



# THE ZOCALO TODAY

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Sandra Brackner, Editor/Publisher

July 22, 2000

## WHAT'S NEW

On July 24, [www.bookface.com](http://www.bookface.com) will have "Value Judgements", "The Well of Forever" and "Patterns of the Soul" available. These episodes, written by Fiona Avery will join the two episodes written by JMS and already available at bookface.

Walter Koenig's (Psi-Cop Bester) new movie, "Drawing Down the Moon," is now available on home video! Order your copy today by calling toll-free 1-800-606-9642, or visit our website to order online at [www.drawingdownthemoon.com](http://www.drawingdownthemoon.com). The price is only \$22.95 (plus \$3.50 shipping).

A brief synopsis of the movie: The uproar begins when Gwynyth McBride, a self-proclaimed witch, opens a homeless shelter called "Haven" in the depressed little town of Steadfast. Upstanding citizens don't want a homeless shelter in their community ... especially when it's run by a witch! Violent opposition erupts, led by an eccentric drug dealer with twisted plans of his own for the town. Can Gwynyth and the residents keep Haven alive in the face of increasing hysteria and brutality?

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Netter Digital is filing Chapter 11. How does that affect JMS, the Fan Club and his upcoming projects?

Doug's company was always its own separate entity, and we've pretty much gone our separate ways after Crusade. The fan club, however, will continue for the time being, this should have no impact on that.

Over at [fandom.com](http://fandom.com), you'll find an interview with J. Michael Straczynski on Rising Stars. Go to [www.fandom.com](http://www.fandom.com) to read the whole interview. Joe talks about the characters in Rising Stars, but also gives a little background on "Midnight Nation" -- his next series coming out in September.

There is a preview of the cover art for Joe's new comic series, Midnight Nation can be found at [http://wizardworld.com/news/topcow/midnight\\_nation/midnight\\_nation.html](http://wizardworld.com/news/topcow/midnight_nation/midnight_nation.html).

The transcript of JMS' chat on Yahoo recently is now available at <http://chat.yahoo.com/c/events/transcripts/special/071000straczynski.html>. I'll post some highlights later today.

There is an interview by Mike Helba with Stephen Austin, Pak'Ma'Ra Ambassador while at DragonCon at <http://babylon5.about.com/library/weekly/aa071600a.htm>. Check it out. Stephen is currently working on a play (The Goodbye Girl) in California where he must sing and dance!

CHAT ON SUNDAY: The Zocalo Today is now open at <http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/thezocalotoday>. This will be a place where we can chat about the show, current discussion topics at the newsletter, pose new discussion topics,

etc. There will be a regular chat every Sunday at 6pm ET. Let's talk about our first B5 experiences. I hope you will join the Club and come in to chat.

### ***NEWS AROUND THE SCI-FI GENRE***

Saturday, July 22:

Liam Neeson was riding his Harley-Davidson in upstate New York when he hit a deer that suddenly leaped out into the road. Neeson suffered a fractured pelvis as well as other injuries from the accident.

Farscape Action Figures - You knew it wouldn't be long before the Farscape figures would be here. Check out [Another Universe](#) for pictures and word on how to advance order your Aeryn Sun figure.

Friday, July 21:

Robert Patrick (Terminator 2: Judgment Day) will replace David Duchovny on The X-Files, playing the new partner of Gillian Anderson's FBI Agent Dana Scully.

Science Fiction truly gets NO respect. The Emmy nominations were announced yesterday and sci-fi came up dry -- with the following exceptions: ABC's Arabian Nights -- best miniseries; Buffy the Vampire Slayer's episode "Hush" received a best writing nomination for creator Joss Whedon; and 3rd Rock From the Sun, garnered a nomination for John Lithgow as best lead actor. There were nominations in the technical fields, including the X-Files which received six nominations, including best makeup, music, sound editing, sound mixing and special visual effects. (Optic Nerve does the makeup!)

Marvel Studios chief Avi Arad announced some movies that are moving forward, given the X-MEN's fantastic opening. "Obviously, we are talking about the [X-Men] sequel and [Fox's] Fantastic Four and [New Regency's] Daredevil and [Artisan's] Ghost Rider. All of these things have been in the works for a long time."

Other comic-themed films on a fast track include Columbia Pictures' Spider-Man, to be directed by Sam Raimi; Black Panther, being developed by Wesley Snipes; Blade 2, the sequel to Snipes' 1998 hit Blade; and Satan's Six, a project being developed at Universal by Tracy Kirby, granddaughter of late X-Men co-creator Jack Kirby, and Dark Horse Comics' Mike Richardson.

