



J.J. Abrams is considering directing the next *Trek* film, but he said it will depend on the script.

## Star Trek streams onto TV Land; Abrams talks directing

The TV Land cable network is celebrating the launch of *Star Trek* on the network by streaming episodes online for free and reuniting cast members for live video chats.

*Trektoday* reported that beginning on Sunday, November 19, TV Land would kick off "Space Week" to celebrate Classic *Trek's* arrival at the network. For the first time ever on the web, free streaming episodes will be available at *TVLand.com*. The network is also offering an online *Star Trek* trivia game, episodes of other TV Land shows that feature members of the *Star Trek* cast and a broadcast of *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*.

On that same day, fans will also be able to chat live at 9 p.m. with George Takei (Sulu), Walter Koenig (Chekov) and Nichelle Nichols (Uhura). Then, beginning on Monday, November 20, *Star Trek* will move into a regular time slot of 11 p.m. weekdays.

Also, the online video game "Is It Logical?" will show players short video clips and test knowledge of *Star Trek* background. An additional "Captain's Blog" will let viewers in essence write fan fiction about what went on behind the scenes during popular episodes.

TV Land's online site also features an episode guide and message boards to discuss the show.

And *TVLand.com* will offer exclusive

interviews with Takei, William Shatner (Kirk) and Leonard Nimoy (Spock), plus a look at how *Star Trek* impacted scientists, historians and others.

A full listing of the planned events is at *TVLand.com*.

▲ Producer J.J. Abrams said that he would make no decisions about whether he would direct *Star Trek XI* until he saw a script that made him believe he was the right person to helm the film, but said he hoped to start filming next spring regardless.

In a brief video interview at *TrekMovie.com*, Abrams reacted with amusement when told that one of the screenwriters, Roberto Orci, had said that the first draft of the script was due at the end of October. "I would love to see that quote so I can call him up say, 'Uh, Bob?'" Abrams joked. "They are in the midst of it. It's in progress."

Regarding the question of whether he would direct, Abrams said, "It is one of those things where I want to make sure I am the right person for it. I won't commit to anything that I don't think I can deliver the way I think it needs to be delivered. It is a question of practicality more than anything else."

Meanwhile, William Shatner has said he expects the role of Captain Kirk, if he appears, will be recast. ■

## Let's meet at the "Whites' house" in Laurel!

The next meeting of the U.S.S. Chesapeake *Star Trek* and Science-Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, November 18, at the home of Starfleet Intelligence Officer Annie White and Chief of Computer Operations John White in Laurel, Maryland.

We'll gather at 5:00 p.m. for our dinner, followed by our club meeting, which will

begin no later than 7:00 p.m. We'll talk about the recent and upcoming conventions, what fellow club members are up to and the latest news about *Star Trek* and other sci-fi television shows and movies.

Need directions to get to the November meeting? Download the insert from our online Yahoo! Group. ■

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## CAPTAIN'S LOG: The alien within

With Classic *Trek's* 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary winding down, I'd like to turn my attention to a different aspect of something I've discussed before: the show's aliens.

Many times I've praised the creators of the original series for coming up with imaginative aliens on a *Bonanza* budget, but this time around, I want to talk about how *Trek's* other-worldly beings differed from those that came before.

When I was growing up, it seemed aliens were simply another breed of monsters that, after arriving on Earth, began indiscriminately cutting down the excess population.

Certainly, some looked cooler than others. I remember the original *War of the Worlds* (the Gene Barry

movie, not the Tom Cruise version), with space ships drifting through cities, blasting people into chalk outlines on the ground.

All that changed when *Star Trek* came along.

While most of the aliens were humans with a snappier dress code, the more creative ones—like Klingons and Vulcans—weren't just killing machines. They had different agendas than Kirk and company, but after a while, I figured out that they represented different aspects of humanity.

This was radically different stuff than the blobs and critters that mostly occupied prime-time sci-fi TV. The *Trek* folks must have been doing something right because four decades later, people are still dressing up like their favorite aliens at cons and Halloween parties.

