

חדשות האגודה – יוני 2019 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

המועדון בירושלים יעסוק בספר "רסיסים של כבוד" מאת לויס מקמסטר בוז'ולד (כנרת-זמורה-ביתן, 1998), ויתקיים ביום ראשון, 30.6, בשעה 20:00, בבית פרטי. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון. למידע נוסף, ניתן להצטרף לקבוצה [by מועדון הקריאה הירושלמי של האגודה](#), או ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים - [גלית אחיטוב](#) - ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטס'אפ של המועדון.

המועדון בת"א יעסוק בספר "רסיסים של כבוד" מאת לויס מקמסטר בוז'ולד (כנרת-זמורה-ביתן, 1998), ביום חמישי, 20.6, בשעה 19:30, בבית פרטי בתל אביב. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון, במייל של המנחה, [דפנה קורש](#).

המועדון בחיפה יעסוק בספר "מערות הפלדה" מאת אייזיק אסימוב (מסדה, 1975, ינשוף, 2005), ויתקיים ביום שלישי, 25.6, ב-19:00, בבית פרטי ברחוב אבא הלל סילבר, חיפה. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון, במייל של המנחה: [ענת חנימון](#).

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 בדף האגודה בפייסבוק. Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

This month's roundup:

- Sorry, not continuing the multi-part 'quick reviews of Zion's Fiction with story #6 – for lack of time
 - Continuing "Time and Space" – part IV – about Alternate History/Parallel Universes/What-ifs/etc, with a discussion about some of the terminator franchise movies
 - Sorry, no "Sheer Science" this month (but check out the Fun Web 'shorts')
– As usual, interesting tidbits from various websites.
- Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

A very embarrassing moment...

Back in November, we received a letter from one of our readers (you can see it below), that I somehow totally missed, or maybe read but didn't answer. Fortunately, I was going through some of my backlog and found it. We would normally consider such feedback for publication – but it somehow fell between the cracks. So, ...

Chris, please accept my most profound apologies, and heartfelt thanks for your feedback.

I had fun skimming through the short reviews of the many old and/or obscure and otherwise unknown SF and fantasy films on Chris' website... They have such strange names (e.g. "*The Wild Women of Wongo (1958)*"), or combinations of storylines (e.g. "*Hercules Against The Moon Men (1964)*") – and many are apparently bad translations/dubbings of even worse plots from Spanish and Italian filmmakers – and many of the English original ones are just as bad... In fact, some of these 'bad' films actually look like they could be fun to watch, if only to have a good laugh.

I look forward to more letters from Chris – looks like he has an interesting job – maybe he'll tell us more about it sometime.

SEE: "<http://klausatgunpoint.weebly.com/100-sci-fi-classics.html>"

– LB

On Monday, November 26, 2018, 07:09:36 PM GMT+2, Chris Garcia <cgarcia@computerhistory.org> wrote:

I must apologize. I've read a few issues of CyberCozen and never wrote a letter. My ultimate bad form. I can only blame the fact that I was usually reading with two three year old monsters on my lap, and I had a hard time keeping them away from any keyboard I might present towards them!

On the matter of those Obscure SciFi classics. I've actually seen most of them, save for Primer and Beyond the Black Rainbow. I run a film blog and wrote up a DVD set that had 100 SciFi 'Classics' that included a couple of these. <http://klausatgunpoint.weebly.com/100-sci-fi-classics.html>

Love the movie reviews from Keith Braithwaite! I don't get to see many movies (twin three year olds will do that to ya!) and I love reading reviews to kinda keep me up to date. I've seen none of these, though I must see Solo at some time in the future.

Just a brief note on the October [LB: 2018] issue. You include the note on Elon Musk saying we're probably living in a simulation. As I type this, the TESLA plant is three doors down the street, and back at the Computer History Museum's main building, where I normally work, there's the largest Tesla charging station not on Tesla-owned property. Thus, many Tesla owners charge there, including Elon. I was in late one morning, about 6am (two hours later than usual for me) and I was crossing the parking when a Tesla came flying out of the charging station at about 60 miles an hour. I had to jump back as the car came within about 3 feet of me, and never paused. I looked at the license plate, which read "Elon"

The guy has his own name on his plate. Sigh.

Thanks again! I'll keep reading!

