



Lovable rogue Harcourt Fenton Mudd as he appeared in *Classic Trek*.

## Hertzler returns to *Star Trek* as Harry Mudd in *New Voyages*

It isn't only fans who are enjoying seeing fans make new *Star Trek*. Actors and writers are enjoying getting their chances to bring the franchise new life.

J.G. Hertzler, who played Chancellor Martok on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, will re-create the ever-lovable charlatan and rogue, Harcourt Fenton Mudd, who was portrayed by Roger C. Carmel in both *Star Trek* and *Star Trek: The Animated Series*.

Hertzler will also direct the episode, which is currently titled "The Sky Above, the Mudd Below."

"Harry Mudd comes across loud and clear, it will be a hoot to embody the ol' privateer ... Harry Mudd is a cross between a giant Ferengi and a gypsy king," said Hertzler after reading the script.

Hertzler is known for his versatility as an actor, playing a number of roles on *Deep Space Nine*, *Voyager* and *Enterprise*, as well as many other stage and screen roles. "J.G. has a great sense of humor, and I know he will make a great Harry Mudd," remarked Producer James Cawley. "It takes a special actor to recreate the role of one of the greatest thorns in Captain Kirk's side."

Hertzler isn't the only name involved with the project that is familiar to *Trek* fans. Well-known author Howard Weinstein scripted

"The Sky Above, the Mudd Below."

Weinstein became a professional writer at age 19 when he sold "The Pirates of Orion" episode to the animated *Star Trek* series in 1974. He was all of 23 when he sold his first novel, "The Covenant of the Crown," to Simon & Schuster's fledgling series of *Star Trek* books. With the pending publication of "The Blood-Dimmed Tide," part of Simon & Schuster's six-part e-book series *Mere Anarchy*, his *Star Trek* writing career now spans 33 years.

Howard's *Star Trek*-related credits include six novels, 60 comic book issues, two graphic-novel story collections, story-development assistance on *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*, and contributions to the recent short-story anthologies *Deep Space Nine: Tales of the Dominion War* and *Constellations*. He wrote an essay on the meaning and legacy of *Star Trek* in *Ben-Bella Books' new 40th-anniversary anthology Boarding the Enterprise*.

Pre-production work continues on the project, which has not yet been assigned a shoot date. "There are a few key roles and details we still have to nail down before we establish a firm shooting schedule," said Cawley.

*New Voyages* recently released "To Serve All My Days," an episode bringing Walter Koenig back to the role of Chekov. Check out Captain Randy Hall's column for a review. ■

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## Time for the first club meeting of 2007!

Ready to kick off a new year?

The next meeting of the *U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek* and Science-Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, January 20, at the Hard Times Cafe located in College Park, 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

any 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.

Do you need to get directions in order to make it to the January meeting? Then be sure to download this month's insert from our online Yahoo! Group. ■

## CAPTAIN'S LOG: "To Serve All My Days"

Let's start off the shiny new year by discussing the shiny new *Star Trek: New Voyages* episode, "To Serve All My Days."

While returning Federation delegates from an economic conference on Babel, the *Enterprise* is threatened by a mysterious ship. Also, Chekov is involved in a radiation accident that causes him to age rapidly and contemplate his place in the universe.

Yep, it's "Journey to Babel" meets "The Deadly Years," but the latest "webisode" has two big things going for it: a script from *Trek* legend Dorothy Fontana and a performance by some actor named Walter Koenig.

As usual, I'm putting on my Clint Eastwood cowboy hat and breaking up my review into three parts.

*The good:* Each *New Voyages* effort improves by leaps and bounds, and "To Serve" is no exception. As always, the sets and costumes are incredible, and the direction and pacing of this episode felt very natural and professional.

Maybe it's just repetition, but it's becoming easier for me to accept the fan actors as the Classic *Trek* characters. Without a doubt, the big find this time around is Andy Bray, who is *very, very* good as Chekov, accent and all!

In fact, some of the best scenes feature interaction between the "young" and "old" Chekov as Koenig demonstrates he can still play the character that made him part of *Trek*.

Another highlight was the accurate continuity that included bits from just about every episode with Chekov, such as "The Apple," "The Way to Eden" and "The Trouble With Tribbles." In addition, the story nicely fleshed out some previously unknown aspects of Chekov's character.

