

2010 Annie Awards, Part I

Best Show: *Supernatural* - Apocalypse WOW! This show never fails to deliver the goods, even in the rare bad episode. Having averted the apocalypse by tricking Satan back into the pit, what do you do for an encore? Bring Sam back without a soul, and make him an uber-hunter. Some shows let up in their final season, but *Supernatural* just keeps getting better. Runners-up: *Lost*; *Smallville*; *Chuck*; *Eureka*;

ures out what the purpose is, other than the usual Secret Government Conspiracy. Add to that a totally lame ending and whiny, annoying characters, it was a waste of a good summer series. Thankfully, it won't be back for Level 2.

Most Untimely Cancellation: *Caprica* - It started off brilliantly, but failed to keep the larger BSG audience. Syfy treated it like a red-headed stepchild, and didn't even



Warehouse 13; *True Blood*

Best New show: *The Walking Dead* - When I heard that AMC was going to make a series about life after a Zombie Apocalypse, I scoffed. BOY, was I wrong! They address a lot of issues, like racism, head-on. And the zombies themselves are terrifyingly gory. Runners-up: *Caprica*; *Haven*; *No Ordinary Family*

Worst New Show: *Persons Unknown - Cube* in a small town. People are kidnapped, thrown together in a weird mind-fracking experiment, but nobody ever fig-

have the decency to run the last episodes. While some might argue whether it was good or not, it at least deserved better treatment. Runners-up: *Legend of the Seeker*; *Flash Forward*; *Dollhouse*; *Stargate: Universe*

Hail and Farewell: *Lost* - Oh, *Lost*, how I will miss you. The Dharma Initiative, Mystery Island, Drive Shaft, Geronimo Jackson, The Others, The Smoke Monster, all came down to a conflict between the "good" and "evil" brother. There has never been a show quite like it. See you in an-

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Welcome to the Future, or If You Thought 2010 Was Crazy

The next monthly meeting of the U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek and Science Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, January 15, at the Hard Times Café in College Park, Maryland.

We'll start the stuffing our faces about 5:00 p.m., then talk with our mouths full about 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. For directions to this month's meeting, get the latest insert. Blah, Blah, Blah. ■

CAPTAIN'S LOG: Fallen Star, 'The American Invasion'

Spoiler Alert: If you'd rather watch the fan film's ending yourself, skip down to my Clint Eastwood review. If not, just continue reading.

Stating that he has more battle experience, Logan convinces Knight to let him have the center seat "this once," and the *Britannic* arrives at the alien world just in time to learn that only one minute remains before the doomsday weapon is fired from the spider web-like cannon.

The crew relies on the helm to give them the right target and a fully charged laser drill to use in their attack.

Darling shouts that the alien cannon is firing. Logan gives his own order to fire, and the laser burst rips off part of the weapon, causing it to veer

away from Earth and toward the Smegulons' world.

The weapon is fired, and the planet then begins to change color from blue to gray to black to orange and finally brown as all life there is eradicated.

Logan's response is priceless: "Ooops."

Knight adds: "Good show."

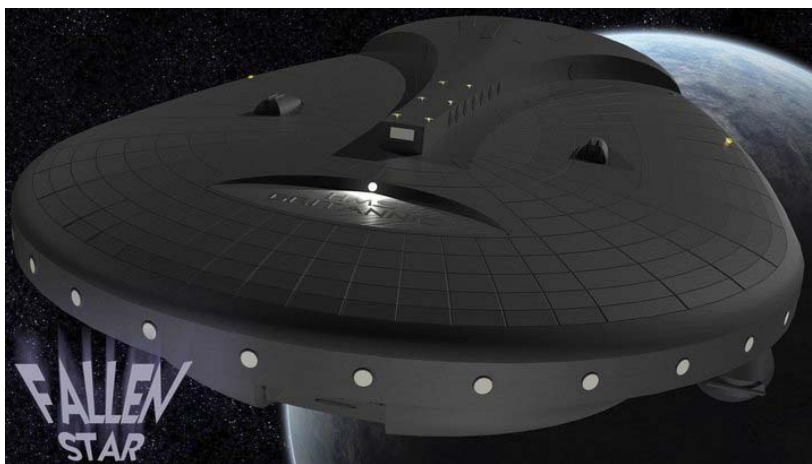
After the *Britannic* returns to friendly space, the captain sends a message to officials on Earth, which agrees with the choices they were forced to make. As a result, Logan is transferred to the ship on a permanent basis, and due to the political chaos caused by the incident, the ship is ordered to explore remote sec-

tors of the galaxy.

