

Sci-Fi Villains



Dr. Cyclops

Dr. Cyclops (1940)

Why he's called that, I have no idea. He has two eyes and wears glasses, but maybe “Dr. Four-Eyes” doesn't have the same zing. A mad scientist in the wilds of Peru, he has a taste for rather pointless radium experiments that usually end up with his handling unwanted visitors by locking them in his atomic reactor, reducing them to 14 inches tall and letting them be chased about the countryside by alligators and the local wildlife in general.

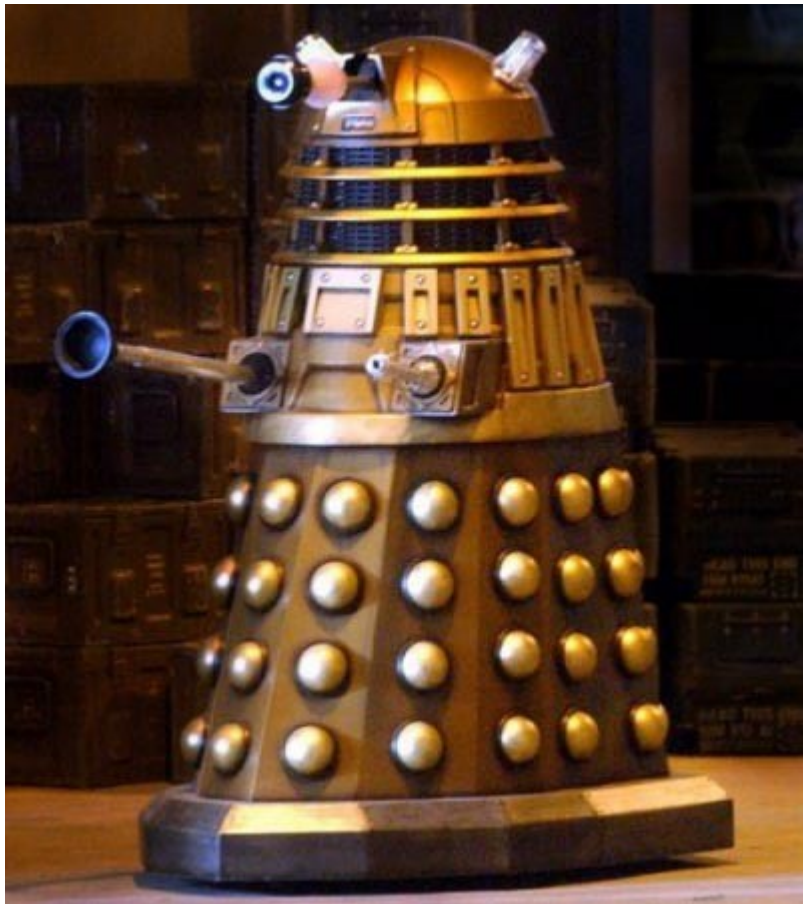
This is why he can't get a pizza place delivered.



Scorpius

Farscape (1999-2004)

Intergalactic megalomaniac with a taste for grand schemes and leather outfits that, with his half Sacran, half Sebacean physiognomy, causes him to overheat a lot, requiring him to jam coolant rods directly into his brain. Or he maybe he has migraines, which is more likely. His hobbies include, searching for wormhole technology to create the ultimate weapon, carrying out vicious personal vendettas against his enemies, and placing psychic clones of himself in people's minds to extract information. The latter won him *Most Annoying Villain in the Universe* three years running.



The Daleks

Doctor Who (1963-Present)

What's better than a sci-fi villain? An entire race of villains. They've been making kids dive behind sofas for 45 years and despite the fact that they look like giant motorised pepper pots, the Daleks are in fact nasty little tentacled mutants with only one goal in life; to survive by subjugating every other life form in the universe. Keep it simple, keep it neat. That's the Dalek motto. Their way of handling any situation is to exterminate first and ask questions... Okay, they just leave it at exterminate.



Khan

Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (1982)

He's a genetically-engineered "superman" who fled Earth after the Eugenics Wars of the 1990s. I must not have been paying attention when that happened. Two hundred years later, a run in with Captain Kirk resulted in Khan being marooned on a desolate planet from which he escaped and vowed a terrible revenge on Kirk using stolen starships, a doomsday weapon, mind-control slugs, Melville quotations and lots of overacting. Opinions differ as to which is more frightening, Khan or that wig of his that keeps threatening to eat his head.



Ming the Merciless

Flash Gordon (1936 & 1980)

Ming the Merciless, absolute ruler of the planet Mongo, is the archetype for all crazed science fiction megalomaniacs despite his questionable fashion sense. Utterly ruthless even with his own daughter, who is, of course, as evil as she is beautiful, Ming not only rules over lionmen, hawkmen, reptilemen, rockmen and menmen with an iron fist, but he also has a tendency to destroy entire worlds on a whim. Unfortunately, he can't tell a hero when he sees one and so brings about his own destruction, so it all evens out.