And finally, Dorothy Fontana added a clever new entry into the "I'm a doctor, not a..." lexicon!

*The bad:* You can't make *Star Trek* without a bevy of special effects, and this episode featured a new FX crew. At times, things moved more slowly than I'd like, but a great "space chase" through a debris field in the opening act made up for most of that.

I understand that TSAMD was intended to be a "fond farewell" to Koenig as Chekov, but it got kind of silly to keep hearing everyone say he's "the best weapons officer on the ship," "the

best navigator in the fleet," "the best" this and "the best" that. Hey, we're *Star Trek* fans! No one has to convince us to like Chekov.

*The ugly:* I try not to give away too many surprises in my reviews, but I MUST talk about the end of this episode! Turn back now if you don't want to be spoiled.

The folks at *New Voyages* must be fans of *South Park*, because when the show was over, all I could think was: "Omigod! They killed Chekov!"

Remember my comments about these folks' attention to continuity? Well, after all that, they turned around and gleefully tossed *Trek* history out the nearest airlock.

It's bad enough that we all know Chekov is alive and well in *Star Trek: Generations*. It's bad enough that Koenig is returning in the fan-produced mini-series *Star Trek: Of Gods and Men*. It's bad enough that the preview for the next *New Voyages* episode shows young Chekov hale and hearty with no indication of any forthcoming explanation.

No, the worst thing is that after really enjoying the rest of the episode, I was suddenly reminded that this is *just a fan film* and not REAL *Star Trek*. Sigh.

I went to the *New Voyages* website, and here's their official explanation:

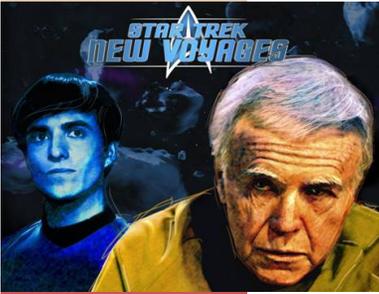
"We all know that Chekov lives, as he is in the features, and HE IS in our next episode! Whether or not we ever explain how he is cured is irrelevant, as we all KNOW he somehow survives and makes it in to the future and the feature films.

"This is the story as Walter and D.C. wanted to tell it. This is Walter passing the baton to a new group of actors, and we thank him for that."

For me, part of the unspoken agreement between professional creators and the audience is that the creators do indeed explain little trifles like how dead characters come back to life. I consider this the worst mistake *New Voyages* has made, and it has already diminished my fun in anticipating their next episode.

That will be "World Enough and Time," which will feature George Takei as a 30-year-old Sulu. I can't help but wonder what would happen if Nichelle Nichols were to show up in *New Voyages* . . . ■

Captain Randy Hall



Chekov is back ... and back ... in the latest *New Voyages* episode.

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

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# SCIENCE TREK: Interplanetary oops!

If you haven't heard or seen the story already, check out <http://www.cnn.com/2007/TECH/01/07/mars.life.ap/index.html>. Go ahead, I'll wait.

Back already?

For those too (insert reason here) to check it out, here's the opening sentences:

"Two NASA space probes that visited Mars 30 years ago may have found alien microbes on the red planet and inadvertently killed them, a scientist is theorizing. The Viking space probes of 1976-77 were looking for the wrong kind of life, so they didn't recognize it, a geology professor at Washington State University said."

Which is to say, oops (if it's true, that is). Ten points for whoever can tell me what type of logic this is: If there is life on Mars, if that life is based on water and hydrogen peroxide (instead of salt water as on Earth), if the Viking probes scooped up those life forms when digging for life on Mars, then we killed said life.

A couple of major points here, any of which are game for this or a future column: interplanetary research, extraterrestrial bioethics and what we'll talk about today ... life as we don't know it.

A common criticism of *Star Trek* and other science fiction (especially visual media) stories is that, gee, all the aliens look like human beings. Particularly egregious are those that look like people with silly putty stuck on their nose! (Never you mind that many hard-core science-fiction stories involve such creatures ... and ignore the Horta in the corner.)

