

Spring Ahead

with Annie's Awards for Best in Sci-Fi for 2009



Best Supporting Actor: John Noble (*Fringe*). Walter Bishop is a totally unique character, with his crazy experiments, love of cooking (both food and psychotropic drugs) and “walterisms.” John Noble does a fantastic job of maintaining Walter's child-like attitude toward the world, while letting us know that he has his own dark secrets. Runners-up: Ray Wise (*Reaper*); Adam Baldwin (*chuck*); Garrett Dillahunt (*T:SCC*); Michael Emerson (*Lost*); Gareth David-Lloyd (*TW*); Morris Chestnut (*V*).

Best Supporting Actress: Kathy Bates (*Alice*). Although it was only a miniseries, *Alice* produced one serious winner. Oscar-winner Kathy Bates brought a psychotic glee to the Queen of Hearts, dominating the role and everyone around her. Although Alice was the star, the Queen of Hearts was the main attraction of *Alice*. Runners-up: Summer Glau (*T:SCC*); Tricia Helfer (*BSG*); Alison Mack (*SMV*);

Elizabeth Mitchell (*Lost*); Ali Larter (*Heroes*); Grace Park (*BSG: The Plan*).

Best Cast Addition/Change: Deanne Bray (*Heroes*). *Heroes* goes back to its roots of normal people struggling with new-found powers with this addition of a deaf woman who can see sound waves. While she's not part of the main story arc, Emma is a charming and popular addition to the show. Runners-up: Michelle Forbes (*TB*); Cush Jumbo (*TW*); Jason Flemyng (*primeval*); Robert Knepper (*Heroes*)

Best Villain(s): Maryanne Forester (*TB*). I've been saying for YEARS that Michelle Forbes is a goddess. Someone finally listened! Maryanne turning all of Bon Temps into an orgy was a fresh take on villainy. And she did it with a smile. Runners-up: Alpha (*DH*); Catherine Weaver (*T:SCC*); Tom Zarek (*BSG*); Macpherson (*W13*); Major Zod (*SMV*); Brother Cavil

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March to our Club Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek and Science Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, March 20, at the home of Second Officer Phil Margolies and his lovely wife Ann in Silver Spring, Maryland. We'll meet for dinner about 5:00 p.m. Our club meeting will start no later than 7:00 p.m.

During this month's meeting, we'll

talk about the world of science fiction and make lots of jokes like we always do. We'll also discuss what fellow club members have been up to and catch up on the latest sci-fi television shows and feature films.

For directions to this month's meeting, get the latest insert. ■

CAPTAIN'S LOG: A Tale of Two Galaxies

Most times, I enjoy viewing and re-viewing fan film projects. But this time wasn't quite the same. This time I



REALLY enjoyed viewing a crossover between the two biggest franchises in science-fiction fandom: *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*.

"A Tale of Two Galaxies" is an independent production that was waiting to happen

since fan film folks don't have the same worries and copyright issues that the big companies do. Unfortunately, that also means the fan film people's efforts are either low-budget or no-budget labors of love.

With that in mind, "Long Live the Empire!" is the title of the *Trek*-themed Part One, which begins in the Mempa Sector of the Klingon Empire shortly after *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*, so an uneasy peace exists between Starfleet and the Klingons.

However, General Karloth (Stu Lucas) and his Bird of Prey are cloaked and carefully watching the activities of the U.S.S. *Hood*, which has entered what Starfleet considers the Epsilon IX system to examine a gaseous anomaly there.

The day promises to be special for Commander Hendu Loomis (Philip David), since it's the Trill's debut as the *Hood*'s first officer under his mentor, Captain Dodge, as well as a chance to rekindle his friendship with the half-Vulcan, half-Betazoid Lieutenant Salaya (Danielle Grenier), whom he met while they were at Starfleet Academy.

When Loomis arrives on the bridge, he states that there are too many tribbles around, as well as a black cat in his chair. His dissatisfaction regarding the state of the bridge is quickly pushed aside when Salaya announces she has detected four

vessels within the anomaly, which turns out to be one end of a wormhole.

