Wonder Women (1973)

I confess I misread this movie title and thought it was Wonder Woman with Lynda Carter. But no, this film is far wilder and more fun. It’s got it all - a James Bond style secret island lair, an evil doctor running a multi-million organ-harvesting organisation and an army of beautiful women dressed in skimpy Star Trek outfits who bicker, kidnap and murder while perfectly quaffed and never breaking a nail. .

Nancy Kwan is evil Dr. Tsu, head honcho of an outfit that kidnaps top athletes to sell their organs to wealthy plutocrats that want to live forever. Her opponent is LA detective Mike Harber (Ross Hagen), a hunk attired in a bright white safari suit, that he thinks is perfect camo for hiding in the jungle from gangs of gun-toting girls. Maybe he’s colour blind. Anyway, Mike sees plenty of action with a cemetery gunfight, a Jeepny chase through teeming Manila streets and ludicrous kung-fu fights wuth a leggy assassin, and between the girls themselves, that’s less Bruce Lee and more Uncle Jeb’s drunken dancing at your cousin’s wedding. Inevitably Mike is captured and faces a horrible death - dissection for spare parts. but before that, as usual in movies, he’s given a guided tour of the secret lair by evil Dr. Tsu and even has time to enojoy “brain sex” with her too. And boy, does he enjoy it! Will he escape or end up transplanted inside a geriatric billionaire? Let’s just say the ending certainly postitions itself for a sequel.

There’s enough going on here to confirm this is a bona-fide action movie. It’s pacy, amusing and fun with some decent location shots and visual appeal. The cast aren’t famous but nonetheless deliver an entertaining movie with an original theme. Its blend of crime, sci-fi and martial arts hokum is far-fetched but ultimately surprisingly satisfying. The movie, like polyester bell-bottoms, platform shoes, hot pants and halter tops, shows that some things from the 1970’s are definitely worth revisiting!