Hodgkin's Law of Parallel Planet Development, which brought us worlds inhabited by Romans and Yangs ("Bread and Circuses" and "The Omega Glory," respectively) aside, the real reason so many *Trek* aliens have been human or humanoid is that, well, those aliens that travel billions of miles to crash on Earth don't seem so adept at signing Hollywood agents.

Still, the precept of some scientists and science-fiction critics that aliens won't be like us cannot be dismissed that easily. After all, whether or not your opinion tends toward religious or scientific, the history of Earth that led to our ability to pose these very questions seems incredibly specific to this world. Could the conditions on other worlds so exactly

match ours that intelligent humanoid life is inevitable?

The currently theoretical question put another way, what conditions on other worlds might drive the evolution of non-humanoid life, intelligent or not?

Frankly, the little that we know are the basics of life on Earth: water, carbon, oxygen, sunlight and a planet orbiting within the "habitable zone" or a stable yellow-orange star. Beyond Earth, we've only performed basic surface research on two planets (Mars and, to a much lesser extent, Venus), one satellite (our moon) and one or two asteroids.

Add in remote surveillance via robot spacecraft, and you're up to maybe two dozen planets and moons. Beyond that, we know of perhaps 50 extrasolar worlds, most of which are Jupiter-like and orbiting closer to their parent star than our closest world, Mercury.

Water, specifically salt water, is our key to life on Earth\*, but as Dirk Schulze-Makuch theorizes in the case of Mars (author of the paper referenced in the CNN article back that way ^), water and hydrogen peroxide might be the key on another world. Think about a world where the Horta ("Devil in the Dark") could survive and thrive ... would we be able to even breathe the air?

\*Known life forms on Earth may not need oxygen or sunlight, but as far as we've found, they are all carbon-based forms that rely on salt water as the internal cellular medium. As stated in the Tufts article (see Web Notes for the link), "there [is not] much incentive to theorize about non-carbon-based, non-water-based life when today's biochemists themselves are clearly made of ~80% water laced liberally with carbon."

Which is why, perhaps, so many of the sites returned in a Google search on "intelligent non-humanoid life" are science fiction and not science fact.

Next month: more questions, more answers.

Web Notes:

- [http://www.memory-alpha.org/en/wiki/Hodgkin's\\_Law\\_of\\_Parallel\\_Planetary\\_Development](http://www.memory-alpha.org/en/wiki/Hodgkin's_Law_of_Parallel_Planetary_Development) (Wiki *Trek*);
- <http://www.sacred-texts.com/ufo/aliens.htm>

*continued on page 6*



The Horta from *Star Trek's* "Devil in the Dark."

## ART CREDITS:

[startrek.com](http://startrek.com) 1, 3  
[newvoyages.com](http://newvoyages.com) 2  
[images.google.com](http://images.google.com) 5, 6,  
Insert back  
[scifi.com](http://scifi.com) Insert front  
W&R Graphics 4

## REFLECTIONS: Bend the light fantastic

“The operation was a success....that’s when things began to go wrong.”—Darrien Fawkes

When I was a child, I was fascinated with the aspect of invisibility. I always wondered what it would be like to be transparent, and I used to marvel at the things I would do if I could become invisible.

I could watch people without their knowledge and spy on my older brother to find out where he went every day for six hours! I could wear what I wanted or nothing at all (That was a big thing with me, since as a child I had no love for clothing.) and no one could comment on it.

Most of all, I wanted to go to the local comic book store and read all the comics, then leave! While I was there, I could check out some of those adult magazines the clerks were always chasing me away from. I wished someone would hurry up and invent the serum that would make me invisible. I used to wonder: “How hard could that be?”

Then I became a teenager, and I understood the science of such a thing a little better. I knew that it was nearly impossible, and I stopped wishing for an invisibility serum, but even though I knew it was nearly impossible, I wanted it even more!

Oh, I no longer wanted to read comic books while invisible, follow my older brother around or even run around naked, reading adult magazines. I was doing those things already, so they were no longer challenging.

But there was the allure of investigating life and the world while completely imperceptible. This type of covert exploring would do wonders for my understanding of my fellow man. This was also about the same time I discovered the girls’ locker room at my junior high school. Pure coincidence.

So, you can probably imagine my skepticism when I heard about the new Sci-Fi Channel show — you guessed it — *The Invisible Man*.

