

SCIENCE-Fiction Fanzine

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חדשות האגודה – פברואר 2015 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

Don't miss the Spring "Olamot" SF event: Khol haMoed Pesakh:

Tel Aviv 6-8 April 2015 – see: <http://2015.olamot-con.org.il/>



כנס "עולמות" למדע בדיוני ולפנטזיה, בימים שני שלישי ורביעי 6-8 באפריל 2015 – חול המועד פסח
 במתחם אשכול פיס, רח' הארבעה 3, תל-אביב. פרטים נוספים ניתן למצוא [באתר הכנס](#) ובדף הכנס בפייסבוק.
מועדון הקריאה של חודש מרץ: "חיי פיי" מאת יאן מרטל, ויתקיים במוצאי שבת, 14 למרץ, ב-19:30 ב"קפה גרג"
 קניון גן העיר, אבן גבירול 71, ת"א. מנחה: דפנה קירש. יש להירשם מראש דרך [הדוא"ל של המנחה](#).
כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים בלוח האירועים (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד)
 לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה או לדף האגודה
בפייסבוק. Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

In this issue:

- 1) Just before publishing this issue, we received the tragic news that one of the favorite stars of TV/Hollywood Science Fiction – the inimitable Leonard Nimoy – has passed from this life to a better life somewhere out, up, and above in the heavens. In his memory, we've preempted a short retrospect of his life and his SF-related activities, in lieu of our final article about Zombies (one of whose messages was, by the way: respect for the dead).
- 2) You'll find another choice selection by Aharon, in his "Sheer Science" pick-of-the month.
- 3) One of our many readers, Reuven Frank, has volunteered a very interesting – and somewhat timely – book review about the prequel to the Star Trek series – We look forward to more such reviews by Reuven, and of course, others as well...

– Leybl Botwinik (CyberCozen assistant editor).

In Memorium: Leonard Nimoy (1931-2015) – Not just Mr. Spock



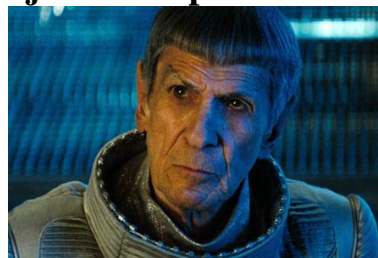
Outer Limits (1964)



Star Trek TV series (1966)



Mission Impossible (1969)



Star Trek Movie (2009)

This past Friday, the 27th of February, 2015 – Leonard Nimoy passed away to our great sorrow. Perhaps best known for his portrayal of the half-human half-Vulcan Mr. Spock from the mid 1960's Science Fiction TV series "Star Trek" and follow up movies, he was much more than just a one-character actor. In fact, he was more than just an actor, and was involved in numerous extra-ordinary activities that in many ways, reflected a key part of that half-Human/half-Alien role as Science officer of the Space Federation spaceship "Enterprise": to be concerned with and 'protect' the Galaxy, or in Nimoy's case: Earth and its fragile wonders.

Due to lack of time, we will present a more thorough and proper retrospect of Leonard Nimoy at another time. There is so much to recount about the man and the actor, and his unique role as Mr. Spock of the Star Trek series on TV and in film. For the moment, it will suffice to point out some of the numerous articles and tributes to this great and unique person.

[Leonard Nimoy: 14 Things You Didn't Know About His Career](#)



Leonard Nimoy: 14 Things You Didn't Know About His C...

Leonard Nimoy leaves a proud legacy as an actor, teacher, philanthropist and advocate for many of the qualities he infused in his enduring alter-ego, the science- a...

View
on [variety.com](#)

Preview by Yahoo

About his early start in Hollywood, it was said that:

... He is a capable juve who merits attention."

Roles in "The Brain Eaters," "Zombies of the Stratosphere" and "Them!" would follow.

[Video: The Man Who Was Spock](#)



Video: The Man Who Was Spock

Leonard Nimoy, best known for playing the character Spock in the Star Trek television shows and films, died at 83.

