



חדשות האגודה – נובמבר 2018 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

- המועדון בירושלים: יעסוק בספר "מלבד הכלב" מאת קוני ויליס (כנרת-זמורה-ביתן, 1999). המועדון יתקיים ביום שלישי, 28.8, בשעה 20:30. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון (**בפייסבוק**). מנחה: שירה אבנת.

- המועדון בת"א: יעסוק בספר "סיפוריה של שפחה" מאת מרגרט אטווד (כנרת-זמורה-ביתן-דביר, 2012). יצא גם תחת השם "מעשה השפחה" (כרם, 1986), ויתקיים ביום המישי, 29.11 בשעה 19:30. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון. מנחה: דפנה קירש. המועדון בחיפה: יעסוק בספר "משורות טובות" מאת ניל גיימן וטרי פראצ'ט (אופוס, 1993). המועדון יתקיים ביום המישי 8.11 ב-19:00, בבית פרטי ברחוב אבא הלל סילבר. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון, במייל של המנחה **טניה חיימון**.

- המועדון הגליל מערבי בכרמיאל-משגב: יעסוק בספר "מבוכ ההשתקפויות" מאת סרגיי לוקיאנקו (אופוס, 2017), ויתקיים ביום רביעי, 21.11 בשעה 20:00, בבית פרטי במשגב. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון, במייל של המנחה: **קרן פויט**

כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים ב**לוח האירועים** (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד)

או **לדף האגודה בפייסבוק**. לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף ל**רשימת התפוצה**

Society information in Hebrew is available at the Society's FACEBOOK site, or: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

This month's roundup (Winter is Coming!):

- An armful of TV/movie reviews from our good friend Keith from MONSSFA in Montreal – to keep us warm
- A link to the 25 greatest Spaceships of the known TV/movie SF Universe – to keep us dreaming
- Sorry, but due to circumstances beyond my control, the expected review of *Zion's Fiction* has been delayed

– As usual, some interesting tidbits from various websites.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

Some fun from the Websites:

Nobody's perfect...

The Big 'Mistake' Disney Made With Star Wars That They're Fixing Now, According to Disney CEO

- Chris Arrant, Newsarama Editor | September

Disney has released a new **Star Wars** film every year for the past four years, and Walt Disney CEO Bob Iger now acknowledges that was an error - and he takes responsibility. In an interview with [The HollywoodReporter](#), Iger said that Disney is slowing down the pace.

"I made the timing decision, and as I look back, I think the mistake that I made - I take the blame - was a little too much, too fast," Iger said. "You can expect some slowdown, but that doesn't mean we're not gonna make films.

"J.J. [Abrams] is busy making [Episode] IX. We have creative entities, including [Game of Thrones creators David] Benioff and [D.B.] Weiss, who are developing sagas ...

To read more, see:

<https://www.space.com/41952-disney-star-wars-big-mistake.html>

Tomorrow through the pats:

10 Obscure Sci-Fi Classics You've Probably Never Heard Of

Taking a look back at the futurists and innovators of the past as we build the entertainment industry of the future - by Jacqueline Valencia

Science fiction has maintained a presence in the canon of film dating back to 1902 and the H.G Wells and Jules Verne-inspired surrealist French silent film *Le Voyage dans la Lune*, and has been continually in flux since that moment.

Nowadays, comic book blockbusters have taken over the genre, and while such films do have their own big budget merits, their bombastic affect can overshadow both the science and the fiction elements of science fiction, and there is much to be gained from combing the more obscure corners of the genre over the years.

There's a universe of sci-fi movies that stretches across decades, continents, languages, and philosophies, and it may be hard to navigate the best from the worst sometimes.

To read more, see:

<https://medium.com/singularDTV/10-obs-cure-sci-fi-classics-youve-probably-never-heard-of-bd4312cc30d5>

Quick Movie Reviews by Keith Braithwaite*

* **Special thanks for this contribution** (originally appeared in MONSFFA's *Warp 101*)

The 2018 Summer Blockbuster Season is well underway and I've jotted down some thoughts on a few of this year's most anticipated Genre flicks, most now in theatres, plus some other recently released films of note:

Avengers: Infinity War

I don't think there have ever been as many superheroes crammed into one movie! You might think the whole thing would collapse into a bloated tangle of competing stars, individual action sequences, and rival storylines, and while it sometimes comes close to doing just that, somehow, it all works. This is superhero movie-making on a truly epic scale!