Loomis tells Salaya to broadcast messages of friendship and peace in all known languages and frequencies, but the vessels' response is to roar out of the anomaly directly at the *Hood*, which is understandable when you consider that it's Darth Vader's attack vessel and three TIE fighters.

The first officer calls for the captain to report to the bridge, but the four ships begin an assault that damages the starship and causes one unfortunate casualty: the captain himself.

At that point, Deputy Director John Hastings (Alexander Harrison, whose character was sent along to learn more about the invaders) attempts to take over the ship and pursue the intruders, which have periodically entered that region of space only to be destroyed by the Klingons.

"Look, I don't know what shady section of Starfleet Intelligence you crawled out of, but I'm in command now, and I think you'll find the crew with me," Loomis says before deciding to go into the wormhole not because Hastings wants it, but "we owe it to Captain Dodge to find out who attacked us."

As a result, the Federation ship follows Vader into the nebula, where the dark lord is waiting with more fighters. The ships trade damage and injuries until the wormhole deposits the combatants in a place "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."

I thought Part Two, which was mostly done in a *Star Wars* motif, had a great title: "Revenge is a Sith Best Served Cold." The *Star Wars* orientation continued in background music and the scroll-

Yeah, like you don't know who wins.

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Check out our club website: www.usschesapeake.org

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SCIENCE TREK: The *Voyager* Continues II

These are the questions that try men's souls. Where did winter go? Why did I allot myself the fewest column inches? What does it mean "my baby done whoop me a lizard?"

None of these can I answer. I can tell you that the rest of this month's column finishes up last month's column, but that's kinda obvious, so I'll cut off the inane—

"**Distant Origin**": *Voyager* as *The Outer Limits*? Reptilian creatures, supposedly evolved from Terran dinosaurs, now a civilization in the Gamma Quadrant. This is a classic science fiction tale told with a thoroughly *Star Trek* ethos.

"**The Raven**": Nanotechnology and post-traumatic stress disorder. Need I say more? Yes? Okay, Seven of Nine.

"**Scientific Method**": An alien species missing both the Prime Directive and a strong sense of medical ethics conducts research on captive lab rats otherwise known as the crew of *Voyager*. Fortunately, these rats are equipped with advance science and technology themselves.

"**Mortal Coil**": Scientific advances (Borg technology, specifically) collide with Neelix's religious beliefs in an episode that finds its resolution in the needs of a small prepubescent human female.

"**Demon**": Why you might ask did I include this episode (which I consider to be a good episode) in lieu of the "sequel" "Course: Oblivion," which I consider to be one of my top 5 *Voyager* episodes?" Simple, you can't have the chicken without the egg.

"**Drone**": Transporter madness. Let me get this straight...during a transporter malfunction the signals got jumbled together and somehow got separated without further incident—except, of course,

for the Doctor's mobile transmitter and a couple of Seven's nanoprobes. The nanoprobes then try to assimilate the emitter and drama ensues. An interesting concept, although in my mind the science is unbelievable. Still, it's a touching story. (That's why it's called science *fiction*).

"**Timeless**": When guilt meets the Prime (Time) Directive. Next on *Star Trek: Voyager*. Once curious question remaining is: Was the discovery that Borg implants allow messages to be sent into the past a discovery of the 15 years since *Voyager* was lost, or was it known before this episode?

"**Nothing Human**": Medical ethics again, this time the use of medical knowledge collected by the Cardassian counterpart of the 20th century Nazi, Dr. Josef Mengele, appearing in the form of a holographic rendition based on his file in *Voyager's* databanks. Plus, we see the will-be fatal results of alien bonding rituals, a great science fiction moment.

"**Latent Image**": I don't know what it is with *Voyager* and medical ethics, but in my humble opinion the show, like most good *Star Trek*, is at its best when it confronts moral dilemmas and the human condition. This episode, another of my top 5, captures the evolution of the Doctor wherein the holographic human suffers a crisis of conscience when he chooses to save Harry Kim's life over that of another crewmember.