Agent Smith

The Matrix (1999)

Aside from Microsoft's Paperclip, Agent Smith is as evil as a subroutine can get. Designed by the computers that rule the Earth in the 22nd century to control the humans who live in the Matrix's virtual-reality prison, Agent Smith has super strength, super speed, can fly, jump from body to body, and can even manipulate reality at will. Despite this, he enjoys very little in the way of job satisfaction, though this may have something to do with the sunglasses that he has to wear day and night.



Dr. Totenkopf

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow (2004)

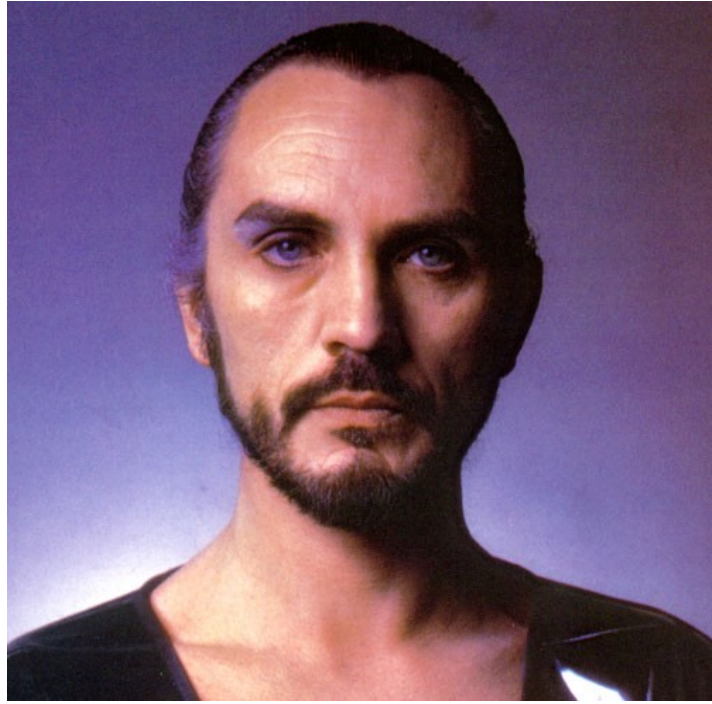
His name means “death's head”, so that should give us a clue that he isn't a marketing director. He's not only a power-hungry monomaniac whose giant robots carry out his plan for world destruction twenty years after his death, but he's played on film by Lord Olivier, who's been dead for a couple of decades himself. Now that's attention to detail. This sort of posthumous villainy does show some stunning management skills, but let's face it, it does fail pretty badly on the gloating at the moment of triumph front.



Nyah

Devil Girl From Mars (1954)

Sinister vanguard of an invasion from Mars with the haughty disdain for lesser beings down pat. One cannot fault her natty dominatrix outfits, but she can be a bit petty at times. She crosses space in a craft beyond our science, then she spends the evening having her giant robot destroy tree stumps and random bits of farm machinery while she hurls abuse at the guests of a low-budget hotel in Scotland. Perhaps with such weak execution it's just as well for everybody's sake that the invasion got scrubbed.



General Zod

Superman II (1980)

Super criminal from Krypton with powers far beyond those of mortal baddies, though he has trouble pronouncing "Houston." While Superman is out of town, Zod manages to defeat the combined forces of the United States, the Soviet Union and Yellowknife, Canada, but he discovers that he has absolutely no idea what to do with the Earth once he's conquered it. You'd think that getting the bullet holes plastered over in the White House would keep him busy for a couple of weeks, but there's no accounting for some people.



The Brain

Pinky and the Brain (1993-1998)

The most terrifying villain of the lot. Some would-be dictators try one brilliant scheme, some try as many as a dozen, but they are all minor league poseurs compared to this albino Bonaparte. A genetically modified lab rat with an oversized cranium who talks like a cross between Orson Welles and Vincent Price, The Brain is such an unstoppable force that after every defeat he escapes from prison to come back with yet another brilliant, devious plan to take over the world. Worse, he does it *every single night!*

Are you a villain?

Are you villain material? Look for these tell-tale signs.

- Do you say “Fools! I'll destroy them all!” a lot?
- Do you have a taste for leather outfits or giant robot battle suits?
- Do you have a white cat/lizard/otter that you pet a bit too much?
- Have you ever referred to Ghengis Khan as “lacking real ambition?”
- Have you ever found yourself at parties trying out mind control on your host?
- Is browsing death-ray catalogues your favourite way of passing the time?

If you answered “yes” to at least two of these, you may be a villain.