



Science-Fiction Fanzine

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The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

עולמות 2010: מדעי הקסם, 31 במרץ – 1 באפריל, ZOA ת"א

כנס עולמות חוזר עם תוכנייה גדושה במופעים, סרטים, הופעות מוסיקליות, הרצאות, סדנאות, פאנלים ועוד שלל אירועים קהילתיים. גם השנה יערכו תחרויות כתיבה לקראת הכנס. תחרות הסיפורים נפתחה ב-1 בינואר ואילו תחרות הפילקים נפתחה במהלך דצמבר. פירוט מלא על התחרויות תמצאו באתר הכנס. כמו כן נפתח ערוץ היוטיוב של עולמות עם קליפים מתוך כנסים קודמים ופרומואים להקרנות של השנה – youtube.com/olamot.
כנס עולמות מתחיל בהפקת גרסה חדשה של המחזמר המצליח "חנות קטנה ומטריפה" המיועד לעלות בשנה הבאה. החזרות יתחילו כבר בשבועות הקרובים. ההפקה מחפשת מקום לאודישנים. למעוניינים לארח את הקאסט לחזרות, אנא צרו קשר עם עינת סיטרון במייל einatci@hotmail.com. מתחם יוצרים ישראלים בכנס עולמות – כנס עולמות יארח השנה יוצרים ישראלים – סופרים, יוצרי קומיקס, אמנים – אשר עבודתם הינה בתחום המדע הבדיוני והפנטסיה. במידה ואתם יוצרים בעצמכם, או מעוניינים להמליץ על יוצרים שאתם מכירים, פנו אלינו בדואר: olamot.israel@gmail.com. היוצרים שייבחרו יקבלו דון ללא תשלום. לאתר הכנס: www.olamot-con.org

מועדון הקריאה

במרכז דיוני מועדון הקריאה בחודש ינואר יעמוד הספר "בן אלמוות" מאת רוג'ר זילזאני (הוצאת מובי דיק, בתרגומו של רז גרינברג). הספר זכה בפרס גפן לשנת 2009 בקטגוריית ספר המדע הבדיוני המתורגם. פרטים לגבי מפגשי מועדון הקריאה העוסקים בספר זה יתפרסמו באתר האגודה. השתתפות במועדון הקריאה אינה כרוכה בתשלום או בהגעה למפגשים נוספים, ופתוחה גם למי שאינם חברי אגודה. מועדון הקריאה בתל אביב יתקיים ביום שני, 25.01.10, בשעה 19:00 בבית הקפה "קפה קפה" ברחוב טשרניחובסקי, ויועבר על ידי ליאת שחר. יש להירשם מראש באמצעות הדואר האלקטרוני אצל מנחת המפגש: liat42@gmail.com. הכניסה חופשית ואינה מותנית בחברות באגודה. מומלץ להגיע עם הספר. מועדון הקריאה של חודש פברואר יוקדש לספר "כתר הדרקון", מאת אורי אורלב, לרגל 25 שנה ליציאת הספר. מפגשי המועדון העוסקים בספר זה יתפרסמו באתר האגודה ובמכתב החודשי. המעוניינים להנחות מועדוני קריאה בכל רחבי הארץ מוזמנים לפנות במייל למרכזת הפרויקט, ליאת שחר: liat42@gmail.com.

מתחנתים בקרוב?

לסדרה דוקומנטרית חדשה מבית מטר הפקות, הסוקרת זוגות בדרך לחתונה, דרושים זוגות חובבים המתכננים חתונה עם תימה ז'אנרית, המתכוננים להינשא בין ינואר לאפריל 2010. ההפקה מבקשת ללוות את בני הזוג בצמתים מרכזיים בדרך לחתונה, בחמישה ימי צילום מרכזיים בהם נכלל גם יום החתונה עצמו. לזוגות המשתתפים בתוכנית מובטח ירח דבש מפנק בחול על חשבון ההפקה. התוכנית תשודר בערוץ הוט 3 בכבלים.

