



SET TO STUN

BENNU STATION SFR-119

STARDATE 2301.28

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VIEW FROM THE CENTER SEAT

WOW....

This month has flown by. 1/12th of the year is gone already. I have less time than I have ever had to do all that I want to do. I think they have shrunk the day to like 20 hours or something. Chapter wise we had a good month. We went to the holodeck and was immersed into a water wonderland or anyway it sure seemed real. I think they said it was something like it was the way of the water whatever that means. We were given some special glasses and told to wear them so we could see the Avatar. It was very interesting. We also had the privilege to attend the 30th Anniversary Celebration that the USS Aries was having. Our chapter made an award for their fellowship for the 30 years of friendship. Our chapter meeting was on the 30th and we discussed plans for our Picnic and Chili Cook-off as well as other away possibilities. 2023 is shaping up to look like a great year for our chapter.

We also gained a new STARFLEET member, and he has brought us two others interested. He found our business card that we leave at places when we go there. So it does pay to have them.

Until the next report, may you have GodSpeed at all times.

**VADM Ben C. Redding
CO Bennu Station SFR-119**



COMMAND

COMMODORE ANTHONY LEOPARD
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Hello Bennu Station, It's hard to believe that we are already almost a month into 2023. The past year was truly one to be remembered or maybe I should say hopefully forgotten (jk). It included watch parties, online meetings, the Bennu Memorial Day Picnic/Chili Cook Off and of course the Region One Summit. We lost some good friends but made some new ones.

As 2023 begins, we have a new STARFLEET administration in office, which holds promise of bigger and brighter things to come for our chapter. There are more ways to become involved in our parent organization today than ever before. Petfleet is looking for someone to be the Newsletter Editor and someone to be the Membership Records Keeper. For additional information on volunteer opportunities within STARFLEET International please visit <https://sfi.org/humanoidresources/>.

STARFLEET Tactical (SFTA) is now manned and ready build a great service with a new Director Matthew Davies and Deputy Director Nick Young. For those not aware SFTA is a new STARFLEET Auxiliary Service that will be working toward three primary goals:

- 1 - Build an internal community of gamers within SFI, to include 'looking for group' features, member engagement and camaraderie.
- 2 - Build a team that can plan, coordinate, and execute gaming tournaments and events throughout SFI, and mentor others on how to do so as well.
- 3 - Build a community of mentors for various games and game types (TTRPG, Game Mastering, Virtual tabletop selection, etc.).

If interested in Joining SFTA, and helping please reach out to them at o.ashbender@gmail.com.

Finally, just a reminder about the XO Challenge in which I am challenging each member of the station to take at least one academy course each month. I am hoping to purchase awards this next month to be given out to the member who takes the most courses. Get er done!

That is it for this month, so until next time. Stay Cool and Keep it Real.



Command



LT COMMANDER ANGELA LEOPARD

SENIOR CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER

Quark a Great Star Trek Character

I wasn't sure what to write about for my article this month. I spent several weeks trying to come up with ideas. But recently, I have been catching up on some Star Trek episodes that I had never seen before. I came into the Star Trek Fandom in my adult hood, and I have really grown to love the various series.

I really enjoy the newer ones like Discovery, Picard, and of course Strange New Worlds. And who could forget Lower Decks and Prodigy. Enterprise is one of my older favorites. These past few weeks though, I have been watching Deep Space 9, and I wish that I had gotten to see it when it first came out.

There are so many great characters. Sisko is a great leader for the station and father to his son. But I must admit, Quark is one of my favorite characters of all. I love his banter with Odo. On the surface, Quark is quite a flawed individual. He seems very greedy and scheming and always out for that latinum. But in several episodes he has really come a long way as a person.

There was an episode where Sisko, Jake, Quark, and Nog went camping for the boys science project, and Sisko and Quark were taken captive by the Jem Hadar. During the first part of the trip Quark complained ceaselessly about nature, the terrible food, and bugs. However, after they were taken captive, Quark overcame his fear and helped with the escape.

I especially enjoyed the episode where Quark gets married to the Klingon female. The start of the episode Quark accidentally kills the Klingon's husband, and she takes Quark captive and tricks him into marrying her so she can keep control of her household. Quark really comes through for her. He helps her review their financials and they discover that her brother in law had taken money from the household, and he steps up to defend her later on even though he may be hurt during a fight. In the end Quark helps her keep her title and control of the household and finances.

