

Forbidden Planet (1956)

Written by

Cyril Hume (screenplay), Based on a story by Irving Block, Allen Adler, & Shakespeare

Directed by

Fred M. Wilcox

Cast

Walter Pidgeon	<i>Dr. Morbius</i>
Anne Francis	<i>Altaira Morbius</i>
Leslie Nielsen	<i>Commander Adams</i>
Warren Stevens	<i>Lt. 'Doc' Ostrow</i>
Jack Kelly	<i>Lt. Farman</i>
Richard Anderson	<i>Chief Quinn</i>
Earl Holliman	<i>Cook</i>
George D. Wallace	<i>Bosun</i>
Robert Dix	<i>Crewman Grey</i>
Jimmy Thompson	<i>Crewman Youngerford</i>
James Drury	<i>Crewman Strong</i>
Harry Harvey Jr.	<i>Crewman Randall</i>
Roger McGee	<i>Crewman Lindstrom</i>
Peter Miller	<i>Crewman Moran</i>
Morgan Jones	<i>Crewman Nichols</i>
Richard Grant	<i>Crewman Silvers</i>
Robby the Robot	<i>Robby the Robot</i>



Trivia

- The famous poster for the film shows a menacing robot carrying a struggling pretty girl - a staple of monster movie posters from the 1950's. In fact, no such scene occurs in the film.
- Filmed on the same stage as The Wizard of Oz (1939); the set of Altaira's garden is a re-use of the Munchkin Village set.
- First mainstream film to have the music performed entirely by electronic instruments.
- Robby the Robot was originally operated by stuntman/actor Frankie Darro. He was fired after almost falling over while inside the expensive prop, following a five-martini lunch.
- Loosely based on "The Tempest" by William Shakespeare.

- In addition to animating the monster that invades the camp, Walt Disney Studios artist Joshua Meador provided approximately 29 other animation effects.
- In November 2017, the Robby the Robot costume and its transport set an auction record for a non-automotive screen prop when they sold for \$5.375 million.
- Production took up 89,000 square feet of sound stage space, making it one of the largest productions for MGM.
- While plenty of previous science-fiction films had earthlings exploring other worlds, this was the first film to be set entirely on a foreign planet.
- A full-size mock-up of roughly three-quarters of the starship was built to suggest its full width of 170 ft. (51 m). The ship was surrounded by a huge, painted cyclorama featuring the desert landscape of Altair IV; this one set took up all of the space in one sound stages.
- Robert Kinoshita, who is credited with building Robby the Robot, was also Art Director for the TV series *Lost in Space* (1965). Many of the "Lost in Space" robot's features are similar to Robby's. There are also similarities between the ships in both.
- At a cost of roughly \$125,000, Robby the Robot was expensive for a single prop at this time.
- The planet on which Edward and Altaira Morbius live is Altair IV, which according to *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (1993) is also a Federation planet. Director Fred M. Wilcox consulted with scientists before making the decision that the planet's sky would be green.
- Irving Block and Allen Adler's original script took place in the year 1976 on the planet Mercury. An Earth expedition headed by John Grant is sent to the planet to retrieve Dr. Adams and his daughter Dorianne, who have been stranded there for twenty years.
- Robby the Robot's main designer and uncredited builder was Robert Kinoshita, who had designed washing machines prior to working on the film. Robby's chest and legs resembled a washing machine tub.
- Referring to Robby the Robot, the cook asks, "Hey, Doc, is it a male or a female?" Although on one level this line is just meant to be comic relief, it also serves as a reference to the performance history of this movie's source material, William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Robby is the character of Ariel in *The Tempest*, who is one of the earliest examples of gender-blind casting in western theatrical history.
- The ship C57D was also used in episodes of *The Twilight Zone*.
- On the bridge of the C57D, the clock reads "17:01" as they approach Altair-4. This was later used as the hull number of the starship USS *Enterprise* (NCC-1701).
- When Morbius introduces Robby to the ship's officers, Robby demonstrates that he obeys Isaac Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics: 1. A robot cannot harm a human being, or through inaction allow a human to come to harm. 2. A robot must obey orders given to him by a human, unless the order conflicts with the First Law. 3. A robot must protect itself from harm, unless that would conflict with the First or Second Law.
- In the *Star Trek* episode *Amok Time*, the *Enterprise* is ordered to a ceremony on Altair VI.
- Similar plot points appear in *Star Trek's* "Requiem for Methuselah" (written by author of *The Man From Earth*).