

# The Andromedan Log #50

January 1996

This Month

Introducing  
**Channel  
Surfing**

Joining The Log  
on a monthly basis

Vol. 5 #1

The official monthly newsletter of Star Base Andromeda

Lincoln, NE

## New Era for *The Andromedan Log* **Who is the Doctor?**

Greetings, fellow fans, and welcome to the first issue of SBA's newsletter, *The Andromedan Log*, since November 1994. A lot has changed about both the club and *The Log* since then, so sit back for a little history lesson before you dig into the latest news and reviews.

### A Brief History of *The Andromedan Log*

**The Formative Years — 1974-1980.** Star Base Andromeda was founded on February 7, 1974 as The City Wide Star Trek Club: Star Base Andromeda, and club documents indicate that *The Andromedan Log* was fully intended to be a monthly publication for club members to be kept up-to-date on club events and schedules. Additionally, a club fanzine, *The Kelvan Outpost*, was to be published yearly, including fanfic, poetry, artwork etc. by club members. In actuality, *The Log* saw print infrequently, and was a rather utilitarian production, including officer reports, a small selection of news/announcements, and a brief listing of upcoming conventions. *The Kelvin Outpost* has only seen print three times officially, with no immediate plans to resurrect it in the near future.

**The Experimental Years — 1981-1987.** Beginning with Vicki Porto and then continuing with my own first stint as editor, *The Andromedan Log* became a more prominent feature of Star Base Andromeda proceedings from 1981 until 1984 (with a few more issues eking out from 1985 to 1987). During this period, the newsletter became much more of a participatory production. Club members were encouraged to submit reviews of books, tv shows, movies, etc., and regular polls were conducted of members' opinions regarding movies and television series. An annual SF/Fantasy movie awards tradition began and lasted for three years,

(see **Editorial...** on page 2)

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## **Rigel XI to be held February 10th**

Star Base Andromeda members will be celebrating the 22nd anniversary of the founding of the club by holding a one-day open-house/relaxacon at our regular meeting spot, the fourth floor of Bennett Martin Public Library (14th & "N" Sts.) on Saturday, February 10th, 1996. Beginning at 9:30 in the morning, and continuing until 5:30 that afternoon, we'll have two rooms full of activities going on. Our video room will be showing 8 straight hours of genre favorites, including the brand new Doctor Whoesque "Downtime", with the Brigadier and Sarah Jane; Play MST For Me 2; Apollo 13 and much more. Meanwhile, in the main room, we'll have tables set up for opening gaming and/or casual crash space. Come have a fannish day at the Rigel XI relaxacon!

"I can now officially confirm that Paul McGann is the 8th Doctor and a regeneration scene will be shot that will allow Sylvester McCoy to pass the baton to Paul. Let's wish them both well. Best, Philip." — Philip Segal, on America Online (1-9-96).

Just as we go to press with this issue of *The Andromedan Log*, the Doctor Who forums of the Net are ablaze with the late-breaking news that the Eighth Doctor has been cast. On January 9th, producer Philip Segal announced on America Online that British actor Paul McGann will assume the role of the Doctor in the tv-movie/pilot being shot for airing by FOX. McGann may not be as well known to American audiences as some of the other actors to have taken on the role of the timelord, however he does have a number of recognizable projects in his credits. A quick glance at the Internet Movie Database reveals these roles in the following film and tv productions: Prince Potemkin in the 1994 tv-mini-series *Catherine the Great*; Girard in the 1993 "brat pack" version of *The Three Musketeers*; Golic in *Alien 3* (1992); Tony Dalton in *Afraid of the Dark* (1991); El Fraile (1990); Barry in *Innocent Victim* a.k.a. *Tree of Hands* (1990); *The Monk* (1990); Matthew Harris in *Paper Mask* (1990); Daniel Pascoe in *Dealers* (1989); Anton Skrebensky in *The Rainbow* (1989); Lt. Price in *Empire of the Sun* (1987); Marwood in *Withnail and I* (1987); as well as the television productions "The Monocled Mutineer" (1987); "The Importance of Being Ernest" as John Worthing (1986); and as John Lennon in "John and Yoko: A Love Story" in 1985.

McGann is the only major cast member yet announced for the Doctor Who film, which still hopes to begin principle photography in

(see **Who is...** on page 10)

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**Welcome back to *The Andromedan Log*...now on a Monthly Basis!**

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Changes of Address should be sent to the SBA address listed above.

Membership dues in Star Base Andromeda are as follows: \$6.00/Supporting — Receives all club publications, however is ineligible to hold office or vote; \$10.00/Full member — Receives all club publications, is eligible for office, and is able to vote in all elections or on issues associated with the club. Full memberships are available only to individuals able to attend at least 20% of club meetings. These rates reflect first-class postage for mailing of publications. Postage outside the U.S. add an additional \$5.00.

The expiration month of your membership is listed on your mailing label.

### Contribution deadlines for upcoming issues of The Andromeda Log:

**#51 — February 3**

**#52 — March 3**

## Editorial... continued from page 1

with Andromeda Awards (Andys) going to the best films of 1982, 1983 and 1984 based on club member voting. Television episode guides and listings of new books, magazines, comics and movies became regular features in each issue. Some club members even took on the task of producing monthly columns which most readers found to be highly entertaining. Eventually, the pressures of "real life" intruded and publication became very infrequent. All told, 22 issues of The Log saw print during this period.

The Sporadic Years — 1987-1991. Melissa Sailors took over the production of The Log in 1987 and managed to put out eleven issues in her own inimitable style. Many of the features of the previous era continued, with occasional book, tv and movie reviews, and The Log saw the first appearance of material directly from the Internet. Eventually, with Melissa trying to produce the fanzine for a Lincoln club while she herself was away in another state at school, we realized something had to change.

The Internet Years — 1992-1994. With the club beginning a new membership drive and feeling a surge of creative energy in 1992, Diane Taurins became the editor of The Andromedan Log, and a whole new look emerged. Gone was the quaint (a.k.a. "cheesy") typewritten or cheaply photocopied look that had existed for the newsletter for the past 18 years. The Log was now a splashy, desktop-publishing marvel, with hot news fresh off the Net on a variety of subjects, and well as current updates on local club activities. Over the next two years, nine issues of The Log were printed, with the April 93 issue clocking in at a record 27 pages. Although occasional reviews by SBAers still surfaced, a certain amount of lethargy on the part of club members led to the majority of material during this period coming from outside sources.

And now we enter a new period in SBA's and The Andromedan Log's development. The club has survived producing two local conventions, Andromeda One (April 1994) and Andromeda Two (March 1995), and though a lot of its members have suffered Con Burnout, we're still keeping the SBA flame lit. A lot of people have expressed an interest in joining us at our meetings, but scheduling has proved to be awkward at times. And the Internet has proven to be a strong substitute for direct fannish contact, with its many interactive discussion groups and its vast storehouses of information, which continue to grow on an hourly basis. In fact, some have asked if there's still a place for local fan clubs like Star Base Andromeda or local fan club newsletters such as The Andromedan Log.

We think there is, on both counts.

Star Base Andromeda continues to exist as a social organization of like-minded individuals because many of us still want someplace where we feel like we "belong" and can be understood — and we want to offer that haven to others who haven't found us yet. The

(See Editorial... on page 13)

## Letters to the Editor:

The Andromedan Log encourages Letters of Comment and/or questions for fandom at large, and will attempt to make room for pertinent letters as often as possible. Please indicate if your letter is to be considered for publication. All letters submitted must include name and full address (and e-mail address, if you have one). Only name and city will be printed if your letter is actually used.

e-mail to: 71242.1306@compuserve.com

## Fan Favorites Face Cancellation — I

Nick near the end of his "endless Forever Knight"?

Fans of the popular syndicated vampire-detective series must have felt like they'd received coal in their stockings come Christmastime, when the USA Cable network announced that they had cancelled the show.

Forever Knight, which began its series life on CBS Late Night in 1992, was originally cancelled by the arrival of David Letterman's Late Show. It began a second life in straight-for-syndication production during the 1994-95 season, with moderately good ratings. For the 1995-96 season, an unusual deal was struck with the USA Network for co-financing. The series would air in syndication on the weekends, then the same episode would air on USA during the following week. It was only through USA's involvement that Forever Knight even made it into the 95-96 season at all.

The cancellation of the USA airings and funding leaves the fate of Forever Knight very much in doubt. USA claims that their actions are due to poor ratings for the series in its cable showings, while co-producer TriStar/Columbia television claims that without USA's funds, they can't afford to make the series straight-for-syndication any longer.