I was skeptical for two reasons. Reason #1: the special effects. Invisibility on television always looked fake to me, especially in black and white. I could always see the wires I wasn’t supposed to see when the invisible person lifted something.

Reason #2: There were already two shows with that same title. The first show was originally aired back in 1958. No, I’m not THAT old, but Channel 20 used to show the reruns.

It was about a British scientist who stumbled onto an invisibility serum (It was always an accident.), and he used his powers to fight crime. Pretty much un-noteworthy, except for the fact that you never saw the actor who played the Invisible Man. He could never be visible again, so you never saw his face. They wouldn’t even list his name in the credits.

Now, THAT was cool! For the record, he was played by an obscure British actor named Jim Turner.

There was another show titled *The Invisible Man* that aired from September 1975 to January 1976. I remember this one well. I was a junior in high school. It starred David McCallum — that’s right, Ilya Kuryakin, and if you don’t know who that is ... shame on you!

Like the earlier show, Dr. Daniel Westin was also unable to return to normal. He used a wig and a rubber mask of his face when he needed to be seen. A lame show really, though there was one good episode: Westin was trapped in this house with a blind man who was extremely sensitive to sound and was trying to kill him. Other than that, a forgettable effort.

Friday, June 9th, 2000. I was set to dismiss this fourth-generation Claude Rains (the actor who played the original Invisible Man in the movies), but it was on the Sci-Fi Channel, and so far, they had been pretty good to me. I kept an open mind and in doing so, was richly rewarded.

Not only was this show NOT a walking cliché, it was downright clever and funny! The irony abounded. They operated out of the federal office of the Department of Fish and Game, for one thing. Their budget was miniscule compared to other government agencies, so the other government agencies looked down on them and held them in little regard.

That all changed once Darrien Fawkes had the “quicksilver gland” put in his head by his scientist brother and became one of the government’s biggest assets. Of course, he was reluctant to be an agent in the first place and was virtually blackmailed into doing it.

Darrien Fawkes was a petty thief, and he was pretty happy being petty and under the government’s radar. As he said in his voiceover: “The operation was a success ... that’s when things began to go wrong.”

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Darrien Fawkes as  
*The Invisible Man.*

## WAYNE'S WORLDS: *Doctor Who*

If anything should give courage to *Star Trek* fans, it's *Doctor Who*.

Now, I don't mean that in a negative way. There are things about *Doctor Who* that ought to make *Trek* aficionados hopeful.

For example, *Who* started on the BBC before *Trek* was ever seen on NBC. The show has had several "leaders," each one having his own personality. Then, too, the series left the air for several years, and now is back, attracting viewers across the globe and considered a big success.

I, for one, think those are good signs for *Trek's* eventual return to the big and small screens. And I think *Doctor Who* can provide some good science fiction.

Now, I need to point out that I know a lot of "Whovians," the name for *Who* fans just like "Trekkies" and "Trekkers" has been what people who enjoy *Trek* have been called.

I think *Doctor Who* has had some great moments. But I don't think there have been enough of them for me to consider myself a fan of the show.

*Doctor Who* debuted on the BBC in Great Britain back in 1963. From the start, it has been considered a children's show, and that's been both a blessing and a curse.

As a program for kids, *Doctor Who* could indulge in aliens and magic and weirdness that the BBC didn't think would interest adults. That was a good thing since it allowed more imagination to be engaged.

The bad news for me at least is that being a series for kids means NO physical violence. No punching. No kicking. No hitting of any kind that is done intentionally.

The truth is, from my observation, a significant number of British television viewers find that perfectly acceptable. In fact, they seem to enjoy shows that spend a lot of time talking, such as *Babylon 5*. And *Who* does spend a significant portion of each episode considering each move and then examining the ramifications of those actions.

So what does a British television show do to fill the time between "talking head" discussions? Running. Then running some more. We're here, and we need to get over there. Let's run. Once we get there, we find we need to go somewhere else, so we run some more. Then, to top it off, we run just to fill the time.

As an American viewer used to physical

conflict in my television shows, I find all the running to be, in a word, dull. If I want to watch people jog, I'll put an exercise video in my DVD player. But it doesn't appeal to me as a major portion of a science-fiction series.