"**Blink of an Eye**": A really interesting and out there science fiction concept about a planet caught in tachyon temporal field such that a day passes on the surface for every second that passes on *Voyager*. ■

Second Officer Phil Margolies



ART CREDITS:

Amazon.com	7
Myspace.com	1
Randy Hall	2
RPGgamer.org	4
Veer.com	1
Wikipedia.org	3

REFLECTIONS: Lightning Strikes Again — 4

“*The Mathematics of Tears*,” Story by Ashley Edward Miller and Zack Stents, and Teleplay by Matt Keine and Joe Reinke-meyer

The crew encounters another High Guard ship almost identical to the *Andromeda*, which is her sister ship, the *Pax Magellanic*.

Investigating rumors of other High Guard ships’ locations, the *Andromeda* comes across the *Pax Magellanic* adrift in an asteroid field. The ship is inhabited with a full crew commanded by Lieutenant Jill Pierce. They claim to be the original crew, all 300 years old. They also find the ship’s artificial intelligence (or A.I.) seems to be in some sort of “coma” and is unresponsive.

The proper military treatment Dylan receives from the *Pax* crew is like an intoxicant to him. He’s sucked in by it and lets his guard down. Rommie plugs herself into the ship’s computer and discovers remnants of a past battle, possibly what put the A.I. in a coma in the first place. Of course, Tyr doesn’t trust them. The A.I.’s mad rantings and Pierce’s penchant for music by Wagner, especially *Die Fliegende Hollander* (*The Flying Dutchman*, an opera about a sea captain who is condemned to roam the seas for eternity) should have been the first clue.

We learn that the entire crew is composed of androids controlled by the ship’s avatar, which was driven mad because she killed the captain and her crew. The situation was made worse by the fact that the captain had a romantic and sexual relationship with Captain Warrick, which made an impression on Rommie who was fighting her feelings for Dylan.

With androids trying their best to kill *Andromeda*’s crew and *Pax* (the A.I.) planning to kill Dylan and Rommie, Tyr becomes the cavalry, walking through the

Magellanic, two guns in hand, one by one blowing away all of the androids, all the while with *The Flying Dutchman* aria playing in the background. As Tyr said: “They were playing Wagner. That’s the most fun I’ve had in six months!” And every good Nietzschean appreciates Wagner. Classic. ▲▲▲▲▲

“*Music of a Distant Drum*” by Robert Hewitt Wolfe

The *Eureka Maru* crashes on the planet Midden, a world controlled by Nietzschean raiders. Tyr becomes stranded with no memory but possessing something the Nietzscheans want very badly.

This episode foreshadowed what would eventually be Tyr’s fate. It appears that Tyr absconded with something that belongs to the Drago-Kazov, something very important. Something the Nietzscheans would kill for: The mummified remains of Drago Musevni, the original Nietzschean progenitor; the only God, or the closest thing to God the Nietzscheans believe in.

A nice glimpse of what motivates Tyr Anasazi. It’s not greed, it’s not pride, it’s not honor. Redemption is Tyr’s number one reason to be. He’s bound and determined to restore the ▲▲▲▲ Kodiak pride’s honor and wipe out the Drago Kazov. Very good episode.

Harper 2.0 by John Whelpley

Harper reaches a new level of creativity, knowledge and power after a dying Perseid alien transfers the information of the All-System’s University to him through the data port.

Harper’s gone crazy. His intellect has increased exponentially. After being at-



Pax Magellanic

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CAPTAIN'S LOG: A Tale of Two Galaxies [continued]

ing text at the start of the second segment.

While Vader beats a hasty retreat to get reinforcements, the crew of the *Hood* begins repairing their ship as a TIE fighter approaches the vessel. The ship is piloted by Jedi Master Jin To'nik (Rob Owens), who senses a great disturbance in the Force. After being beamed onto the *Hood*, the Jedi warns that more enemy vessels are already on their way to destroy the ship and invade the other galaxy.

Sure enough, a Star Destroyer suddenly appears behind the Starfleet vessel and begins firing on the *Hood* before the starship can return to the wormhole.

To'nik then proposes a deadly solution. The *Hood* can transport him onto the enemy bridge and his attack can at least slow it down and enable the Federation starship to escape. (Hmm. A Jedi being beamed somewhere. Sounds odd, doesn't it?)

