Irdial Presents

SURVEILLANCE NIGHT/WEEK

STATEMENT:

1984 is not on this list. Everyone refers to it constantly, the the point that it no longer has any power to instill dread. This is mostly due to all the predictions of 1984 coming true and life still seeming for the most part to be 'normal'.

All of the selections in this series, ideally to be broadcast over a single week, maintain their power to manifest apprehension in the viewer, even though all but one of them are a quarter of a century old or older.

Each selection addresses a specific challenge facing the British public; Mass Surveillance, ID cards, Overpopulation, Environmental Degradation, Authoritarianism, Injustice, The Database State. Never before has the subject of these films been so important. This is why they should be shown, in series, to bring these issues to light, and to show the possible futures that await us should we not heed their collective message.

This series needs to be broadcast because the issues played out in each selection are facing us as never before. The power of technology has reached such a level that everything that is in these selections has either the potential to happen soon or has already happened.

'O.B.I.T.' and 'Court Marshal' should be shown back to back as the first installment.

This collection is curated by Akin Fernandez, owner of Irdial-Discs. He researched, collated, wrote and published 'The Conet Project: Recordings of Shortwave Numbers Stations', and has been involved in TV and Radio pieces on this subject.

1/A The Outer Limits: 'O.B.I.T.'

A sinister contractor infiltrates astonishingly powerful surveillance machines into the US military, the psychological effects of which are debilitating to the lives of all who are touched by the eye of the O.B.I.T. machine.
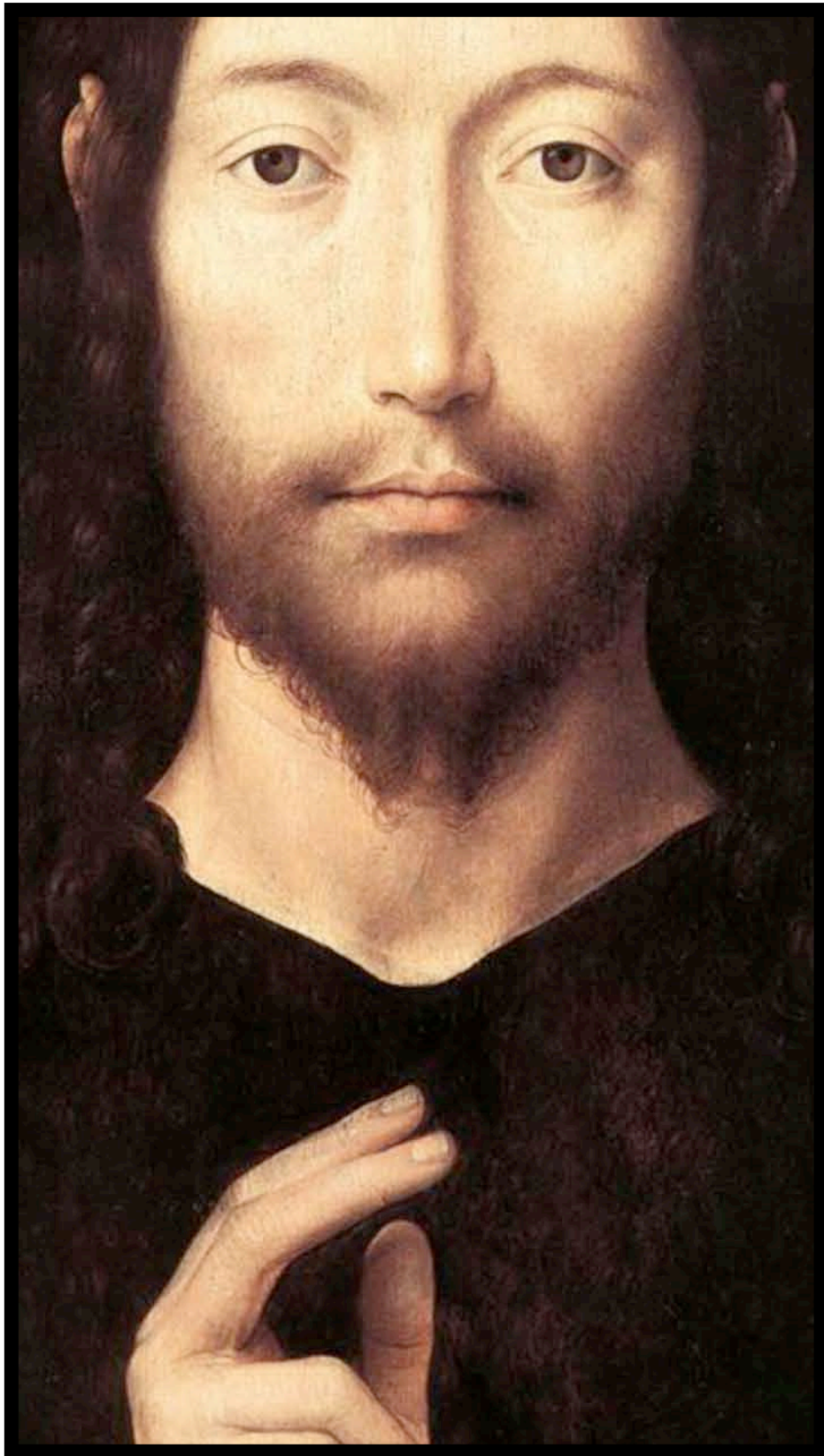
Key Concepts: NSA, Surveillance Society, ECHELON, Paranoia