As of early January, TriStar had bowed to fan pressure and agreed to continue producing the remaining episodes of the current season of Forever Knight, however they have announced that the show will not continue after production of the 22nd episode has been completed. TriStar's orders are that the sets be struck immediately following the end of production in February.

A group of fans (The Friends of F.K.) are using the Internet to disseminate information on how to Save Forever Knight. Their suggestions: The NATPE (a gathering of syndicators and local station executives) is taking place January 22-26, and although TriStar is not planning to be offering Forever Knight at NATPE, FOFK suggests contacting the local station in your area that carries the show (KETV Channel 7 in the Lincoln/Omaha market) and asking them to request another season from their supplier. The Friends also suggest contacting TriStar directly with a polite request for more episodes.

If you're interesting in helping to save the Knight, here are the addresses to write to:

Mr. Jon Feltheimer, President  
TriStar/Columbia Pictures TV  
10202 Washington Boulevard  
Culver City, CA 90232-3195

and

Bettie Denny, Program Director  
David Summers, V.P./General Manager  
KETV-TV/Pulitzer Broadcasting Co.  
27th & Douglas St.  
Omaha, NE 68131

or checkout out the Save Forever Knight homepage on the web at:

<http://members.aol.com/CuznJamiMR/SaveForeverKnight.html>

## Fan Favorites Face Cancellation — II

Mike and the 'bots look at life after Comedy Central

Best Brains, Inc., the production company behind the tremendously popular Mystery Science Theater 3000, revealed in a press release in mid-December that the Comedy Central cable network would not be renewing its contract to carry MST3K. The series — an affectionate demolition job on bad SF and biker flicks — features a human (Joel Hodgson first, then Mike Nelson) trapped with a pair of sarcastic robots (Tom Servo and Crow T. Robot) on a space station, where they're forced to watch really bad movies and the only way they can keep their sanity is to dissect the films while they watch.

The timing seems especially surprising on this considering that Mystery Science Theater 3000 — The Movie will be released this spring, introducing the series to a whole new audience who've not had the opportunity to see it before due to Comedy Central's limited U.S. coverage. The film, using This Island Earth as its fodder, was a smash hit when done live at the 1994 ConventioConExpoFest-a-Rama for a packed house at a restored Minneapolis theater. The MST3K Movie will be released by Universal nationally in April.

The main crux of fannish frustration at Comedy Central's decision is that the current 7th season of the series will be halted at only 6 new episodes, since production of the movie increased the workload at BBI. Comedy Central has an option to pick up three more new episodes, but at present is declining that opportunity. BBI's contract with Comedy Central does not allow them to produce any additional new episodes without Comedy Central's authorization until 1997, so even if BBI can interest another cable network in financing production, the studio will remain inactive until a year from now. BBI representatives assured fans that the staff will stick together and work on other projects until MST3K can go back into production. In the meantime, if you'd like to write to Comedy Central to comment (politely) on the show and request that CC pick up the additional 3 new episodes for season 7, the address is as follows:

Doug Herzog — President of Comedy Central  
1775 Broadway  
New York, NY 10019

There will still be plenty of MST3K to go around this season. Comedy Central is sporadically airing repeats from earlier seasons, and The Mystery Science Theater Hour entered syndication this season as a package of the best episodes from seasons 2, 3 and 4 (air schedule not currently available). In addition to the release of the Movie in April, Bantam Books will be printing Mystery Science Theater 3000: The Amazing Colossal Episode Guide, which should cover all 7 seasons and the movie, and a CD-Rom product based on the series is planned for release from Voyager productions in the Spring of

(See **MST3K...** on page 13)

# News Bytes

## Data bytes

Actor Brent Spiner was the final regular cast member to sign on to the tentatively titled *Star Trek: Resurrection* feature film. Spiner will receive between \$2 million and \$3 million for his appearance — light-years ahead of most of his co-stars, who had all signed sequel deals in advance, but still less than the \$5 million Patrick Stewart signed on for in November. Spiner has kept busy lately, with appearances in the upcoming films *Independence Day* with Bill Pullman and Will Smith, and *Phenomenon* with John Travolta.

All the Next Gen regulars will appear in *Resurrection*, including Michael Dorn — currently assigned to *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* as a series regular — whose DS9 contract specified being let loose for the second Next Gen film when it came about. *Resurrection* is scheduled to start shooting in April at Paramount, with an expected Christmas '96 release date. Although no director has yet been announced for the project, several names have been bandied about, including: Nick Meyer, Leonard Nimoy, and even cast member Jonathan Frakes, who has kept busy directing numerous episodes of DS9 and *Voyager*. The *Resurrection* script is by Ronald Moore and Brannon Braga, screenwriters on *Star Trek: Generations*, and is known to involve the Borg, time travel and the founding of the Federation in the 21st century. In addition to the Borg menace, another villain also threatens the newly christened Enterprise-E, although no additional casting news has been announced. Several scripts are being discussed around the Net, claiming to be the official plots, however Paramount denies floating any trial balloons.

## Nine Out of Ten Moviegoers Agree...

Films in the SF, Fantasy, and Action-Adventure categories took up 14 of the top 20 slots of 1995's biggest money-makers list. Most of the top-20 domestic films have already left U.S. screens

but many are currently doing big business overseas or are starting to show profits as video sales. The top 20 domestic releases for 1995 and their take (in millions of dollars) were:

Batman Forever (183.9)  
Apollo 13 (172.1)  
Toy Story (150.0)  
Pocahontas (141.5)  
Ace Ventura II (104.4)  
Casper (100.3)  
Die Hard III (100.1)  
Goldeneye (93.2)  
Crimson Tide (91.4)  
Waterworld (88.3)  
Seven (87.0)  
Dangerous Minds (84.3)  
While You Were Sleeping (81.1)  
Congo (81.0)  
Mortal Kombat (70.4)  
The Bridges of Madison Co. (70.1)  
Nine Months (69.7)  
Get Shorty (68.8)  
Outbreak (67.4)  
Braveheart (67.0)

## Must Be the Hair...

Actor Kevin Sorbo, riding high on the soaring Nielsen ratings of his *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*, has just been named to star as Kull in the feature film *Kull the Conqueror*, based on the Robert Howard-created character. Produced by Raffaella DeLaurentiis from a script by Charles Pogue, *Kull...* will film during Sorbo's summer-1996 break between seasons of *Hercules*, and will probably reach theaters in the Spring of 1997. *Kull* is set in the same milieu as *Conan* (also created by Robert Howard), though several centuries before the time of *Conan*. *Kull* starts as a slave but becomes a warrior king and rises to power in the land of Lemuria.

## Toy Story Out of SFX

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences steering committee recently excluded *Toy Story* from Oscar consideration in the category of Special Effects, limiting that field to seven potential entries: *Jumanji*, *Casper*, *Indian in the Cupboard*, *Apollo 13*, *Babe*, *Batman Forever* and *Waterworld*. In-and-of itself, this move is not necessarily so odd, however it has led to an increase in the number of requests that the

Academy instate a Feature Animation category. This may come to pass. In the past, the general lack of quality animated films has led to concern on the Academy's part that unworthy films would be raised to nominee status simply to fill out a category. However, with the advent of such feats of animation as seen in *Toy Story*, *Jumanji*, *Casper* and the upcoming *Dragonheart*, the Academy seems to be rethinking its decision. In the meantime, *Toy Story's* best shot at an Academy Award may lie in the category of "special Oscar for breakthrough achievement," such as the awards given *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* and *Snow White*.

## To the Cash Register...and Beyond!

On a brighter *Toy Story* note, Pixar Animation Studios has announced that it is discussing with Disney the prospects for developing a direct-to-video sequel to its hit feel-good film. Although no details were available regarding screenplays, timeframe or creative personnel to be involved, this concept would certainly fit in with Disney's past history. Disney's made-for-video *The Return of Jafar*, though critically lambasted, sold incredibly well based on the success of *Aladdin*. In fact, Disney is currently working on a second direct-to-video sequel to *Aladdin*, this time using Robin Williams' voice for the Genie (he was not involved in the first sequel). Disney is also working on its first feature-length *Winnie-the-Pooh* movie for direct-to-video release in 1997.