That said, I still like the new incarnation of *Doctor Who*. It has had some great moments, some thoughtful scripts and some good acting. And it has also had running. Lots and lots of running. And just to show that the new *Who* can improvise, they occasionally stop running and start climbing. Climbing ladders. Climbing stairs. Climbing rocks.

But before this turns into a running gag, let's examine the latest *Who*.

Following an "Americanized" movie that many Whovians didn't warm up to, the show came back to the airwaves in 2005 with Christopher Eccleston as the Doctor. In his first episode, aptly titled "Rose," the Doctor picks up his latest companion, Rose Tyler, played by pop music star Billie Piper. The two take on bad guys from the show's past, the Autons, this time appearing as store dummies before letting loose with machine guns that fire through their fingers.

In an obvious attempt to update the show, this time the Doctor's race from the planet Gallifrey has been decimated from the Time War, leaving him like Superman, the last survivor of his race in the galaxy. This was intended to make him a more sympathetic character that audiences could feel for.

Like many previous Doctors, Eccleston's version wore dark clothes and leather, and was quirky, smart and resourceful. He didn't rely on his fists, but instead used his wits to outmaneuver his adversaries.

Let me say that this has been one of the admirable things about *Doctor Who*. It's unusual to find a show focusing on someone who is mostly a pacifist. In real life, that's an admirable trait. I just don't find it very interesting television viewing. But then, I didn't like *Star Trek: The Next Generation* either.

The most interesting show of the season was an early one, "The End of the World." In it, the Doctor and Rose travel into the future to watch the Earth finally expire in a ball of flame. Of course, some aliens see a way to make money from this, so they set up what is essentially a cruise to observe this disaster

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From left, the TARDIS, Billie Piper as Rose Tyler, and David Tennant as the Doctor from *Doctor Who*.

# COMING EVENTS

## JANUARY

*January 20* ..... Welcome to 2007! Let's kick off the new year by heading back to the Hard Times Cafe in College Park, Maryland. We'll meet at 5 p.m. for dinner, then the meeting will begin no later than 7 p.m. For directions, check out the insert in our Yahoo! group!

### SCIENCE TREK: Interplanetary oops! ... concluded

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- (Someone's sacred cows on the loose.);
- <http://scienceweek.com/2004/sa041008-5.htm> (The truth is out there ... somewhere.);
- [http://www.space.com/sciencefiction/howarth\\_3.html](http://www.space.com/sciencefiction/howarth_3.html) (Howarth on aliens);

- [http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright\\_center/cosmic\\_evolution/docs/text/text\\_future\\_5.html](http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/cosmic_evolution/docs/text/text_future_5.html) (Why there are no Hortas on Earth.);
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternative\\_biochemistry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternative_biochemistry) (Gotta have another wiki article.) ■

*Second Officer Phil Margolies*

### REFLECTIONS: Bend the light fantastic ... concluded

*Continued from page 4*

Next month: We delve deeper into the Department of Fish and Game's best agent and

Bobby Hobbs, the most original character to grace television in 50 years. ■

*Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard*

### WAYNE'S WORLDS: Doctor Who ... concluded

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from a safe distance.

What follows is a fascinating murder mystery in space, with odd aliens and strange circumstances.

But, after one series (season), Eccleston chose to leave the show, so a new Doctor was chosen -- David Tennant.

The new Doctor was less leather and more tweed. Appearing more as a teacher, the Doctor found some of "his" old foes returning, including the Daleks and the Cybermen, as well as old friends, such as Sarah Jane Smith and his robot dog, K-9.

At the end of the second series (season), Piper's Rose has left the show in a blaze of

glory. Tennant continues, though there are rumors that his time is also limited. It's unclear if fans will watch the show if the lead actor and actress change on a regular basis.

The series has spawned its first spin-off, *Torchwood*, which is clearly intended for adults. It centers around Jack Harkness, an omni-sexual time traveller first seen on *Who*, as he helps Earth's forces protect the planet from aliens.

*Doctor Who* is seen in the United States on the Sci-Fi Channel. *Torchwood* has yet to be officially presented here.

*Who* comes from a unique perspective that folks who don't like television violence often find refreshing. If that's you, give it a try. ■

*Chief of Security Wayne Hall*

### PHASERS ON FUN: FOX TROT