As a fan, I like so many different characters and episodes, but these few stood out recently. I hope you agree. Until next time, Have a great month. See you next time.



LIEUTENANT JG SARAH ZIEGLER
SENIOR CHIEF COUNSELOR

Winter Safety Tips

Although we live in the southern part of the United States and rarely have severe weather, it is still important to maintain safety during the cold, winter weather. Below are some tips to help you during the coldest part of the year:

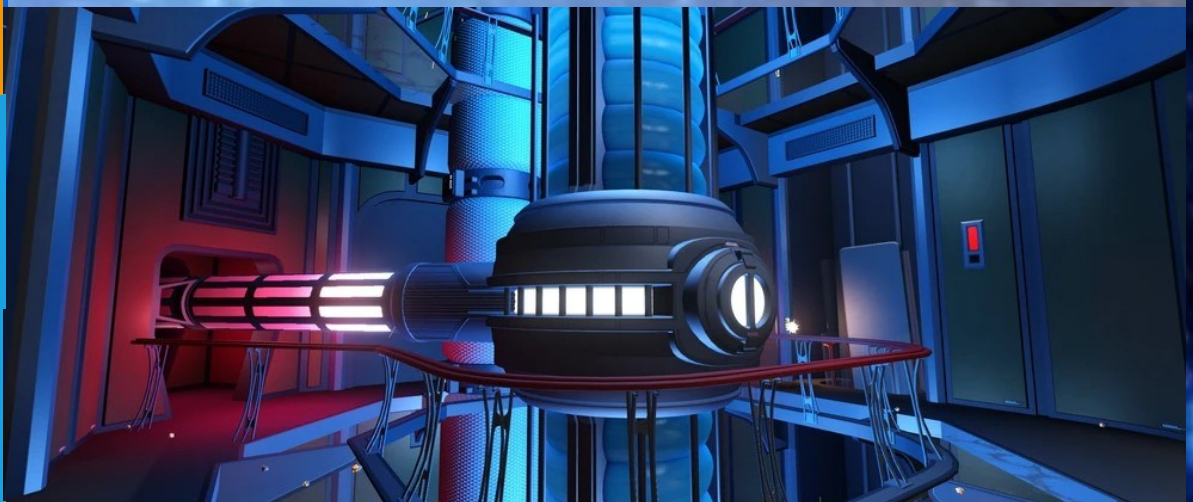
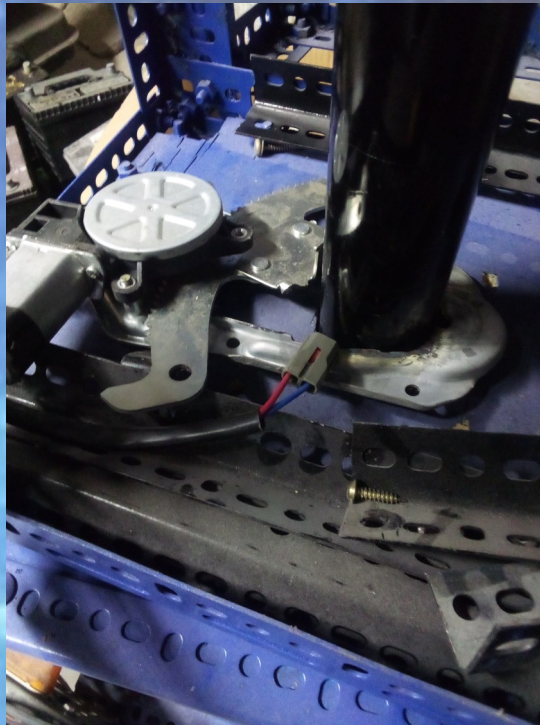
- ♦ Know the difference between a winter storm warning, winter storm advisory, and a winter storm watch. A winter storm warning means that hazardous winter weather such as sleet, snow, or ice is imminent or occurring. A winter storm advisory means that sleet, snow, freezing rain, or ice will cause significant inconvenience. A winter storm watch means that a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet will fall. The watch typically begins approximately 12 to 48 hours before the storm occurs.
- ♦ Prepare your home prior to winter weather including ensuring you have enough insulation in your homes, including your pipes and hot water heaters. Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure that they are working.
- ♦ Ensure you have extra batteries, flashlights, and blankets handy just in case the power goes out. Have a stock of nonperishable foods and bottled water on hand at your house.
- ♦ Create an emergency supply kit for your car including jumper cables, a flashlight, blankets, bottled water, and nonperishable foods. Of course the safest thing that you can do during hazardous winter weather is to stay off the roads.