## It's a Bird...It's a Plane... It's...a Roller Coaster!

Six Flags Magic Mountain amusement park in Valencia, CA announced the development of a new 900' long, 415' high thrill ride to be called *Superman The Escape*. Six Flags is billing this nearly \$10 million attraction (which should be open to the public in the spring) as the world's tallest, fastest and most technologically advanced ride. *Superman The Escape* is designed to accelerate riders to 100 mph in seven seconds (a ride speed record). It will then feature 6.5

(See **News Bytes...** on page 10)

# Channel Surfing #2

Since this is the first appearance of Channel Surfing in The Andromedan Log, why does this say #2, you may ask. In September 1995, a single issue of the fanzine Channel Surfing was printed by Orion Majoris Publications as a trial to see what kind of local interest in could generate. It was 12 pages long, and approximately 60-75 copies were distributed in the Lincoln/Omaha area to positive reactions. As part of an effort to revitalize SBA and The Log, the members of SBA voted to merge CS into The Log beginning with this issue.

## The Adventures of Brisco County Jr.

This fan-favorite FOX series, though cancelled after only one season, will be showing up in exclusive reruns on the TNT cable network beginning Saturday, January 13th.

## Alien Nation

The third of FOX's series of Alien Nation TV-movies ("Millenium") airs the first week of January, with one more movie intended for this season, and at least two more ordered for the '96-97 season.

Upcoming Air Schedule:  
Jan 2 Millenium

## American Gothic

Before temporarily pulling American Gothic from the schedule in November, CBS ordered a full season's worth of episodes (22). The series now returns to a revamped CBS schedule, at 9:00 Central on Wednesdays.

Upcoming Air Schedule:  
Jan 3 It's a Wonderful So-Called Life  
Jan 10 Resurrector  
[unk] To Hell and Back

## Babylon 5

All episodes of this PTEN/syndicated series are written by J. Michael Straczynski. "Voices of Authority" — Ivanova and Marcus enlist the help of Draal (John Schuck) to attempt to contact more of the First Ones. "Dust to Dust" — An addictive drug spreads throughout the station, prompting a factfinding visit by Bester. G'Kar reaches a turning point. Guest starring Patricia Tallman and Walter Koenig. "Exogenesis" — Marcus and Dr. Franklin combat an invasion by parasitic aliens that attach themselves to humans. "Messages From Earth" — Sheridan discovers a connection

between President Clark and a sinister figure, leading to a confrontation with the Earth military. The Nightwatch attempts to take over the station. "Point of No Return" — Guest starring Majel Barrett Roddenberry as Lady Morella, the Centauri Emperor Turhan's third wife. "A Late Delivery From Avalon" — Guest starring Michael York, and involving the King Arthur legend somehow. "Ship of Tears" — Guest starring Walter Koenig, and featuring lots of Psi Corps action. "Interludes and Examinations" — The War begins, finally. "War Without End" — This two-parter features the return of Ambassador Sinclair and the flip side to the first-season episode "Babylon Squared".

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)  
Dec 4 Hunter, Prey (re)  
Dec 11 Divided Loyalties (re)  
Dec 18 The Long Twilight Struggle (re)  
Dec 25 Comes the Inquisitor (re)  
Jan 1 Matters of Honor (re)  
Jan 8 Convictions (re)  
Jan 15 A Day in the Strife (re)  
Jan 22 Passing Through Gethsemene (re)  
Jan 29 Voices of Authority  
Feb 5 Dust to Dust  
Feb 12 Exogenesis  
Feb 19 Messages From Earth  
Feb 26 Point of No Return  
[unk] Severed Dreams  
[unk] Ceremonies of Light and Dark  
[unk] A Late Delivery From Avalon  
[unk] Sic Transit Vir  
[unk] Ship of Tears  
[unk] Interludes and Examinations  
[unk] War Without End [1]  
[unk] War Without End [2]

## Deadly Games

This UPN series was cancelled in November due to low ratings. The remaining two unaired episodes will beshown in January, after which Deadly Games will leave the schedule. "The Trash Man" — Gus and Lauren go up against the Trash Man, a filthy adversary armed with radioactive sludge, who is out to destroy the sites

of all of Gus and Lauren's most magical moments. Armed in turn with the cleaning products they know will slow the villain down, Gus, Lauren and Peter go on a chase that takes them through a museum to a Las Vegas motel and, ultimately, the Hollywood Bowl. "Dr. Kramer" — While at the dentist, Gus is surprised by the unexpected appearance of Dr. Kramer, the psychotic video game dentist programmed to use laughing gas to kill. At the same time Dr. Kramer and Jackal are planning their attack, Lauren's friend Phil, a one-time comic, is trying to get up the courage to make a comeback. When Dr. Kramer and Jackal target the very comedy club at which Phil is scheduled to perform, Gus and Lauren battle the clock — and an unexpected video bad guy — to stop the villains before a room full of innocent patrons laugh themselves to death.

Upcoming Air Schedule:  
Dec 19 The Boss (re)  
Dec 26 The Practical Joker (re)  
Jan 2 The Trash Man  
Jan 9 Dr. Kramer  
[Cancelled]

## Doctor Who

Although casting difficulties threaten to delay to planned start of filming in mid-January for a May sweeps airing, producer Philip Segal is still enthusiastically touting the project. 7th Doctor Sylvester McCoy had received a script in late November which is said to have increased his part in the film into more than just a regeneration scene. Announced previously on the Net was that the setting for the 2-hour TV-movie would be San Francisco, while the majority of filming would actually be done in Canada. As of late December, no firm casting news had been announced, although a press conference with Segal was expected to take place in early January. As of the first week of January, it was announced that "one of the three principal roles" had been cast — no specifics. More news when casting is announced...

## Due South

Due, in part, to pressure from fans via the Net (combined with a miserable fall ratings performance), CBS

changed its mind about this adventure/drama series and agreed in November to pick up 8 new episodes to begin airing in December. Production, though curtailed, had continued in Canada on *Due South*, largely based on the show's incredible popularity North of the border, and in Australia and Europe. Without U.S. financial backing, the show's producers were only planning to make 13 episodes for non-U.S. consumption. In early January (after initially promising ratings for its first few December airings) CBS knuckled under and ordered the remaining 5 episodes of the 13 being produced. "North" — Initially shown in Canada as the 2nd season premiere. Fraser and Vecchio decide to go North to Fraser's father's cabin, only to have their plane hijacked and crashed in the wilderness. With Benton wounded and disoriented, hopes for the two men's longevity seems to rest on urbanite Ray's non-existent wilderness survival skills. "The Promise" — Fraser must come to the aid of a young female thief, whose latest score was a damning appointment book owned by a powerful Senator willing to do anything to get it back.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

|        |                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| Dec 8  | Vault                            |
| Dec 15 | Witness                          |
| Dec 22 | Bird in the Hand                 |
| Dec 29 | Free Willy (re from last season) |
| Jan 5  | North                            |
| Jan 12 | The Promise                      |

## F/X

On tap for the fall of '96 is this new series based on the two movies starring Bryan Brown and Brian Dennehy. For the series, Kevin "Knots Landing" Dobson takes over the role of Rollie, a special effects wizard who (in the first movie) was hired by the government to fake an assassination, and then was forced to use his SFX skills to stay alive when he was double-crossed and hunted by his own clients. Also in the series cast are Cameron Daddo and Carrie-Anne Moss (both formerly stars of the short-lived *Models, Inc.*). F/X is being produced by Rysher (also producer of *Highlander*), and was intended for direct-syndication. However, in December the CBS network expressed an interest in the series — no official

word on whether or not they picked it up, although production continues on a 2-hour pilot and 20 single-hour episodes for whatever venue they end up being shown in.

## Forever Knight

See boxed story elsewhere this issue. No plot information available at this time for any upcoming episodes.

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

|        |                                |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| Dec 4  | Black Buddha [2] (re)          |
| Dec 11 | Outside the Lines              |
| Dec 18 | Blackwing                      |
| Dec 25 | Blind Faith (re)               |
| Jan 1  | My Boyfriend is a Vampire (re) |
| Jan 8  | Hearts of Darkness (re)        |
| Jan 15 | Strings                        |
| Jan 22 | Fever                          |
| [unk]  | Dead of Night                  |
| [unk]  | Games Vampires Play            |
| [unk]  | Human Factor                   |

## Hercules: The Legendary Journeys

After a particularly long period of reruns, new episodes of the 2nd season of this popular syndicated action series are to begin in mid-January — no specific plot information is available at this time. The Hollywood Reporter indicates that series syndicator MCA/Universal is pushing a massive merchandizing tie-in campaign in association with Hercules, although none of it will include the Hercules spin-off *Xena...her* campaign will come next year.