Admiral Henry Porter (Michael Jaynes) gives the crew its new mission: "Seek out no life and no civilizations. And don't do anything bold."

Yet again, it's time to put on my Clint Eastwood mining hat and get re-viewing.

The Good: I think that producing a space adventure with funny gags along the way is difficult. That's why I think "The American Invasion" is unique: It's a "dramedy" (a combination of drama and comedy).



The H.M.S. Britannic

There's lots of fun along the way. When Humphries types in the combination to open the weapons locker, the code is 1-7-0-1. And there's even a gag from the

British comedy *Black Adder*, in which the last name of one soldier was "Darling." That led to such silly lines as "Don't worry, Darling" and "I'm back, Darling."

Along with cool costumes, props and special effects, there was plenty of drama and one of my favorite things, big space battles. The one at the end of the film is easily worth the price of admission! (If they could charge admission, that is.)

The Bad: I realized that this production was put together on a low budget when the U.S. soldiers went over to the Smegulons' space station, and we only

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Check out our club website: www.usschesapeake.org

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SCIENCE *TREK*: L'Chaim to *Deep Space Nine*

Can you believe it? So many years since it all began. No, I'm not talking about the founding of the fabled U.S.S. *Chesapeake*, that's for next month. I'm talking about the 18th anniversary of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*.

Sorry, I got distracted reading the Wikipedia entry on DS9.

Premiering on January 3, 1993, *DS9* quickly became what *TV Guide* called "the best acted, written, produced and altogether finest" *Star Trek* series. But you're here for the science and technology angle, aren't you (if you weren't you'd already be reading that Refractions column)? So, here you are:



Can't you just hear the theme music?

- The Wormhole—how can you not start here with the ultimate reflection of science v. religion?
- The aphasia virus—what's that? Is this science in my fiction? ("Babel")
- The "Battle Lines" planet—live and *don't* let die, not even once.
- Symbiont thief— It's not like they're still her appendix. ("Invasive Procedures")
- "Melora"—Would you call it a floatchair?
- "Paradise"—aka let's go to another world and reject technology. It ain't easy to say amidst all the great and merely good episodes, but this is one of my favorites.
- Yes, social is a science—a "soft" science, but people still get degrees in it

and "House of Quark" is a study in the Klingon and Ferengi cultures.

- Nip/Tuck—I've always had a problem with SF episodes that do a little plastic surgery and then no one thinks to check their own DNA. The toilets don't do that for you? Oh wait, Cardassian station... ("Second Skin")
- Medical Ethics—and politics, a temperamental combination. ("Life Support")
- Oh father, where art thou?—Jake, old and about to die. Thanks the prophets he was right. ("The Visitor")

- Our station computer—or, now we finally see how much memory those 24th century computers really have. ("Our Man Bashir")
- "Hard Times"—A prison with the walls of the mind. Must save on expenses.
- Journalistic sciences—Okay, maybe not, but they say journalists write the first draft of history. ("...Nor the Battle to the Strong")
- Genetics, not eugenics—or perhaps we close the loop on Khan and the Eugenics wars. ("Doctor Bashir, I Presume?")

Will you look at that, I haven't even reached 18 and here we are at the end of the column. Who ever talks about *Deep Space Nine* these days? Guess we'll have to continue this in March. ■

Second Officer Phil Margolies

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annieawards.org

Blogspot.com 1
Insert-front
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scifipulse.net 4

Wikipedia.org 2,5

Youtube.org 3
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REFLECTIONS: The Wolfe Retrospective

Here we are, column # 202. I promise I will stop counting. Now, back to the countdown.

“Pitiless as the Sun” - Emily Skopov

The Andromeda Ascendant is lured to the planet Anarus on false pretenses. While Dylan is busy trying to find out who is attacking Anari freighters, Trance is taken prisoner and accused of causing a civil war on the planet fifteen years earlier.

