

## CAPTAIN'S LOG: 'A Leap to Di for'

And now for something somewhat different from my usual *Trek* fan films.

What if you could travel through time by jumping from one person's body to another and another and so on, each time setting something right that had previously gone wrong?

That's the premise behind the fan-favorite TV series *Quantum Leap* and the first independent production based on the show, which deals with what some have called "the last great tragedy of the 20th Century," the untimely death of Diana, princess of Wales.

The independent production begins with Sam Beckett (Joshua Ramsey in the part originally played by Scott Bakula) leaping into the body of a 26-year-old American man in a hotel room in Paris, France, on August 30, 1997, 24 hours before Diana's death.

However, Beckett arrives just as his host is in bed with Meredith Jamieson (Niki Hurrle Warner), a British woman

who promises to make her lover's every fantasy come true.

Beckett responds as he usually does to such situations, with a startled "Oh boy."

When he asks for a few seconds to "sort this all out," Jamieson angrily complains that the couple had been planning this trip for five months, and she storms into the bathroom.

Beckett tries to reconcile with her, but he claims he has to make a phone call. When she again leaves the room, Al (Ed Ernestes as Admiral Al Calavizzi, the role originally played by Dean Stockwell) appears but

claims there's been a "hold-up" as the image fluctuates wildly before vanishing completely.

In the present, Doctor Samantha Fuller (Ladonna Pettijohn) explains to a pair of government bureaucrats that her Project Quantum Leap has had its budget slashed and that Beckett has been jumping through

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A "Quantum Leap" into fan films.

Oh Boy.

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## If last month was May, this month is June

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

We'll eat together 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 what fellow club members have been up to and catch up on the latest sci-fi television shows and feature films. We'll also discuss the upcoming Shore Leave convention.

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

## CAPTAIN'S LOG: 'A Leap to Di for' [continued]

time for seven years using equipment that's 15 years out of date.

Despite her plea, the officials flatly turn down her request for new funding.

Back in Paris, Beckett explains to Jamieson that Princess Diana (Chelsea Marie Rogers) will be killed the following morning in an auto accident. She asks him how he knows this, and he replies that he "believes in the impossible."

Beckett then locates a computer and sends an encrypted message to people at the project that explains his situation. That effort accomplishes much more than he anticipated when a security guard finds the message and passes it along until it reaches the president (David Grant Briggs), who provides the funding to restart the program.

In 1997, Meredith calls her father, Harold (Dennis Crosswhile), to pass along a message warning the princess of the danger she faces. Unexpectedly, the member of Parliament decides to catch the next flight to Paris.

Meanwhile, Al appears in Beckett's hotel room with good news: "We're back, Buddy!" However, Meredith sees her lover talking to what appears to be thin air.

When Al returns to the present, he finds that the people in the project have Ziggy the computer back online, with her voice provided by Deborah Pratt, who was a co-producer and writer for the original show.

Back in 1997, Beckett gets a surprise when Meredith's father arrives with an agent to arrest him. Sam asks that Di be warned, but Harold Jamieson angrily asks if that's what his "invisible friend" has asked him to do.

Once Sam is taken away, the tension between Meredith and her father be-

comes obvious, with his daughter accusing Harold of abandoning her and her mother, who died of leukemia years ago.

When Al appears to Sam in an embassy holding area, he says that rescuing Diana is not the reason Beckett's there. Instead, his objective is to mend relations between Meredith and her father. However, the president has signed an order telling Beckett to rescue the princess if he can.



Al and Sam...now how can Sam look so much younger after all these years...I never understand time travel

Just then, Princess Diana arrives at the embassy, and Beckett escapes from his holding cell. Di agrees to meet with Beckett in private, and Meredith's father tells his daughter that he couldn't bear to watch his young and beautiful wife wither away with cancer

Sam tells Diana that she'll die unless

she takes a different route or stays in the Ritz hotel. The princess is about to do what he asks when she realizes that doing so would be living in fear, something she decided against a long time ago.

