

People as commodities

In *Blade Runner*, reproductive technology is represented as having reached such an advanced stage that a corporation specialising in genetic engineering can produce designer copies of human beings and sell them. The replicants are considered by humans to be commodities. The design details of the Nexus 6 replicants are recorded on a set of files known as incept dates and are kept in the Blue Room.

A replicant is a replica or a simulation made out of synthesised organic material. This material is manufactured in laboratories that specialise in certain body parts. For example, Chew manufactured the replicants' eyes and Tyrell constructed their brains.

In *Blade Runner*, Earth has become the production space for corporations. The corporation boasts that their skill in producing the replicants is so advanced that it is difficult to tell them from humans, because they are 'more human than human'.

Replicants are the ultimate designer product. They are used to explore the off-shore colonies. Their owners exploit them and use them to do the dangerous and unpleasant jobs that humans don't want to do. Replicants are also used in the wars that continue to rage, even after the tragic wars that have destroyed Earth.

Dr Eldon Tyrell, the head of the Tyrell Corporation, has manipulated the genetic coding used to create the replicants' brains to ensure that they only have four-year life-spans. Even so, scientists have noticed that replicants were developing 'strange obsessions'. Although replicants were not designed to remember, they have begun to develop a capacity for emotional responses – love, hate, fear, anger and envy – from their experiences.

Blue Room design details

<p>Replicant (M) Des: LEON NEXUS-6 N6MAC41717 Incept Date: 10 April, 2017 Func: Combat/Loader (Nuc. Fiss.) Phys: LEV.A Mental: LEV.C</p>
<p>Replicant (M) Des: BATTY (Roy) NEXUS-6 N6MAA10816 Incept Date; 8 January. 2016 Func: Combat, Colonization Defence Prog Phys: LEV.A Mental: LEV.A</p>
<p>Replicant (M) Des: ZHORA NEXUS-6 N6FAB61216 Incept Date: 12 June, 2016 Func: Retrained (9 February, 2018) Polit. Homicide Phys: LEV.A Mental: LEV.B</p>
<p>Replicant (M) PRIS NEXUS-6 N6FAB21416 Incept Date: 14 February, 2016 (Valentine's Day) Func: Military/Leisure Phys: LEV.A Mental: LEV.B</p>