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

|        |                           |
|--------|---------------------------|
| Dec 4  | King of Thieves (re)      |
| Dec 11 | All That Glitters (re)    |
| Dec 18 | Under the Broken Sky (re) |
| Dec 25 | Siege at Naxos (re)       |
| Jan 1  | The Wrong Path (re)       |
| Jan 8  | The Sword of Veracity     |

## Highlander

New episodes in the fourth season of this syndicated action series will return the last week of January, with additional new episodes to be scattered from March through the season finale in early July '96. Reruns of seasons 1-3 continue on USA.

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

|        |                         |
|--------|-------------------------|
| Dec 4  | Homeland (re)           |
| Dec 11 | Brothers in Arms (re)   |
| Dec 18 | The Innocent (re)       |
| Dec 25 | Leader of the Pack (re) |
| Jan 1  | Double Eagle (re)       |
| Jan 8  | Reunion (re)            |
| Jan 15 | The Colonel (re)        |
| Jan 22 | Reluctant Heroes (re)   |
| Jan 29 | Timeless                |
| Feb 5  | The Blitz               |

|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| Feb 12 | Hayoka        |
| Feb 19 | Leap of Faith |
| Feb 26 | Promises      |

## The Invaders

FOX expressed an interest in a series of *Invaders* TV-films based on early pre-publicity for the recent (Nov 95) 4-hour mini-series. The mini-series drew moderate ratings, and no word has been released about possible additional films. Star Scott Bakula had indicated that he has no interest in returning to another weekly hour-long series so soon after *Quantum Leap*, so the best we can hope for is the occasional special presentation.

## JAG

Initially positive ratings encouraged NBC to order a full season of this Donald P. Bellisario series. Speculation at the time of NBC's cancellation of *seaQuest 2032* was that the network would move JAG to Wednesdays at 7:00 in *seaQuest's* slot. The Hollywood Reporter noted (1-6) that JAG will be moving to Wednesdays at 7:00 beginning March 13th. NBC is considering several action dramas for JAG's timeslot on Saturdays beginning March 16th.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

|        |                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| Dec 2  | Brig Break (pre-empted from Oct) |
| Dec 9  | Scimitar                         |
| Dec 16 | [pre-empted]                     |
| Dec 23 | [pre-empted]                     |
| Dec 30 | Shadow (re 9:00pm)               |
| Jan 6  | Book                             |
| Jan 13 | Sightings                        |

## Kung Fu: The Legend Continues

This popular PTEN/syndicated series continues its third season with reruns throughout December and January.

Upcoming Air Schedule: (Week of)

|        |                                |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| Dec 4  | Target (re)                    |
| Dec 11 | Goodbye Mr. Cain (re)          |
| Dec 18 | Sacred Chalice of I Ching (re) |
| Dec 25 | Eye Witness (re)               |

## Land's End

Fred "Hunter" Dryer stars in this syndicated show...one of the few new hits in syndication this season. Mike Land is an ex-cop turned private eye, headquartered out of Cabo San Lucas (where the series is filmed).

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

|        |                         |
|--------|-------------------------|
| Dec 3  | [2 hour pilot] [1] (re) |
| Dec 10 | [2 hour pilot] [2] (re) |
| Dec 17 | Windfall                |

Dec 24 Night Eyes (re)  
 Jan 1 Parentnapping (re)  
 Jan 8 A Line in the Sand (re)

## Lazarus Man

Perennial TV icon Robert Urich stars in this original series for the cable station TBS, starting in early 1996. A period piece, Lazarus Man will focus on Urich, a soldier who awakens following the Civil War in a shallow grave, with no idea of who he is or how he got there. The series will follow his attempts to discover his own identity. Produced by Turner Broadcasting's Castle Rock Entertainment division. Two-hour pilot aired in the LA area on January 1st. Series is to premiere the last week of January.

## Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman

The producers plan to continue keeping the relationship between Lois and Clark simmering as the 2nd half of the season progresses. "The Dad Who Came In From the Cold" — Features the appearance of Jimmy's father, played by James Read. Expect the return of some previous villains, including the time traveller Tempus in "Tempus Anyone?" and Raquel Welch's assassin character elsewhere this season. Co-star Terri Hatcher pens the season's 18th episode, something Dean Cain has already done twice for the series ("Season's Greedings" and "Virtually Destroyed").

### Upcoming Air Schedule:

Dec 10 Virtually Destroyed  
 Dec 17 Home is Where the Hurt Is  
 Dec 24 Season's Greedings (re)  
 Dec 31 [pre-empted for bowl game]  
 Jan 7 Never on Sunday  
 Jan 14 The Dad Who Came In From the Cold  
 Jan 21 Tempus Anyone?  
 Jan 28 Return of the Prankster (re)  
 Feb 4 [pre-empted]  
 Feb 11 It Happened All Night  
 Feb 18 Double Jeopardy  
 Feb 25 Memory Lane  
 Mar 3 [episode written by Terry Hatcher]

## The Marshal

This quirky adventure/drama series was cancelled by ABC in late November for less-than-spectacular ratings. At the time of the cancellation, 12 of the 13 expected episodes for '95-96 had been completed, and as of the

final airing "Time Off For Clever Behavior" on 12-25-96, all episodes have been shown.

## Muppets Live!

ABC's new Muppet series, set at a small television station, and featuring familiar characters from the original The Muppet Show as well as brand-new creations, is tentatively scheduled to premiere in March 1996 (no specific date given). 13 half-hour episodes were originally ordered. ABC also ordered a second half-hour series from Jim Henson Productions. Aliens in the Family (working title) will be a family comedy series that poses the question "Can an alien abduction result in a happy marriage?" Big-hearted single dad, Doug Brody is abducted by a spacecraft and then finds romance with the beautiful alien scientist and single mom, Cookie. Returning to suburbia, they marry and attempt to raise their mixed family, including Cookie's children (who have to adapt to a new school system and solar system) Doug's human children (who have to adapt to their new alien siblings), and a new alien baby, Bobot, who acts as if he is Emperor of the Universe...and he is. Although mostly live-action, this series will also use state-of-the-art animatronics and puppetry, one generation beyond that used in the Jim Henson Productions series Dinosaurs. Aliens in the Family will begin production in early 1996 with an unknown premiere date.

## Mystery: The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

The final four episodes with the late Jeremy Brett as Holmes will be airing on Mystery in January. Most PBS stations around the country aired either the first two (of 6) episodes as part of their November pledge drive, but all areas will carry the final four in January.

### Upcoming Air Schedule:

The Dying Detective  
 The Cardboard Box  
 Jan 4 The Three Gables  
 Jan 11 The Red Circle  
 Jan 18 The Golden Pince-Nez  
 Jan 25 The Mazarin Stone

## Mystery Science Theater 3000

See boxed article elsewhere this issue.

## Nowhere Man

This UPN series received a pick-up for a full 22-episode season based on promising early ratings. "Contact" — A dissenter from the Organization surreptitiously contacts Veil and supplies him with documentation that one of its highest ranking members, Richard Grace, is the one primarily responsible for the decision to erase his identity. This mysterious man also turns over photos of Veil's deceitful wife, Alyson, in compromising poses with Grace and then offers to furnish Veil with valuable information from the group's dossier on him if he reciprocates by killing Grace.

### Upcoming Air Schedule:

Dec 18 The Incredible Derek (re)  
 Dec 25 Something About Her (re)  
 Jan 1 Paradise on Your Doorstep (re)  
 Jan 8 Absolute Zero (re—original pilot)  
 Jan 15 Contact  
 Jan 22 Forever Jung  
 [remained of schedule very tentative]  
 Jan 29 Heart of Darkness (?)  
 Feb 5 [unknown]  
 Feb 12 Shine a Light on You  
 Feb 19 Stay Tuned  
 Feb 26 Death Row  
 Mar 4 [pre-empted]  
 Mar 11 [pre-empted]  
 Mar 18 Doppelganger  
 Mar 25 Dark Side of the Moon  
 Apr 1 [unknown]  
 Apr 8 Shutterbug

## One West Waikiki

This syndicated series has received respectable ratings, however its fate seems uncertain with male lead Richard Burgi set to star in The Sentinel for UPN beginning in March. One West Waikiki is a Glen Larson (Battlestar Galactica, Magnum P.I.) production, set in Hawaii and focusing on the cases handled by police detective Lt. Mack Wolfe (Burgi) and expert Medical Examiner Dr. Dawn "Hollie" Holliday (Cheryl Ladd). Originally aired for about 8 episodes on CBS in the summer of 1994.

### Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

Dec 4 [Pilot episode (1)]  
 Dec 11 [Pilot episode (2)]  
 Jan 1 Scales of Justice  
 Jan 8 The Jolly Roger  
 Jan 15 Unhappily Ever After  
 Jan 22 The Dead Don't Lie  
 Mar 11 Past Due

Apr 1 Flowers of Evil  
Apr 15 Holliday on Ice

## The Outer Limits [Showtime]

January features the beginning of the second season of all-original episodes on the Showtime cable network.

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

Jan 14 A Stitch in Time (two episodes)  
Resurrection  
Jan 19 I Hear You Calling  
Jan 26 Unnatural Selection

## The Outer Limits [syndi]

The general syndication of the first Showtime season continues, with repeats in December and "new" first-season episodes airing for the first time in syndication beginning in January.

Upcoming Air Schedule (Week of)

Dec 4 Sandkings [1] (re)  
Dec 11 Sandkings [2] (re)  
Dec 18 Second Soul (re)  
Dec 25 Valerie 23 (re)  
Jan 1 Virtual Future (re)

## The Rockford Files

The third of six CBS Rockford Files movies airs Saturday, January 14th, and features guest star turns by former RF semi-regulars Gretchen Corbett, James Luisi and Tom Atkins, as well as series regulars Joe Santos and Stuart Margolin. Also guest-starring Dyan Cannon. Garner was very frustrated by CBS's lack of advance publicity on the 2nd movie last year, but is still said to be willing to talk about doing more than the initial six if the network will improve its handling of the next four airings.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Jan 14 If the Frame Fits  
[unk] Night Fishing

## seaQuest 2032

All the major cast and concept changes between the second and third seasons proved pointless, as poor ratings have caused NBC to cancel seaQuest 2032. As of the last airing on December 27th, there were still 3 filmed but unaired episodes. NBC is considering airing them during the spring or summer doldrums.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Dec 6 Resurrection  
Dec 13 [pre-empted]  
Dec 20 Good Soldiers  
Dec 27 Second Chance  
[unk] Brainlock

[unk] Reunion  
[unk] Weapons of War

## The Sentinel

Danny Bilson and Paul Demeo, the writer/producers behind The Flash, The Human Target and The Rocketeer, bring us this new series, set to premiere on Wednesdays in late March, 1996 as part of UPN's new third night of programming. The series focuses on police Detective James Ellison (Richard Burgi of the current syndicated show One West Waikiki), who, after being stranded for 18 months in the Peruvian jungle following a helicopter crash, discovers that he has developed dramatically heightened sensory powers. With able assistance from Blair Sandburg (Garrett Maggert), an expert in anthropology and precivilized cultures, Ellison studies how to use his new abilities to help solve crimes.

## Sliders

Production has continued on the second season of this popular FOX series, however no premiere date has yet been announced. FOX had intended to stick Sliders in Space: Above and Beyond's timeslot if Space... flopped, but the network has given a full-season commitment to Space... on Sundays. We may see Sliders as early as March, depending on when a slot opens up in the FOX schedule.

Upcoming Air Schedule

[unk] Time Again and World  
[unk] El Sid  
[unk] Into the Mystic  
[unk] Love Gods  
[unk] The Good, the Bad and the Wealthy  
[unk] [A Fist Full of Stock Options]  
[unk] As Times Go By  
[unk] Beauty World  
[unk] Obsession  
[unk] A World Beyond  
[unk] Gangster World [Gangland]

## Space: Above and Beyond

This FOX series was given the pick-up for a full 22+ episode order this year, and is being kept in its Sunday night timeslot...an act which is pushing the return of Sliders back to an undisclosed date later this season. "Who Monitors the Birds" — Cooper is offered an opportunity to cut short his sentence to the military by volunteering for a dangerous commando mission against the aliens. In so doing,

details of his troubled past are revealed. Guest starring Dale Dye. "Level of Necessity" — Damphousse displays an unusual tendency towards prescience.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Dec 3 Stay With the Dead  
Dec 10 [pre-empted]  
Dec 17 The River of Stars  
Dec 24 [pre-empted]  
Dec 27 Hostile Visit/Choice or Chance (re)  
Dec 31 Dark Side of the Sun (re)  
Jan 7 Who Monitors the Birds  
Jan 14 Level of Necessity  
Jan 21 (re)  
Jan 28 (re)  
Feb 4 Never No More  
Feb 11 The Angriest Angel

## Star Trek: Deep Space 9

The syndicated DS9 continues to enjoy stable and strong ratings in its fourth season. "Homefront" — Evidence that Changelings are targeting Earth sends Sisko back to his home planet, where he and Odo must prevent — or prepare for — war with the Dominion. "Paradise Lost" — Preparing Earth for war with the Dominion, Sisko and Odo discover evidence of a Starfleet plot to seize control of the planet from the Federation. Both episodes guest star Robert Foxworth, Brock Peters [as Sisko's father] and Aron Eisenberg [Nog]. "Crossfire" — Odo's hidden feelings for Kira interfere with his duty to protect the Bajoran First Minister, who also happens to be attracted to her. Guests: Duncan Regehr as Shakaar, and Bruce Wright.

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

Dec 4 Explorers (re)  
Dec 11 Family Business (re)  
Dec 18 Shakaar (re)  
Dec 25 Facets (re)  
Jan 1 Homefront [1 of 2]  
Jan 8 Paradise Lost [2 of 2]  
Jan 15 The Visitor (re)  
Jan 22 Hippocratic Oath (re)  
Jan 29 Crossfire  
Feb 5 Return to Grace  
Feb 10 The Sons of Mogh  
[unk] Sitting Infidel  
[unk] Bar Association  
[unk] The Other Emissary

## Star Trek: Voyager

After six weeks of reruns, UPN's Voyager returns with new episodes in mid-January. "Prototype" — When the crew finds a deactivated humanoid robot with an unfamiliar power source floating in space, Chief Engineer B'Elanna Torres is able to repair



this mysterious mechanical "man." When it comes to life, the sentient artificial lifeform, Automated Unit 3947, explains that its kind is near extinction and asks Torres to build a prototype for construction of more units. When Torres refuses, the robot takes her hostage to force her to change her mind. "Alliances" — Seska returns again. "Death Wish" — John DeLancie and Jonathan Frakes guest star as Q and Commander Will Riker when a renegade member of the Q continuum wishes to end his existence, and is put on trial by Q, with Riker as a witness.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

|        |                              |
|--------|------------------------------|
| Dec 4  | The 37's                     |
| Dec 11 | Initiations                  |
| Dec 18 | Projections                  |
| Dec 25 | [pre-empted by "Shadow Ops"] |
| Jan 1  | Elogium (re)                 |
| Jan 8  | Parturition (re)             |
| Jan 15 | Prototype                    |
| Jan 22 | Alliances                    |
| [unk]  | Meld                         |
| [unk]  | Threshold                    |
| [unk]  | Death Wish                   |

### Strange Luck

Though not officially renewed, Strange Luck did receive an order for additional episodes that will bring the season total to 17. Ratings for this Friday-night series have fluctuated dramatically, but have been an improvement over last season's M.A.N.T.I.S. in the same timeslot

Upcoming Air Schedule:

|        |                       |
|--------|-----------------------|
| Dec 1  | The Box [1 of 2]      |
| Dec 8  | The Brothers Grim [2] |
| Dec 15 | Trial Period          |
| Dec 22 | Last Chance (re)      |
| Dec 29 | Soul Survivor (re)    |
| Jan 5  | Healing Hands         |
| Jan 12 | Angie's Turn (re)     |

### Swift Justice

New UPN series set to debut on Wednesday nights in late March, 1996 as part of a new night of programming by the network. Produced by Dick Wolf (Law and Order), Swift Justice is the story of Matt Swift (James McCaffrey), an ex-cop who works outside the system on cases too hot for the standard avenues of justice. He gets assistance in his cause from police Detective Wendell Sims (Gary Dourdan), who sends Swift those cases that he knows the police won't handle as effectively.

### Third Rock From the Sun

John Lithgow stars in this half-hour mid-season replacment series premiering Tuesday, January 9th on NBC. Lithgow stars as the leader of a trio of aliens trapped on Earth, who decide to assume human form and try to assimilate into the local culture until they can be rescued. Also starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt (Dark Shadows), French Stewart (The New WKRP) and Jane Curtin (SNL, The Coneheads), as the human professor to whom Lithgow finds himself attracted.

