



THE ZOCALO TODAY

Subscribe to The Zocalo

Sandra Bruckner, Editor/Publisher

July 15, 2000

SEEING EAR THEATRE

JMS' first audio drama for the Seeing Ear Theatre premiered on Monday night. "The Damned Are Playing at Godzilla's Tonight" - featuring Steve Buscemi launched a 13-week series by JMS of 30 minute dramas at the Sci-Fi Channel's website.

"Rolling Thunder" - featuring Andre Braugher will be available next week at <http://www.scifi.com/set>. The dramas are very much like the original radio format and I think you will enjoy the story. You'll need Real Audio loaded to listen.

KEEPING UP WITH CAST AND CREW

In the latest issue of TV Zone, we get our first glimpse of Marjean Holden in her new role as Atrina on "Beastmaster". We won't be seeing her episodes for a while, but she says "My character is a bit of a bad girl." Quite a change from her role as Dr. Chambers in Crusade.

Ranger Bridgitte reports that: Goran Gajic (married to Mira Furlan and director of episodes like "All My Dreams Torn Asunder") recently directed an episode of "OZ", the awarding-winning prison drama produced by Levinson/Fontana. Goran's episode titled, "The Bill Of Wrongs" premieres on Wednesday July 26 on HBO. The episode will be shown several times throughout the week. A schedule of times is posted at: <http://mirafurlan.simplenet.com/ozschedule.html>

GROUP PROJECT

As Babylon 5 approaches it's premiere date on the Sci-Fi Channel of September 25, I wonder what resources we could make available to NEW Babylon 5 fans! When the show was on the air, there was a very active on-line community, the Official B5 magazine came out to provide us with information to digest and enjoy, the series would turn up in publications so that we could read about our favorite characters/actors. That will not be the case as these new fans discover Babylon 5. The Official Magazine is gone; the show has all but disappeared from most publications, even in the UK! How can we help new Babylon 5 fans?

I am starting a library of references to information available for new Babylon 5 fans. This will include websites you have found especially helpful in learning more about the show, a list of all the Babylon 5 novels, comic books, reference books, etc.

Send your suggestions for items that should be included in this Library to sgbruckner@aol.com. If you know of a website that should be included, send along the URL and a description of the site and what you found so useful about it. I will open up new pages to the Library as it grows.

SCIOGRAPHY PREMIERES ON SUNDAY AT 9PM ET

Sciography performs an autopsy on sci-fi TV history. This new addition to SCI FI Channel's original programming lineup dissects a classic sci-fi television series to reveal the underbelly, the guts, the heart and machinery that made each series tick. Rather than focusing on singular personalities, Sciography peels away the layers to find out who, what, when and how these shows were created, blossomed, and ultimately died. Sciography brings these shows back to life with exclusive new interviews, never-before-seen footage, rare home videos, outtakes and insights from fans who continue to carry the torch with conventions, Web sites, and clubs. Sciography premieres Sunday, July 16, at 9pm ET.

The first show will focus on "Battlestar Galactica".

PREVIEW OF BABYLON 5 NOVELS

While at DragonCon at the end of the month, I stopped by the DelRey booth and talked to Steve Staffel, the person who takes care of Babylon 5 at DelRey. He gave me a brief run-down of the upcoming novels. I think this will whett your appetite for the upcoming novels.

LEGIONS OF FIRE: OUT OF THE DARKNESS by Peter David is the one fans have been waiting for, and it's going to drive them wild. Ever wonder how Sheridan and DeLenn ended up in that dungeon? How G'Kar happened to be in the throne room at the right moment? Or what the deal was with David Sheridan? Well, this November . . . This is Londo's ultimate descent into hell, and Vir's ascent to the throne. It's a fantastic novel, and I can't imagine that there's a Babylon 5 fan anywhere who would dare miss it.