As soon as the *Hood* arrives back in "their" universe, the ship receives an unexpected message from General Karloth, demanding to know what the *Hood* is doing so close to the Klingon border. Loomis replies that his ship is being followed by a deadly enemy and warns the Klingons to

withdraw before the Star Destroyer can arrive.

The general's response is unexpected: "Withdraw?" he laughs. "A Klingon faces his enemies, Commander. It is they who will withdraw or die."

The Star Destroyer emerges from the wormhole only to be confronted with an entire fleet of decloaking Klingon ships. As the battle starts, Loomis says that the *Hood* will not run from the confrontation. Instead, he orders the damaged Federation ship to join the Klingon forces.

An energy burst from the *Hood's* deflector dish collapses the wormhole, but not before a certain dark lord gets through the portal and back to his galaxy. At about the same time, the Star Destroyer was, well, destroyed.

"It seems we may have prevented an invasion, but at cost?" Loomis notes in his log. "The opportunity to explore a totally new region of space; the lives of our captain and the brave Jedi knight. I can only hope that one day other stable wormholes might be discovered. And who knows to which brave new worlds those may lead?"

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STAR TREK BOOKS: Doctor's Orders

Imagine the following scenario Doctor Leonard McCoy has been put in command of the *U.S.S. Enterprise*, and then Captain Kirk mysteriously disappears! And THAT is just the beginning of Bones' problems! Add in the Klingons, the Orion pirates and a pompous Starfleet bureaucrat, and you have a formula for one of THE most FUN *Star Trek* books that I have read in a L-O-N-G time!

For many of us who have grown up watching the original *Star Trek* series during the 1960s, who can forget Bones'

grumbling and grouching, "I'm a doctor, not a (fill-in-the-blank)", or his teasing Spock, or even giving his captain a hard time? This book has all of that and MORE! Several times, during my reading, there were scene descriptions that were laugh-out-loud FUNNY!!!! (I don't want to spoil it for anyone who has not been able to read it yet.) Suffice it to say, McCoy's interactions with the Klingons produce results that are both unexpected and satisfying to say the least!

Those reading this review may ask:

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Annie's Awards for Best in Sci-Fi for 2009 [continued]

(*BSG: The Plan*)

Lamest Villain(s): Helen Cutter (*primeval*). Lame eco-terrorist with a time-traveling device. If Helen had a mustache, she'd twist it. Runners-up: The Fellowship of the Sun (*TB*); The Kabal (*SCY*); Emile Danko (*Heroes*); The 456 (*TW*)

Best Aliens/Weird Beings: Big Guy (*SCY*). Sasquatch with a soul. Big Guy (played by Christopher Heyerdahl) is a brave, sensitive furball who is a valued member of the Sanctuary team. Runners-up: Doomsday (*SMV*); The 456 (*TW*).

Best Romantic Couple: Sierra/Victor (*DH*). A sweet, childlike romance between these two "Actives" is a great counterpoint to all of the sleaze associated with the Dollhouse. And Victor's "man reactions" are hysterical! Runners-up: Laura Roslin/Bill Adama (*BSG*); Juliet/Sawyer (*Lost*); Sookie/Bill (*TB*); Jack/Ianto (*TW*); Lois/Clark (*SMV*)

Best Bro-Mance: Sam & Dean Winchester (*SPN*). Well, they really ARE brothers, but that doesn't stop them from having so much of a bro-mance that people think they're a couple. In fact, their fanboy counterparts really ARE a couple. And I'm not even gonna talk about that fanfic ... Runners-up: Adama & Tigh (*BSG*); Chuck & Morgan (*chuck*); Shepard & McKay (*SG:A*); Hiro & Ando (*Heroes*); Jeff and Lester (*chuck*)

Best Guest Star: Paris Hilton as herself (*SPN*). Probably the only time I will put the words "Paris Hilton" and "Best" together. But as a primordial deity looking for some worshippers, she managed to crack wise about our modern cult of celebrity while keeping a straight face--and beating up the Brothers Winchester. Either she was in on the joke or was too stupid to know any better. Either way, the casting was inspired. Runners-up: Barry Bostwick (*SPN*); Patton Oswalt (*DH*);