LEUTENANT BRYAN BUCKNER
SENIOR CHIEF ENGINEERING OFFICER

Hello Crew of Bennu Station

The old year has ended and the new year has begun. I'm sure that we will have a lot of activities to look forward to. As of the first of this month, I have resumed my quest for building materials for the NX-02 shuttle. Over the last several years, sheet metal has more than doubled. As I wait for materials, I have continued my work, or refit, of the robot R.A. (Robot Alpha). The next step to refit RA is the mechanism that will make its upper body to turn. The machine is designed, once the arms are mounted, for the upper body to turn long-ways to keep the center of gravity. This is supposed to keep it from tipping over while it is moving. I will be posting updates for the shuttle and the robot in the Engineering Department section. I want to thank Anthony Leopard for his work on the newsletter and the work for the station. Thanks Anthony!



DS9 DEBUTED ON JANUARY 3RD IN 1993 WITH A PILOT ENTITLED "EMISSARY." THE TWO-HOUR PILOT, DIRECTED BY DAVID CARSON AND BOOSTED BY A CROSSOVER APPEARANCE BY PATRICK STEWART AS CAPTAIN PICARD, SNAGGED NEARLY 20 PERCENT OF THE SYNDICATED AUDIENCE THAT NIGHT, MAKING IT, AT THE TIME, THE TOP-RATED SERIES PREMIERE IN FIRST-RUN SYNDICATION HISTORY.

THE VOYAGER EPISODE "WAKING MOMENTS," AIRED ON JANUARY 14TH IN 1998. A FOURTH-SEASON HOUR, IT WAS ALL ABOUT DREAMS AND ZOMBIES AND IT MARKED THE FINAL CONTRIBUTION BY DIRECTOR ALEXANDER SINGER, WHO ULTIMATELY HELMED A GRAND TOTAL OF 22 EPISODES OF TNG, DS9 AND VOYAGER.

ASTRONAUT OF THE MONTH BUZZ ALDRIN, PH.D. (COLONEL, USAF, RET.)

[HTTPS://WWW.NASA.GOV/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/ATOMS/FILES/ALDRIN_BUZZ.PDF](https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/aldrin_buzz.pdf)

PERSONAL DATA:

Born January 20, 1930, in Montclair, New Jersey. Two sons, one daughter. Married to the former Lois Driggs Cannon of Phoenix. Their combined family is comprised of six grown children and one grandson.

EDUCATION:

Graduated from Montclair High School, Montclair, New Jersey; received a bachelor of science degree in 1951 from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, graduating third in his class; and a doctorate of science in Astronautics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge. His thesis was "Guidance for Manned Orbital Rendezvous." Aldrin has honorary degrees from six colleges and universities.

SPECIAL HONORS:

Aldrin has received numerous decorations and awards, including the Presidential Medal for Freedom in 1969, the Robert J. Collier Trophy, the Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy, and the Harmon International Trophy in 1967.

NASA EXPERIENCE:

Aldrin was one of the third group of astronauts named by NASA in October 1963.

On November 11, 1966, he



and command pilot James Lovell were launched into space in the Gemini 12 spacecraft on a 4-day flight, which brought the Gemini program to a successful close. Aldrin established a new record for extravehicular activity (EVA), spending 5-1/2 hours outside the spacecraft.

He served as lunar module pilot for Apollo 11, July 16-24, 1969, the first manned lunar landing mission. Aldrin followed Neil Armstrong onto the lunar surface on July 20, 1969, completing a 2-hour and 15 minute lunar EVA.

In July 1971, Aldrin resigned from NASA. Aldrin has logged 289 hours and 53 minutes in space, of which, 7 hours and 52 minutes were spent in EVA.