In March, Jeanne Cavelos begins THE PASSING OF THE TECHNO-MAGES with book one, CASTING SHADOWS. This wonderfully intricate novel delves deep into the culture and the secrets of the techno-mages, and reveals the sequence of events that took them to Babylon 5--and beyond. Elric is here, as are Galen, Alwyn, and even Isabelle. And so are Morden and Anna Sheridan. Before we're done, we'll learn of the reason behind the mages' fear of the Shadows, and we'll have the long-awaited link between B5 and Crusade.

BABYLON 5/CRUSADE IN PRINT

The August issue of Sci-Fi Entertainment has an article entitled, "The Lost Crusade". It is interesting to read comments from cast members about the wonderful relationships developed during the filming and their desire to continue with the project. Marjean Holden points out that they still try to stay in touch and get together for dinner. Seems as if most of the cast has been pretty busy! Peter Woodward with "The Patriot"; Gary Cole doing a movie in Mississippi and two animated series; Carrie Dobro working with her husband in a two-person comedy entitled "Marriage Is Murder"; Marjean now working on "Beastmaster" in Australia; David Allen Brooks has done a few TV guest appearances and is working on a play, and Daniel Dae Kim having done the "Murder She Wrote" movie and an assortment of other TV series appearances.

BABYLON 5 ON SCI-FI CHANNEL IN LETTERBOX FORMAT

"Babylon 5" Series Comes to Sci Fi Channel in Letterboxed Format
Kicked Off by Special Sciography Episode

PASADENA, Calif.--(ENTERTAINMENT WIRE)--July 11, 2000--Sciography will devote an entire episode to the intriguing behind-the-scenes story of Babylon 5 on Sunday, September 24 at 9 PM (ET) as a kick-off to the letterboxed edition of Babylon 5, the series. The Babylon 5 series launches exclusively on SCI FI the following night (September 25) - and will air Monday-Friday at 7 PM. As a special added feature, SCI FI will televise the series as it was originally conceived and produced -- in its never-before-seen letterbox format.

J. Michael Straczynski's dream of a sci-fi series based on a five-year story arc soon turned to nightmare in its actualization. The hour-long Sciography ``Babylon 5" episode gives both fans and the uninitiated a chance to experience the real dramas behind one of the most popular sci-fi series of all time. Television executives' expulsion of the main star of Babylon 5 after the first season, cast members threats to walk off, a distributor in trouble, accidents on set, and a lack of syndication slots for the fifth season -- all forced Straczynski to redevelop his master plan time and time again.

Sciography: Babylon 5, broken down into five ``Acts", takes a look at each season from the eyes of the producer, cast, crew and fans as they comment on all aspects of the show - from casting, story, writing, and its impact on sci-fi/pop culture. While each week a new episode aired, there were countless casualties along the way. Straczynski's master plan took many turns, sometimes echoing the world around him. For instance the B5 dockworkers' strike in ``By Any Means Necessary" was paralleled by the B5 film crew strike; at the end of ``Severed Dreams" Garibaldi (Jerry Doyle) is using a cane to hobble around when-in-fact actor broke his arm during the same episode.

Sciography, an irreverent new entry into cult-of-personality driven programming, is devoted to classic science fiction programs. From Dark Shadows to the Bionic Woman, each episode of Sciography combines clips, interviews, historical footage, relevant news pieces, pop culture tidbits, humor, and fan testimonials, to give an inside look into what made these shows great. Aiming to recount each featured shows' creation, popularity, fan base and historical significance, these tributes will also take a look at the lives of the principal players, both in front of and behind the camera. Sciography ``Babylon 5" is produced by Robert Hughes and executive produced by Andy Schatzberg.

SCI FI Channel, owned and operated by USA Cable, a division of USA Networks, Inc.'s Entertainment unit (NASDAQ: USAI - news), transmits fantastic images to over 63 million human homes. Launched in 1992, SCI FI features a continuous stream of cinematic hits, new and original series, and special events, as well as classic sci-fi, fantasy, and horror programming. Check out SCIFI.COM, the SCI FI Channel's award-winning Web site, at www.scifi.com.