Let's hope "Rising Stars" isn't far behind.

Over at [www.fandom.com](http://www.fandom.com) they have an interview with Harrison Ford focusing primarily on his new flick "What Lies Beneath", but he talks about the prospects of an Indiana Jones 4!

Thursday, July 20:

The success of the new X-Men movie seems to be generating interest in other comic book stories. Mark Gordon and Gary Levinsohn's Mutual Film Co. are putting the finishing touches on a co-financing/co-production deal for Paramount's Tomb Raider feature film. It is currently being cast in London.

Michelle Pfeiffer returns to genre films in the half ghost story, half suspense thriller directed by the Oscar Award-winning Robert Zemeckis "What Lies Beneath". [Fandom.com](http://Fandom.com) has the story and interview.

Wednesday, July 19:

X-MEN Fans, Thad Beier from Hammerhead Productions, the SFX folks who took care of Wolverine's claws, etc. is interviewed at [www.fandom.com](http://www.fandom.com).

Over on Sci-Fi Wire, Jonathan Frakes, Exec. Producer for "Roswell" talks about the coming second season and changes in store for everyone on the show. Check out the story at [Sci-Fi Wire](#).

Kevin Bacon has played some pretty strange characters over the years. In his new movie, "The Hollow Man", he says it's the hardest work he's ever done on a movie. His discussion of make-up is interesting and brings back some memories of Babylon 5. [The Hollow Man at Mothership.com](#)

Tuesday, July 18:

More on the final season of Voyager can be found at <http://www.cinescape.com/>. Ken Biller talks about wrapping up some story arcs including the Tom Paris/Belanna Torres romance.

Can there be an Indiana Jones IV? Perhaps that is indeed in the wind. Harrison Ford commented: "Of course, I'd be eager to do a fourth Indy. It's a great character and the movies are great entertainment. A lot of groundwork has been sown on this character and these films. It deserves to be revisited. Steven (Spielberg), George (Lucas) and I have spent many, many hours discussing a direction for a fourth adventure...I'd personally love to see Sean Connery be with me in the next chapter." ABSOLUTELY!

Highlander fans! There's a fantastic trailer available of the new movie, Highlander, Endgame. Go to <http://qt.stream.aol.com/qt/moviefone/2000/h/highlander.mov> for a preview.

Monday, July 17:

There are some great new pictures of Kevin Sorbo and the Andromeda crew at the [Cinescape](#) site. Andromeda, the latest in Gene Roddenberry series, will premiere in October.

X-Men blew everything away this weekend. Initial box office numbers are \$57.5 million. From initial reaction to the movie, it's GREAT. There are some great interviews out at [Fandom](#), including Patrick Stewart, Ray Park and Bryan Singer.

Can you see Tom Cruise as Captain America? I guess Marvel is looking for visibility, should they proceed with this new production.

Episode II of Star Wars continues to draw a lot of buzz. Latest addition to the cast -- Jimmy Smits as Bail Organa.

Star Trek Voyager wrapped up the first episode of season 7 last week and there has been a rash of rumors about where the story will go this year. Will Voyager come back to Earth?

Will a new cast member be brought in to replace David Duchovny (who is only signed to do 11 episodes this year)? Evidently they are looking! According to The HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, Chris Carter is believed to be eyeing Bruce Campbell (Evil Dead), Robert Patrick (T2), Lou Diamond Phillips (La Bamba), and Hart Bochner (Anywhere But Here) for the new male lead on X-FILES next season.

### **GROUP PROJECT**

I gotten a good start on the [www.isnnews.net/the\\_zocalo/library.htm](http://www.isnnews.net/the_zocalo/library.htm). Thanks to everyone who have sent along suggestions for items to include in the library. I will be adding items to the library, with brief annotations to identify what the site contains.

Send your suggestions for items that should be included in this Library to [sgbruckner@aol.com](mailto: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.

### **SEEING EAR THEATRE**

"Rolling Thunder" - featuring Andre Braugher is now available at [Seeing Ear Theatre](#). The tag line says: A father offers to give up anything to regain his lost child...and a certain Someone takes him up on it.

Date: 16 Jul 2000 21:09:04 -0600

"Just a note to let folks know that the second installment of THE CITY OF DREAMS goes up at [www.scifi.com/cityofdreams](http://www.scifi.com/cityofdreams) on July 17th. I wanted to bring special attention to this one because, while "The Damned Are Playing at Godzilla's Tonight" was a good warmup episode, something fairly straightforward to get the radio-writing muscles geared up...this one, "Rolling Thunder," is one of the things I'm most proud of doing for radio. (Or audio.) It's a strong, emotional story and a real kick in the gut. So far it's reduced about half a dozen grown men who've heard it to tears. The performance by Andre Braugher is just terrific, very moving.