Scott Bakula (*chuck*); Alan Tudyk (*DH*); Brian Austin Greene (*SMV*); Chad Everett (*SPN*)

Best MacGuffin: Intersect 2.0 (*chuck*). As if having one Intersect wasn't enough, now Chuck gets zapped with super kung-fu action. Let's see what happens come January! Runners-up: the Anomaly-mapping Artifact (*primeval*); Abnormal-finding compass (*Heroes*); Demon-killing Colt Revolver (*SPN*); Edgar Allan Poe's pen and diary (*W13*)

Best Special Powers: Synesthesia (*Heroes*); The Tattooed Lady (*Heroes*). Having a computer downloaded into your brain (Chuck, *SMV*)

Worst Special Powers: combination of teleportation, vampiric abilities, and invulnerability (*SCY*)

Most Annoying Character: Dr. Nicholas Rush (*SG:U*). A pompous, pretentious prick who should have been airlocked weeks ago. Finally got what he deserved, although I don't think that we've seen the last of him. Runners-up: Morgan (*chuck*); Bert "Sock" Wysocki (*Reaper*); Agent Pete Lattimer (*W13*); Kate Freelander (*SCY*); Morgan (*Reaper*)

Best Death: Laura Roslin (*BSG*). If only because it was a weekly struggle to see if she'd last until the end of the series. She died with grace, having led her people to the Promised Land. Runners-up: Juliet Burke (*Lost*); Jimmy Olsen (*SMV*); Daphne Millbrook (*Heroes*); Nick Cutter (*primeval*); Ianto Jones (*TW*)

Best Resurrection: Captain Jack Harkness (*TW*). You can chop him up into pieces, entomb him in concrete, and he STILL resurrects! Takes a lickin' and keeps on tickin'! Runner-up: Sylar/Nathan Petrelli (*Heroes*)

Best Disappearing/Reappearing Act: Charlie the Waitress (*Heroes*). Hiro goes

CAPTAIN'S LOG: A Tale of Two Galaxies [concluded]

Clint Eastwood hat, do your thing!

The Good: A crossover between *Trek* and *Wars* needed a truly cosmic opus, and this one put the fate of two universes at risk. Not only was it well written, produced and directed by Philip David and others, I also found the effects breathtaking (or I sucked wind, whatever the current phrase is).

And there were some really good jokes throughout the film. Just how do you pronounce that Jedi's name? Doesn't Jin To'nik come awfully close to "gin and tonic?" Did Loomis get his wish when *Deep Space Nine* came along? And wasn't that the TARDIS flying by in the worm-hole?

The Bad: What was the deal with all those tribbles on the bridge? I realize they're *Trek's* Ewoks, but I kept waiting

for one of the characters to trip over one at any moment. And a cat in the center seat? Not on any Starfleet ship I know.

And two other items: If we'd been allowed to see the Captain Dodge in the flesh, it would have added a lot more emotion when he dies. And it did seem like the Klingon fleet showed up at a really convenient time, but that seems to be one of the perks of being a general in the Klingon Empire.

The Ugly: I know some friends who think there should never, ever be a crossover of any kind. That's too bad because I have this story pairing *Superman* and *Doctor Who*. You see, Clark Kent finds the only place to change identities is in this odd blue phone booth... ■

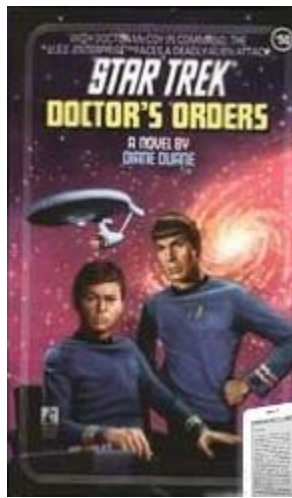
Captain Randy Hall

STAR TREK BOOKS: Doctor's Orders [concluded]

"How in the heck did McCoy wind up in the captain's chair?" I guess I could answer that question by stating that Bones gave his captain a hard time once too often and Kirk decided to return the favor and turn the tables on him, as a joke!

