

# Sci-fi programs capture the tube

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Editor

The rare attempts to create the wondrous worlds of science fiction on television often fall far short of viewers' expectations.

Still, the new season promises to be brimming with new Sci-Fi ventures and with the incredible success of Star Wars, you can bet that trend-conscious TV execs are scrambling wildly to acquire more properties.

The biggest news to fans is, of course, the return of Star Trek, the milestone Sci-Fi series to which all others are invariably compared.

Scheduled to return in April, the revised version is the result of Paramount and creator Gene Roddenberry's inability to produce a viable treatment of the show for the theaters.

The project seemed dead until Paramount scheduled the show as part of that company's attempt to create a "fourth network" on Saturday nights.

The show's return may be what all Sci-Fi fans have been

clamoring for, but whether it includes the original cast remains to be seen. Hopefully, Roddenberry will be given the freedom necessary to produce the show properly, Leonard Nimoy or no.

But Star Trek isn't the only Sci-Fi show on TV.

CBS has introduced the ambitious Logan's Run, but, unfortunately, lackluster special effects and acting may kill the show before it has a chance to develop.

Sci-Fi great Harlan Ellison has written a promising future episode, however, so all may not be lost.

Also on CBS is the revamped Wonder Woman. Joining her on the network throughout the year will be several Marvel Comics superheroes including the Hulk and Captain America. The first such effort, Spider-Man, was interesting, but marred by ponderous action and a terrible costume.

ABC will be sticking with its own comic-like Six Million Dollar Man, having sent his counterpart the Bionic Woman



Art by Raphael Aguila & B.S. Rodj

to NBC.

At the new network, Jaime (Emmy-winner Lindsay Wagner) has acquired a new Bionic companion, a dog named Max who can out-act Lee Majors any day!

The Man from Atlantis, who was previewed in four made-for-TV movies last year, is also on the network. Although these

had good ratings, I wonder how often the mad-scientist-in-underwater-setting-cliche' can be reworked.

In the wings for NBC is Quark, a Star Trek-take off about a space-faring garbage scow.

J.R.R. Tolkien fans (and who isn't) will be pleased to learn that the network plans to

air a fully-animated version of The Hobbit Nov. 27.

Also in the works are adaptations of the classic Martian Chronicles and Stranger in a Strange Land.

Independent projects include an animated version of Flash Gordon from King Features Syndicate and a live-action pilot for a Buck Rogers series.