Trance Gemini is captured and tortured and subjected to a series of accusations about a being who looked just like her (but was male), who appeared fifteen years ago and destroyed their culture. The “Cigarette Smoking Man”.....uh, I’m sorry, William B. Davis is her interrogator. She is bound and drugged, while he

cross-examines her, determined to find out all there is to know about her race. Meanwhile on Andromeda, a race of beings known as the Phyrrians are attacking and destroying Anari freighters. The freighters are carrying Amonium Phosphate, a fertilizer to the rest of the universe, but a highly addictive drug to the Phyrrians. The Anari are drug peddlers.

This was the first MAJOR clue as to who and what Trance really is. She is drugged and tortured and to her it’s just another day in the park. Every time she’s bound, she manages to find a way out of her bindings. It’s obvious she’s toying with these people and that if she wanted, they would be the ones in real danger. No one is more surprised to hear about Trance’s “brother” than the crew of the Andromeda. A final close up of Trance reveals the reflection of a sun in her left eye. Very prophetic. ▲▲▲

“Last Call at the Broken Hammer” – Story - Robert Hewitt Wolfe, Teleplay – John Lloyd Perry

Searching for Isabella Ortiz, woman who arranged the only interstellar peace alliance since the fall of the Commonwealth, Dylan, Bekka and T’yr and Trance find themselves in a bar at the edge of a desert wasteland planet, fending off a Kalderan attack.

Dylan and Company arrive at a bar called “The Broken Hammer”, seeking Isabella Ortiz, a person with an incredible ability to rally people and instill confidence. This makes her valuable to the Commonwealth. It also makes her a target of people who do not want change.

Not a bad episode, not a great one either. There are a couple of twist, but not enough meat to push it into memorable status. There is lots of gunplay, which is why T’yr’s around. Trance takes a shot meant

for Ortiz. Fortunately, for her, she is shot in the butt. Unfortunately, she loses her tail in the process. There is a funny scene where Trance, drunk from alcohol to numb the pain (yeah, right), wants to show Dylan her butt. He declines. High Guard, go figure. You’ll actually breathe a sigh of relief at the sight of dozens of dead Kalderans. ▲▲▲

“All Too Human” – Ashley Edward Miller/Zack Stentz

Rommie sets out to extract an informant from the planet, but winds up stuck on a world, Maken Alpha, with a strong hatred of Androids.

A taunt episode that grips you with the firm pressure of a vice, then pulls you in several different directions at once. Dylan and Bekka hover outside the planet’s atmosphere waiting to pick up their landing party. After learning of the Make-nauts’ plans to attack a neighboring world, the Moebius, they go after the ship. They soon discover that the Make-

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Andromeda's Second Season

CAPTAIN'S LOG: *Fallen Star*, 'The American Invasion' [continued]

got an audio version of the fight. I figured then that the producers didn't have enough money to build the other sets and film more scenes for that to happen. Oh, well.

The Ugly: "Invasion" had many

color of the ship or other object altered from gray to a brownish color and back again.

Those effects were certainly an ambitious part of a project by a group making its first fan film. While these shots didn't all turn out perfectly, they were laudable, especially since I hear online rumors that the folks behind "Invasion" aren't planning to make any more productions due to the fact they take a great deal of time and effort.

If so, that's too bad. "Invasion" set up a whole new universe to play in, and that's always a good thing for science-fiction fans.

If you want to see this fan film for yourself, just hop over to http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=521399E5427DE646. ■

Captain Randy Hall



Have you figured out the pink nebula yet?

outstanding shots that panned around the ship and then moved inside through a window or a screen. That was cool, but the

The 2010 Annie Awards [Continued]

other life, Brutha! Runner-up: Heroes

Best Movie/Miniseries Offering: *Doctor Who*, "The End of Time" - The Master is back! David Tennant's final performance as The Doctor! The Doctor is not a ginger! What more could one want? Runners-up: *The Phantom*; *Doctor Who*, "A Christmas Carol"

Best Episode: "Vincent and The Doctor" (DW) - Amy and the Doctor visit Vincent Van Gogh, who sees things in ways that nobody else does including aliens. A tearjerker of a story that shows that, even if we change the past, we may wind up with the same results. The only thing missing was Don McLean's song "Vincent." Runners-up: "Absolute Justice" (SMV); "Ab Aeterno" (Lost); "Hammer of the Gods" (SPN); "I Got A Right To Sing The Blues" (TB); "Secret Santa" (W13); "I'll Be Seeing You" (EUR); "Cloverdale" (SG:U)

