



Already a *Star Trek* fan, Karl Urban is enjoying his role in the upcoming movie.

Urban enjoying role as Dr. McCoy in *Star Trek XI* film

You don't have to be a *Trek* fan to star in the franchise's next feature film, but being one appears to have helped at least one person.

According to *SyFyPortal.com*, the actor who will bring Dr. Leonard McCoy back to life had to do a tremendous amount of research for his role in *Star Trek XI*. In fact, he's been studying *Star Trek* since he was 7 years old to get ready.

"I was very familiar with the original series and with those characters," Urban recently told the IGN website. "I didn't actually even have to go out of my way to re-watch old episodes. I've just been watching them for over 20 years." Taking on an iconic role such as McCoy—originally played by the late DeForest Kelley—is challenging because not only will Urban have to work on honoring the character as he was since the '60s, but also add a little bit of a fresh take to old Bones as well.

"It comes down to the script and it comes down to following director J.J. Abram's lead and working in conjunction with this great cast that he's assembled, and being faithful and honorable to the very essence and spirit of those characters that were created back in the late '60s," Urban said. "Again, it is a case of not doing some sort of facsimile or carbon copy, but really taking the very essence of what DeForest has done and honoring that and

bringing something new to the table."

Urban said that Abrams didn't have to look for him—he actively pursued the role, even when unsubstantiated rumors were going around that Gary Sinise of *CSI: New York* fame was in line for the role. So far, it's something he hasn't regretted at all, not only as an actor, but also as a *Star Trek* fan.

"The project as a whole is very faithful to the Original Series, and I think that J.J. has a very fresh and exciting approach," Urban said. "I think that he's an incredibly talented visionary. I believe that he is going to reinvigorate this franchise in a really healthy, positive and exciting way. I really think that the Trekkers and the long-time fans will be really pleased with it because it really does honor the very spirit of what we are all really quite crazy about, in a good way."

Star Trek XI premieres on December 25 in theaters worldwide.

▲ According to another *SyFyPortal.com* report, it appears that inside the *Enterprise* will get an upgrade in the upcoming movie to make it more in line with today's thinking.

Dawn Brown, one of the film's designers, said that only the outside of the ship will look the same. "I think a lot of hardcore fans will freak out" when they see the new sets, she said told a reporter. ■

Start 2008 with a meeting at the Hard Times Cafe!

The next meeting of the *U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek* and Science-Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, January 19, at the Hard Times Cafe in College Park, Maryland.

We'll get together for dinner around 5:00 p.m., followed by our club meeting, which will start no later than 7:00 p.m.

We'll discuss what fellow club members

have been up to, talk about the upcoming Farpoint convention as well as hear and discuss the latest news about *Star Trek* and other sci-fi television shows and feature films.

Need directions for this month's club meeting? Be sure to download the latest Insert, which is now available in our Yahoo! Group. ■

IN THIS ISSUE:

Art Credits	3
Club Members	
Insert front	
Coming Events	4
Directions to Meeting	
Insert front	
Meeting Minutes	
Insert back	
Reflections	2
Science Trek	3

Captain Randy Hall's column will return next month.



Deep Space Nine, the space station that would change *Star Trek* forever.

Copyright 2008
U.S.S. Chesapeake
NCC-9102, a
not-for-profit
organization.
All rights reserved,
including
reproducing parts of
this document.

Check out our club
website: www.usschesapeake.org

The opinions
expressed in this
publication do not
necessarily represent
those of the
entire club.

"*Star Trek*,"
"*Star Trek: The Next
Generation*," "*Star
Trek: Deep Space
Nine*," "*Star Trek:
Voyager*," and "*Star
Trek: Enterprise*,"
as well as the terms
"starship" and
"starship *Enterprise*,"
are registered
trademarks of
Paramount Pictures
Corporation.
All rights reserved.
Absolutely no
infringement on
these rights is
intended.