With that in mind, I'd like to present a little piece along the lines of those cute little articles in the *National Enquirer* that point out what your favorite member of the Three Stooges says about you. To wit:

### *What Your Favorite Star Trek Alien Race Says About You*

If your favorite *Star Trek* aliens are the ... *Klingons*, you're an incredibly aggressive and underhanded individual. When you disagree with someone, you tend to kill that person, rape his wife and sell his kids into slavery. Your head has recently gotten harder on the top. Don't worry too much about this, because in about 78 years, you'll get a "personality transplant" and spend all your time worrying about duty and honor and stuff like that.

*Vulcans*, you're calm and efficient and

tend to look at problems to find a rational solution. The only bad thing is that once every seven years, you tend to fight your best friend "to de det!"

*Romulans*, you spend your time worrying about duty and honor and stuff like that. You have a passing relationship with your calm, logical family members, but in about 78 years, you'll undergo a "personality transplant" and inexplicably become an incredibly aggressive and underhanded individual. After that, when you disagree with someone ... oh, you get the idea.

*Andorians*, you're not quite as aggressive as your Klingon friends, but you tend to exhibit a cold rage when you get mad. You also have a hard time hearing what other people are telling you, which is why you'll eventually have antennae growing out of the top of your head.

*Tellarites*, you love to "pig out" at Old Country Buffet, which just annoys the heck out of your Andorian friends.

*Tribbles*, you also love to "pig out" at Old Country Buffet, but unlike the Tellarites, you then start working on math problems. That's right, you start multiplying!

*Horta*, you are a sweet, motherly type until someone starts doing mean things to your kids. At that point, it's time for everyone around to move to another planet!

*Tholians*, you tend to get hot under the collar ... and everywhere else, for that matter.

*Gorn*, you tend to be cold-blooded about things and neglect your studies in basic chemistry.

*Gamesters of Triskelion*, you tend to have big brains ... and not much else to speak of.

*Mugato*, you just go ape for all things *Star Trek*.

*Iotians*, you tend to copy what everyone else does, hoping for "a piece of their action."

*Organians*, you like to sit around and smile a lot.

*Halkans*, you're a pacifist until it kills you! I'm sure I left out some nifty gags along the way, but you can see the wide variety of behavior there was among Classic *Trek* aliens.

As for me, I've always thought the Andorians are "cool," which is one reason I was happy to see them make a comeback during *Enterprise*. Take THAT, Rick Berman! ■

Captain Randy Hall



Which *Star Trek* alien is your favorite?

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Check out our club website: [www.ussschapeake.org](http://www.ussschapeake.org)

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# SCIENCE TREK: Not there yet (but we're on our way), conclusion

*Editor's note: This month, Phil concludes a look back at where we've gone since Gene Roddenberry's "wagon train to the stars" launched.*

## 2003

- January 23 – Last signal received from the Pioneer 10 probe.
- February 1 – Loss of seven astronauts aboard the space shuttle *Columbia* (ironically, the first shuttle to fly after the *Challenger* was lost).
- NASA's Space Radiation Laboratory begins study of "simulated space radiation on biological and physical systems."
- Fusion research ongoing (not there yet ... check back in 25 years).

## 2004

- June 21 – SpaceShipOne becomes the first private space craft to fly beyond the bounds of Earth (albeit for a few minutes only).
- U.S. President George W. Bush unveils a plan for the U.S. to return to the moon by 2020 and send the first humans to Mars by 2030.
- Elements 113 (Ununtrium) and 114 (Ununpentium) created.
- Signs of ancient water on Mars.

## 2005

- Cancer replaces heart disease as the top killer of people 85 and younger, though the total number of deaths from either declines.
- NASA's Deep Impact mission scores an 83-million-mile bull's-eye when it strikes comet Tempel 1.
- Discovery of "Xena," a Kuiper belt object larger than Pluto. Beginning of the end of classical planethood for the dog world.
- Evolution wins a round against intelligent design/creationism in a Pennsylvania court room.