Chris Garcia
Curator
Computer History Museum

And now, back to our regular programming:

Some fun from the Websites:

<p>Have a Wet One...</p> <p>How Did Earth Get Its Water? Scientists Now Look to 'Hyperactive' Comets for Clues</p> <p>By Elizabeth Howell – Jun-2019</p> <p>Fresh observations of Comet 46P/Wirtanen, which swung by Earth in December 2018, suggest that more of Earth's water came from comets than previous studies suggested.</p> <p>How Earth got its oceans is a field of active debate. While comets are icy bodies that contain water, previous studies showed that the ratio of elements in many comets' ice is different than elements contained in terrestrial water. But in the absence of comet deliveries, it's hard to say where Earth's water came from.</p> <p>"According to the standard theory, the Earth is thought to have formed from the collision of small celestial bodies known as planetesimals," officials from the French space agency CNRS, which participated in the research, said in a statement. "Since such bodies were poor in water, Earth's water must have been delivered either by a larger planetesimal, or by a shower of smaller objects such as asteroids or comets."</p> <p>Continue reading: https://www.space.com/water-from-comets-46p-study.html</p>	<p>Did you hear the one about the UFO and the...?</p> <p><i>Former Head of Pentagon's Secret UFO Program Has Some (Strange) Stories to Tell</i></p> <p>By Mindy Weisberger – Jun-2019</p> <p>The former leader of the U.S. government's top-secret UFO program has stories to tell, and he is sharing some of them for the first time in a new documentary.</p> <p>Intelligence officer Luis Elizondo served as the former director of the Pentagon's Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP), an initiative launched in 2007 to study reports of UFO encounters. Elizondo departed the agency in 2017; that year, he spoke with reporters at The New York Times, confirming the existence of the shadowy agency and describing its mission.</p> <p>Now, Elizondo is pulling back the curtain on his tenure with the AATIP, which he left because of a lackluster official response to the agency's findings, and their unwillingness to address potential risks from UFOs, according to the new show "Unidentified: Inside America's UFO Investigation," premiering May 31 on the History Channel at 10 p.m ET/9 p.m. CT. adaptation.</p> <p>Continue reading: https://www.space.com/ufo-pentagon-history-channel.html</p>
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SORRY! ZION'S FICTION QUICK STORY REVIEWS – NEXT TIME !

For more on the book, see the official website at: <http://www.zionsfiction.com/>

Also: https://www.amazon.com/Zions-Fiction-Treasury-Speculative-Literature/dp/1942134525/ref=sr_1_1

Time and Space (IV): Terminator Genisys (2015)

Reviewed by Leybl Botwinik

This is an excellent example of time travel causing things to go awry – creating new timelines and parallel worlds.



To best understand “*Terminator Genisys* *” (2015) (* from the combination of “Genesis” and “System/Sys”) – one should be familiar with the entire franchise series of films and TV episodes – or at least the first two films. This one is the fifth film.

1) The first film, “*The Terminator*” was released in 1984, and stars Arnold Schwarzenegger as the bad guy. In that one, the opening scenes show a very strong man suddenly appearing out of thin air – naked – and going on to beating up and killing many people in order to fulfill a simple mission: Kill Sarah Connor, before she can have her son John Connor. Why? Because this ‘man’ is really a powerful metallic synthetic skin-covered robot (model T-800) from the future that is run by a supercomputer called “SkyNet” which has set out to destroy all of humanity and replace it with machines.



The future war of survival waged between Man against Machine is led by John Connor, and so SkyNet wants to kill John before he is born – by killing his mother – a simple waitress. Of course, future John is not lacking in counter-strategy, and sends his best fighter, Kyle Reese back to the past, to help Sarah survive, by protecting her and teaching her

what she needs to know, in order to face the future and bring up John to be able to cope with and defeat the machines.

In the best time travel plotlines that can be thought of, we have a ‘killing baby Hitler’-like scenario, whereas if the robot manages to kill Sarah, then mankind’s best leader will never be born and the robots will be able to wipe out all of humanity. The fun doesn’t stop there, though, with paradoxes within paradoxes: Kyle, from the future, falls in love with Sarah, and – to make a long story short – ends up being John’s father... OK ... that was a spoiler, but you need to know this, to understand film #5 – “*Genisys*”.

Oh, and frail Sarah manages to destroy the robot (with lots of great special effects) and begins a one-woman crusade to prepare the world – and her soon-to-be-born John – for the upcoming apocalypse and the war against the Skynet and machines.

2) If film #1 was fun, then the special effects in film #2 “*Terminator 2: Judgment Day*” (1991) are even better – very breathtaking. The team doing the computer animation really surpassed themselves.



