Subject: Troy
Posted by lon on Wed, 16 Feb 2005 21:59:33 GMT
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Without going into all the bloody details (figuratively orliterally) this new film with Brad Pitt as the Beaver was a huge waste of time. This is how boring it was: during the film I was going out online looking for cheesecake photos of Helen and Andromache. OTOH, there's this small film made in the European market orfor tv and distributed to vid stores that I thought was a better product.
Helen of Troy

Subject: Re: Troy
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 17 Feb 2005 10:57:07 GMT
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I thought it was alright, but there were soooo many others playing at the same time. The History Channel was running a version and two were out in the theaters all at about the same time. So I kinda overdosed on the Trojan Horse thing. And what's with making all the Helens so plain? She was supposed to be a babe, not Olive Oil or something.

Subject: Re: Troy
Posted by lon on Fri, 18 Feb 2005 04:54:20 GMT
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The only good thing that came out of all this was that I recalledseeing the film version of The Trojan Women by Euripides andstarring Katherine Hepburn. No, I didn't find it as anobscurelibrary listing, it was on the shelf at Blockbusterway back when.When I remembered it, I requested my library to add it to it'scollection of plays. It's in a current Kino Video versionon dvd.Also that Helen O' Troy I mentioned _is_ stocked by the local library. I was going to re-rent and was surprisedto see it turn up. All these big war adventures got triggered by the upsurgeof nationalism after 911. I'll bet my shirt on it. But togive some historical distance, they picked antiquity andmade Troy and Alexander the Great. I'm getting weary of these CGI "cast of hundreds of thousands"epics. There's that haze you can always see in the CGI imagesthat says "fake". No good s-f films being made, so now that I have a dvd player,I'm catching up on Star Trek Voyager episodes.

Subject: Star Trek (original series)

Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 18 Feb 2005 05:30:26 GMT
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I've been meaning to pick up the original series on DVD. I must have seen each one a dozen times, but sometimes I feel like watching a particular episode again. It would be great to have it handy on DVD."Damnit Scotty, if we don't have warp drive in five minutes we're all dead!"

Subject: Re: Star Trek (original series)
Posted by lon on Fri, 18 Feb 2005 17:46:36 GMT
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I remember reading the Making Of Star Trek book and backon TOS (The Original Series) the costume designer wrote abouthow he worked in as much cheesecake as he could for thealien babes. Even the terra babes on the crew had short skirts. In the revival series' they took an absolutelyPuritan approach in the 80's. Then came Jeri Ryan asSeven Of Nine in ST-V (Star Trek Voyager.) Still, thereseems to be consistent pattern of keeping sex out of the program-- unlike the rest of tv and unlike ST-TOS. The future isn't what it used to be.

Subject: Re: Star Trek (original series)
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 19 Feb 2005 06:11:39 GMT
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You know, I never thought about it but I think you're right. Certainly, the original Star Trek regularly had a love interest for Kirk, and she was always a babe. And there was always ensign Rand too. Seemed like all alien women were dolls, maybe that's why so many people are fascinated with ET's Original Star Trek CastEnsign Janice RandThe next generation Star Trek might have been more conservative, but there was always the tension between Deanna Troi and Commander Riker. That and her cleavage spiced things up a bit. And sometimes they would throw in a little chemistry between Dr. Crusher and Captain Picard too.Next Generation CastDeanna Troi

Subject: Re: Star Trek (original series)
Posted by lon on Sat, 19 Feb 2005 08:01:29 GMT
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And if the costume guidelines reflecting 1960's stylewere to continue into the Next Generation and have elements of our current age, the female crew mmbers would havehip huggers and bare

midriffs. I actually think a lot more care is taken with the newerseries. It's less broad and not as much scenery chewing. The features films, with notable exceptions, have beengetting better in that there is less 'fan service' (a termused in anime quite a bit) and more story. If the plot lines were written then as they are now, the Borg collective would be a reference to Communism I suppose. I stopped watching tv after the first episode of ST-V, not because I didn't like Voyager, I had just had it with commercial televison.I never went back. But now I can watch the content without the advertising.

Subject: Re: Star Trek (original series)
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 19 Feb 2005 11:46:32 GMT
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I was impressed with Roddenberry's ability to put a friendly face on people of cultures that many Americans viewed in a lesser sense, sometimes as lower class and sometimes as faceless enemies. Navigator ensign Pavel Chekov was a Russian who was patriotic and proud of his heritage. This is remarkable, since most Americans saw Russians with distrust in 1968. Lieutenant Sulu was a very capable crew member, and he was Japanese. This coming only 20 years after WWII, when most Americans still saw Japanese with contempt, and considered all Japanese products to be only slightly better than nothing at all. Lieutenant Uhura was the dependable and sexy communications officer at a time when America was torn up with race riots in every city. Everyone on the bridge had distinct culteral heritage that they were proud of and each respected the unique qualities of the others.

Subject: Re: Star Trek (original series)
Posted by lon on Sat, 19 Feb 2005 18:04:27 GMT
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ST-TOS was a landmark show. So much so that people never forgotit and initiated a 20 year campaign to bring it back to television.I agree that the characters represented all that is best aboutan inclusive society. But I wonder how that one episode with 2 primative peoplesat perpetual war with each other would be viewed today. I'mthinking of the one that concludes with Kirk reciting the Declaration of Independence. Even as a kid, that choked me up a little bit when hearing it. Today 30% of high schoolkids polled are in favor of a reduction of freedom fora spurious security. The fact is that productions these days are made by businessadministrators rather than even studio heads. So the production landscape has become severely limited. And there's not enough of us old trekkies to keep it going. Think of what they did with that show in symbolic andartistic terms: showing the race conflict of the time as a fight between two men, each having a half/half skin coloron opposite sides-- and when they spoke they reflected each other'simage. That one was written by Harlan Ellison. Ellison is now one of the senior figures in s-f and fantasy, mostly as a consultant andeditor. As a final aside, I wish I knew all the authors of those episodeswho worked under pseudonyms. Major figures of that era wrote some of them

under pen names.

Subject: Re: Star Trek (original series)
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 09:53:30 GMT
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I was thinking of the episode with the "Combs" and the "Yanks" when I wrote my last post. I remember that one, and how they did it in reference to the "Communists" and the "Yankess," on some planet with similar history, but one that endured an apocalyptic world war between them that destroyed everything and sent them back to the stone age. And now that you mention it, I remember the show with the black and white characters, and how the author used it to show absurdity of prejudice from skin color. No one could tell which was which until half way through the show when the leader of the lefties (or the righties, whichever) said that one race had black on the left side and the other was black on the right.

Subject: Re: Troy
Posted by mollecon on Tue, 01 Mar 2005 15:33:45 GMT
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I saw Troy both in the theater and (lately) on HT. And, it's not a big movie in the classical sense - it's entertaining, and somewhat longish... Effects tends to tire out quickly, as soon as we get accustomed to them - but the sound on HT is great with this movie.Maybe you're right about these movies being made in the aftermath of 11/9. I think that the success of the Lord of the Ring movies also had a big impact on the producers - quiote a few 'big battles and swords' movies lately.
