



Anton Yelchin has been chosen to bring a young Chekov to the next *Star Trek* film.

Casting for next *Star Trek* film hits warp speed

Two important characters in the upcoming *Star Trek XI* film apparently have been selected, and rumors are swirling around other stars who may want to join the cast.

At last month's Comic-Con in San Diego, California, *Heroes* star Zachary Quinto (Sylar) was unveiled as the actor chosen to play a younger Spock, a counterpoint to an older version of the character played by Leonard Nimoy, who portrayed the Vulcan in other *Trek* incarnations. For more on this pick, check out Captain Randy Hall's "Captain's Log" column on page 2.

Now comes word that another familiar crewmember will get a new, younger face.

According to the *Hollywood Reporter*, Russian-born Anton Yelchin seems to be J.J. Abrams' choice to play Pavel Chekov, the ship's navigator. Abrams is no longer publicly looking for an actor to play the role.

The 18-year-old Yelchin already has an impressive resumé, having appeared in numerous TV shows including *Taken*, *ER*, *Judging Amy*, *The Practice* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Anton has also appeared in several movies, including *Alpha Dog* and *House of D*.

Chekov, of course, was originated by Walter Koenig in the second season of *Classic Trek*. Even though the proud Russian was a late-comer to the bridge crew, he was appar-

ently somewhere on the *Enterprise* in Season One because, as we know from the *Star Trek II* motion picture, Khan "never forgets a face."

Casting is still underway for James T. Kirk, Leonard "Bones" McCoy, Nyota Uhura, Hikaru Sulu, Montgomery Scott, the film's villain and a Federation captain.

So who else wants to appear in *Trek XI*?

Rumors are flying that J.J. Abrams wants to bring in well-known movie actor Tom Cruise to play Christopher Pike, who was captain of the *Enterprise* during the time period in which the film is set, before Captain Kirk took command of the ship.

Similar rumors also appeared on the Internet last fall, when Cruise was mentioned for one of the film's main roles. A Cruise spokesman then denied them, which already seemed unlikely due to the public feud between Cruise and Viacom chief Sumner Redstone. However, these new rumblings claim that Abrams is looking at Cruise to appear only in a cameo role, which might be a favor the star would be willing to grant to the *Mission: Impossible III* film's director.

Another famous face that gets mentioned often is Russell Crowe, who could be chosen to play the Klingon villain of the film.

The film is scheduled to be released on Christmas Day in 2008. ■

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Enjoy fun in the sun at the August Pool Party!

The next meeting of the *U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek* and Science-Fiction Club will be on Saturday, August 18, at the Gaithersburg, Maryland, home of the parents of First Officer Abby Lindstrom.

Look for more information on when the party will start soon! Dinner should begin around 6 p.m., followed by our club meeting,

which will start no later than 7:00 p.m. We'll find out what fellow club members are up to and hear the latest news about *Star Trek* and other sci-fi television shows and movies.

Need directions in order for you to make it to the August meeting? Download this month's insert, which you can now find in our online Yahoo! Group. ■

CAPTAIN'S LOG: From Sylar to Spock

Zachary Quinto's life will never be the same again.

That's not to say the 30-year-old Pittsburgh native hasn't had an interesting acting career until now, you understand.

I remember seeing him as "Tony" in the extremely brief show called *The Others* back in 2000. At the time, he struck me as a good choice to play "the hero's best friend," a role a lot of actors play when they'd rather be "the hero" or "the star."

Since then, he's popped up here and there across the TV dial.

He was in a 2001 episode of *Touched by an Angel*, then a 2002 episode of *CSI*. In the 2003-2004 season of *24*, he was computer technician Adam Kaufman. He must have survived that day in Jack Bauer's life because he lent his voice to the same character in the *24* DVD game last year.

He's had guest-starring roles in several other shows as well, but his career really took off when he went from a baby-faced good guy to one of the nastiest baddies ever as the ultra-powered Sylar in *Heroes*. The series has been so successful that he's coming back for its second season on NBC.

I was looking through the *Trek* websites online recently when I came across an interview with Quinto in which he was asked what his dream role would be.

He replied: "I'd like to play a young Spock."