Much of the established Marvel roster come together to battle the ultimate evil, the Mad Titan Thanos, an incredibly powerful villain who threatens half the universe. But this well-drawn bad guy is not simply evil for evil's sake; he's motivated by an admittedly twisted logic, but a logic, nonetheless. He has reasons for doing what he's doing, given his backstory. We can understand his justification.

With so many superheroes in play, it's inevitable that there will be a lot of super-powered derring-do as each gets his or her moment to shine. It all gets to be a bit much – almost. The film starts to drag just a tiny bit midway, but manages to avoid numbing our senses for very long. Clever dialogue helps to keep things lively until we arrive at the film's terrific, finger-snapping climactic pay-off. And the story's not over yet! A great post-credits scene sets up the coming debut of the latest addition to Nick Fury's Avengers Initiative.

A Quiet Place



fare.

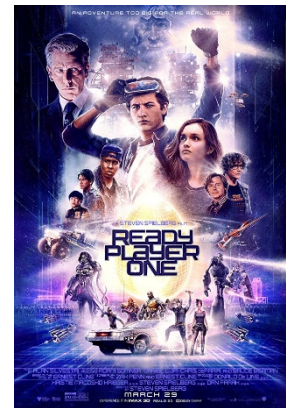
Contemporary horror movies are often merely exercises in cheap jump-scares, or blood-soaked gorefests, the gruesome and gross standing in for real, palpable, haunts-your-dreams terror. Director John Krasinski's tense chiller stands quietly and most assuredly in contrast to that lesser

The audience is immediately thrust into a post-apocalyptic world inhabited by deadly creatures that stalk the remnants of humanity by sound alone, and engage with a family's efforts to survive in this new reality. Krasinski also stars as father to this young family, and his cast, including real-life wife, Emily Blunt, is top-notch. We quickly become invested in these characters.

Tautly directed, A Quiet Place is a well-conceived, suspenseful, stylish monster movie, and for budding filmmakers, a masterclass in sound design. Here, it is the sparse, simple noises things make that serve to skillfully build tension in the almost complete absence of dialogue and familiar ambient sound. This is one of the best horror movies of recent years.

Ready Player One

I'm not generally a fan of films based on video games, or built around video-game culture, but I must admit that Steven Spielberg's Ready Player One is a whole lot of fun to watch, despite its being, in large part, a two-hour Easter egg for Genre fans!



The concept could easily have failed to entertain in the hands of a lesser director, but this kind of big blockbuster is Spielberg's specialty, and while it won't be remembered one day as a classic, it's definitely, today, a most enjoyable popcorn movie.



Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle

Speaking of films based on video games, this one came out last year, and surprisingly, it exceeded expectations, both my own, and those of the box office. Like Ready Player One, it's another movie that's fun to watch, though for different reasons.

Welcome to the Jungle is a sequel to the original Jumanji (1995), the titular fictional game updated, here, from board to video. There's a lot to like about the film – lovable characters, good screen chemistry amongst the four lead actors, cool and comedic action sequences – but what I liked most is that's it's funny, cleverly lampooning teenage-movie as well as video-game character tropes.

Deadpool 2



Wade Wilson is everyone's favourite foul-mouthed mercenary superhero, and he's back and even more impudent than in his first appearance (discounting his turn in X-Men Origins: Wolverine)! If you liked that approach to the character, you'll certainly like this sequel, as well.

But be warned, this film is not for everyone, especially those easily offended. The shtick may eventually wear thin, but it hasn't yet. Ryan Reynolds is in fine form as he mercilessly skewers the superhero movie genre, Hollywood, the MCU, and especially the DCEU! This is one wild mix of superhero action and fourth-wall breaking, vulgar, wise-cracking irreverence.

Definitely not your father's superhero movie!