COMSTAR, page 2

REFLECTIONS: What they left behind ... 1

"In nature, there are neither rewards nor punishments; there are consequences." — Robert Ingersall (A quote I used when I wrote about DS9's tenth anniversary)

I am holding in my hands the very first newsletter of the U.S.S. *Chesapeake Star Trek and Science-Fiction Club*. Yeah, I know—it's old. Some of our current members may not have been born when this was first published.

Why am I slipping into the eternal vortex of nostalgia? Heck, that's what this article is about. Heck, that's pretty much what this *column* is about—*reflection*. On the first page of our first newsletter, in the lower left-hand corner, read a headline: "*Deep Space Nine* joins *Star Trek* universe." This was February, 1992. That is when my yearning and undying devotion began. And I have not looked back.

How many ways can one praise something or someone? How many adjectives and exclamations are you allowed to use before you become too obsequious? I can't believe it's been 15 years!

It seems like only yesterday that the night *Deep Space Nine* was premiering had arrived. Oblivious to the diabolical master plan that was formulated just to get me over there, I was asked to visit a friend who claimed there was something wrong with her new stereo. (There was. It was UNPLUGGED.) When I refused, like the Grinch, who was equally sick, she thought of a lie and she thought it up quick. "That's perfect," she said with a sneer. "I was going to watch that, so you can watch it here."

Unaware of the maniacal ruse I was being subjected to, I agreed to visit her apartment. Besides, *Deep Space Nine's* debut time was 8:00 p.m. I got off work at 7:00 p.m. Factor in travel time, and I would be cutting it close. Her apartment was only 10 minutes away, so I had enough time to find out what was wrong with her stereo, then sit back and watch the show.

Immediately upon my arrival, I laid down the ground rules for watching *Star Trek*, ANY *Star Trek* with me. You don't talk to me, touch me, look at me or think about me when my show is on. This also applied to the commercials—that's when I contemplate what I have just seen. She agreed, but it took some doing and plenty of (as Wayne calls it) "Lorenzo Looks" to make her behave. I wasn't too worried because I knew I had set my machine to record.

And thus an obsession was born.

I remember the first DS9 panel at Shore Leave '93. There was some clown (I think his name was Emmet Kelly) moderating, whose main objective was to let all of America know how bad this show was. Squeaky the Clown told us it was a horrible show and that we should stop watching it right away. He told us we should write to Paramount and tell them we don't like it and to keep *Next Generation* on forever and ever, amen.

We (Randy, Wayne, David and I) were speechless! (YES, David was speechless.) We couldn't believe that Bozo didn't see what we saw—history in the making. I couldn't believe that Ko Ko totally missed the boat. I began to realize that this panel was just to fuel his personal agenda and that was to keep *Next Generation* going into infinity.

Then that Joker proceeded to tell us that the ratings were bad, and no one was watching the show! That was all I could stand, and I couldn't stand no more! I told him that was an outright lie! I told everyone that the pilot episode garnered an 18.8 rating with a 20 share, which is STILL a record for a syndicated show. Punchinello got angry with me and told me to be quiet, but anyone who knows me knows how impossible that is.

Then, Pagliacci said that Avery Brooks would never make it as a *Star Trek* captain because he was not a Shakespearian actor. I jumped up again and told him I had seen Avery do "Otello." Crusty got angry and told me to shut up! Even his court jesters got into the fray, trying to silence me. But on that day, I was determined to be heard.

Fortunately, I had the *Chesapeake* to back me up. They started to tell Pennywise how much they loved the show. Ronald McDonald almost had a heart attack! Then people started walking out. I felt bad because I thought they were walking out because of me. Later, people started approaching me in the hallways, telling me I was right and they were glad I stood up to Clarabelle and defended my show. This was the beginning of a time-honored tradition of people stopping me in the halls to discuss *Deep Space Nine*.