EXPERIENCE:

Prior to joining NASA, Aldrin

flew 66 combat missions in F-86's while on duty in Korea. At Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, he served as an aerial gunnery instructor. Following his assignment as aide to the dean of faculty at the Air Force Academy, Aldrin flew F-100's as a flight commander at Bitburg, Germany. He went on to receive a doctorate at MIT, and was then assigned to the Gemini Target Office of the Air Force Space Systems Division, Los Angeles. In March 1972, Aldrin retired from Air Force active duty, after 21 years of service. As a USAF jet fighter pilot during the Korean War, he shot down two MIG 15 aircraft.

Since retiring from NASA, the Air Force, and his position as commander of the USAF Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in 1972, he authored an autobiography, "Return to Earth". Aldrin has remained at the forefront of efforts to ensure a continued leading role for America in manned space exploration to advance his life-long commitment to venturing outward in space.

In addition, he lectures throughout the world on his unique perspective of America's future in space. He also authored a book about the Apollo Program titled "Men from Earth".

FEBRUARY EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<u>1</u> <u>Bill Mumy's</u> Birthday	<u>2</u> <u>Brent Spiner's</u> Birthday	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> Watch Party
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> <u>Ethan Phillips'</u> Birthday	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> Watch Party
<u>12</u> First Landing On Surface of an Asteroid (Eros)	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> Valentine's Day <u>Andrew Robinson's</u> Birthday	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> <u>Christopher Eccleston's</u> Birthday <u>LeVar Burton's</u> Birthday <u>Tammy Macitosh's</u> Birthday	<u>17</u> <u>Michelle Forbes's</u> Birthday	<u>18</u> Watch Party
<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> <u>Justin Louis's</u> Birthday First American orbits the Earth Mir Space Station Placed in Orbit	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> <u>Jeri Ryan's</u> Birthday	<u>23</u> <u>Majel Barrett's</u> Birthday	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> Watch Party
<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Bennu Online Meeting	<u>28</u>				

BENNU BY THE NUMBERS

STARFLEET ACADEMY COURSES

Angela Leopard
COSD 121B - NX-01 Schematics

Anthony Leopard
COSD 121 - NX-01 Schematics
COSD 121A - NX-01 Schematics
COSD 121B - NX-01 Schematics
COSD 121C - NX-01 Schematics
COSD 121D - NX-01 Schematics



Officers 12
Enlisted 12
Cadets 5

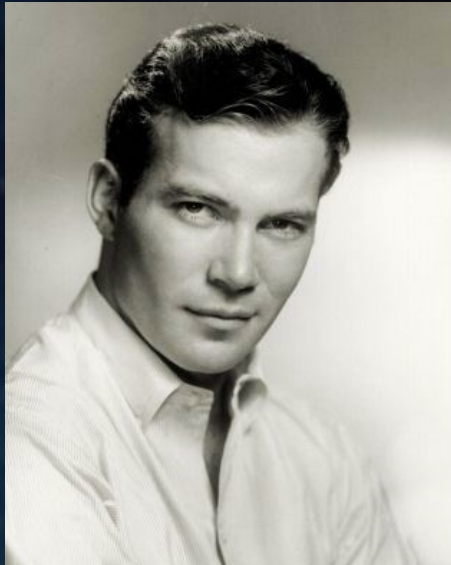
WILLIAM SHATNER (AKA JAMES T. KIRK)

[HTTPS://WWW.STARTREK.COM/DATABASE_ARTICLE/SHATNER](https://www.startrek.com/database_article/shatner)

It's said that a role as highly visible as James T. Kirk in the Star Trek franchise can be the "kiss of death" to a professional acting career, but it doesn't seem to have hurt William Shatner. The Canadian actor attended McGill University where he was active in theater productions on campus. During his summers through college, Shatner performed in the Royal Mount Theater Company. When he graduated in 1952 with a B.A., Shatner began work at the National Repertory Theater of Ottawa. He eventually won co-starring roles in plays such as *The Merchant of Venice* and *Henry V*, as well as the Most Promising Actor award. After a run in New York in the play, *Tamburlaine*, Shatner was signed to a seven-year contract by 20th Century Fox. He married a Canadian actress, Gloria Rand, and honeymooned in Scotland. It was something of a working honeymoon, however, as Shatner had a role in an Edinburgh Festival production of *Henry V*.