TNT'S SCHEDULE

Monday 7/17/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Exogenesis

Tuesday 7/18/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Messages From Earth

Wednesday 7/19/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Point of No Return

Thursday 7/20/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Severed Dreams

Friday 7/21/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Ceremonies of Light and Dark

Saturday 7/22/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Sic Transit Vir

Monday 7/24/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - A Late Delivery from Avalon

Tuesday 7/25/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Ship of Tears

Wednesday 7/26/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Interludes and Examinations

Thursday 7/27/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - War Without End, Part 1

Friday 7/28/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - War Without End, Part 2

Saturday 7/29/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Walkabout

EVENTS CALENDAR

Slanted Fedora, July 28-30, 2000; Philadelphia, PA

Guest: Claudia Christian, Mary Kay Adams

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.sfedora.com> or send an e-mail note to sfedoral@aol.com.

Crescent City Con, July 28-30, 2000, New Orleans, LA

Guest: Wayne Alexander (Lorien)

For more information, drop a note to Robert Neagle, Chairman, Crescent City Con XI, PO Box 52622, New Orleans, LA 70150-2622 or visit their website at <http://www.fatsnake.com/ccx> or send an e-mail note to ccno@aol.com.

Wizard Chicago Comic Con, August 4-6, 2000; Rosemont, Illinois

Guest: J. Michael Straczynski

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.wizardworld.com/chicago>.

Sci-Fi-Y2K, August 5-6, 2000; Jacksonville, NC

Guest: Claudia Christian, Joshua Cox

For more information, visit their website at <http://uss.white.eagle.tripod.com>.

Gen Con, August 10-13, 2000; Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Guest: Peter Woodward

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.wizards.com>.

This is only a small portion of the overall convention calendar located out at the website.

THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION TOPIC:

A number of movies coming out now are adaptations of stories presented originally in other formats -- books, comic books, etc. Do you think the big screen (or TV) can ever match what has been written by some of the best authors of all time? Give examples of productions that you think have worked -- and those that have failed.

Send your responses to either TheZocalo@aol.com or b5web@aol.com. You can also post your comments on the message board at www.isnnews.net/board. To see what other readers have posted on this and other topics, follow this link to [Current Discussion Topic](#) page.

LAST WEEK'S TOPIC:

How many of you have read the new scripts JMS made available on www.bookface.com? If you have read them, what did you think of them?

Date: Mon, 10 Jul 2000 11:29:20 AM EDT
From: "Cripe, Helen L."

I've read the JMS scripts mentioned and about all I can say is, Wow!! What powerful stories!! I had guessed a few things in them, but not nearly everything. He did exactly what he always said he would -- flipped the story from the expected disease cure-hunt to something far bigger in scope, and had he had a chance to do the full arc, would probably have brought in even more changes. Wonder if there's any chance at all that he'll novelize the rest of Crusade for us? What a wonderful series of novels that would be -- and these two scripts certainly have us drooling for more.

Date: 7/6/2000 4:32:02 PM EDT
From: otten@toad.net (Neil Ottenstein)

The Crusade scripts on www.bookface.com are great. They underscore just what we are missing with the cancellation of Crusade. Luckily, with the episodes that we did see, we can visualize what was going on in the scripts and hear what the actors were saying. It is quite an interesting experience reading a new script. They seemed to show that as many people had expected, finding the cure to the Drakh plague was only going to be one factor and possible just a catalyst to the events in the whole series arc.

It would be nice to see as many B5 scripts as possible also up on bookface.

Neil Ottenstein

Date: 7/6/2000 3:22:38 PM EDT
From: macbreck@access995.com (Mac Breck)

I read them as soon as I found out they were there, and LOVED 'em. These babies have GOT to get filmed!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

That's it for this week. If there are items that you would like to see included (excluded) from this list (or the website), please let me know. I'm always looking for suggestions that will improve The Zocalo Today for readers.

Have a great weekend. Take care.
Remember – We ARE a Babylon 5 community. Stay in Touch.

Sandy

Sandra Bruckner
Editor/Publisher
The Zocalo Today
<http://zocalo.isnnews.net>