Upcoming Air Schedule

|       |                 |
|-------|-----------------|
| Jan 9 | [pilot episode] |
|-------|-----------------|

### The X-Files

Ratings continue to remain high for FOX's biggest hit. Chris Carter indicated another major two-part episode will air during the February sweeps this year, and that the current season will once again end on a cliff-hanger. Carter also signed a contract that guarantees five complete seasons of The X-Files before a theatrical feature will be made...however, this may also mean that there will be no more than five seasons of televised adventures. "The War of the Coprophages" — Invasion of the killer cockroaches from outer space.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

|        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
| Nov 24 | Nisei [1 of 2]         |
| Dec 1  | 731 [2 of 2]           |
| Dec 8  | Fresh Bones (re)       |
| Dec 15 | Revelations            |
| Dec 22 | Beyond the Sea (re)    |
| Dec 29 | Roland (re)            |
| Jan 5  | War of the Coprophages |
| Jan 12 | Fearful Symmetry (re)  |
| Jan 19 | The Host (re)          |
| Jan 26 | Syzygy                 |
| Feb 2  | Grotesque              |
| Feb 9  | Piper Maru [1 of 2]    |

### Xena: Warrior Princess

After beating its parent show, Hercules, in the syndicated Nielsen's in mid-December, Xena has returned to its position as the third-highest-rated original hour in syndication (behind DS9 and Hercules). After a lengthy period of reruns, new episodes are to begin in mid-January — no plot specifics are available.

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

|        |                      |
|--------|----------------------|
| Dec 4  | Chariots of War (re) |
| Dec 11 | Dreamworker (re)     |
| Dec 18 | [unknown] (re)       |
| Dec 25 | Cradle of Hope (re)  |
| Jan 1  | The Recokoning (re)  |
| Jan 8  | [new episode]        |

### Wiseguy

In an article in Cinescape magazine, Joel Surnow (currently a producer on Nowhere Man) described the plot of his 2-hour Wiseguy update movie, which all parties are intent on making. Cannell studios indicated the project was definitely in the discussion stages last fall, with a strong likelihood of actually being filmed. The film would reunite Ken Wahl, Jonathan Banks and Jim Byrnes. There is a possibility that a series of 2-hour movies could develop as a result of this, along the lines of ABC and the Columbo movies.

### Young Indiana Jones Chronicles

Only one original 2-hour movie remains for The Family Channel to air. No air date or plot information has been made available yet, although we can probably expect to see the movie in either the February or May sweeps periods. The Family Channel does not have the rights to air the original series, so we may not see it again for some time.

## ConCussion One is coming!

The people who brought you Andromeda 1 & 2, Maelstrom 1 & 2, and the most recent Con\*TreTemps have decided to join forces to give the Lincoln/Omaha area the kind of fan-oriented convention it deserves. Instead of making you decide how to spread your limited resources across several area conventions of equal size and attraction, ConCussion One will be the area's only convention during this coming Con season. ConCussion One will be held July 26-28, 1996 in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area. The Andromeda, Maelstrom and Con\*TreTemps mailings lists have been combined, and an official ConCussion One mailing will be going out within the next 4 to 6 weeks. Watch your mailboxes! Addresses for more info will be listed next issue.

## News Bytes...continued from pg 3

seconds of weightlessness as riders shoot to the top, then begin a slow backwards descent. 15 passengers will be able to ride in the same car. There was no word on whether Six Flags plans to introduce similar rides at any of its six other theme parks across the United States.

## In Space, No One Can Hear You Scream...Again

Officials at 20th Century Fox have announced plans to produce a 4th film in the successful *Aliens* franchise, which began in 1979 with *Alien* and continued in 1986 and 1992 with *Aliens* and *Alien<sup>3</sup>*. Despite Ripley having died in *Alien<sup>3</sup>*, Sigourney Weaver is said to be in discussions to appear in the film. Script is by Joss Whedon (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Toy Story*, *Speed*), although no director has been assigned to the project. The official announcement made no indication whether this might be the *Aliens*-*Predator* crossover which has been floating around Hollywood for several years.

## One Small Step For Syndication

Inspired by the success of *Apollo 13*, *The Cape* will be a new made-for-syndication series from MTM Productions beginning in the fall of '96. Set and filmed at the Kennedy Space Center, *The Cape* is an action show that will focus on the lives and adventures of America's space explorers: the Astronauts. *Apollo 11* astronaut Buzz Aldrin has been hired as a technical consultant. Head writer for the series will be Paris Qualles, whose previous credits include *Law & Order*, *Lois & Clark*, *Quantum Leap*, and *seaQuest DSV*.

## Mad Max: Beyond Network

Another new series bowing in straight-for-syndication during the fall of 1996 will be *Max Max: The Road Warrior*, from Warner Brothers. George Miller, the director and creative force behind the three feature films, will be serving as a producer on the series, as well as directing several episodes. No word on casting for the production as of December 95.

## Second Venues

Ted Turner seems to have a strong grasp of what science fiction and fantasy fans like. Turner's TBS superstation has acquired exclusive off-net rights to air *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* beginning in the fall of 1997. And his TNT cable network has acquired exclusive second venue airing rights to *Babylon 5* following the end of its fifth season. TNT expects to most likely strip B5 in a Monday-Friday daily slot (which producer JMS believes will allow new viewers to see the narrative flow more clearly). TBS hasn't indicated what kind of airing schedule it intends for *Lois & Clark*. TNT, of course, already picked up the exclusive rights to the single season of *Brisco County Jr.*, which begins airing on that network this month.

## Victims of the Nielsen War

Genre shows seem fated to be some of the earliest targets of the cancellation ax each year, and 1995 was no exception. Shows that have already been cancelled by either a network or the syndicator include: *seaQuest 2032*, *Deadly Games*, *Forever Knight*, *MST3K* and *The Marshal*. Several others are currently riding the fence. On the positive side, *Lois & Clark* has already been picked up for a complete fourth season by ABC, and there are several genre hopefuls waiting in the mid-season replacement wings for tryouts.

## Speaking of...

CBS has finished production on the 2-hour pilot to *The Osiris Chronicles*, a potential mid-season or fall '96 series to be produced by Caleb Carr, the acclaimed novelist responsible for *The Alienist*. Genre director Joe Dante helmed the 2-hour pilot, and is expected to direct additional first-season episodes if the series is picked up. Of his series, Carr says "It's a space show that takes place following the time period which *Star Trek* takes place in. Whereas *Star Trek* was about these ideal future orders where everything fell into place, this posits the question of what happens when that falls apart, when that world order collapses, and there's a group of

people facing a sinister threat who must find a way to restore order in the galaxy." Carr, in addition to being the show's creator, would be principle writer and executive producer along with Dante, Mike Finnell and Bob Eisele. Cast includes John Corbett (of *Northern Exposure*) and Rod Taylor (of *The Time Machine*, and the fun late '80s series *Outlaws*). Expect the pilot to air in mid-March '96. Also on tap as a mid-season replacement series, this time for syndication, is *The Wanderer*. This weekly hour-long action drama stars Bryan Brown as a man whose struggles with his evil look-alike cross the centuries. *The Wanderer* was prepped for a fall '95 premiere, but didn't achieve enough major station clearances, and its distributor decided to hold onto it until the fall flock of syndicated shows started to thin out.

Sources include: USA Today, TV Guide, Entertainment Weekly, The Hollywood Reporter, Variety Weekly, People, the AP wire, and various internet and usenet forums.

**Who is...** continued from page 1  
Mid-January for a Tuesday night airing during the May sweeps period. The main villain of the film is expected to be the Doctor's perennial arch-foe, The Master...a role as-yet uncast. The press conference that Segal was expected to have in early-to-mid January has not yet materialized — fans still expect it to take place once additional cast members are settled upon and filming has commenced. And, as before, the fate of any additional movies/episodes with the 8th Doctor will be determined by the ratings and demographics of this first film on FOX.

Paul McGann & Rebecca DeMornay  
in *Dealers* (1990)

# R E V I E W S

## Cutthroat Island

Professional reviews of this film have ranged from acidic to scathing, although personally I'm not sure why everyone has such a problem. Cutthroat Island is a rollicking attempt to mix the swashbuckling era of Errol Flynn and Captain Blood with the non-stop roller-coaster action of current "buddy films" like the Lethal Weapon or Die Hard series...the twist being that the hero this time out is actually a heroine: Geena Davis. Director Renny Harlin's background in action films (Die Hard 2: Die Harder, Cliffhanger) becomes evident early on, as the best orchestrated scenes in the film are easily the action scenes. Admittedly, this film's a no-brainer...the storyline is simplistic at best and the dialogue ranges from hoary to predictable, but it's a pirate adventure for pete's sake — who's expecting Shakespeare?!