His dream came true during last month's San Diego Comic-Con, when both he and Leonard Nimoy were announced as playing the *Enterprise's* half-Vulcan, half-human officer in J. J. Abrams' "re-imagining" of our favorite franchise in *Star Trek XI*.

Of course, my initial reaction was: "What's this? We've got two Spocks and no Kirks?"

Still, it wasn't that long ago my first thought would have been: "Who do they think they're kidding, recasting Spock?"

That was during the decade-long dry spell of Classic *Trek* and before I'd seen several *New Voyages* and other fan productions that have warmed me up to other actors playing the roles Shatner, Nimoy and the rest made science-fiction icons.

As a result, I'm far more open to Quinto

playing Spock than I would have been years ago. But who should play young Kirk? I'd never have thought Matt Damon could pull it off (his shirt, that is) until I saw the *Bourne* movies. Even at this point, I still have to wonder if William Peterson of *CSI* fame has a son who's caught the acting bug.

Getting back to my initial reaction to the announcement, I find it "fascinating" that Nimoy is in the film and Shatner isn't (at least, so far). You just know he's chomping at the bit for one final shot at what he's called "the role of a lifetime" and the character that put him on the star charts. So what's the deal?

Let's look at this situation ... logically.

If Nimoy is going to play the older Spock, that probably means he'll wear the ears in either the movie or *Next Gen* eras as part of a set-up to "flash back" to the character's blue-shirted younger days.

Including Shatner in that scenario is very difficult due to the cosmic travesty called *Generations*, in which movie-era Kirk was shot into *TNG* time and stupidly killed.

Ergo, any current Shatner-Nimoy combo would have to take place pre-*Generations* unless they revive the older Kirk, which would probably require more than just a quick prelude to accomplish.

In other words, thanks a whole bloody lot for being a total wuss, Picard! We're still "enjoying" his inability to keep James T. alive when Klingons and genetic supermen couldn't kill him on their best days. Sigh.

Now that I've vented (and am feeling much better, thank you), I want to join the rest of *Trek* fandom in welcoming Zachary Quinto into our interstellar family. As long as you don't mess up our favorite Vulcan, we'll all live long and prosper just fine. And who knows? We might just come to see you at one of your first conventions!

Speaking of *New Voyages*, I haven't forgotten that I intended to review the latest episode, "World Enough and Time," this month. Sadly, due to our busy schedule at Shore Leave, I wasn't able to catch the program there.

However, once it becomes available for download on August 23, I will catch it and hope to enjoy it as much as several others in the club have. We'll all find out together next month! ■

Captain Randy Hall



Zachary Quinto's dream role

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Check out our club website: www.usschesapeake.org

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SCIENCE *TREK*: Lost history found

I'm torn about how to open this month's column. Should I start with a tribute to the soon-to-be late and lamented *Weekly World News*, the profound and prodigious source of truth, or by referencing the PBS show, *History Detectives*? Heck, let's do both.

Come August 27, the *Weekly World News* (WWN), home to the Bat Boy and countless Elvis-Hillary Clinton-Satan Is Really an Alien From Des Moines Named Bob love triangles, publishes its last issue. How different the world will be without it, and how different the world would have been had most of it been true. Then again, many of WWN's stories were based on fact.

Facts, or the finding thereof, are the heart of *History Detectives*. As described by the show's Web site: "*History Detectives* is devoted to exploring the complexities of historical mysteries, searching out the facts, myths and conundrums that connect local folklore, family legends and interesting objects."

Sounds like a marriage made in Heaven (found by the Hubble Space Telescope, by the way, according to *Weekly World News* ... they even had the photo!). So what, you ask, does this have to do with *Star Trek*?

Assignment: Earth

You know the episode. Gary Seven, slingshot effect, cat = woman, changing history or preserving it?

To sum up the episode, the *Enterprise* uses the slingshot effect to go 300 years into the past on a research mission. The crew intercepts a long-distance transporter beam returning Gary Seven to Earth to complete, he claims, his own mission, critical to Earth's survival.