Also, Meredith forgives her father for his past actions, and Doctor Fuller appears in place of Al to tell Sam that his host and Meredith will marry and have three children. As for Diana, Beckett learns that she called her children one last time that night, which hadn't happened before.

With his mission finished, Beckett jumps into another body: that of exotic dancer Misty Knight, who's about to go onstage. Sam can only respond unhappily: "Oh boy!"

Guess it's "time" to put on my time-traveling Clint Eastwood hat and get reviewing!

**The Good:** I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the writer, producer and di-

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

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## SCIENCE *TREK*: Splish, Splash, I was taking an oil bath

Surely, you remember that icon of an age long past (the 1990s)...the Poster boy for Pennzoil. Or was that the Exxon Valdez of the Galaxy? Whatever, you remember it (and yes, I know, don't call you Shirley).

Long before the *Deepwater Horizon* platform exploded and sank on April 20, 2010 (Hitler's birthday...hmm, I smell conspiracy theory) and before even the *Chesapeake's* famed "Federation's Greatest Hits" skit, science fiction has portrayed environmental disasters of all sorts and magnitudes.

<pride  
class="pointof">The *Chesapeake* was certainly **not** a disaster...we cleaned up.</pride>

I'm not talking about that farce of a science fiction movie, *The Day After Tomorrow*, which basically took a bunch of scientific theories and facts, threw them in a blender, and splashed the resulting goo across New York city.

Of course, we have overpopulation movies like *Soylent Green* and *Logan's Run* (someday I'll see the climax), physically off the Earth but thematically rooted to our world movies like *Avatar*, ecological films like *Silent Running*, and—forgive me—*Waterworld*.

*Star Trek* has had its share of environmentally focused episodes and movies as well. In *Star Trek VI*, of course, the Klingon moon Praxis explodes, causing a horrendous environmental disaster on their home world—don't get me started

on the science behind this...go find the column I wrote years ago about it.

There's also *The Next Generation's* "Homeward" starring Worf's Russian brother as an crusader who breaks the Prime Directive to save a group of people

from a planet-wide environmental catastrophe...an episode that's probably never gotten its due as a solid science fiction story.

We also have arguably "The Mark of Gideon," about a germ-free world that is seeking a way to eliminate overpopulation by eliminating the populace (or a good portion thereof).

And in the grand tradition of *Trek* as a metaphor, we have *TNG's* "Force of Nature" about warp drive damaging the very fabric of space (which actually is an

intriguing science fictional idea). ■

Web Notes:

[http://www.buzzsugar.com/  
Environmental-Disaster-Movies-Earth-  
Day-1570832](http://www.buzzsugar.com/Environmental-Disaster-Movies-Earth-Day-1570832)

[http://trekbbs.com/showthread.php?  
p=4170683](http://trekbbs.com/showthread.php?p=4170683)

[http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/06/18/  
gulf.oil.bp.partner/](http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/06/18/gulf.oil.bp.partner/)



Now which one is the good metaphor and which one is long forgotten?



### ART CREDITS:

Amazon.com 5  
Battlestarwiki.com 6  
jordanhoffman.com  
Insert - back  
Maps.google.com  
Insert - front  
Pennzoil.com 3  
Randy Hall 1,2

## REFLECTIONS: Lightning Strikes Again — 9

We are winding down on the incredible first season of *Gene Roddenberry's Andromeda*.

What we have witnessed, so far, owes more than a slight nod to *Deep Space Nine*, Wolfe's first professional jog. We have recurring characters, brilliant foreshadowing and legerdemain. All the things that made *DS9* exceptional are here in this first season, except the budget. But I digest...

"*The Honey Offering*" --Matt Kiene/  
Joe Reinkemeyer

A marriage is arranged between competing Nietzschean Prides in an attempt to bring peace and stability to their region of space. Dylan must transport the bride-to-be to the ceremony.


This is another science-fiction take-off on Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. Eventually, every sci-fi show does one, and *Andromeda* has one of the good ones. They must transport Elsbeth Mosadim out of Lucretia by Tammerlain, a nasty, self-centered, self-absorbed @#\*&% who feels that all humans are slaves, Tyr is the ship's captain, and Trance is a cute purple monkey.