The story involves pirate captain Morgan (Davis) inheriting her father's ship when he is killed by a rival, Dawg Brown...his own brother. With a good ship beneath her and a motley crew beside her, Morgan plans to seek the unimaginable treasure of Cutthroat Island by using the third of the treasure map her father gave her and combining it with another Uncle's second third. The problem lies in the fact that Dawg Brown (Frank Langella) holds the third piece. Additionally, the local British governmental authorities want either Morgan's head, or a hefty share of the treasure, and they don't care who they have to team up with to get it. The final major player is Shaw (Matthew Modine), a talkative con artist whom Morgan buys as a slave, but who can't make up his mind whether to help Morgan or beat her to the treasure. As a romantic interest, Modine doesn't really click with Davis, however, they do manage to get some witty banter going between explosions.

The action in the film is non-stop, both on land and on water. Attempts to get the second part of the map lead Morgan and company to decimate two

coastal towns, but give us several impressive examples of special effects and stuntwork. The fact that Geena Davis (Harlin's wife!) did many/most of her own stunts makes her performance all-the-more laudible. The most impressive effects and stuntwork, however, come in the climactic battle between Morgan's and Dawg's ships, which attack each other broadside with cannons blazing and hand-to-hand combat with swords, daggers and pistols.

The acting ranges everywhere from scenery-chewing (Langella), to very believable, and the spread of character types was well-done. I especially enjoyed the development that the main supporting cast received. While not "stealing" scenes from the primary stars, I felt that the two to three main supporting characters on both Morgan's and Dawg's sides of the conflict came across as very three-dimensional, and seeing them all go up against each other in the final conflict became that much more interesting to watch. Particularly featured were Stan Shaw as Glasspool, Rex Linn as Mr. Blair and Chris Masterson as Bowen. The only two major complaints I have were that the broadside cannon fire should have destroyed both pirate vessels, but instead did very little damage. And, far too much screen time is given to Morgan's pet monkey, with the character actually not having any true importance to the plot. Production design and costume design were both incredible, and I have nothing but praise for John Debney's excellent soundtrack...which has yet to hit any local stores. Unfortunately, Cutthroat Island, which cost between \$80 and \$100 million to produce, has tanked at the box office, bringing in less than \$25 million in its first three weeks of release. Most theaters pulled it after only one or two weeks, so if you want to catch it, watch for it at the Starship 9...and it'll probably only stay there for a brief time too. All in all, I found Cutthroat Island to be a very enjoyable mindless action film with a pirate theme, and a capable female lead for a change. It won't stack up against more

cerebral fare, but I have no problem giving it three out of five stars. ★★★  
— Scott Clark

## Ground Zero

by Kevin J. Anderson  
Audio performance by Gillian Anderson

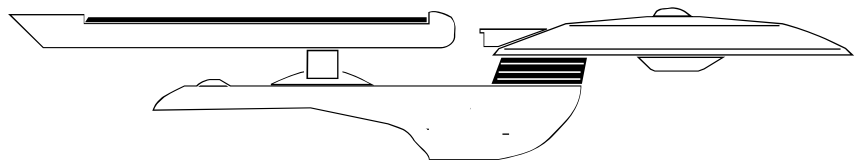
The third book (Ground Zero) in the series of original X-Files stories arrived in bookstores in November 1995 in hardback, and was followed shortly thereafter by an audio adaptation, performed by series star Gillian "Scully" Anderson. The novel was written by popular author Kevin J. Anderson, whose recent works have included such other media tie-ins as the Jedi Academy trilogy, and the recent hardback release Darksaber in the Star Wars series. This is a review of the abridged audio adaptation of Ground Zero (85 minutes), however enough of Mr. Anderson's writing style manages to survive the necessary editing-for-audio that I can say the quality of his work on this story equals that on the Jedi trilogy. I have to admit, I've found Anderson's original novels to be somewhat lacking...weak characterizations, irregular pacing, somewhat stilted dialogue. However, his handling of tie-in stories seems rather strong — when handed someone else's well-established characters, Anderson is quite capable of running them through a well-thought-out story.

In the case of Ground Zero, FBI agents Dana Scully and Fox Mulder find themselves investigating the unexplained deaths of a nuclear physicist working on a new, untested generation of nuclear bombs, and a Department of Energy bean-counter. Both victims appear to have been at ground zero for their very own personal atomic blast...blasts which have spared anything beyond their immediate vicinity. As the agents investigate the deaths, they find themselves interacting with the scientist's secretive colleagues, worried military officials, anti-nuke activists and a horribly disfigured Asian man, who survived an above-

ground nuclear test on his Pacific island forty years earlier. Events reach a crescendo on a Pacific atoll as a supernaturally powerful typhoon hits at the same time as scientists prepare to detonate their new weapon.

Although the storyline in general flowed fairly well in this audio version of the novel, I look forward to actually reading the book, as there were sections where I felt certain that a great deal of detail had been trimmed. Scully and Mulder both seemed “in character,” with appropriately dark-humored jokes scattered throughout, and proper descriptions of their physical behavior patterns. In general, the story seemed very “talky” — a lot more scenes of dialogue than of action. The audio production style on *Ground Zero* was very basic: one reader, with no sound effects or music, except to break sections of the book up. The main problem with this particular adaptation is the narrator. As much as I’m a fan of Gillian Anderson’s portrayal of Scully on television, her narrative style is about as sterile and emotionless as her occasional on-screen voice-overs when she’s making entries in her computer. This may work for Scully’s dialogue or even purely descriptive, actionless scenes, however it was out-of-place when dealing with any action scenes or dialogue scenes featuring characters other than Scully...of which there are many. The most successful of audio adaptations feature performers who can vary voice-styles for different characters. Gillian doesn’t do this...or, I should say, she only infrequently attempts to do this, and when she does, it seems forced. Frankly, I’m afraid that her presence as performer here is to lend the audio version some fannish cachet, and as such it weakens what could have been a very good audio adaptation. Instead, it becomes an average-to-below-average audio adaptation, and I’m afraid I can only give it two out of five stars. ★★

— Scott Clark



## Star Trek Generations

I like this movie. I really do. I’d probably put it within the top third of the *Star Trek* movies. It has amazing scenes which kept me spellbound, especially the explosion of the secondary hull and the crash-landing of the primary hull. I enjoyed finally getting to see the *Enterprise-B* and having another chance to see a few of the original *Enterprise* crew on board. I liked the way in which Picard had to deal with his mortality. The destruction of the star and its planet with the crew of the *Enterprise* on the surface was very effective, and the events inside the *Nexus* were eerie. The death of Kirk, which I wasn’t looking forward to, was at least heroic (much more than the way it was originally filmed).

Unlike several of the *Star Trek* films, no major flaws affected my enjoyment of the film, at least not during the first viewing. But on reflection, and after discussions with a number of people, the film does have a number of flaws. The captain of the *Enterprise-B* seemed to be too inexperienced to command such a high-profile vessel, although in his defense, his vessel was severely lacking in hardware and personnel. Geordi and Data should have at least let Dr. Crusher know before activating the emotion chip in order to monitor possibly nasty side-effects, and shouldn’t have decided to go through with it right after receiving a distress call from the solar observatory. On reaching the observatory, why didn’t the *Enterprise* scan the station for lifeforms instead of beaming over an Away Team, which used valuable time and placed the Away Team in unnecessary danger? Why, if Picard and Kirk could come out of the

*Nexus* at any time, did they choose the time shortly before the launch of the missile? They could have gone back, for instance, to the solar observatory after it was attacked by the Romulans, and dealt with Soran there, before he destroyed the first star. Of course, then there would have been two Picards running around, which might have caused problems. When the missile was launched from the planet to the star, why were the effects seen almost instantaneously? If the planet is about as far away from its star as Earth is from its sun, it should take about eight minutes for the effects to be seen from the planet’s surface.