Kirk tosses him in the brig, Gary escapes, gets to Earth, tries to alter the course of a test missile from a nuclear weapons platform, fake the start of WWII to scare straight the citizens of Earth. And wouldn't you know it, after the Earth is saved, Spock checks the historical database and that's the way it happened?*

You remember that nuclear weapons platform in 1968, don't you?

Let's digress and take a "history detectives" approach through a *Weekly World News* lens. Often, the history detectives find that the real story is close or at least related to a tale or bit of evidence that has been passed

down through time. You could also think of the reverse effect of a real event turned into a movie or docudrama, where certain elements are added or exaggerated.

How does this apply to "Assignment: Earth?" In the episode, Spock states that on the day of the launch in 1968, there will be an assassination and a coup in Asia. Within a week of the episode's original airing on March 28, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., the same day the second unmanned Saturn V test rocket, Apollo 6, was launched. So far, no one's identified the coup in Asia.

Space Seed

Through Greg Cox's novels, we've learned about Gary Seven's (non-canon) role in toppling that great Asian dictator, Khan Noonien Singh, and exiling him and his followers in stasis aboard the spaceship, *Botany Bay*. (Zooming in on details: the spaceship, stolen from Area 51 and built with technology based on a Klingon communicator found on an aircraft carrier in 1986—thanks to Pavel Chekov—and Ferengi technology captured from three "little green men" in Roswell, New Mexico, in July of 1947.)

You recall Khan, right? Sikh name, from the Punjab area of northern India, genetically engineered human "superman" who conquered 40 nations from Vietnam to Israel in 1993. He was overthrown in 1996, packed onto a spaceship and sent off sleeping into the heavens. You don't? So you missed the Eugenics Wars.

As I've long pointed out, you didn't miss them. You just didn't know you watched history unfold. You do remember the first Gulf War and the ongoing second? Sometimes, the dates are a little different than we recall in the centuries ahead. The Gulf War was just a cover for the Eugenics Wars. There have been numerous launches from military installations in the past few years. Who's not to say one of them wasn't the *Botany Bay*?

* Spock checks the historical database, and that's the way it happened. Well, of course that's the way it happened, according to the database. It happened that way, so that's what the database says happened! For an interesting play on this concept, go re-watch the *Next Gen*

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Gary Seven (right) and friend in *Star Trek's* "Assignment: Earth"

ART CREDITS:

images.google.com

1, 2, 4

startrek.com

3, 6

scifi.com

5, Insert front
shore-leave.com

Insert back

REFLECTIONS: Where there's stink, there's ink

"Tucker, are you prepared to write about the most important events affecting mankind today? Are you prepared to encounter things that will shake you to your very core? Then welcome to *The Chronicle*!"—Donald Stern, editor of *The Chronicle*.

In July 2001, during the "Summer of Sci Fi," the Sci Fi Channel was on a proverbial roll. They had a critically acclaimed, but not necessarily audience-enamored show (*Farscape*), they had another critically acclaimed show with a much bigger audience, a transfer from Showtime (*Stargate SG-1*), a Canadian import with a built-in audience (*Lexx*) and a new show that seemed to be a hit for them (*The Invisible Man*). The Sci Fi Channel seemed to reach its zenith, and people were responding. All that was left to do was to expand its programming past Friday night.

Saturday, July 14, was to be that start, and the program to usher in this new wave of programming was to be a little show called *The Chronicle*.

The Chronicle was a hybrid of *The X-Files*, *Men in Black* and *Kolchak: the Night Stalker*, but a heck of a lot funnier. The pilot was originally shot and financed by NBC, who, once they saw it, had no idea what to make of it. Sci Fi saw it and thought it would be perfect for their network, a match made in Sto-Vo-Kor.

The World Chronicle is a tabloid newspaper, the kind that reports on everything from Big Foot to Mother Teresa's alien love child. It was based on the real-life tabloid, *Weekly World News* (which, ironically, is just ceasing publication in the very month that I write this). The only difference is what *The Chronicle* writes is real (not the Mother Teresa/alien love child thing ... I think). It was a very interesting premise that, at first glance, could only be done for laughs. However, the writers found ample time to fill their stories with mystery, mythology, some out-and-out scary moments, and one episode that had an ending so sad, it almost made *ME* cry.