The real plan is for Elsbeth, a daughter of the leader of the Sabra Pride, to assassinate her promised betrothed, a member of the Jaguar Pride and her people's sworn enemies. On the way to the "Church," *Andromeda* is surrounded by ships belonging to the hated Drago-Katsov Pride, Tyr's sworn enemy. This union would make the two prides a formidable adversary, and the Dragons will have none of that. Of course, *Andromeda* is right in the middle of it all.

Nietzscheans can't be trusted. No one knows that better than Nietzscheans. They constantly remind Dylan of that fact, but he knows that in order to restore the Commonwealth, he has to show them what trust truly is and what it can accomplish. Elsbeth is so impressed that she be-

stows upon Dylan the coveted "Out of Town Strange" (sex for those of the non-perversed persuasion) and just like a woman, takes him prisoner afterwards, affirming the age-old adage; "Sex is the enemy of Man."

*Star-Crossed - Ethlie Ann Vare*

A survivor of a destroyed vessel, an android named  Gabriel, is brought on board *Andromeda*.

Rommie, the ship's avatar, promptly falls in love with him.

A ship that was attacked by Restors, the technology-hating terrorist group whom we've seen several times this season, has one survivor. Upon being rescued by *Andromeda*, Gabriel is immediately taken with Rommie. He woos her with mechanical sweet nothings, extolling the virtues of emotion and reminding her how lucky she is to have them and how it would be a crime not to put her emotions to good use. I've used this line many times myself. It never fails.

Rommie falls for it hook, line and sinker, or in their case, positron, neural net and gearbox.

Coming to the realization that she will never have Dylan, her true love, she settles for what seems to be the next best thing. Meanwhile, *Andromeda* is searching for a renegade High Guard ship, the *Balance of Judgment*, a starship killer. We discover that Gabriel is really the avatar for the *Balance of Judgment*, and he has infiltrated *Andromeda*'s systems, making them helpless and an easy target for old *Judgment*.

Talk about "Out of Town Strange"? Michael Shanks of *Stargate: SG-1* fame, does a commendable job as Gabriel, Lover of Steel. He is torn between his love for Rommie and his duty to old *Judgment*. We learn that not only was the *Bal-*

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## CAPTAIN'S LOG: 'A Leap to Di for' [continued]

rector of "Leap" was Christopher Allen, who took on the same duties in *Star Trek Vs. Batman* at <http://scifipulse.net/?p=26429> It's a tremendous "leap" from a comedic project to a dramatic one, but Allen pulled it off very well. All the technical aspects like sound and lighting were expertly handled, though it took me a while to figure out where I'd seen Ramsey before: He was Captain Kirk in *STvB!*

Also, I liked the idea of doing a story on Diana. Our memory of her death may be more than a decade old, but her character is still a compelling one.

**The Bad:** Speaking of the princess, using her in the story was also sort of a mixed blessing. While it was fascinating to "see" her again, there was no way Sam and Al could undo what we all know as history. Nevertheless, Allen found a way to make the mission a success, and I thought that was also well handled.

**The Ugly:** Many sci-fi TV shows or movies have what I call a "negative premise," meaning that if you solve the basic

problem, the series is over (as opposed to programs with positive premises, such as *Star Trek*). This is also true of *Quantum Leap*, which would end if Beckett stopped jumping from one time to another.

Nevertheless, when the show ended in May of 1993, it would have been a good idea to give the viewers some closure with Beckett making that final leap home. Instead, the last thing fans saw was a message that the lead character "never returned home."

Hopefully, this fan film, which you can watch at <http://www.fanfilmfollies.com/index.php/2009/12/12/quantum-leap-a-leap-to-di-for/>, will help revive interest in the show, and eventually, we'll get to see Sam and Al make that one last "leap" of faith.

