runner because he had so many ideas to do with his world he made. Making a movie with sci fi elements open the flood gates on what you can do and seeing how Blade Runner came out after the Star Wars craze and people may be burnt out of the sci fi genre at the time, Ridley could have wanted to do something different to catch the viewers attention.