Best Actor: Terry O'Quinn (*Lost*) - The best Man in Black since Tommy Lee Jones, Terry O'Quinn morphed from the wise survival expert to the malevolent incarnation of Old Smokey. Nobody does

evil quite like our homeboy Terry! Runners-up: David Tennant (DW); Esai Morales (CAP); Jensen Ackles (SPN); Matthew Fox (*Lost*); Stephen Moyer (TB); Michael Chiklis (NOF); Joel Gretsch (V)

Best Actress: Alessandra Torressani (CAP) - It's a rare actress that can play the same character two or three different ways, especially while working with a CGI robot as her body double. Alessandra portrays Zoe Graystone as both confused and worldly, trapped in her Cylon body, but free to do as she pleases in the Virtual world. zoe is a complex character, and Alessandra really makes it work. Runners-up: Allison Mack (SMV); Anna Torv (*Fringe*); Evangeline Lilly (*Lost*); Anna Paquin (TB); Emily Rose (*Haven*); Julie Benz (NOF); Amanda Tapping (SCY); Morena Baccarin (v); Rhona Mitra (*The Gates*)

Best Supporting Actor: John Noble (*Fringe*) - Whether he's playing Mad Scientist Walter Bishop or the Walternate, the Secretary of Defense, John Noble gives a fantastic and convincing performance. Makes you want to kick back with a straw-

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COMING EVENTS

January 15..... Time for our next monthly meeting! We'll be at the Hard Times Café in College Park, Maryland. We'll start eating at 5:00 a.m., then have the club meeting about 7ish.

REFLECTIONS: The Wolfe Retrospective, *Andromeda's* Second Season [Concluded]

nauts are using Magog technology, a quantum singularity weapon (first seen in "The Widening Gyre," first episode of season two), capable of vaporizing planets.

Harper rushes to make repairs only to overdose on the medication that keeps his Magog larvae dormant. With Harper out of commission, the Maru is filling up with water. Rev Bem can hold his breath for several hours, T'yr only for a half and hour and Harper is unconscious and there is only ONE EV suit on board, meaning one person will die.

Meanwhile, Rommie and Philip Kim (John Harwood) are being tracked down by the planet's anti-AI unit, led by Joshua.....hold it, that was "First Wave" ("Then kiss your....."), no he's Curtis now.....wait, that's 24..., well it turns out that he's also an AI! Whew! This episode had it all and a very telling scene for T'yr that puts an end once and for all to the question of whether he really a member of the crew. ■



Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



Rev Bem, T'yr and Harper are waiting by in the Eureka Maru, poised to pick up Rommie and her informant, John Byers.....uh, wait a minute, that's one of the Lone Gunman. Well,

he's played by the same guy (Bruce Harwood). They are discovered and hides in the ocean. Taking on heavy fire, the Maru is damaged and sinks deeper into the water. With the Maru taking on water,

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berry and brains milkshake. Runners-up: Jim Beaver (SPN); Michael Emerson (Lost); Nelsan Ellis (TB); Enver Gjokaj (DH); Nestor Carbonell (Lost); Misha Collins (SPN); Jorge Garcia (Lost)

Best Supporting Actress: Kandyse McClure (PU) - It's a rare actress that can come into a series halfway through, be a total game-changer, and become the best character in the show. Kandyse really blew everybody away as a lesbian life-term prisoner with a son she never knew. she put Persons Unknown on her shoulders and carried it. Runners-up: Polly Walker (CAP); Yunjun Kim (Lost); Jasika Nicole (Fringe); Allison Scagliotti (W13); Erica Serra (EUR); Rutina Wesley (TB); Agam Darshi (SCY)

(to be continued next issue)

Key:

- CAP - Caprica
- DH - Dollhouse
- DW - Doctor Who
- EUR - Eureka
- FF - Flash Forward
- NOF - No Ordinary Family
- PU - Persons Unknown
- SCY - Sanctuary
- SG:U - Stargate: Universe
- SMV - Smallville
- SPN - Supernatural
- TB - True Blood
- VD - The Vampire Diaries
- W13 - Warehouse 13
- WD - The Walking Dead ■

Starfleet Intelligence Officer Annie White