המעוניינים מתבקשים לפנות לגלי מאיו, בטלפון 052-6141332 או בדואר hatuna2009@gmail.com

אירועים של ספי"ר - התא הרחובותי בחודש ינואר

כל האירועים מתקיימים בימי ראשון בשעה 20:00 בפקולטה לחקלאות ברחובות, חדר 2 (הבניין שלייד הבריכה)
24.1.10- The lost skeleton of Cadavra.
31.1.10- Interstalla 5555.

Charles Stross - Author GoH at Icon 2010

צ'ארלס סטרוס – יהיה הסופר האורח באייקון 2010. סטרוס, סופר המד"ב הבריטי, יהיה הסופר האורח בפסטיבל אייקון 2010. סטרוס חי באדינבורו שבסקוטלנד ובין ספריו מדע-בדיוני, פנטסיה ואימה בסגנון ה. פ. לאברקאפט. (בספטמבר 2009, סייברקוזן פרסם בקורת על *HaltinG StatE* by Charles Stross (2007) <http://www.icon.org.il/2009/CharlieStrossNews> פרטים נוספים עליו ועל יצירתו בקישור הבא:

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

Letter to the Editor

Aharon,

I loved your lengthy review of *Coyote* by Allen Steele in the December *CyberCozen* -- always great food for thought! Gary Roth

Film Reviews: *Avatar* (2009), directed by James Cameron, written by James Cameron, 162 min. Rated PG-13 for intense epic battle sequences and warfare, sensuality, language and some smoking.

Reviewed by Sara Beck:

Magnificent effects. Shame about the plot.

Reviewed by Ted Henderson:

Avatar is complex and textured. It seemed like *Star Wars* meets *Green Mansions* (by W. H. Hudson) and *Clan of the Cave Bear* (by Jean M. Auel). The movie is set on the moon, Pandora. There, a mining company with *Star Wars* like robots (not R2D2 or CPO3 type, but monster machines) has found a source of the ridiculously named rare mineral, unobtainium. Living in forests on Pandora are groups of indigenous blue people who have a stone age culture. The main mineral deposit is located on their holy site, and the mining company is determined to destroy the site to obtain it. This seems to be a familiar theme in this type of story. The malevolent dominant group is bent on destroying the benign aliens. This is seen in many stories where the ruling group's reaction to an invader

Reviewed by Aharon Sheer:

This fabulously visual movie is a curious mixture of science fiction, fantasy, war story, anti-war movie. It's science fiction in that the story is set in the year 2154. It's science fiction since it takes place on a habitable moon (Pandora) of a gas giant planet circling a sun light years away from Earth. It's science fiction in that humans actually get to that moon. It's science fiction in that there are intelligent humanoid beings living on this moon, with a complex sophisticated jungle-smart society, the Na'vi. It's fantasy in that what the Earth people want on that planet is a mineral (charmingly called "unobtainium") that floats in air; the mineral is heavier than helium but lighter than lithium but its chemical composition is not explained in the movie. This mineral might better have been called "nonexistium". It's fantasy in that

from outer space is to destroy it without learning its intentions.

The picture makes great use of CGI techniques and it is coup de force in motion capture technology. I would recommend anyone to see it for themselves. The only actor with a familiar name is Sigourney Weaver who seems to have a bent for appearing in this sort of picture. Perhaps she is a fan of scifi.

Incidentally, *avatar* is a Sanskrit word which means the incarnation of a Hindu deity or the embodiment of somebody who embodies an idea or concept. To go into how this relates to the picture would involve describing the plot in great detail, and it can not be done simply.

the natives live in "harmony with nature", fulfilling the old long-discredited idea of the "noble savage", and claiming to enjoy the non-existent (according to the biologists) "balance of nature". [See *The Balance of Nature: Ecology's Enduring Myth* by John Kricher (2009).]