For more information on this independent production, check out the "Leap to Di for" Website here: <http://www.racosofilms.com/QL.htm>. ■

Captain Randy Hall

## BOOK REVIEW: *Seven Deadly Sins*, 'Slow Knife'

Be careful what you wish for because you just might get it. This tale, focusing on the sin of envy, among the Cardassians, struck me as being very subtle...as subtle as Garak's portrayal of being a simple tailor. But things are not as simple as they initially appear to be nor are they what they actually appear to be. Such is the Cardassian way of life...as insidious as the Obsidian Order.

In this tale, the main character, Sanir Kein, perceives herself as the victim of gender discrimination as she watches as a crew member, who had been of equal rank as she, is promoted over her in spite of the fact that HER actions had saved their ship and crew after a battle with the Starfleet vessel, the "U.S.S.

Rutledge"! (If the "Rutledge" sounds familiar, it should as it was the same vessel that Miles O'Brien served on before going on to the "U.S.S. Enterprise" and then "Deep Space Nine".) Feeling as if she has been ignored, if not demeaned, she silently seethes with jealousy and, yes, ENVY, as the person she considers incompetent is given command of his own vessel. His elevating her to the position of Executive Officer on his ship does not assuage her in the least.

Kein's new commanding officer, Dal Enkoa, soon demonstrates the "Peter Principle" of being promoted to his level of incompetence and his own ambition gets the best of him. In spite of



Let's see...the Borg's obvious, but which sin is Sisko?

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# COMING EVENTS

June 19..... Time for our next monthly meeting! We'll be at the Hard Times Café in College Park, Maryland. We'll start the noshing at 5:00, then our monthly club about 7:00 p.m.!

## REFLECTIONS: Lightning Strikes Again — 9 [concluded]

ance of Judgment helping the Restors, he formed them as well, which adds insult to injury.

This is a touching love story, with some weird asides. There's a funny bit in which Rommie is in an argument with *Andromeda* and its holographic Rommie, sort of like a three-way argument with yourself. We see what computer/cyber sex really looks like. Shanks and Lexa Doig met on this show and later married and had little androids because of it.



*It Makes a Lovely Light*—Ethlie Ann Vare

Dylan is thrown a surprise birthday party. For a present, Beka gives Dylan the slipstream co-ordinates to Tam-Vedra, his long-lost home world.

Beka has deciphered the diary of Hestoli, "the Mad Perseid." The diary was stolen by Harper and Trance (see "Fear and Loathing in the Milky Way"), and she believes she has found the slipstream route to Tam-Vedra. No one has been able to find the route for 300 years. This has the crew pretty excited.

Dylan is excited because it's his

home, and he wants to know what became of its inhabitants.

Beka and Harper are excited because of the untold riches Tarn-Vedra was always known to have. Tyr is excited because of the legendary weaponry the world possesses, and Trance is, well, always excited. The only skeptical one is Rev Bern, who wants to let sleeping dogs lie.

The route is so dangerous that one needs to make split-second decisions with split-second timing to navigate it. To give her the edge she thinks she needs, Beka starts using Flash again. (see "The Pearls That Were Her Eyes"). You'd think that after being made an addict by her "Uncle Sid" (John deLancie), Beka would know better than to mess with the extremely addictive drug, but like all addicts, she thinks she can handle it. In trying to reward her crew, she almost kills them. This episode features superb acting from Lisa Ryder.

Next month: The incredible first-season finale! ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo "I" Heard

## BOOK REVIEW: *Seven Deadly Sins*, 'Slow Knife' [concluded]

Jagul Hanno's orders to strictly patrol, without deviation, his opinions and beliefs override his adherence to duty, or common sense, which leads him to the fateful events on Setlik III and his downfall. Kein gets what she so desperately wanted and discovers that there is a steep price to pay as a result of her envious nature, which basically leaves the taste of

ashes in her mouth. She is not the "captain of her own fate" as she once thought but only a mere puppet in the Obsidian Order of all things Cardassian as she feels the slow twist of a ghostly knife wielded by shadows. ■

Pat McCoy, Xenobiologist and Xenopsychologist

