
Subject: Why does the BBC do SF and not Hollywood
Posted by [Leland Crooks](#) on Mon, 17 Apr 2006 14:42:40 GMT
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Blake's 7, Hitchikers Guide, Dr. Who, and more. They seem to produce SF on a regular basis since the 50's. We just get sporadic bursts, whenever it seems hot. Space 1999 anyone. Granted, some of the BBC's production values leave a little to be desired, but the shows are usually pretty good.

Subject: Re: Why does the BBC do SF and not Hollywood
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 17 Apr 2006 17:42:26 GMT
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I don't have sci-fi channel, so I've been missing Dr. Who. But I hear it will be out on DVD soon, and I'm anxious to see it!

Subject: Re: Why does the BBC do SF and not Hollywood
Posted by [Leland Crooks](#) on Mon, 17 Apr 2006 18:03:27 GMT
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The new series is amazing. All the old camp, new better effects, and Christopher Eccles is a great Doctor. I understand he only did this one season, which is too bad. The most recent episode, "Dalek" was excellent, and not just by Dr. Who standards.

Subject: Re: Why does the BBC do SF and not Hollywood
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 17 Apr 2006 18:27:02 GMT
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I've heard the new Dr. Who series is excellent. I'm anxious to get the DVD!

Subject: Re: Why does the BBC do SF and not Hollywood
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Mon, 17 Apr 2006 19:20:35 GMT
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I think SF is more malleable in terms of sets and costumes; look at Star Trek. So then ipso facto the BBC on a low budget can pull this stuff off more easily than expensive drama series that require authenticity of appearance. Plus the Brits are a little more astute regarding literature than we are.

Subject: Re: Why does the BBC do SF and not Hollywood
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Mon, 17 Apr 2006 19:28:04 GMT
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Are you going to get the DVD?

Subject: Re: Why does the BBC do SF and not Hollywood
Posted by [lon](#) on Tue, 18 Apr 2006 03:11:13 GMT
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What might be more to the point is why has Canada become so good at it? I believe Stargate SG1 and a few others of my favorites like Babylon 5 and Earth Final Conflict (not on my fave list) originated in Canada. OTOH I don't buy the notion that all or any Brit science fiction is good either because it looks cheap or sounds literary. Even such attempts at class such as LeGuin's "Lathe of Heaven" or Dick's ... wait I lost it... all of them look dreadful. And Red Dwarf. There's one by Neil Gaiman too. Piffle, every bit of it. They did do The Prisoner way back when. But as I said earlier, the Prisoner is in a class by itself. Some may wonder why I spend any amount of time with Stargate SG1. It's directed by Dom DeLouise's son for the most part, the stories are trite and melodramatic, the acting is operatic on the part of most of the god-like aliens and... well the list is quite long such as the fact that projectile weapons never have ricochets inside the alien spacecraft. Jeez. But what show has lasted 10 seasons with such outlandish characteristics besides this one? I think the answer is that it's a propaganda show sponsored by the military to make enlisting look glamorous. After all, the SG1 team can defeat superior firepower and technology with handguns and C-4 explosives. It's sort of a variation on the video game-referenced ads on tv for "Be all you can be" with the A-Team being the primary source material. If you have any doubt about these speculations, I suggest a documentary called "Operation Hollywood." It shows how the military has strict control over any production in which its properties such as uniforms, vehicles or arms are used. SG1 had full Pentagon approval. Even though I'm a peace activist, I'm looking forward to the next dvd box.

Subject: Re: Why does the BBC do SF and not Hollywood
Posted by [Leland Crooks](#) on Tue, 18 Apr 2006 10:36:55 GMT

Money. Production is far less expensive in Canada than the U.S. SG-1 is fun. It falls in that same category as Star Wars, fun, shootem up, could be a western sci fi. That seems to be the only type of science fiction anyone here wants to make. Have you seen the new Battlestar? It's a great show, and somewhat of an exception. The characters are hard, flawed and Edward James Olmos is absolutely brilliant as Adama. Another truly awful adaption was the Earthsea mini series by SciFi. It resembled book in name only. I quit watching about 1/2 way in. It is a good time to be a sci fi fan now. Quite a bit to watch. After a very long dry spell, with only Star Trek in the 90's. And I guess my original premise is at least the BBC tried for the last 40 yrs.

Subject: Re: Why does the BBC do SF and not Hollywood
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 18 Apr 2006 18:02:11 GMT
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You betcha!

Subject: Re: Why does the BBC do SF and not Hollywood
Posted by [lon](#) on Wed, 19 Apr 2006 02:42:21 GMT
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Well leaving the topic for fantasy (as above) I do have some respect for the Gormenghast production from the works of Mervin Peake. As to the Hitchhikers Guide done in the 70's, I cannot remember much of it. I haven't seen the new one and don't have much desire to either.