Check it out. This one's a keeper." - JMS

Here are some comments by JMS about "Rolling Thunder" and upcoming audio dramas at The Seeing Ear Theatre.

It's a very moving episode, and one I wrote kinda fiercely. The next two up are mainly fun episodes, one partially for humor, the other kinda creepy.

The next 4 after that are the experimental episodes, where I'm going to try and do different things with the form. It's really hard, because you have to turn your head upside down, but the first one should be quite entertaining, in a weird, scary kind of way.

Next week, "The Friends of Jackie Clay", featuring Merwin Goldsmith.

### **RISING STARS - COMING SOON**

RISING STARS #1 B&W EDITION

(W) J. Michael Straczynski (P) Keu Cha (I) Jason Gorder

Top Cow is pleased to present the next edition of the Black and White series. Revisit this epic tale written by J. Michael Straczynski that begins when a celestial event occurs in a small town that will change the inhabitants' lives forever. With beautifully rendered artwork by Keu Cha (Witchblade) and Jason Gorder.

RISING STARS #9

(W) J. Michael Straczynski (P) Christian Zanier (I) Livesay (C) Brett Evans

With cover by guest artist Gary Frank (Kin), the one year anniversary of this wildly popular comic book begins the second act of the Rising Stars story (issues 9-16). This story arc jumps ahead in time to see the effects of full-scale conflict between many of the Rising Stars. In the first act of this series, the world shaped our characters...now, our characters begin to shape the world, and the world may not be very happy about those changes.

### **KEEPING UP WITH CAST AND CREW**

Peter Woodward has been in Egypt doing a documentary entitled "New Discoveries In An Ancient Land" for The History Channel. Peter is the onscreen host for this 4 part documentary on ancient Egypt. The show is currently expected to air in Jan/Feb of 2001. Peter is also busy writing a proposal for another documentary. More on this one as it takes shape.

Stephen Austin has landed the role of "Mark the Director" in "The Goodbye Girl" at the Canyon Club Dinner Theater, Agoura Hills, California.

Bill Mumy recently guested on an episode of VH1's "The List". It was hosted by my pal Weird Al Yankovic. It's going to air in the first week of August. Bill and his band, The Jenerators will be performing live in Los Angeles on Saturday, July 29th at Rusty's Surf Ranch on the Santa Monica Pier.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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 [sfedora1@aol.com](mailto:sfedora1@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 [cccno@aol.com](mailto:cccno@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, J. Michael Straczynski  
For more information, visit their website at <http://www.wizards.com>.

Nexus 2000, September 1-3, 2000;

Bonn, Germany  
Guest: Mira Furlan, Walter Koenig, Julie Caitlin Brown  
For more information, visit their website at <http://www.snafu.de/~agents> or send an e-mail note to [agents@berlin.snafu.de](mailto:agents@berlin.snafu.de).

BonaCon 2000, September 1-3, 2000;  
Aberdeen, Scotland  
Guests: Bill Blair  
For more information, visit their website at <http://www.lonas.com/bonacon>.

Slanted Fedora, September 8-10, 2000;  
Raleigh, NC  
Place: Durham Marriott  
Guest: Mary Kay Adams  
For more information, visit their website at <http://www.sfedora.com> or send an e-mail note to [sfedora1@aol.com](mailto:sfedora1@aol.com).

Crusade for a Cure, September 15-17, 2000; Costa Mesa, California  
Guests: David Allen Brooks, Maggie Egan, Julie Caitlin Brown, Tim Choate, Carrie Dobro, Stephen Furst, Peter Woodward, Stephen Austin, Bill Blair  
For more information, write to The Ulysses Foundation, 23010 Lake Forest Drive, Suite D, #395, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 or visit their website at <http://www.ulyssesfoundation.org/c4ac>.

Starland, September 22-24, 2000;  
Denver, CO  
Guests: Julie Caitlin Brown

For more information, visit their website

at <http://www.starland.com>.

### ***TNT MORNING BABYLON 5 SCHEDULE***

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

Monday 7/31/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Grey 17 is Missing

Tuesday 8/1/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - And the Rock Cried Out, No Hiding Place

Wednesday 8/2/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Shadow Dancing

Thursday 8/3/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Z'Ha'Dum

Friday 8/4/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - The Hour of the Wolf

Saturday 8/5/00

6:00am TNT Babylon 5 - Whatever Happened to Mr. Garibaldi?