In this story line – a continuation of film #1 – SkyNet adopts a simple Human proverb: “If you don’t succeed at first, try, try again” and sends back an even more advanced and virtually indestructible robot (the T-1000) – this time to kill teen John Connor.

Young John is shunted from foster home to foster home, because his mother, Sarah, institutionalized in a psychiatric ward, is deemed crazy and dangerous because of her continuous preaching about an upcoming war between Man and Machine – and even young John believes his mother is mentally unstable. That is, until he meets this new robot from the future that is trying to kill him.

This is a machine like no other. Not only can the T-1000 mimic the voice and actions of humans (similar to the T-800 robot in film #1), it is actually composed of a special kind of liquid metal, and can form and reform itself at will – copying the exact physical shape (including external clothing, hair, etc.) of any human it sees. It can even shape itself or parts of itself into inanimate objects such as walls, mirrors, flooring, etc. – including shaping long sword like spike extensions of its “arms” or body, with which it impales its opponents.

When young John is attacked – lo and behold who comes to his rescue: a robot duplicate model of the one that tried to kill Sarah in film #1 – i.e. Arnold Schwarzenegger as T-800. This robot had been/will be (... it can get confusing...) caught, reprogrammed, and sent by the future John to save his younger self...

Oh, and Sarah escapes her confinement in the psych ward. While on the run for many years, and trying to bring up a resisting John, the formerly scared and frail ex-waitress Sarah has been working out and planning humankind’s upcoming resistance. She and the good robot become formidable allies against the liquid robot, as John gains new respect for his mother, and forms a close relationship with the Schwarzenegger T-800 ‘bot.

- 3) Films #3 and #4 are, of course important to the overall story, but we see here – as well as in the other TV series episodes, that all this time travel and creation of paradoxes has started making the time-continuum begin to unravel and cause time anomalies. Anomalies that will affect various timelines, and in particular of film #5.

What’s happening in the movie

In the first few minutes of the 2-hour film #5 – “*Terminator Genisys*”, several scenes are reminiscent of the first two films: a “Schwarzenegger” look-alike T-800 robot appears in 1984 to kill Sarah Connor and Reese is sent back to save her. The twist here begins with a second “older” Schwarzenegger T-800 robot waiting for the assassin robot to appear, and they have a great time whacking each other and everything around them – until the bad bot is shot and stopped by a high-impact bullet by some unknown sharpshooter.

Meantime, Reese, instead of going out to find Sarah – to save her from the bad T-800 “Schwarzenegger” bot – needs to deal with his own unexpected problem: A liquid robot

assassin (T-1000) like in film #2. While attempting to escape the T-1000, Sarah Connor herself – a different, well-adjusted and street-tough Sarah – comes to Reese’s rescue.

As a side note, the “young Schwarzenegger” T-800 bot, by the way, was created with some very interesting new FX computer animation techniques (SEE:

“<https://www.slashfilm.com/terminator-genisys-visual-effects-2/>”). Read also, how new computer video technologies are pasting faces to bodies (They also did that in the first Captain America film, a few years ago, and I believe, also, in the Benjamin Button film). See here for a fake video of the T-800 with Sylvester Stallone’s features: “<https://movieweb.com/t2-judgment-day-deepfake-video-sylvester-stallone/>”

What we have here in film #5, is a totally messed up timeline – when comparing with film #1 and parts of film #2. Moreover, this Sarah is reminded by the good “Schwarzenegger” bot, that Reese will be the father of her son – and that she needs to ‘mate’ with him in order to have John... She, on the other hand, understands the need for this, but can’t quite figure out how she will ‘fall in love’ with a stranger from the future... Kind of ruins the romance, doesn’t it?



My recommendation

The movie is fun in and of itself. The above, is just the beginning of the movie. Of course, there are more twists and turns that I won’t go into now, but the film has lots of interesting possibilities vis-à-vis time travel and time anomalies. At the same time, however, there are lots of loopholes and questions – that were supposed to be solved in sequels, since film#5 was originally set to be a trilogy, but the other 2 parts were scrapped for various reasons.

That having been said, coming up in November 2019, we should be seeing a new, 6th film, that is supposedly a continuation of the timeline that ends in film #2. Guess “I’ll be back” is more than just a line in film#1 – but part of a never ending time-looped story.

**Stand by for more on Space & Time conundrums next month.
Feel free to send comments / reviews of related books & movies.**

We’d love to hear your thoughts on the above topics and with your OK, we may publish them!

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