## 2006

- World population: 6.4 billion.
- New Horizons mission launched toward Pluto, the last planet (Xena excepted) no human space craft has visited.
- Study indicates low-fat diets don't decrease risks of heart disease, cancer or stroke.

- First cancer vaccine approved (for cervical cancers caused by the human paillo-mavirus).
- After much debate over the definition of a planet, Pluto loses its status as one of the big kids and is designated a "minor planet" (adding insult, its moon may receive the same classification). Protests erupt.

## Epilogue

Out of the blue, I was thinking of the Classic *Trek* episode, "The City on the Edge of Forever." And with only a few lines to explicate those thoughts, let me do so without further ado.

Amazing that, considering how fast the Guardian displays history (of Earth — think about all the history happening at any one moment in time all across the world), Spock and Kirk were able to jump with relatively close precision to the place and time McCoy landed. What an incredible (and dangerous) device the Guardian was — I wonder if the Federation enforced General Order #7 on the Guardian's planet ... look it up or ask Lorenzo.

What an incredible science-fiction story! (It was one of many stories/scripts written by science-fiction writers — here, Harlan Ellison. Ted Sturgeon — "Shore Leave" and "Amok Time" — was another.) Something good (saving a woman's life) leads to something horribly bad on a far larger scale (Hitler and the Nazis conquer the world). So, to save the world — and themselves — Kirk must condemn someone he cared about to death.

If he and Spock had failed, would Kirk have let his crew go their separate ways into history, *a la* "All Our Yesterdays?" I don't think James T. would ever have given up. ■

## Web Notes:

- <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/> (You know you want to visit);
- <http://www.bobpark.org/WN87/wn041787.html> "(The Science and Technology of Directed Energy Weapons)";
- <http://www.bnl.gov/physics/history/> (Brookhaven National Laboratory dot gov);
- [http://spaceprojects.arc.nasa.gov/Space\\_Projects/pioneer/PNhome.html](http://spaceprojects.arc.nasa.gov/Space_Projects/pioneer/PNhome.html) (the true

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## REFLECTIONS: Close the gate

“A gateway to the imagination has been opened, and a new universe of action and adventure has been ushered in.” — MGM statement, 1997

As a rule, I don’t believe in coincidences. Scientifically, they require too many distinct and precise variables to be an everyday occurrence. Spiritually, they require divine intervention. If you consider both of these factors, together or separately, the very appearance of the variables and the intervention in and of themselves cancel out the likelihood of coincidence. Most coincidences can be traced back to a series of events caused by other events culminating in a very logical progression. The scientific term for this is “cause and effect.”

There is no scientific term for divine intervention because that would be an oxymoron. I include the intervention for the sake of argument and covering all bases, whether I personally believe in them or not.

Having said this, I whole-heartedly believe in coincidences, just not on the grand scale that most people and the producers of *Lost* would have you believe. I believe that coincidences, just like winning the lottery, are few and seldom seen.

Believe it or not, just such an occurrence led directly to the formation of my current topic, *Stargate SG-1*. While eventual Executive Producer Jonathan Glassner was meeting with MGM executive John Symes, little did he know that a similar meeting had taken place with his fellow *Outer Limits* Writer/Producer Brad Wright.

“I liked the movie,” explains Brad Wright, “but felt there was so much more to explore in terms of storytelling.”

With his two writer/producers on board who were totally in sync and on the same page, John Symes set out with business plan in hand and secured two U.S. networks, a U.S. station group and huge international sales to pay for this ambitious and rather expensive premise. Having secured funding for the project, the only thing left was the star. Symes contacted Richard Dean Anderson (MacGyver!), whom he had worked with on *MacGyver*, and begged him to do it.

“John called me and said, ‘I really want you to do this,’” recalls Anderson. “He sent me that tape, so I watched the movie a few

times, did my research and saw the potential of the movie as a great starting block for the series. I have a very irreverent sense of humor. It’s very dry, sarcastic and naughty, and I wanted to give O’Neill that kind of levity. Fortunately, they went along with it.”