Later, Glory Houck asked me how the DS9 panel was (She didn't really care—she was a *Continued on page 4*

SCIENCE *TREK*: T minus 358 years

Let me digress before I begin. Last month, we talked about DNA. While I was missing the Annual *Chesapeake* Holiday Party™ suffering in the comfortable confines of warm sunny Florida (kinda like here this past week), I spotted an article titled “Synthetic DNA near yielding new life forms.” Once again, a theme we’ve seen in science fiction coming to fruition in our time. It appears we don’t have to always “seek new life.” Sometimes we create it.

Let me introduce my subject now that I’ve digressed: A few months ago, for *The Next Generation*’s 20th anniversary, I presented scientific and/or technological moments from random episodes (one per season) to explore whether Picard’s *Enterprise* met its five-fold mission (as laid out by Starfleet with a little help from the producers). For *Deep Space Nine*’s fifteenth anniversary, let’s look at those same “scientific and technological moments” from chosen episodes—again, one per season—and just revel in awe.

So many great episodes, so little space

Season 1: “*The Storyteller*” One of the primary themes of *Deep Space Nine* was the grey zone between religion and science. One culture’s “god” is another culture’s “wormhole alien.” This episode gave us the first pairing of O’Brien and Bashir. (A lot of themes were established very early in the show’s first season—wait, that’s Lorenzo’s territory, let me get back to mine.)

This episode presents the religion and science theme on a more succinct scale. To summarize, Bashir and O’Brien go to Bajor to aid a local village leader. When the man dies, O’Brien the engineer has to become O’Brien the mystic storyteller to save the day. (Turns out an Orb sliver helps create, then vanquish the threatening Dal’Rok). To quote Clarke’s Third Law: “Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”

Season 2: “*Cardassians*” and “*Paradise*” Did I say just one episode? It’s *DS9*—I can’t help it. In terms of science, *Star Trek* has always been about more than simply physics, biology and chemistry. (Like all good science fiction, it makes us think and hopefully understand a little bit more about ourselves.) “*Cardassians*” combined politics and sociology in bringing us the story of a Cardassian

“orphan” raised by Bajorans to hate his own people ... oh yeah, and left behind by Gul Dukat as leverage/punishment against the boy’s still-living father, one of Felix’s countless enemies.

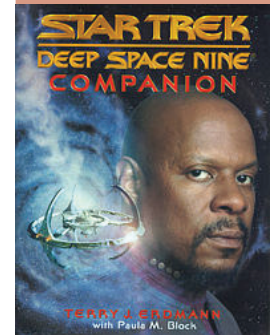
“*Paradise*” IMHO (That means “in my honest/humble opinion,” Lorenzo.) is one of the best television science-fiction stories I’ve ever seen. Sisko and O’Brien end up stuck on a planet with several colonists from Earth who have been stranded on a world where technology doesn’t work. The colonists have learned to work together over the years, but ... there’s a twist. For the one person in the club who hasn’t seen this episode, I won’t give it away. I will say, though, that not everyone in the 24th century believes in the power and promise of technology.

Season 3: “*Second Skin*” Kira’s a Cardassian!? Here’s my question: We’re two to four centuries in the future (I’m talking about all of *Trek*, from *Enterprise* to *Voyager*) and nobody knows how to do a damned DNA test anymore? On the other hand, after last month’s column on DNA, maybe there’s a lot we still have to learn ... or technology we can create.

Season 4: “*The Quickening*” I won’t fall into that two-episode trap here. (Sorry, “*The Visitor*.”) Here we have commentary not only on euthanasia, but on experimental medical treatments that unintentionally lead to the death of the patients. (Genetic enhancement may have made Bashir smart, but it didn’t necessarily make him wise.) Yet all is not lost because from the ashes of failure comes hope for a new generation.