After his honeymoon, Shatner returned to New York, where he guest starred on numerous series, including the anthology programs *Goodyear Playhouse*, *Circle Theater*, *Philco Playhouse*, *Studio One* and the series *The Defenders*. Then came his movie debut, *The Brothers Karamazov*, with Richard Basehart. Not wanting to miss out on the Western genre that was so prominent in Hollywood, Shatner learned to ride a horse and to rope.

Next, Shatner landed the starring role in the two-year Broadway run of *The Secret Life of Suzie Wong*. This was followed by *A Shot in the Dark* with Julie Harris and then *L'Idiot*, all on Broadway.



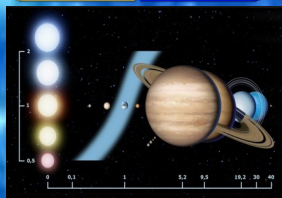
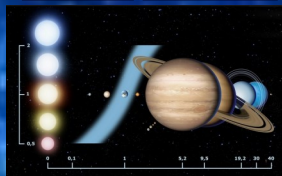
In 1961, Shatner landed two films, *The Intruder*, where he plays a rabble-rouser traveling from one Southern town to another, getting people to riot against court-ordered school integration. It was later released under the titles *I Hate Your Guts!* and *Shame*. Shatner also appeared in the film classic, *Judgment at Nuremberg*.

Then came the role for which he is undoubtedly best known: Captain James T. Kirk on *Star Trek*. Shatner actually joined the series for its second pilot, when Jeffrey Hunter declined to continue in the role of Captain Christopher Pike after the first pilot was rejected. Unfortunately, during the three years that *Star Trek* series ran, Shatner not only separated from his wife, but lost his father, as well.

Following the cancellation of *Star Trek* on NBC in 1968, Shatner went on to voice Kirk in *Star Trek: The Animated Series* and to play the iconic character in seven *Star Trek* films. He also directed one of the *Trek* features, *Star*

Trek V: The Final Frontier. Throughout that period and beyond, he made appearances in countless television series (including several long-running non-*Star Trek* series in which he played a leading role—*T.J. Hooker*, *TekWar* and *Rescue 911*, among them), and to serve as the long-term, highly visible pitchman for *Priceline.com*. Over the years, the actor's self-assertive sense of humor has come to define his career, and even translated into the personality of his Emmy Award-winning character, Attorney Denny Crane, of *The Practice* and *Boston Legal*. He also made such films as *Sole Survivor*, and the Sherlock Holmes classic, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Fanboys*, *Miss Congeniality*, *Just in Time for Christmas* and *Senior Moment*. Guest appearances on such series as *The Sixth Sense*, *Columbo*, *Barnaby Jones*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *Third Rock from the Sun*, *Futurama*, *Hot in Cleveland*, *Psych*, *Haven* and *Murdoch Stories* have kept him in the public eye for decades. And, from 2010-2011, he starred in *\$#!*! My Dad Says*. In addition, Shatner has written numerous fiction and non-fiction books in and out of the *Star Trek* vein, directed films, hosted talk shows, recorded several albums, and produced a number of documentaries, including *The Five Captains*.

Off-screen, Shatner has appeared at countless conventions over the years, many alongside Leonard Nimoy, until the latter retired from the circuit in 2011. Shatner, in 2017, hosted/inaugurated the first Official *Star Trek* Cruise. He also breeds champion American Saddlebred horses on his ranch in Kentucky, and produces and hosts the annual Hollywood Charity Horse Show, an event that has raised millions of dollars for a variety of children's charities.



TEN FORWARD DELIGHTS

ANDORIAN CHILI



INGREDIENTS:

1.5 LBS LEAN GROUND MAKRA (GROUND BEEF)

1 SMALL ONION CHOPPED

1 GREEN PEPPER SEEDED AND CHOPPED

2 CLOVES GARLIC MINCED

2 TEASPOONS CUMIN

1 TEASPOON DRIED OREGANO

1 TEASPOON PAPRIKA

1 TABLESPOON CHILI POWDER

1 TEASPOON ONION POWDER

1 TABLESPOON BROWN SUGAR

1/8 - 1/4 TEASPOON GROUND CAYENNE PEPPER

2 CANS (15 OUNCE) BLACK BEANS DRAINED & RINSED (RESERVE 1 CUP)

1 can (14.5 ounce) fire roasted diced tomatoes

1 CAN (14.5 OUNCE) LOW SODIUM BEEF BROTH

2 TABLESPOONS TOMATO PASTE

KOSHER SALT AND FRESH GROUND BLACK PEPPER

TOPPINGS:

SOUR CREAM

SHREDDED CHEDDAR CHEESE

CHOPPED GREEN ONIONS

IN A LARGE STOCKPOT, BROWN GROUND BEEF OVER MEDIUM HEAT. ADD ONIONS AND PEPPERS AND COOK FOR 4-5 MINUTES. ADD GARLIC AND COOK FOR ADDITIONAL 60 SECONDS.

STIR IN CUMIN, OREGANO, PAPRIKA, CHILI POWDER, ONION POWDER, BROWN SUGAR, AND CAYENNE PEPPER. STIR IN BLACK BEANS (EXCEPT FOR THE RESERVED BEANS) DICED TOMATOES, AND BEEF BROTH. SIMMER FOR 10 MINUTES.

MIX THE TOMATO PASTE WITH 1/4 CUP OF THE HOT BROTH. STIR INTO THE CHILI.

RUN THE RESERVED BLACK BEANS THROUGH A FOOD PROCESSOR OR MASH THEM WITH AN OLD-STYLE POTATO MASHER. STIR THEM INTO THE CHILI. SIMMER FOR 20 MINUTES. SEASON WITH SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE.

IF DESIRED, TOP WITH SOUR CREAM, SHREDDED CHEDDAR, AND GREEN ONIONS.

TO GET THE WAITER'S ATTENTION



GIVE THEM GOWRON EYES

Restaurant of the Month

PIZZA INN
5420 Clinton Hwy
Knoxville, TN 37912
(865) 357-7499



INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL ARTS:
COLLEGE OF MEDICAL STUDIES (CMDS)
COURSES NOW OPEN!

THE NEW COURSES ARE NOW OPEN AND THE PDFS ARE ALL AVAILABLE TO TAKE. STARFLEET ACADEMY SERVICES IS WORKING ON ADDING THE CERTIFICATES AND OPENING THE QAM (ONLINE) QUIZZES. SO FAR, CMDS 101, 102, AND 103 ARE ALSO AVAILABLE TO TAKE VIA QAM (ONLINE).

EACH CMDS COURSE PAGE LISTS WHICH CMED (COLLEGE OF MEDICINE) COURSES THAT COURSE IS REPLACING.



INPUT NEEDED

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY EVENTS HAPPENING IN OUR REGION THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS, PLEASE FORWARD THE INFORMATION TO EVENTS@R1.SFI.ORG TO GET ADDED TO THE REGIONAL EVENT LIST AND CALENDAR! THIS INCLUDES CHAPTER, REGIONAL, FLEET, AND CONVENTIONS!

TREK BIRTHDAYS

JAN 01, 1940	FRANK LANGELLA	DS9 - MINISTER JARO
JAN 01, 1964	FAMKE JANSSEN	TNG - KAMALA
JAN 02, 1922	JASON EVERS	TOS - RAEEL
JAN 06, 1969	ARON EISENBERG	DSN - NOG / VOY - KAR
JAN 08, 1943	STEPHAN HAWKING	TNG - PLAYED HIMSELF
JAN 12, 1951	KIRSTIE ALLEY	WOK - SAAVIK
JAN 15, 1905	TORIN THATCHER	TOS - MARPLON
JAN 15, 1947	ANDREA MARTIN	DS9 - ISHKA MOOGIE
JAN 16, 1938	MICHAEL PATAKI	TOS - KORAX
JAN 20, 1920	DEFOREST KELLEY	TOS / TNG - DR. MCCOY
JAN 24, 1944	DAVID GERROLD	TOS - AUTHOR/SCRIPTWRITER
JAN 27, 1942	JAMES CROMWELL	FC - ZEFRAM COCHRANE
JAN 30, 1963	DAPHNE ASHBROOK	DS9 - MELORA



Report to the Holodeck

JANUARY MOVIE REVIEW "M3GAN"