It's a war story in that the nasty Americans have come to this planet to forcibly take away from the noble native Na'vis their most holy land, which just by chance happens to be located right where the largest supply of unobtainium happens to be on the whole moon. At the start, the Americans try a more humane approach to the natives, setting up schools in which the natives are taught English, and the human anthropologists (wearing face masks, since the local atmosphere is not healthy to humans) learn the Na'vi language (specifically created for the film

by USC linguist Paul Frommer). But the natives are not fooled, and stop going to the schools. The nasty Americans will not hesitate to shoot and kill the peace-loving natives in order to get at this mineral, which seems to be already in use by the Americans to hold some of their battleships up in the air. This mineral is worth a lot of money, and the whole human expedition's main purpose is to mine the mineral and bring it back to Earth, and the whole cost of the expedition (including the anthropologists and the scientists studying the Na'vi) is paid by a commercial company intending to make a lot of money.

The similarity of the actions of the Americans in the film toward the natives reminds one of American history and the American Indian. In the 1880s the official U.S. government policy toward the Indians was "promise them anything". If the Indians were sitting on land that the white people wanted, the U.S. Army was authorized to promise the Indians anything to get them to move somewhere else. If the Indians moved, then the promises did not need to be kept. If the Indians refused to move, then the American Army applied its full power to kill them all. So the tale of the movie has parallels in U.S. history.

But what is great in the movie is the fabulous visual invention. Cameron has created a wealth of alien plants and animals, living in what looks like a tropical rain forest which is uniquely different from anything on Earth. The fact that throughout the movie it never rains in the forest can be easily explained by assuming that the producers preferred to do the filming during the dry season. Makes sense. Otherwise the rain might have washed off the makeup of the actors. They even have floating mountains, presumably containing unobtainium.

It's science fiction in that the Americans have created "avatars" based

on the DNA of the natives, that look exactly like one of the natives, can walk, run and jump, and talk. But it's fantasy in that the soul of an American soldier (or scientist) can be transferred from the human to the native avatar, and the avatar can be completely controlled by the soul of the American. Magic! Of course the body of the American must be cared for, and from time to time the American's soul must be brought back so that the body can eat, shave, wash, and do whatever else is needed to maintain its physical condition. And report back to its bosses.

It's fantasy in that each Na'vi has a pigtail (which looks like its made from head hair) which enables them to communicate with animals, and even with plants. It's fantasy in that the Na'vi have a relationship with giant flying beings (dragons?) which is obviously based on Anne McCaffrey's *Pern* stories. But, unlike humans, the Na'vi have prehensile tails.

It's fantasy in that the Na'vi have total equality between men and women. The women are hunters and warriors just like the men. There are of course, almost no small children, since the women are too busy to care for such. (Just like the Christian Europeans, or the Japanese. All the Americans have to do is wait a couple of generations, and the Na'vi will no longer exist, having stopped reproducing.)

The film is beautifully filmed, in 3-D, and the special effects are impressive. This looks like a real living jungle with its birds and animals, and of course its native people. Cameron has created 500 kinds of alien plants and creatures. Cameron creates a few sympathetic Americans, one sympathetic Na'vi, and several Americans that the viewer is intended to hate. In fact, when the evil Americans are attacked and killed by the Na'vi, we in the audience cheered at the loss of American villain life.

Recommended.

Two *Star Trek* Internet fan-produced episodes: *World Enough and Time* and *To Serve All My Days*
 Reviewed by Gary Roth

I enjoyed viewing two *Star Trek* fan-produced episodes, one featuring Pavlov Chekov and one featuring Mr. Sulu -- both programs depict the respective characters via two different actors. This means that each character is shown at a young age (by new actors), as well as at an advanced age (by the *Original Series* actors). The productions are first-rate, the story lines are unique, and surprisingly, neither one has what could be called a happy ending.