Spock's reaction to this scenario was typically Vulcan, citing Starfleet regulations when McCoy attempted to hand the captain's chair over to the first officer, giving Bones paroxysms and fits of annoyance to no end! (Could I mention that there was a hysterically funny exchange regarding a "bathroom break"?)

At the same time, Spock came to approve how McCoy handled the crisis that was unexpectedly handed to him even if it did not follow standard Starfleet protocol!



All in all, any book that focuses on Doctor McCoy and his verbal sparring with Spock is always as much fun as actually watching the same kind of sparring on the original TV series and subsequent movies featuring the original cast. I expect that there are other *Star Trek* novels about that also focus on Doctor McCoy that I'm keeping an eye out for, such as *Shadows on the Sun* and *Troublesome Minds*. I'm still awaiting receipt of *Troublesome Minds* to see how well the story handles Deaf aliens and Dr. McCoy's skills with ASL (Strange how life comes to imitate fiction and/or vice versa with another McCoy knowing deaf people and sign language!) ■

Xenobiologist Pat McCoy



A Tale of Two Galaxies, duh

COMING EVENTS

March 20..... Time for our next monthly meeting! We'll be at Phil Margolies' house in Silver Spring, Maryland. We'll go out to dinner at 6:30, then our monthly club meeting will start no later than 8:45 p.m.!

REFLECTIONS: Lightning Strikes Again — 4 [concluded]

tacked by a Perseid librarian, he becomes bilingual, speaking French, Irish Gaelic and then Perseid, Peruvian, Vedrian and Magog. Rommie tells him he's a cunning linguist (I swear to God and they actually got away with it. Those of you who need that cleared up, talk to me in person.

A marshal/bounty hunter is after Harper and in search of the knowledge passed on to him by the Perseid. Interestingly enough, the Hunter is employed (or threatened by the Spirit of the Abyss, the

Magog god (the second time we've seen him this season).

This was a good script by noted science-fiction author John Whelpley. He showed a good command of the characters and a superior grasp of scriptwriting, something most novelists have a hard time understanding. It's a shame he was never brought in to write another one. ■



Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard

Annie's Awards for Best in Sci-Fi for 2009 [concluded]

back in time to save her, leading to all kinds of paradox issues. Will the super-smart waitress and the Japanese geek be reunited again? Stay tuned! Runners-up: Lana Lang (*SMV*); Micah Sanders (*Heroes*); Taggart (*Eureka*).

Best Super-secret Project: The Warehouse (*W13*). Who knew that the U.S. Government was keeping a bunch of magical junk in a big warehouse in North Dakota? Because, if I was going to hide something like that, I'd put it in the middle of nowhere, ND. Runners-up: The Dollhouse (*DH*); Dharma Initiative (*Lost*); Anomaly Research Centre (*primeval*); The Kabal (*SCY*); Torchwood (*TW*)

Worst Corporation: The Rossum corporation (*DH*). Screwing with people's minds is truly evil. And, if you watched the unaired *DH* episode that came out on DVD, has the potential to

break down society. Runners-up: Zeira Corporation (*T:SCC*); General Dynamics (*Eureka*); Massive Dynamic (*Fringe*); Oceanic Airways (*Lost*)

Biggest Geek: Eli Wallace (*SG:U*). You've gotta love a schlub who sits around playing video games, figures out a magic formula, then gets whisked off to another planet. The only person that's remotely interesting on *SG:U*. Runners-up: Topher Blair (*DH*); Fargo (*Eureka*); Connor Temple (*Primeval*); Chuck Bartowski (*chuck*); Chloe Sullivan (*SMV*).

Biggest Horn-Dog: Jason Stackhouse (*TB*). Just when you thought that Jason had reformed, he bangs the wife of the cult leader. Behold the God Who Comes! Runners-up: Bert "Sock" Wysocki (*Reaper*); Lt. Matthew Scott (*SG:U*); Damon Salvatore (*VD*) ■

To be concluded next issue
Starfleet Intelligence Officer Annie White