Solo: A Star Wars Story



This latest Star Wars movie is, apparently, underperforming at the box office as I write this review! Go figure. It's still pulling in some pretty good coin, mind you, just not the more-wealth-than-you-can-imagine, Death Star-sized pursefull that was expected of a film about Star Wars' beloved Han Solo.

Perhaps audiences are beginning to tire of the Star Wars franchise, with a new chapter or stand-alone opening every few months, it seems. Overkill? That's the only reason I can think of that would have audiences turning away from this picture, one of the best Star Wars flicks of recent years.

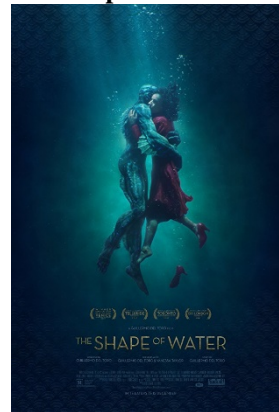
Solo's stellar cast, leads and supporting, have all crafted roguishly charming characters, and I include, here, star Alden Ehrenreich. His interpretation of the younger Han Solo is not executed as Harrison Ford would have played it in his heyday, but is equally compelling.

Ehrenreich's is not merely an imitation of Ford as Solo, but his own take on the iconic character that hints just enough at the Solo we all know from the original trilogy to allow us to buy into this guy as a younger Han in his formative years, developing into both the scoundrel and hero he will become.

The script is sharper than anything George Lucas has ever written, and the movie's brisk pace emulates that of the first Star Wars film (A New Hope). The action is well-choreographed and exciting without ever detracting from driving the story forward. Direction and editing are tight and on point, allowing no more time than necessary to effectually get across the story's emotional beats, delivering a fun and most satisfying Star Wars adventure.

Die-hard fans get their candy, too, with scenes depicting the formation of Han and Chewie's partnership, his introduction to Lando, and the legendary card game that wins him the Millennium Falcon. There are also foreshadows to what we all know is to come.

The Shape of Water



Guillermo del Toro has had a lifelong fascination with monsters and his odd, dark fantasy about a woman who is peculiarly attracted to The Creature From the Black Lagoon's cousin won the Best Picture Oscar last year, along with a Best Director nod for del Toro.

The film is now available on DVD/Blu-Ray.

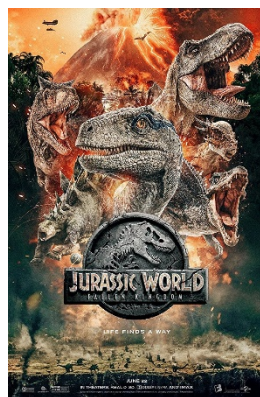
Del Toro's films are beautifully shot fairy tales shaded with elements of horror, his leading actors almost always first-rate talents who turn in wonderful performances, and his stories often just patently weird, as was the case, here. He's an acquired taste, to be sure, his cinematic visions eliciting robust praise in one instance while on another occasion, categorical displeasure. Personally, I either really like, or fairly dislike his work; rarely am I indifferent to it, however.

The Shape of Water I found to be kind of out there but one of his better efforts, enhanced by the solid performances of the principals. I note in particular lead Sally Hawkins as Elisa, a mute cleaning woman who works at a high-security government laboratory during the peak years of the cold-war; Richard Jenkins as closeted Giles, Elisa's neighbour, a struggling commercial illustrator; and Michael Shannon as Colonel Strickland, captor and overseer of the strange amphibious humanoid the U.S. government is studying in the lab, hoping to exploit the creature for American advantage in the space race.

This is not only a monster movie, but a bizarre love story, a jailbreak escapade, a spy thriller, and a commentary on our seemingly innate rejection of otherness. It's quite the mix and involves Elisa and the creature not only forming a loving bond, but at one point having sex in her bathtub!

As I said: weird. Perhaps too weird for some tastes, but worth a viewing if only to admire del Toro's gifts as a fantasy filmmaker. He was partly inspired to pen this story, apparently, by childhood memories of having watched *The Creature From the Black Lagoon* and wishing that the Gill-Man and actress Julie Adams' character had pursued a romance!

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom



I've been infatuated with dinosaurs since childhood, so I look forward with great zeal to the release of any new dinosaur-related books, films, or TV specials. I was thus excited about catching the latest installment of the Jurassic Park/World film franchise.