1/B Star Trek: 'Court Martial'

This episode of Star Trek from the original series explores the issue of man's subjugation to computer based evidence. This is prescient, as a man in the UK was found to be culpable of a crime based on the output of a computer and was told he should simply admit what he had done to make everything easy. The police officer in charge of him blithely said that, "if the computer said you did it, as far as I am concerned, you did it."
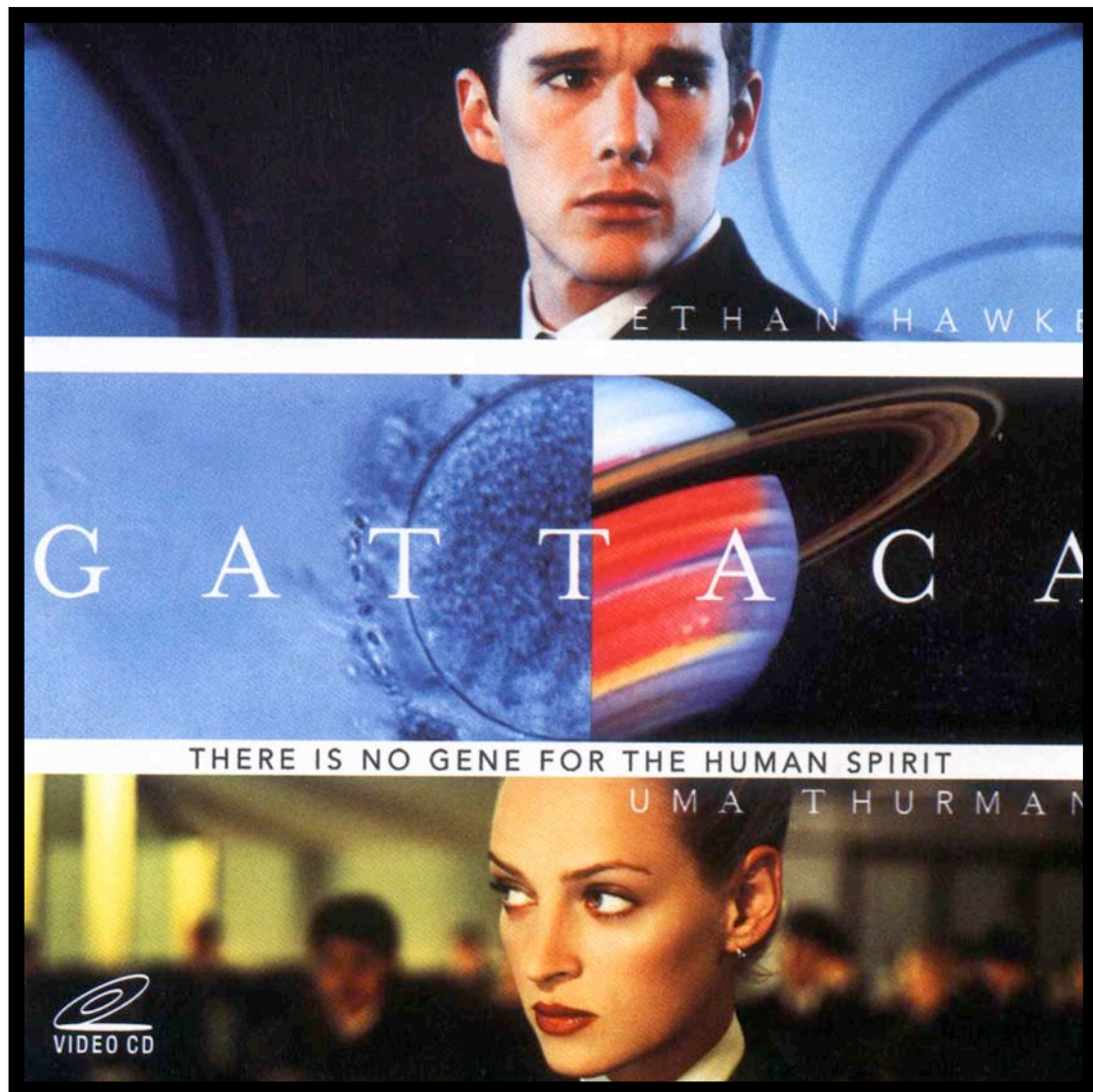
Key Concepts: Police Databases, injustice