To Serve All My Days:

"As the Enterprise is returning from a diplomatic mission, a freak accident in engineering has dire consequences for Chekov." Specifically, Chekov is discussing a manifold pressure problem with Scotty in engineering when, all of a sudden, a radiation indicator goes over the red line and the former pushes the latter out of the way to safety, in the process absorbing a major zap of radiation. Dr. McCoy performs a physical examination on Chekov, and despite no abnormal findings, orders the young officer to confinement in his quarters. Within a few hours a rapid aging disease resurfaces that was being harbored in his body, originally contracted on an alien planet, at a rate of 25 years per day! Bones successfully treated the disease in the past with Hyronalin, but this time nothing works, and the viewer witnesses an energetic, upbeat young adult turn into a psychologically agitated ("why me?",

and thrusts his plate of food at the wall and floor) patient. At one point the older Chekov has an imaginary conversation with the younger one about the predicament, and initially says to himself, "I must be hallucinating -- must report to Dr. McCoy", yet fails to go to Sickbay. We learn that, as a Russian, he had to prove himself more than others, working to be the best at both the helm and weapons. Ultimately, a battle against an enemy battleship ensues, and Kirk decides to let the aged Chekov resume his duties on the bridge for a while, even though Spock questions the wisdom of such a move. After he shoots down the enemy vessel, Chekov leaves the bridge and dies soon thereafter -- depressing (and makes one wonder how he resurfaces in other episodes)! I highly recommend watching this drama.

World Enough and Time:

Captain Sulu awaits the arrival of an important visitor, joined by a much-matured Janice Rand, and has a flashback to 30 years earlier. "A Romulan weapons test goes awry and snares the Enterprise in an interdimensional trap." Basically, the Enterprise travels to observe the new Romulan weapon, which "vents anti-matter hyperphasic energy with gravity waves in more than 4 dimensions" and quickly rips apart (annihilates) the atoms of a merchant vessel. Kirk's ship was

stationed at an apparently safe distance, but right after the test the Romulans discover the uninvited observers, and move to attack. Kirk destroys the attacking vessel, in the process releasing gravity waves such that the Enterprise was stuck "like a fly in amber". The only way to become unentangled is to gather data from the remains of the Romulan wreck about how the quantum destruction field was generated, so Sulu and a young Black

female expert on Romulan computer science don space suits and navigate a shuttle to the area (using the transporter was considered unsafe). The young tandem acquired the information and headed back towards the shuttle, only to watch it float off into space before they could reboard it. Scotty immediately activated the transporter, but unexpectedly two different figures appear; a Black teenager (who only partly materializes, and is maintained via a stasis field), and a considerably older Sulu, looking a bit wild with long hair and American Indian-like clothing, complete with a hunting knife. Sulu explains that he and the Black woman that accompanied him on the Romulan data mission found themselves stranded on an unknown planet, and after a few years, decided to start a family. Unfortunately, the mother-wife met her demise via the attack of a monster-like creature, and the bright daughter grew up hearing stories of the Enterprise. While this daughter is entertained by visiting crew members' discussions, Sulu does not consciously remember the Romulan computer data that will extricate the Federation ship from its predicament, so he undergoes a number of procedures, namely a Spock Vulcan mind-meld and later tranquilizers, to no avail. Eventually, time is about to run out, and Scotty explains that either the teenager gets transported back to her planet/time. There are other quality, fan-produced episodes starring the same actors (more or less), including one that is semi-finished. Check them out!

period at the expense of the ship and crew, or Sulu can be transported out and then transported back with the configuration of his younger body (stored in the transporter's records) -- in the process regaining his young memory with the precious data that will save the day but killing the teenager simultaneously. Sulu pulls out his knife, ready to defend his daughter against the latter plan; however, the teenager states that she opts not for the former plan, since living alone stranded on a planet is not preferable. Scotty proceeds to implement the second option, as the smiling Black body dissipates into nothingness, and Sulu inputs the information into the Enterprise's computer that enables the Starfleet vessel to escape from the trap.

Of course, from the mind-meld, Spock stored all of the aged Sulu's memories prior to his regaining the younger form, and the rejuvenated Sulu is offered the choice of getting the memories back (as painful as they are), or living without them. Naturally, he chooses to have them, so Spock obliges. At this point the flashback ends, and the camera refocuses on Captain Sulu, who now is cuddling a granddaughter, and insists on naming her after the deceased teenager-daughter. Thus, this episode has sort of a bittersweet ending.

Limerick by Miriam Ben-Loulu

(February 1996)

Alone and shunned by his peers,
The sorcerer spent his last years
In spelling and making,
And then decorating,
Silk purses from tiny sow's ears.

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