Alas, *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom* proved a disappointment. Not that it's dreadfully unwatchable or anything like that, it's just not particularly memorable.

This follow-up to *Jurassic World*, which rebooted the franchise in 2015, fails to match its predecessor, just as *Lost World* (1997), the sequel to the original *Jurassic Park* (1993), stumbled after the spectacle, excitement, and thrill of Spielberg's initial visit to John Hammond's theme park. Both of these sequels packed a lot of dinosaur action in between their opening titles and closing credits, which is fine, but offered only mediocre storylines. *Lost World* was just a series of cool dinosaur

encounters loosely strung together by a rather thin plot, and *Fallen Kingdom* wasn't much better, though offering a decidedly more hectic story.

Director J. A. Bayona threw practically everything into his script but the kitchen sink!

We meet a group of animal-rights activists committed to saving the dinosaurs of the now-abandoned *Jurassic World* park, suddenly endangered by that timeworn cliché of all dinosaur flicks, an erupting volcano! Reformed ex-corporate cog Claire leads the group.

On the other end of the ethical scale, we have a group of poachers, who "rescue" the animals, planning to sell them to the highest bidder. Dr. Wu is still manipulating DNA to create monsters, including his latest weaponized hybrid, an *Indominus Rex-Velociraptor* cross called the *Indoraptor*. Meanwhile, Owen's favourite *Raptor*, Blue, is all grown up and figures in the development of the *Indoraptor*.

Claire and Owen are no longer an item, but citing Blue, she convinces him to join her efforts to save the dinosaurs.

Add Jeff Goldblum's brief cameo as Dr. Malcolm, a criminally underused *Mosasaurus*, plus a little girl and her wealthy grandfather – Hammond's former partner; I won't give away a critical plot point concerning these two – then release some poisonous gas and the dinosaurs in a big old mansion, and let the fun begin!

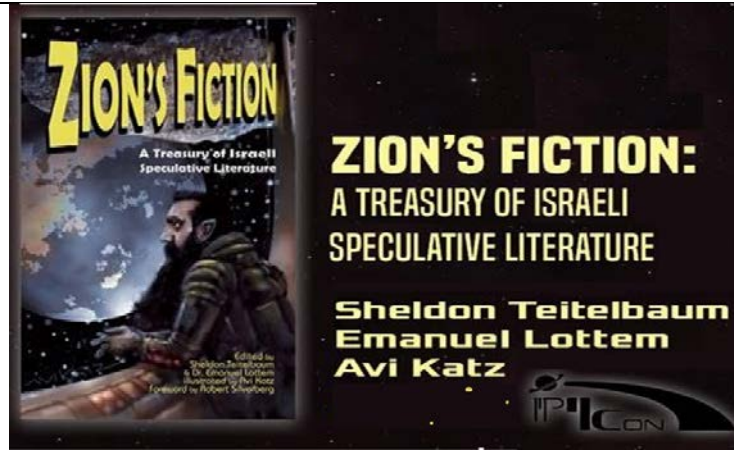
There's an awful lot going on and, frankly, it all gets to be a little too much. This is a very busy movie, both in terms of script, and of visuals, and the whole of it tends to dilute the component parts. A leaner, more focused story would have been the better option, in my humble opinion, perhaps having to do with that criminally underused *Mosasaurus*!

That said, the on-screen chemistry of the two leads, so well played in *Jurassic World*, is intact, here, and is one of the things about this movie that works best. I noticed, too, that the composition of more than a couple scenes seemed to call back the Spielberg *Jurassic Park* films, perhaps in tribute. *Fallen Kingdom's* special effects were—no surprise—top-notch, the supporting cast likable, and a few moments unexpectedly touching. Also, watch for the brief post-credits scene at the end, which we might argue rips off our own *Beavra!* franchise!

So not the best of the *Jurassic Park/World* films, certainly, but not the worst, either.

Last issue we mentioned the imminent publication at the ICON fest. Due to some personal issues (my dear mother passed away in October), I haven't had the opportunity to read more than the intro and one story (the first in the anthology) – which was thoroughly fascinating.