2/ 'THX-1138'

George Lucas's brilliant and completely accurate exploration of the end result of a computerized surveillance society of absolute control of the individual on the biological, moral, cultural and information levels.
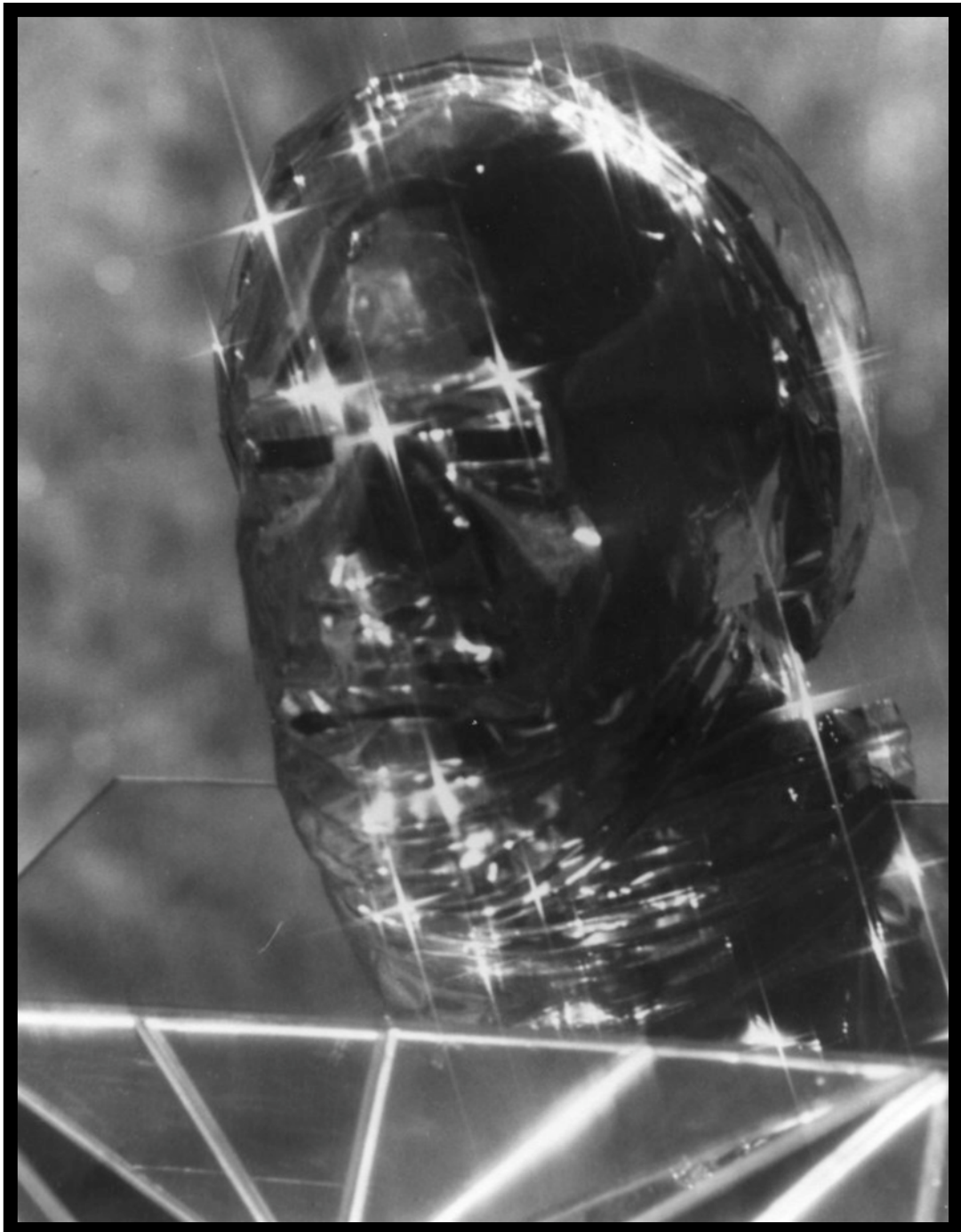
Key Concepts: CCVT, NIR / ID Cards, Genetic Screening, Authoritarianism