The main characters were as follows: Tucker Burns (Chad Willett from *TV's Jack & Jill* and *Steal This Movie*), a Columbia School of Journalism graduate and *Washington Post* intern. He was a journalist *wunderkind* until he was set up with a phony story by two beautiful co-eds who wanted to get back at a professor. Naive to the ways of the "real"

world, *The Chronicle* was Tucker's last act of a desperate man to land a job—any job—in journalism.

Donald Stern (Jon Polito from *Crime Story* and *Homicide: Life on the Street*) was the mysterious editor of *The Chronicle*, a licensed exorcist, ex-military, practicing lawyer and ex-government operative. Photographer Wes Freewald thinks he's an alien (the Donaldians). Donald definitely has connection to beings from other worlds, but just how much we never learned.

Wes Freewald (Reno Wilson from *Mighty Joe Young*, *Fallen*, *Heist*) was the free spirit photographer whose parents were into group sex. (We, along with Wes, found out in an episode. Poor Wes!) Wes was unflappable. He never failed to get his pictures and was probably the most hilarious of the bunch. Some of the things this guy said literally had me on the floor laughing.

Grace Hall (Rena Sofer from *Melrose Place*, *Ed* and *General Hospital*) was an Emmy winner in '95, Jack Bauer's sister-in-law on *24* and the wife of Nathan Petrelli on *Heroes*). She was a seven-time alien abductee, a hard-nosed reporter and the possessor of a relentless spirit and bad attitude.

The show premiered on a Saturday, preceded by a new episode of *Farscape*, reminding me of the pre-*Galactica* days when *Farscape* was Sci Fi Channel's principle brag. It ran on Saturdays for a little while, opening for the Sci Fi Saturday night movie.

While the Saturday night movies do very well (despite what you may think), *The Chronicle* kind of floundered on Saturday nights. Hoping it would catch on, they moved it and *The Invisible Man* to Mondays. Both shows were shot in San Diego, California, and both were totally ruined by the move to Monday night. They were cancelled in 2002, along with *Earth: Final Conflict*, *Lexx*, *Ally McBeal*, *Special Unit 2*, *Titus*, *Odyssey 5*, *The Outer Limits*, *Witchblade* and *The X-Files*, a lot of shows I was watching at the time. But I am a genre soldier. My favorite shows being cancelled is par for the course. I'm used to it.

Genuinely clever, routinely witty and painfully funny, *The Chronicle* seemed to fill a void on the Sci Fi Channel. Created by Silvio Horta (insert *Star Trek* joke here) and assisted with

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Tucker Burns and Grace Hall of *The Chronicle*

WAYNE'S WORLDS: *Eureka* makes SF fun

"There's no place for humor in science fiction!" "Science fiction shouldn't be funny!" "It's *serious* business."

The highest-rated Sci Fi Channel original series ever, *Eureka* blows those myths away.

I have to admit—I was terrified that yet another show that resembled *Tremors: The Series* (freaky distant town with strange happenings and quirky characters) would wreak havoc on the Sci Fi Channel. I prayed that they wouldn't run *Eureka* on Friday nights, where I was sure it would destroy the ratings of both *Stargate SG-1* and *Stargate Atlantis*.

I was thrilled when the show was put on Tuesday night. When it crashed and burned, at least it wouldn't take any other programs down with it.

Imagine my surprise (and that of the Sci Fi Channel) when *Eureka* turned out to be a monster hit.

Here's the basic premise of the show: *Eureka* is a town where geniuses go to work on their experiments away from the general public. Enter Jack Carter and his daughter Zoe, who stumble onto the town. Eventually, they make their home there, dealing with general nuttiness. Carter becomes the town sheriff and brings his big-picture perspective to resolve problems the townspeople aren't able to because they are focused so tightly on their own work.

To call the town's residents "quirky" is quite the understatement. Kids work out elaborate science problems on a sidewalk using chalk. Time and space are things to be tinkered with and experimented on.

Sheriff Carter provides "our" perspective, endlessly translating technobabble into understandable language and concepts for the audience. Carter isn't dumb—he just sees things differently.

