

# Trekkie treat

**Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home**  
Paramount Pictures  
Paramount Theatre

review by Glenn St-Germain

At the end of *Star Trek III*, Spock was rescued from the Genesis Planet just before it blew up; the Enterprise had been destroyed, and Admiral James T. Kirk and company had only a small Klingon ship at their disposal.

The adventure continues in *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*.

While Spock was being re-educated, Kirk and his companions (McCoy, Scotty, Chekov, Uhura, and Sulu) waited on Vulcan, knowing that they'd face court-martial once they arrive on Earth. (After all, they did steal a starship and disobey orders by going to Genesis.)

They decide to face what's coming to them and return to Earth in the Klingon bird-of-prey ship. On the way, they receive news that Earth is being attacked by a large space probe. Reason: Earth is not responding to its call.

Spock and Uhura determine that the call is being made in the song language of the humpback whale — (a creature which has been extinct for two centuries). So the gang decide to travel into the past to get one. Using the "slingshot" effect to create a timewarp (a device used in a couple of TV episodes), they travel to early 1987.

This is a fun movie. Really. Most of the fun is derived from watching the Starfleet gang interact with the 1980's. Anachronistic interaction has always been fun; the film brings back to mind TV episodes like "Tomorrow Is Yesterday" and "Assignment: Earth", in which the Enterprise crew visit the 1960's (then the "present").

Even on its own, without *Star Trek I, II, and III* (not to mention the TV series) it's a pretty good flick (although if one isn't familiar with the series and the characters, one would miss a lot of the subtleties).



Then again, anyone not familiar with *Star Trek* must have spent the last 20 years on Mars...

Leonard Nimoy directed (as he did the last film), and handled things capably, most of the time. The early scenes on Vulcan were a little stiff and awkward, and continuity was choppy in a few places.

The special effects were up to the usual standards; there were less space scenes than in the other films, so the computer animation introduced in *Star Trek III* wasn't well showcased.

*Star Trek IV* also provided for thought, raising the issue of ecology and what we're doing to this planet. Whales (and several other species of animals) have been hunted to near-extinction; by *Star Trek's* 23rd Century, many of the wildlife we take for granted are gone and the world was worse off for it.

*Star Trek IV* is definitely worth seeing if you even, remotely, sort of, like *Star Trek*. And true, die-hard Trekkies will love this one.

# Movie made for T.V.

Taipan

review by Stephen Pandke and Alex Shetsen

If you want to see a mini-series but don't want to waste time planning your television schedule around it, see *Tai-Pan*. It's a movie! It's a mini-series! It's a mini-series-movie!

It's boring. Bryan Brown stars as daring Dirk Struan, an opium trader who is kicked out of China and decides to start a trading centre at the then non-inhabited island of Hong Kong. Brown is one of many strong actors in this picture whose talent is wasted. He is surrounded by melodrama.

Joe Chen is simply sick as Dirk's sex slave. Always obedient and willing to please her master — argh! Her performance ought to set back the women's movement a couple of years.

Look out. It's Dirk's arch-enemy Brock played by John Stanton. Played, that is, with

too much effort, too little depth, and not convincingly enough.

Raffaella De Laurentiis. Apparently wanted to shoot the movie ever since she read the book. Her wish was finally fulfilled. And it shows, since the picture looks as though it were filmed entirely on a whim. Expensive, overproduced and underacted, more time and money should have been directed toward the screenplay, not to mention hiring actors. As it is, the characters look more as if they were playing house. It is ludicrous to spend so much money on sets, effects, and location, and then entrust the acting to second-rate line mumbler.

All in all, it is a shame to have to spend five bucks on the movie when the whole production would have looked so much better as an ABC mini-series. The producers probably thought they'd make the movie and the audience would arrive in droves. Right. Wrong. They'll be staying away in droves.

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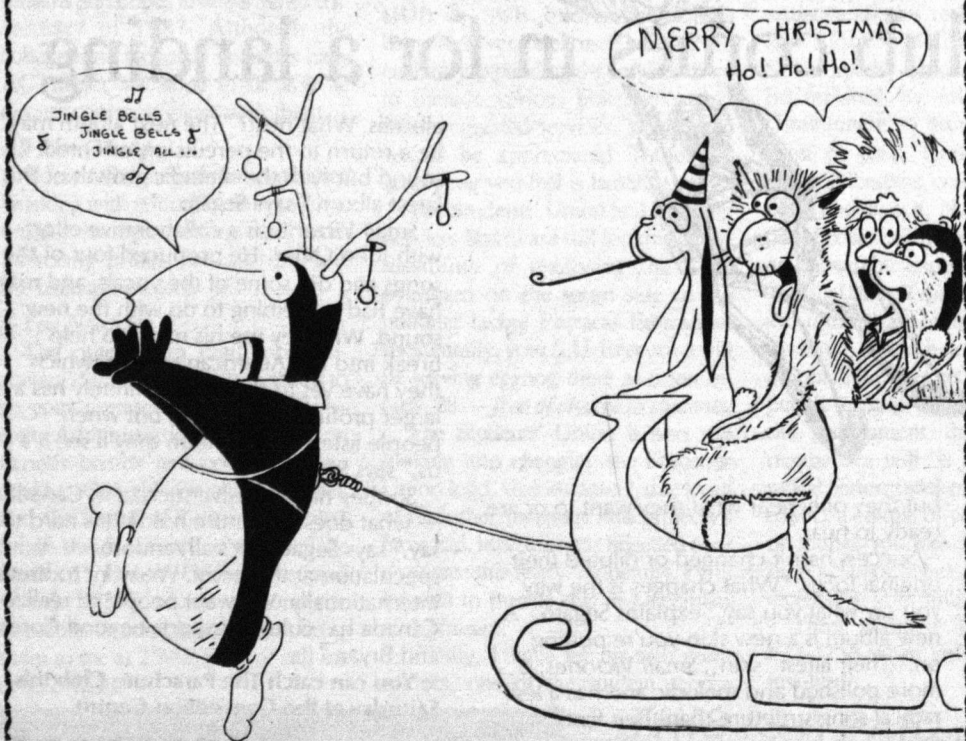
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