More on the just released ZION's FICTION anthology – in an upcoming issue

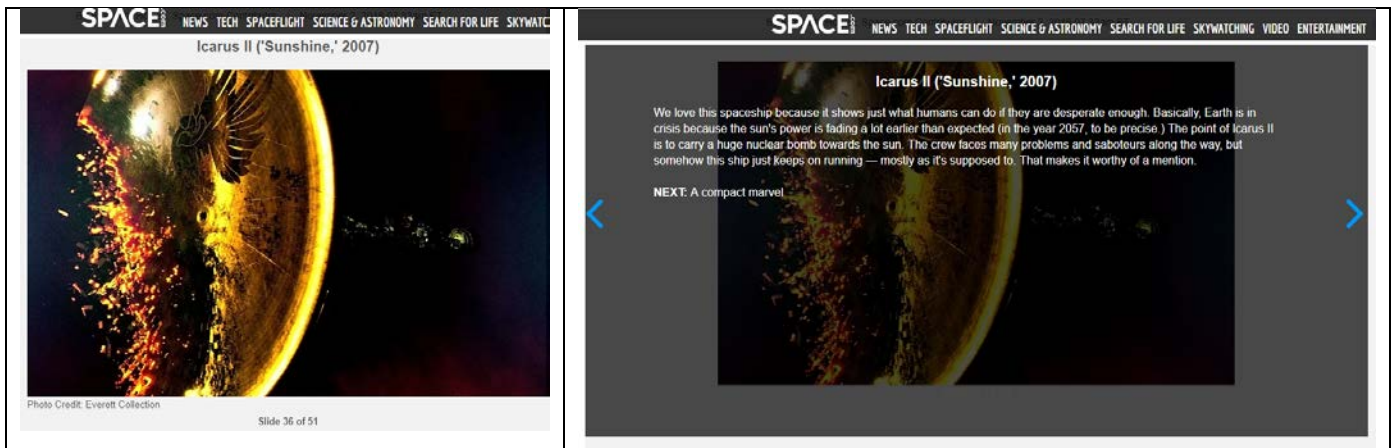


MORE SF SPACESHIPS:

Last issue, our periodic *Sheer Science* column brought you an excerpt of, and link to: “Flights of Fantasy? How realistic are sci-fi spaceships? An expert ranks your favorites BY Chris Taylor”. That article looked at a handful of the more famous Science Fiction spaceships, and discussed their relative scientific plausibility. It seems, that the theme of flight and spaceships is more popular than we thought. Here is another interesting collection – of 25 ships – but there is no real scientific breakdown here. Still, I thought it would be fun to present. See this for short blurbs on the same ships as in the previous article (*Enterprise*, *FireFly*, etc.) – and more:

The 25 Greatest Spaceships of Science Fiction

By Elizabeth Howell, Space.com Contributor | November 2, 2018



SEE the full set of pics at: <https://www.space.com/42312-greatest-spaceships-of-science-fiction.htm>

LB: NOTE01 – Each spaceship picture is assigned its name, the movie/TV show and year of first appearance. First the picture is shown, and then a short blurb is superimposed describing something about the ship (sometimes including a wiki link) – see above sample image of slide 36 / 37 of 51.

LB: NOTE02 – There are 51 slides, and so you need to go through them one web page at a time. In addition, one comment has it that she did not put up the right pic for some of the space ships. Still, if you have the time, it's worth looking at.

I went through about 10 and most looked OK to me – but there were a few ships (and their respective show or movie) that I was unfamiliar with – which is good, so now I can go and look them up.

For Comments: E-mail: leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com. Tel: Leybl Botwinik +972-54-537-7729

Editor: Leybl Botwinik. Founding Editor: Aharon Sheer (א'רן). Logo by: Miriam Ben-Loulu (מירי).

For free email delivery (PDF format) write to leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com

Copyright © 2018 — Archives at: <http://www.kulichki.com/antimir/cybercozen>

Also (archived issues from 2014+) at: <http://fanac.org/fanzines/CyberCozen/>

And <http://efanzines.com/CyberCozen/index.htm>

All rights reserved to specified authors and artists © כל הזכויות שמורות למחברים וליוצרים