Also hovering in the realm of the aforementioned coincidence, in a casting session of about 500, Michael Shanks met Amanda Tapping and Christopher Judge at the audition while awaiting his turn to read. The three of them struck up a conversation and through it all decided to go to lunch together. They quickly formed a bond during lunch and throughout the audition. Imagine their surprise to find out that each of them had gotten their parts.

Lastly, after 10 seasons of wormhole jumping, Goa’uld fighting and Jaffa Kreeing, *Stargate SG-1* has been cancelled. It is a sad time, but not as sad and you might think. I think it’s time. The show has been limping along for the last four seasons, flashing the occasional brilliant episode, but not the brilliant seasons of the past. The Ori and the Priors don’t quite cut it for me. I find them extremely boring, as too I find the whole Arthurian elements of the *Stargate* mythology. I was never a big fan of the “Round Table” anyway.

I have found Beau Bridges and Ben Browder to be welcome additions to the *Stargate* cast, but even though I think she has displayed the best chops I have seen, I think Claudia Black’s character, Vala, is a complete waste and does nothing to enhance the show.

I’ll miss *Stargate SG-1* tremendously. It’s been the best sci-fi series since *Star Trek*... for now.

### *Stargate SG-1*’s Top 20 Episodes

20. “The Enemy Within” — Season 1 (Kowalski, an original member of SG-1, is a Goa’uld.)
19. “Ripple Effect” — Season 9
18. “Watergate” — Season 5 (Marina Sirtis as a Russian.)
17. “Point of No Return” — Season 4
16. “Fragile Balance” — Season 7
15. “2001” — Season 5 (the sequel to “2010”)



The *Stargate SG-1* team during the ninth season.

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# COMING EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

*November 18* ..... Thank goodness it's time for Thanksgiving! If you need directions to our November meeting, please be sure to check out the insert in the club's Yahoo! group!

## DECEMBER

*December 16* ..... Happy holidays! Let's get together for our yearly Holiday Party and Gift Exchange! Look for more information coming soon!

## **SCIENCE TREK: Not there yet ... concluded**

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pioneers);

- <http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/heasarc/headates/heahistory.html> (all you wanted to know about the history of high-energy astrophysics);
- [http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~hlarsen/TNG\\_episode\\_guide.htm](http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~hlarsen/TNG_episode_guide.htm) (TNG eps in brief);
- <http://www.schoolscience.co.uk/content/4/>

[biology/abpi/history/timeline.html](http://biology.abpi/history/timeline.html) (cool);

- <http://planetquest.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm> (PlanetQuest: The Search is on);
- <http://www.strangescience.net/timeline.htm> (not so strange, I think);
- <http://www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.html> (Year by year by year); and
- <http://www.pbs.org/deepspace/timeline/index.html> (from then to now and beyond).

*Second Officer Phil Margolies*

## **REFLECTIONS: Close the gate ... concluded**

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14. "Nightwalkers" — Season 6 (Sam, Teal'c and Jonas work an "X-File.")
13. "Beneath the Surface" — Season 4 (SG-1 are day laborers.)
12. "Family" — Season 2 (Introducing Bra'tec)
11. "Message in a Bottle" — Season 2 (The SGC discovers the ZPM.)
10. "Thor's Hammer" — Season 1
9. "The First Ones" — Season 4 (Meet Chaka of the Unas)
8. "2010" — Season 4 (the SGC 10 years in the future)
7. "The Torment of Tantalus" — Season 1 (the original discoverers of the Stargate)
6. "Point of View" — Season 3 (alternate Sam, alternate Kowalski)
5. "Bane" — Season 2 (An infected Teal'c is protected by a home-

less girl.)

4. "1969" — Season 2 (SG-1 travels back in time, meets Lieutenant Hammond.)
3. "Strengthhold" — Season 9 (Cameron Mitchell's best friend is dying.)
2. "Children of the Gods" — Season 1 (Pilot)
1. "Cold Lazarus" — Season 1 (One of the best dramas on television, this episode sold *Stargate* to the foreign investors.) ■

*Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard*