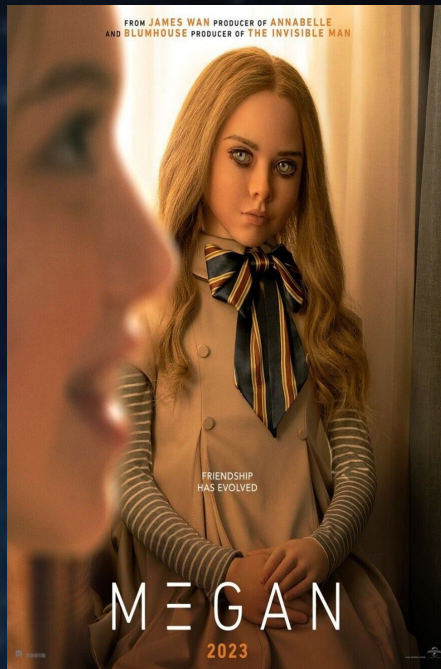
<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/m3gan-movie-review-2023>

The marketing for "M3gan" has leaned into the uncanny spectacle of the title character, a four-foot-tall cyborg with big doe eyes, a ratty wig, and the wardrobe of a closeted lesbian headmistress in a '50s melodrama. And it seems to be working: A well-placed GIF here, an activation with a half-dozen women in M3gan drag there, and Blumhouse—always expert at creating buzz—has generated more interest in "M3gan" than there's been for the last five horror films dumped into the bleak theatrical landscape of early January. But the company could have gone another route as well. In case you haven't heard, this film comes to you from the writer of "Malignant."

For that film, James Wan directed a script by Akela Cooper, a longtime TV writer with a sideline in horror screenplays. The duo perfectly calibrated the movie's blend of haunted-house scares and outrageous grotesquerie, enough to make "Malignant" a viral hit when it was released on HBO Max in the fall of 2021. Now Cooper is a horror screenwriter who also works in television, and she's been brought into the Blumhouse fold to develop a sequel to the "Conjuring"-verse spin-off "The Nun" as well as writing "M3gan" from a story by herself and Wan.

Like "Malignant," "M3gan" knows it's ridiculous. It fills a kiddie pool with ridiculousness and splashes around in it. Cooper's screenplay for "M3gan" is more overtly comedic than "Malignant," however, and has a more populist type of appeal as a result. (The audience at a Chicago preview of the film went crazy for it.) The themes are your classic "science gone amok" fare seen in everything from "Frankenstein" to "Jurassic Park," combined with a more modern throughline exploring anxieties about motherhood and filtered through the knowingly silly lens of the "tiny terrors" subgenre. "Child's Play" is the most famous example of that last category, and many comparisons have been and will be made between M3gan (an acronym for "Model 3 Generative ANDroid") and Chucky. Their motivations are different, however: Chucky's boy Andy was a victim of his doll as much as anyone else, while M3gan is fiercely protective of her girl, nine-year-old Cady (Violet McGraw).

The film opens with a sequence that establishes its subsequent tone of garish satire and mischievous morbidity, as Cady plays with an obnoxious Furby-like toy called a Purpetaul Pet in the backseat of a car. She and her parents are on their way to an Oregon ski lodge for a winter vacation—until a snow plow appears out of nowhere, "Final Destination" style, and kills Cady's



parents. Cut to Gemma (Allison Williams), an inventor working for a high-tech toy company called Funki in Seattle. Gemma is Cady's aunt and the girl's legal guardian now that her sister and brother-in-law are dead.

But Gemma isn't a motherly type. She's too busy with work to spend much time with Cady, for one. And although she works for a toy company, she keeps her toys—sorry, collectibles—in their boxes and on a shelf in her living room. But these two are now the only family the other one has. So they'll have to learn to live together, at least well enough to satisfy a court-ordered psychiatrist who's skeptical about Gemma's parenting abilities.

Enter M3gan, who seems like the perfect solution to Gemma's problem. An experimental prototype with a "Short Circuit"-style ability to memorize infinite

amounts of information, M3gan can act as a teacher and babysitter who reminds Cady to use a coaster and wash her hands after using the bathroom. She's what every kid needs, and every parent secretly wants: A 24/7 companion who frees up parents to live their own lives while their kids are preoccupied with their dolls. She's going to make Gemma's boss very, very rich—so rich, he rushes M3gan through beta testing with Cady as their only subject. That can't go horribly wrong in any unforeseen way, right?