View
on [www.nytimes.com](#)

Preview by Yahoo

Some of Leonard Nimoy's other SF-related movies/programs:

- The First Men in the Moon (1997) – Read the IMDB review at: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0197466/?ref=tt_rec_tt
- Brave New World (1998) – as Mustapha Mond
- Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978)
- Baffled (1973)
- Mission Impossible – 49 episodes as Paris (1969-1971)
- Brain Eaters (1958)
- http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0051432/?ref=tt_rec_tti
- Zombies of the Stratosphere (1952)
- http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0045352/?ref=nm_film_act_130

Here are some interesting related links:

1) An astronaut's tribute:

http://time.com/3727433/leonard-nimoy-astronaut-space/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+time%2Fscienceandhealth+%28TIME%3A+Top+Science+Stories%29&utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=referral

2) Canadians 'Spocking' their \$5 bills in tribute to Leonard Nimoy

<http://www.cnet.com/news/canadians-spocking-their-currency-in-tribute-to-leonard-nimoy/>

3) Pancake tribute in memory of "Mr. Spock"

<http://www.cnet.com/news/edible-spock-watch-pancake-artists-tribute-to-leonard-nimoy/>

Sheer Science

- submitted by Aharon Sheer

Now why didn't I think of that???

How simple ideas lead to scientific discoveries

In a 7and1/2-minute video, Adam Savage (the host of "MythBusters" on the Discovery Channel) walks us through two spectacular examples of profound scientific discoveries that came from simple, creative methods anyone could have followed.

The first is about the Greek mathematician, geographer, poet, astronomer, and music theorist Eratosthenes of Cyrene's calculation of the Earth's circumference (from around 200 BC. – That's over 2000 years ago!).





The second is about the French physicist Hippolyte Fizeau's simple, yet brilliant technique to measure the speed of light (performed in 1849. Who knew that this was measured/calculated so long ago, without the benefit of the sophisticated electronic measuring equipment one expects today's scientists to use?).

To see the video, go to: https://www.ted.com/talks/how_simple_ideas_lead_to_scientific_discoveries

A "Prequel" to the Reuven Frank's book review:

In light of Leonard Nimoy's recent passing of his *katra* to the great beyond, I would like to add the following:

Spock's dedication to his friend's, shipmates, and other Starfleet personnel always seems to shine through. Only a human side could show these (dare I say it), feelings. We always seem to figure out how we feel about someone a little more, only once they're gone. I recently sent the mailing list a comment on Nimoy, regarding how much he made me appreciate my own humanity. The feelings Star Trek brought out in most of us, were in part engendered by how someone (the Vulcan, Mr. Spock) who was supposedly without feelings, dealt with them. To paraphrase the words of Kahlil Gibran in "On Death", "when we reach the top of the hill, then do we truly learn to climb."

What is a "Prequel"? – A Book Review by Reuven Frank

The Facts

"*Burning Dreams*" by Margaret Wander Bonanno. POCKET BOOKS ©2006. This book is hyped as "Based on Star Trek® by Gene Roddenberry," probably because Ms. Bonanno uses the framework, characters and so forth, but is not under contract to Paramount. It might, however, also be called by abbreviation fans: STOOOS. Because, it is also based on *that* episode, the one when Spock is taking the injured Captain Pike to Talos IV. I'm sure there are plenty of readers who know or remember that that was *truly* the original Star Trek pilot show before Bill Shatner joined up. (**No-one** could have predicted or foreseen the chemistry between Shatner, Nimoy, and Kelley. The play-off between the emotional doctor, the emotionless Vulcan, and the swashbuckling Captain was, and still is, the "stuff of legend.")

The Background

I'll answer the title question (What is a "Prequel"? in a moment, but first, some background.

Back about the time astronauts first set foot on the moon (July 20, 1969 for you youngsters), I was almost (but not quite), as interested in a movie that was fairly popular at the time. The movie was "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

Another fact that needs to be stated here is that there were quite a few movies in this decade that were "throwbacks" to the fifties. Both those decades featured the phenomenon of "sequels." Sequels were basically "follow-up films," that answered the

question that remained with the moviegoer at the end of a movie: "... and then what happened?"

Aside from being fun for the viewers, these sequels were often made to capitalize on the popularity of the original film. You might want to read the end of the previous sentence as: "good for the balance sheet of the studio." In short, where money had been made, perhaps the possibility existed to make even more. Very *unfortunately*, this led to extremes such as "I was a teenage Frankenstein," which was *way* past what the last word should have been after the

Son of-, Bride of-, Relative of-, sequels had been made.

In the "Butch Cassidy..." film, the problem with the making of the sequel was that the protagonists were killed off at the end of the first movie when they go out in a "blaze of glory" by being shot multiple times by a troop of Mexican soldiers. This resulted in the first "prequel." Of course this was a "word of convenience" akin to the 'monokini' and had no real basis in proper word derivations.

The prequel was called, "Butch and Sundance: The Early Years." If memory serves (at best a toss-up these days), the prequel bore an inverse relationship to the vastly popular first film. What remains relevant for us is the coining of the term: prequel.