Season 5: “*Children of Time*” I said “*Paradise*” was one of the best SF TV shows; here’s another. In this excellent time-travel story, there’s no scientific or technological solution to the problem, or is there? The *Defiant*’s crew is trapped by an energy barrier surrounding a world inhabited by their descendants. (When the ship tries to escape in two days, it will be thrown 200 years into the past.) The crew faces an impossible choice: Escape and the colony ceases to exist ... re-create the disaster and surrender their own futures (and Kira Nerys dies).

Season 6: “*Statistical Probabilities*” How can an episode with a title like this not make
Continued on page 4



The *Deep Space Nine Companion*, an important source of information about the show

ART CREDITS:
images.google.com 1
Insert front,
Insert back
startrek.com 2, 3, 4

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

January 19 The first club meeting of 2008 will be on Saturday, January 19, at the Hard Times Cafe in College Park, Maryland!

SCIENCE TREK: T minus 358 years concluded

Continued from page 3

the list? And it introduces the Jack Sprat Pack. We get to see not only how the great society of the 24th century treats the products of its "keeping people human" philosophy, but also that prediction of the future is not an exact science.

Season 7: "*Treachery, Faith, and the Great River*" A common theme in science fiction is robots rebelling against their programming. What happens when a clone overcomes his genetic programming/orders from his "gods?" We find out when Weyoun (version 6) calls on Odo to save him from a fate the Founders demand of him. And Odo learns that when your adopted family is fighting your biological family, there's probably no way for you to ever win.

Not counting the episodes above, here is

a list of fifteen episodes notable for a scientific or technological angle. If you doubt one of my choices, go back and watch the episode, then we'll talk about why I picked it ... and you can let me know which one's I missed:

"Emissary," "Babel," "Melora," "Whispers," "Shadowplay," "The House of Quark," "Past Tense," "Explorers," "The Visitor," "... Nor the Battle to the Strong," "One Little Ship," "Time's Orphan," "Chrysalis," and "The Siege of AR-558."

I forced myself to pick only 15 ... my initial cut of the list was 32 episodes. ■

With a little help from:

<http://www.startrek.com/startrek/view/series/DS9/episodes/index.html> and the *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Companion*

Second Officer Phil Margolies

REFLECTIONS: What they left behind *continued*

Continued from page 2

Next Gen zombie.), and I went off into a rant worthy of Peter Chewning! Allyson Mann, one of the top people on the Shore Leave committee, wanted to hear my complaints. I told her about the panel run by Obnoxio the Clown. She asked me if I thought I could do a better job. I said, "Hell, yeah!" So she gave me her sister Marilyn's number (She was the head of the committee.) and told me to call her.

Later, I was approached by Steve Wilson, the head of the OctoberTrek Committee, who also asked if we were interested in doing panels. I said, "Hell, yeah!" and told him to contact Sue Torbic, who was the captain of the *Chesapeake* at the time. I gave Marilyn Mann's number to Randy.

Thus "The Panel Men" were born. We proceeded to perfect the art of the con panels. That October we unveiled the ultimate *Deep Space Nine* panel. We had a TV monitor running the second season opening three-parter (Only the first two parts had been broadcast

at the time, but we had the third part with us.), with the *DS9* theme music blaring in a room decorated and filled with *Deep Space Nine* memorabilia.

I was there in full *DS9* uniform (I still have it, but it has shrunk a little.), but I wasn't the only one. There were many Bajorans there and a couple of Klingons. (I don't know why.) A Romulan (This was the first time I had ever seen anyone dressed as a Romulan.) and various *Enterprise D* crewmen showed up. The Kai even made an appearance! And we did not try to influence any one's opinion—our job was to share truth, not agenda. We provided information, not innuendo. We gave facts, not conjecture. It was a roaring success.

(Editor's note: Next month, Lorenzo discusses battling the *Babylon 5* evangelistas, squashing rumors, giving credit where it is due and listing just some of *DS9*'s highlights, especially noting how it did well in many types of storytelling.) ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



Some of the cast
of *Star Trek: Deep
Space Nine*