3/ 'GATTACA'

The inevitable segregation, prejudice, exploitation and waste of human life is extrapolated in this film which explores a very near future where DNA is the sole arbiter of your life's pattern and potential.
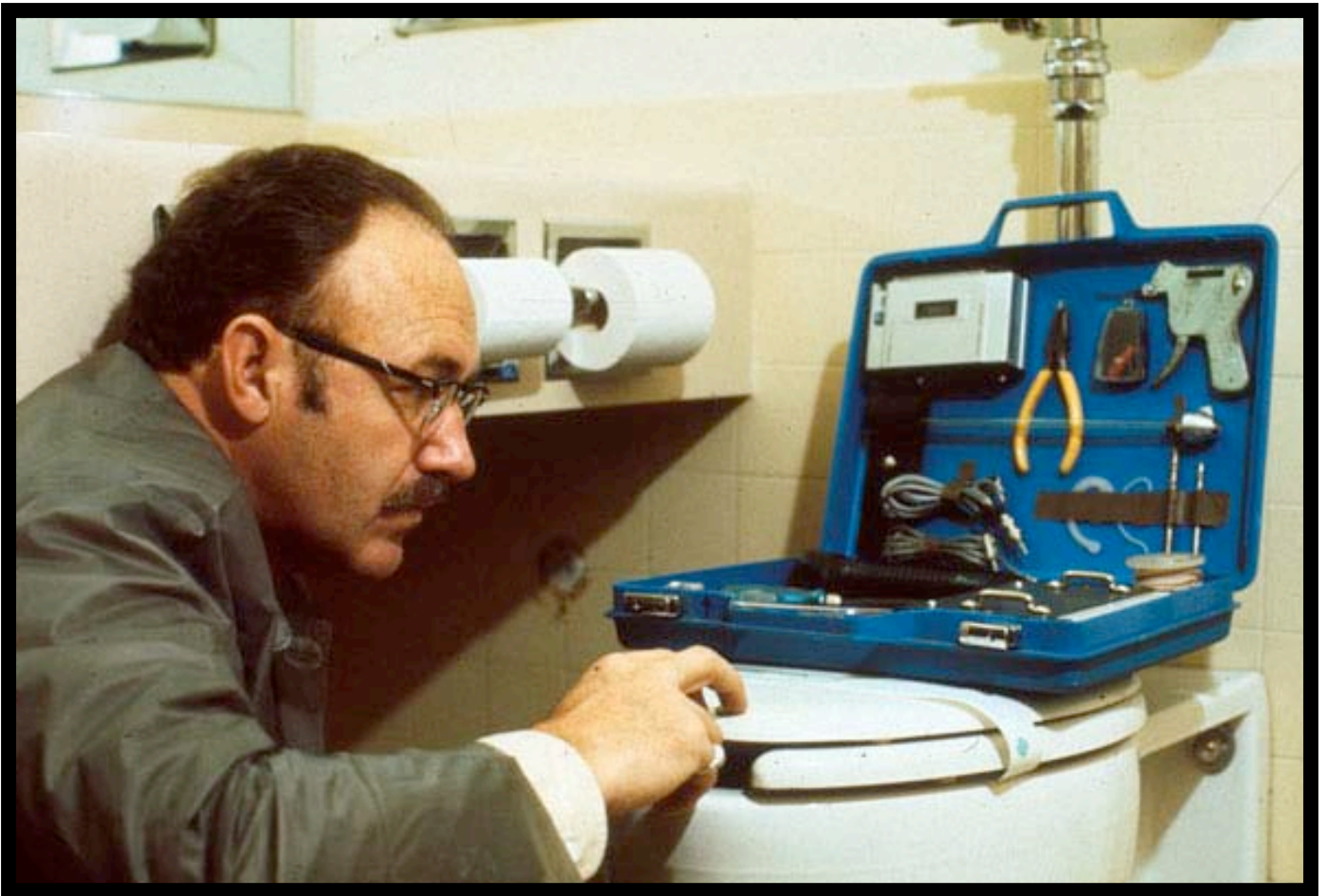
Key Concepts: Genetic Selection, Discrimination

4/ 'Logan's Run'
Life in compact cities; totally regulated and surveilled in this fascinating piece on how man might choose to resolve the inevitable environmental crisis that faces the earth.

Key Concepts: Overpopulation, Environment, Euthanasia, Compact Cities

5/ 'The Conversation'

Gene Hackman is an expert in surveillance technology who becomes obsessed with a young girl after being assigned to watch her. The power of surveillance, even in the 1970s is astonishing and the twist in this story is appropriate.

Key Concepts: Surveillance abuse, Corporate control