Our Prequel

When we meet Captain Pike as the remnant, and shell of a man devastated by 'Delta rays', we have no point of reference. We have no idea who he is, or how he came to Starfleet; or, in fact, **any** data *at all* about him. True we don't know who Captain Kirk is, either; but, at least we have subsequent episodes to "get a feel" for who the man is. What makes him 'tick,' and, what is *his* background. Captain Pike, on the other hand, when introduced, is brought to Talos IV, and pretty much forgotten by everyone. Until this book.

In "Burning Dreams," we meet the man. How his childhood was spent, what were his dreams, fears, motivations, high-points and tragedies.

I don't usually go into detail, but the book has plenty. There is the trip out to the new pioneering world, with several factions on board. The antagonism between Chris and his mother's husband, and some fancy fooling around with who his true father is.

And, of course, there is the running storyline of how Chris Pike wound up on a training mission with some cadets, and how he was injured by the "delta" rays.

We even get a little background info on Vina, the human girl the Talosians choose and use as Chris' mate.

The Book

The tragedy that takes Pike from the pioneer world Elysium (oh, irony of ironies), is dealt with at length. The story then deals with his life on a farm/dude ranch and as a cowboy. His decision to go to Starfleet Academy and his life there is glossed over.

The next time we meet him, he's a first officer, and is involved in a minor mutiny. This almost causes him to break with Starfleet, but, of course he continues.

The first 5-year mission, including the Talosian incident, is only briefly referenced. His second cruise includes an episode with Spock that accounts for their close relationship. A great deal is made of how, in the overlying framework of the book, Spock is risking his life to go back to Talos, since General Order 7 (including the death penalty for its violation), is still in effect.

Pike then becomes "fleet commander." As such, he can pick his missions, and that leads to the cadet training cruise that ends with his exposure to the delta rays, and his incapacitation. The first trip to Talos is again glossed over, because we've all seen *that* pilot.

The theme of Spock returning to Talos at the summons of the Magistrate, and the fate of Captain Pike is returned to once again, and the story ends.

The book itself ends with an Afterword about the death of both the Captain Pike character, and, tragically, the actual actor who played him.

The Review

As is the case with most books dealing with multiple points in time, the book is somewhat disjointed. Even with the headings of the various chapters and sections therein, it is sometimes difficult to follow exactly when (where), we are in time. This is also particularly difficult

for me since all the dates listed are in 23rd and 24th century. I don't know if this is because I'm just not used to the dates, or if it's just hard for me to relate to them, but I found myself having to check back and forth between previous chapters /sections dealing with the same/next portions in that time period.

On the other hand, there is a lot of movement and action in all the stories. This reader was compelled to keep reading in order to get to the next installment of all the sections. I read and re-read the book several times over the course of perhaps as long as a year to write this review. I began to be more objective when reading the sections, studying them more for style and feeling than for content. I find this often happens when I'm reading in this manner.

When finishing the last re-reading, I was struck by a few distinct sections. There is quite a bit of emphasis placed on recounting the tale of the Talosians. How they came to fight an ideological war that devastated their planet, and forced them to move to the subterranean (sub-Talosian?) caverns that are the location of all the scenes on Talos.

In light of events in the 21st century, such as 9/11, the descriptions of some of those destructions become particularly poignant:

"...Pike counted what was left of seven structures, or was it eight,

arranged around this central plaza. Some looked as if they had simply sighed and crumbled into rubble, resigned to death. Two in particular appeared to have died screaming, tons of structural steel and the thousands of lives they'd contained twisting and burning and howling in protest as they went."

Or, shortly thereafter, a direct reference to Ground Zero:

"He[Pike] stood up and tried to brush the dust from his hands. Some of it scattered...but the rest still clung to him..."

"Its composition is interesting...The bulk of it is manufactured...The rest is...organic in nature."

"...the nuclear shadows of Hiroshima—a human life reduced shadow on a flight of steps—the instantaneity of death, witnessed worldwide, at a place known as Ground Zero."

Also particularly worthy of mention, is the resolution of the book. (You may have noticed that I include *no* "spoilers" in my review at all.) A great deal is made of the Talosians' advanced mental powers while at the same time acknowledging the superiority of human dynamism, "enthusiasm," and "strength of will." As you all know, these are recurring themes in Star Trek, and result in the rejuvenation of Talos.

Included is a recorded message from Pike to "Ambassador" Spock requesting the beginning of the process of admission of Talos to the Federation of Planets. I'd say that's a fitting place to end *any* Star Trek episode.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on any of the above subjects and we may publish some of them!



Don't forget:

Tel Aviv 6-8 April 2015 – see: <http://2015.olamot-con.org.il/>

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