A last complaint is with the way some of the technology is thought through. For instance, you would think that after the first photon torpedo sailed through the *Enterprise-D*’s deflectors after the Klingons discovered the shield frequency, the *Enterprise*’s computers would automatically change the frequency; these are supposed to be very sophisticated computers, several hundred years more advanced than what we have now, and should easily be able to handle such contingencies. Once the Klingon ship’s shields dropped, Riker shouldn’t have had to give the order to fire; mere seconds were involved, and the computers should have fired the instant they sensed the shields dropping, or at least Worf should have automatically fired without having to wait for Riker’s command, since Worf has the sensor readouts right in front of him. To be fair, the problems with technology are not limited to this movie.

Overall it was an enjoyable film, and seems to be at least a moderate financial success. I just hope they put a little more thought into the next script.

— Mike Ponte

## **I am *still* not a number... I am a free man!**

Actor/Writer/Producer Patrick McGoochan is returning to the property that brought him his greatest notoriety nearly twenty years ago — The Prisoner. The 1968-69 cult series, which was set in a mysterious locale known only as TheVillage, and dealt with the efforts of an idealistic and fiercely independent former intelligence agent known as #6 to escape the clutches of his inquisitive captors, will be updated to a 1990's feature film. Polygram, which purchased the ITC library of older British shows a year ago, got the 17 episodes of The Prisoner as part of their package, and Polygram chief Michael Kuhn, a big fan of the the show, has been working to convince McGoochan to become a part of the big-screen project ever since. McGoochan had been in a self-imposed retirement until Mel Gibson convinced him to appear in Braveheart, where he's being touted as an Oscar-nominee for supporting actor. Having gotten his feet wet with Braveheart, McGoochan has since taken on several other acting roles, and signed a 7-figure deal with Polygram to write and executive-produce the new Prisoner film. McGoochan has indicated that although will not take the lead part in the feature, it is still possible he will play a part in the film. Although the original series was filmed in the odd but picturesque Welsh village of Portmeirion — a setting which became as important as any of the numbered characters — it is unknown whether the movie will also film there, or even if it will be based in the U.K. or not. Likewise, although contracts have been signed, no official start date has been announced for the new Prisoner project.

— news from The Hollywood Reporter

**"YOU ARE #6"**

**"WHO IS #1?"**

**Editorial...** (continued from page 2)  
Andromedan Log is a tool to that end. Our current intent is to see The Log published on a monthly basis and distributed in local genre stores and regional conventions as a way to introduce ourselves to fellow fen. Publishing and postage costs have increased, and we've been forced to increase our membership rates for the first time in over a dozen years to meet those needs, however those funds will be used to expand and improve the communication between club members and between Star Base Andromeda and the outside world.

Although the main thrust of the new Andromedan Log will be to keep fans informed about what's going on with their favorite shows, movies, comics and authors, we'll also regularly feature articles about club members' activities, upcoming club events, and other regional fannish goings-on. As editor, I hope you'll be patient as this new era for The Log progresses. I will be trying a variety of new experiments with the newsletter, both in terms of appearance and content. Imagine a "pardon our mess while we remodel" sign hanging on the first page — I'll be trying a variety of font and layout combinations over the next few months to find a readable and attractive look for The Log. In terms of content, I hope to bring back some elements from previous incarnations of The Log, as well as starting up some new features. As of this issue, you'll see one of those new features. Channel Surfing began as an independent zine covering news and announcements about genre television shows, but has merged with The Log to provide a new element for this club publication. In upcoming issues, we'll be bringing back episode guides, regular columns, Mediawatch (a profile of recent releases of books, 'zines, etc.) and the local movie listings. If there's anything you'd like to see appear (or reappear) in these pages, you only have to let me know and I'll see what can be done. As with my previous stint as editor, I want The Andromedan Log to be a mutual effort. I'm expecting SBA members to regularly submit reviews of favorite books, movies, tv shows, comic-books, fanzines, or whatever

else is capturing your current fannish fancy. We'll be using a Five-Star review format (★★★★★ being the best, zero ★'s being the worst), but within those limitations, please feel free to use your own criteria for critique. I also ask that anyone who has breaking news about tv, movies, etc. please send that to me for inclusion. I do as much research as possible on my own, but there's still only so much one person can do. If you'd like to volunteer yourself, or suggest someone else in the club to do a regular or semi-regular column, please get in touch with me. We're looking for interesting new features.

To wrap this lengthy tome up, I'm looking forward to working on The Andromedan Log as we begin a new era for this publication. I hope that the work we do on this newsletter will pay off by bringing in new members to the club and starting yet another renaissance in Star Base Andromeda activity.

Until next month. I'm...

— Scott Clark

**MST3K...** (continued from page 3)

this year. The MST3K ConventioCon Expo Fest-a-Rama 2: Electric Buglaoo will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center August 30-Sept 2, 1996. BBI expects this con to be even bigger than the first one. Membership rates are \$50+ tax before May 30th, 1996. \$60+ tax after May 30th. A tour of the BBI facility will be available for an additional \$10 during the con. For more information on the convention, please send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope with a note of explanation to:

Best Brains, Inc.  
MST3K ConventioCon  
PO Box 44235  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

To simply join (for free!) the Official MST3K Fan Club, write to:

Mystery Science Theater 3000  
PO Box 5325  
Hopkins, MN 55343

News and information from the Internet and The Satellite News, vol 7.2 (BBI newsletter)

# Mark Your Schedules...

Upcoming events in the Lincoln/Omaha area of interest to local genre fans:

## January 1996

|    |               |                                                             |
|----|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7  | 2:00-5:15 pm  | Star Base Andromeda club meeting <sup>1</sup>               |
| 9  | 6:30-8:45 pm  | SBA club meeting                                            |
| 10 | 7:00-10:00 pm | Lincoln Fantasy & Science Fiction club meeting <sup>2</sup> |
| 14 | 2:00-5:15 pm  | SBA club meeting                                            |
| 14 | 6:00-9:00 pm  | ConCussion ConComm meeting <sup>3</sup>                     |
| 16 | 7:00-8:00 pm  | Barnes & Noble Mystery Book Club meeting <sup>4</sup>       |
| 16 | 6:30-8:45 pm  | SBA club meeting                                            |
| 17 | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting                                           |
| 21 | 2:00-5:15 pm  | SBA club meeting                                            |
| 23 | 6:30-8:45 pm  | SBA club meeting                                            |
| 24 | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting                                           |
| 28 | 2:00-5:15 pm  | SBA club meeting [Video Week]                               |
| 30 | 6:30-8:45 pm  | SBA club meeting                                            |
| 31 | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting                                           |

## February 1996

|       |               |                                                 |
|-------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 4     | 2:00-5:15 pm  | SBA club meeting [prep for Rigel XI]            |
| 6     | 6:30-8:45 pm  | SBA club meeting [prep for Rigel XI]            |
| 7     | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting                               |
| 10    | 9:00am-5:30   | Rigel XI Relaxacon [SBA 22nd Anniversary party] |
| 11    | 2:00-5:15 pm  | SBA club meeting                                |
| 13    | 6:30-8:45 pm  | SBA club meeting                                |
| 14    | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting                               |
| 16-19 |               | Anaconism, Lakewood, CO                         |
| 17-18 |               | Dazed & Confused, Kansas City, MO               |
| 18    | 2:00-5:15 pm  | SBA club meeting                                |
| 20    | 7:00-8:00 pm  | B&N Mystery Book Club meeting                   |
| 20    | 6:30-8:45 pm  | SBA club meeting                                |
| 21    | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting                               |
| 25    | 2:00-5:15 pm  | SBA club meeting [Video Week]                   |
| 25    | 6:00-10:00 pm | ConCussion ConComm meeting                      |
| 27    | 6:30-8:45 pm  | SBA club meeting                                |
| 28    | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting                               |

<sup>1</sup>— All SBA meetings on both Sundays and Tuesdays are located at the Bennett Martin Public Library at 14th & "N" Sts in downtown Lincoln.

<sup>2</sup>— All LFSF meetings are at the UNL Downtown Student Union, 14th & "R" Sts., specific room posted inside the building on that day.

<sup>3</sup>— ConCussion ConComm meetings are not open to the general public.

<sup>4</sup>— The Barnes & Noble Mystery Book Club meets the third Tuesday of every month at the Barnes & Noble Superstore at 52nd & "O" Sts in Lincoln. Specific book for discussion is listed in the store two to three weeks before the meeting.

## STAR BASE ANDROMEDA

5100 Emerald Dr. #16

Lincoln, NE 68516

### Membership Status

The expiration date of your membership follows your name on the label above.

If this issue has a YELLOW sticker on it, you have only one more month/issue on your membership.

If this issue has an ORANGE sticker on it, then this is your last issue unless you renew your membership.

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