

## Videodrome ★★

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**Year of Release:** 1983

Review by Randy Parker

**Country:** USA

**Verdict:** See It

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In *Videodrome*, director David Cronenberg fails to exploit the potential of an extremely intriguing premise: the broadcast of television waves which alter the human brain and cause hallucinations. *Videodrome* suffers from a fatal case of poor execution. The plot is muddled and incoherent, and Cronenberg fails to give the film any substantial suspense or momentum. The special effects (usually a Cronenberg specialty and superb in *The Fly*

and *Scanners*) are mediocre and disappointing. The acting (the film stars James Woods and marks the film debut of Debbie Harry) is strictly B-grade. *Videodrome's* pace does pick up in the last 20 minutes, and the film momentarily comes to life. But it's too little too late. To make matters worse, the final scene is anticlimactic, confusing, and unsatisfying—like the entire movie.

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