The thing in the show that makes me laugh out loud every time I see it is "S.A.R.A.H," the home of the future where the Carter family lives. Developed by Fargo, a young scientist on the rise, the building was intended to have the voice of Sarah Michelle Gellar of *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer* fame. However, until she actually signs a contract to do that, the house has Fargo's voice as he obviously attempts to sound like Gellar. The effect is hysterical to me, constantly reminding the viewer that things aren't quite as they seem in

the little town of Eureka.

Another character I enjoy is Jim Taggart, portrayed by former *Max Headroom* creator Matt Frewer. Someday, that actor may tire of playing an over-the-top crazy person, but until then, I'm going to enjoy it because he does it so very well—a little *too* well, actually.

Like *Jericho*'s Robert Hawkins, Henry Deacon is enigmatic and interesting, probably the most fascinating character in the cast. His subplot of trying to regain the love of his life has been one of the most interesting aspects of the show.

The ladies of *Eureka* don't get short shrift. From the exotic and intelligent beauty of Alison Blake to the talented weapons expert of Deputy Jo Lupo, the women have interesting things to do.

The woman I'd like to see more of is Beverly Barlowe, who has an agenda we have yet to understand fully. She has more secrets than most of the town's residents, and also has influence that reaches far beyond the city's limits. I hope we get to uncover more of just why she's in *Eureka*.

The first season ended last fall, and those shows are now available on DVD.

When the second season began in July, I was concerned that the show would experience a "sophomore slump," which often plagues series' that get renewed after a high-octane first year. Fortunately, that hasn't happened. If anything, *Eureka* is funnier and more interesting than ever.

And the show isn't maintaining a status quo or playing it safe. Shaking up the leadership at Global Dynamics, the corporation that is the central hub of scientific nuttiness, will lead to interesting character interaction.

I'm happy to see the Zoe character begin to blossom (she's a genius), but I'm concerned about Jack being portrayed more and more along the lines of "dumb." Recently, he showed a lack of knowledge about IQ tests in a way that made him seem somewhat stupid. I hope they don't keep that up. It's such a cliché to show intelligence in "black or white" terms, where one is either a genius or stupid. What I thought has been one of *Eureka*'s strengths is that Jack had a different kind of "smarts," which gives the show balance.

Give this show a try if you haven't already! ■

Chief of Security Wayne Hall

The logo for the TV show Eureka, featuring the word "EUREKA" in a stylized, blue, blocky font with a white outline, set against a dark blue background with a white, jagged, mountain-like border at the bottom.

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

August 18 Time for our yearly Pool Party! We'll gather in the afternoon for fun in the sun, then begin dinner about 6 p.m. The meeting will begin no later than 7 p.m. For directions, check out the insert in our Yahoo! group!

SCIENCE TREK: Lost history found ... concluded

continued from page 3
episode, "Yesterday's Enterprise." Then we'll talk some more. ■

Web Notes:

- <http://www.weeklyworldnews.com/>;
- <http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/>;
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assignment:_Earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assignment:_Earth;);

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khan_Noonien_Singh;
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Green_Men_%28DS9_episode%29;
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugenics_Wars; and
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yesterday%27s_Enterprise_%28TNG_episode%29

Second Officer Phil Margolies

REFLECTIONS: Where there's stink ... concluded

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a writing staff that included Naren Shankar (formerly of *Next Generation*, currently running *CSI*) and Hans Biemler (formerly of *Next Gen*, *DS9*, *The Dresden Files* and—yeeeeech—*The District*), this show had all the ingredients to be a classic. Some people thought it might have been better suited for the USA Network, like *The 4400* and *Eureka*, even though its roots were firmly planted in

genre, its application is totally plebeian, giving it the illusion of being the mundane comedy/drama. Most mundanes (non-genre fans) seem to gravitate to these types of shows, their thinking being that if there are no ray guns or space ships, it's not science fiction. We know how wrong they are.

Next month: *Star Trek: the Next Generation* is 20 years old. ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard

PHASERS ON FUN: THE TREK LIFE (CON EDITION)

Any resemblance between the blonde girl and Ann Harding, and the brunette girl and Dottie Bruce, is purely coincidental.

