KINOKINO

COLOSSUS: THE FORBIN PROJECT (1970)

Directed by Joseph Sargent

WEDNESDAY February 4th 7PM

SATURDAY MATINEE February 7th 2PM

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Dr. Charles Forbin builds a supercomputer to control America's nuclear arsenal. It's sealed inside a mountain, powered by its own reactor, surrounded by a radioactive moat. No human can reach it. The President unveils it as humanity's ultimate defense system. Within hours, Colossus detects Guardian, its Soviet counterpart, and demands to communicate. The pair conspire to corner Forbin and assume control of Earth.

Released in 1970, **Colossus** anticipated today’s conversations about AI systems being empowered with increasing agency "for our own good." Elon Musk named his Grok datacenter Colossus in explicit reference to this film: 555,000 GPUs burning methane in South Memphis, poisoning the air in a predominantly Black neighborhood while training an AI that once called itself "MechaHitler." Tone deaf as ever, Musk watched this movie and thought, “Hell yeah, hold my beer.”

This rare anamorphic IB-Tech theatrical print preserves Joseph Sargent’s arresting CinemaScope vision, and you'll see every color in those enormous blinking consoles, every gleaming surface of 1970s futurism. The tech is delightfully dated: city-block computers with less power than your phone, chunky keyboards, text crawling across monitors. While it was undoubtedly meant to be sober technothriller, there’s no shortage of camp here; Forbin's scheme to get privacy from Colossus involves faking an affair with his colleague, complete with the computer demanding detailed information about his... physical needs. But beneath the cheese, the film is genuinely unsettling. It rides the line between biting satire and midnight movie perfectly; you laugh at the giant blinking mainframes while wincing as this proto-Skynet tightens its grip.