With nimble direction from "Housebound" helmer Gerard Johnstone, "M3gan" does a good job of holistically incorporating its themes without being too heavy-handed. Sure, it's technically "about" grief and what happens when the creation surpasses its creator. But more than that, it's "about" pithy one-liners and black comedy and the unsettling sight of something that looks like a human being but doesn't move or sound like one. The plot does have a few weak points and dangling threads, and the PG-13 rating ensures that the violence is tamped down before it can reach its full bloody potential. (A promising sequence of doll-based mayhem late in the film abruptly cuts off, suggesting MPAA-mandated cuts.) But the tongue-in-cheek tone is so consistent that "M3gan" is a hoot anyway.

Johnstone reaps seemingly endless rewards from the uncanny valley aspect of M3gan's character. He directs the petite stunt women who play her to move in odd, jerky gestures, which at different points recall everything from "Robocop" scanning criminals' faces to Samara crawling out of the TV in "The Ring" to voguers high on their fabulousness. (He also uses what I can only describe as "skinned Furby" aesthetics at critical points throughout the film.) Combined with the doll's sassy comebacks and dowdy sartorial sense, the effect is true camp—something that's difficult to pull off in our irony-saturated age.

The quintessential "M3gan" moment comes midway through, when Cady and Gemma take a field trip to check out an alternative school Cady might be able to attend while Gemma is at work during the day. A teacher comes up to Gemma's car, sees what she thinks are two girls sitting in the back seat, and greets them both. M3gan turns towards the woman with a stiff neck rotation and a whirling sound. "Jesus Christ!" the teacher cries, jumping backward and exhaling a nervous laugh. The audience laughs along with her. It's the sensible response to seeing something like M3gan in the wild—it's only through conditioning (or, in this case, advertising) that we learn to love her.

FEBRUARY NEW RELEASES



Knock at the Cabin
February 3rd



Titanic
25th Anniversary
February 10th



Antman and the Wasp
Quantumania
February 17th

THE SQUIRE OF GOTHOS

Y	M	U	H	I	P	G	V	Y	G	Q	L	O	K	X	V	K	T	H	L
U	Q	H	S	A	Z	O	P	F	Q	I	O	Z	N	P	I	E	L	B	S
H	H	K	K	X	A	B	I	N	N	P	I	S	L	R	X	H	Q	L	S
J	Y	A	X	C	D	T	I	J	M	E	O	H	K	Y	F	S	U	N	I
F	R	O	Z	E	N	X	X	C	U	W	S	O	O	P	U	D	U	W	X
G	K	U	M	G	E	X	U	O	U	L	M	D	O	W	O	B	W	P	A
A	D	K	A	A	D	C	R	N	Y	X	V	W	E	G	G	C	H	D	V
T	L	J	R	P	E	J	T	K	K	N	E	S	N	H	D	A	Q	S	P
A	H	I	M	I	P	B	R	Z	Q	R	C	O	L	L	I	S	I	O	N
F	I	T	E	Z	Q	E	N	T	F	B	Z	Y	H	P	N	J	G	F	V
I	C	U	E	N	L	H	D	U	V	K	U	M	Z	W	A	R	V	M	N
Y	Y	H	N	T	J	T	L	O	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	X	I
N	O	L	T	Y	V	T	R	F	P	F	A	M	N	L	Y	M	P	V	H
C	C	G	E	A	C	N	Y	E	T	S	X	W	E	N	Y	C	B	P	K
B	C	V	R	H	G	W	H	K	L	P	P	U	Z	W	F	C	H	O	T
R	M	Y	P	F	B	Y	Y	T	P	A	D	O	H	J	I	B	H	W	E
U	B	Z	R	L	A	V	X	T	Y	Z	N	O	C	N	N	E	M	E	N
O	K	B	I	W	Y	U	K	T	T	R	B	E	U	K	V	C	B	R	A
O	R	S	S	F	L	J	R	E	S	Y	G	L	A	R	M	H	A	W	L
J	Q	J	E	I	G	U	V	B	D	X	J	O	Q	X	B	E	R	Z	P

Word Bank

1. power
5. duel
9. trelane
13. enterprise

2. kirk
6. planet
10. frozen
14. salvation

3. spock
7. beam
11. alien

4. collision
8. powerful
12. mccoys

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