

חדשות האגודה – יוני 2021 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

המועדון הקריאה יעסוק בחציה השני (שבעת הסיפורים האחרונים) של אסופת הסיפורים "היה יהיה 2020" (האגודה הישראלית למדע בדיוני ולפנטסיה, 2020). מנחה: רונית פוקס ביום חמישי, 24.6, בשעה, באיזור כיכר הבימה 19:30. הקישור יתפרסם בדף האירוע בפייסבוק.

לפרטים על המפגשים הבאים של המועדון הירושלמי ניתן להצטרף לקבוצת הפייסבוק [מועדון הקריאה הירושלמי של האגודה](#). או ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים - [גלי אחיטוב](#), ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטס'אפ של המועדון.

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:

- Two short TV series Reviews: 'Resident Alien' + 'Russian Doll'
- Our usual, interesting tidbits from various websites.
- Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

'Resident Alien' – Make Space in your Schedule

Short Review – Leybl Botwinik

Last month I had occasion to present you Scott Snowden's review of the TV series "Resident Alien" (see: <https://www.space.com/resident-alien-renewed-for-second-season-on-syfy>), and I thought it would be a good idea to check it out for myself.

I'm glad I did.



I would class the series something close to – but obviously not the same as – "Starman" combined with "Mork & Mindy". It contains not only the obvious SF features of those shows, but also similar features of those kinds of shows that depict a 'sophisticated' big city person trying to adjust to a very 'rough' rural environment where everyone knows everyone (and everything about everyone). I would say that there are similar themes and elements here – though "Resident Alien" is uniquely its own show.

The acting is OK – not spectacular. Nor is the comedy anywhere near the level of that of "Mork & Mindy". The plot line could use some tightening up in various places (there seemed to be a few too many 'hanging' events, where it was not clear or quite logical how one thing fell into place after another. Oh, and I personally hate flashbacks (of which there are quite a few).

All-in all, however, it was an enjoyable viewing, and I look forward to the upcoming season.

‘Russian Doll’ – Worth your Time

If you like crazy – and time travel loop conundrums – this may be just up your alley.

IMDB has a short and apt description: “A cynical young woman in New York City keeps dying and returning to the party that's being thrown in her honor on that same evening. She tries to find a way out of this strange time loop”. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7520794/>

The loop is as follows:

- 1) Nadia (played by Natasha Lyonne) is staring at herself in the washroom mirror at her friend's flat during a party.
- 2) She leaves the washroom to go speak with her best friend – the host
- 3) Nadia steps out, leaving the party, and promptly gets killed.
- 4) Go back to 1), above*

*Note: As events 1), 2), and 3) repeat, each time it's ever so slightly different – at first. As the loop repeats – and particularly from TV-episode to TV-episode, the differences start becoming more apparent.

At first, we see this happening several times, and Nadia is unaware of what's happening to her – but eventually, she catches on and tries to break out of the loop. Of course, there are some other events happening along the way (and repeating), that are eventually found to be interconnected – but that is not the brunt of the story line. The 2nd part of the storyline is that she discovers another person who is also experiencing a time-loop, and they join forces to try to solve their dilemma.

It should be noted, for those who are sensitive and may not appreciate it, that Nadia can be very obnoxious, caustic, and cynical, rude, and crude. I felt that Natasha Lyonne pulled it off very well and make the story more interesting. Her character will definitely not be appealing to most people. And yet, there is a certain strength and conviction in the pursuit of the ‘truth’ behind her dilemma (that develops in the character's makeup) that you can't help but admire. You might call her a ‘bad lady’, with shocking language and attitude. Men get away with it in many TV shows and movies, it is at first ‘shocking’ to see a woman do it, but then one gets used to it, and it has its own charm. Anyway – to each his/her own.

I enjoyed the short 8-episodes of the first season, and recommend seeing it – for those whose tastes go this way. Season 2 was delayed because of the Covid/Corona, but it's already being shot.

Fun from the Web

- **J. H. Chajes, “Magic, Mysticism, and Popular Belief in Jewish Culture (1500-1815)-PDF** https://www.academia.edu/36750709/J_H_Chajes_Magic_Mysticism_and_Popular_Belief_in_Jewish_Culture_1500_1815_in_Jonathan_Karp_and_Adam_Sudcliffe_edds_The_Cambridge_History_of_Judaism_vol_7_The_Early_Modern_World_1500_1815_Cambridge_Cambridge_University_Press_2017_475_490
- **Finding life on alien worlds? PBS Nova's Exoplanet Lab game tells you how!** <https://www.space.com/exoplanet-lab-pbs-nova-game>
- **Boom! Studios adds to their 'Dune' comic lineup with new 'Blood of the Sardaukar'** <https://www.space.com/dune-blood-of-the-sardaukar-comic-book-series>

- **Black holes, aliens, multiverse & Mars: Space TED talks you need to watch**
<https://www.space.com/black-holes-aliens-multiverse-mars-space-ted-talks>
- **How an Artificial Superintelligence Might Actually Destroy Humanity**
<https://gizmodo.com/how-an-artificial-superintelligence-might-actually-dest-1846968207>
- **Canada to launch moon rover by 2026 [LB: with user manual in French and English?]**
<https://www.space.com/canada-launch-moon-rover-2026>
- **TOP UPCOMING SCIENCE-FICTION MOVIES 2021 (Trailers)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDkqKCri00Q>
- **Gorgeous Short Film Shows Us What an Early Lunar Colony Would Actually Look Like**
<https://gizmodo.com/gorgeous-new-short-film-shows-us-what-an-early-lunar-co-1847034888>
- **Cops Are Now Using a High-Tech Lasso on People**
<https://gizmodo.com/cops-are-now-using-an-electric-lasso-on-people-1847034020>
- **Maze Runner's Dylan O'Brien Stars In New Sci-Fi Film "Flashback"**
<https://gizmodo.com/maze-runners-dylan-obrien-stars-in-new-sci-fi-film-from-1847040169>
- **Writing Sci-Fi for Broadcast**
<https://scriptmag.com/television/writing-sci-fi-for-broadcast>
- **Star Wars: Explosive premiere of 'The Bad Batch' on Disney Plus**
<https://www.space.com/star-wars-the-bad-batch-disney-plus-premiere>
- **Is there a pattern to the universe?**
<https://www.space.com/universe-pattern-fractals-cosmic-web>
- **Is war in space inevitable?**
<https://www.space.com/is-space-war-inevitable-anti-satellite-technoloy>
- **Where do black holes lead to?**
<https://www.space.com/where-do-black-holes-lead.html>
- **MARS: Ingenuity's Next Flight Could Be Its Most Interesting Yet**
<https://gizmodo.com/ingenuitys-next-flight-on-mars-could-be-its-most-intere-1846942528>

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

For Comments: E-mail: levbl_botwinik@yahoo.com Tel: Leybl Botwinik +972-54-537-7729
 Editor: Leybl Botwinik. Founding Editor: Aharon Sheer (ל"א). Logo by: Miriam Ben-Loulu (ל"מ)
 For free email delivery (PDF format) write to levbl_botwinik@yahoo.com
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