### ***MAILING LISTS***

DOYLE FOR CONGRESS – Jerry has been making public appearances in California, trying to educate voters about his stand on the issues that are the most important to voters.

There will be a debate in August. It will be interest to see if Jerry's opponent shows up!

To join the mailing list, send a blank message to [doyleforcongress-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:doyleforcongress-subscribe@egroups.com).

SAVE CRUSADE – Fiona Avery is putting her three Crusade scripts out on

[www.bookface.com](http://www.bookface.com). With the two already there from JMS, this makes a wonderful resource for Crusade fans. They can read both episodes that were filmed and those that

were not! To subscribe to this mailing list, send a blank note to [savecrusade-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:savecrusade-subscribe@egroups.com).

## ***THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION TOPIC***

OK, here's a fun one. Picture all of the Babylon 5 main characters on a island (think Survivors here). Which one would you see leaving first; which one last -- and why?

Can't wait to see the responses on this one! Send your answers to either [TheZocalo@aol.com](mailto:TheZocalo@aol.com) or [b5web@aol.com](mailto:b5web@aol.com). You can also post your comments on the message board at [www.isnnews.net/board](http://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 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.

Date: 7/21/2000 10:50:57 AM EDT  
From: CripeHL@itrcorporation.com (Cripe, Helen L.)

I'm usually disappointed with what movies and TV do to books, and generally if I've read a book that I particularly enjoy, I avoid the movie like the plague. The worst adaptation of book characters to the screen that I've ever seen are the Margaret Rutherford movies about Agatha Christie's Miss Marple. They are just dreadful and in no way resemble either the character or the books and stories written about the character.

On the other hand, the British-made PBS TV specials featuring Joan Hickson as Miss Marple are probably one of the best book to TV adaptations ever made. Joan Hickson is Miss Marple to perfection, and altho the TV episodes take some liberties with the plots of the books, they preserve the atmosphere and the main plot lines.

Other book adaptations don't fare so well on the tube. David Suchet is as good in the role of Hercule Poirot as Hickson is in the Miss Marple series, but unfortunately the writers often make a mish-mash of the stories by combining elements of several stories into one, or going too far over the top with the character of Poirot. The same is true of the Jeeves series -- absolutely hysterically funny, and perfectly cast, but as the series progressed the stories became muddled and the series lost the freshness and flavor of the original Wodehouse books.

Date: 7/18/2000 9:08:26 PM EDT  
From: phax\_halfelven@hotmail.com (lore gilley)

Thats a tough one. Some movies that I've seen that were adapted from novels were great, and followed the novel very close, but on the whole I think that you can do only so much with movies and that the written word is much more fulfilling in making the character's thoughts and feelings known. The novel I am currently reading, I think should never be made into a movie. The Deed of Paksenarrion by Elizabeth Moon is a fantasy novel about a young sheepfarmers daughter that runs away form home to be a mercenary and eventually she becomes a Paladine. I have read the novels three times before and I still find that as I read of her nervousness just before her first battle, I feel that same apprehension.

First of all the books are superbly written, the background sights and the appearances of the characters are beautifully described, and the descriptions of the food will make you

hungry. I swear I could taste the stew as it is described and feel the heat of the freshly baked breads. You can't get these feelings watching a movie or a show. Although I love the shows I get to watch I just don't get the same feeling about them as I do when I read a well written novel.

Maybe I'm partial to novels though, since writing fiction is something I'd love to do for the rest of my life.

Sorry if it sounds like I don't appreciate movies or TV. I love them. In fact if I have free time and I'm not writing or reading a novel I'm glued to the TV watching some movie or old episodes of B5 or any of the other shows I have recorded and love.

Because there are things that TV and the movies can do that novels can't, and that is get messages out to a wider range of the public. Where I grew up I was "weird" because I liked to read books that didn't even have pictures in them. Every one I knew watched TV. Some of them I could talk to without them thinking I was strange because they had seen an adaptation of a novel I had read or was in the process of reading. So, as I said that's a tough question. I think I side with keeping novels as novels and finding something else to televise.

Of course, Babylon 5 is better than any novel though.

We live for the One. We die for the One.  
Izil'Za Venni. In Valen's name.  
Phax\_Half-Elven

Date: 7/18/2000 4:00:04 AM EDT  
From: chdeless@caramail.com (Chantal Delessert)

I usually am disappointed when I see the movie of a book I've read. With a book, the author lets you know the feelings of a character, and what she/he thinks, in a movie you can only relate to what emotion the actor/tress is "emitting". It's like losing a dimension or a sense, like looking at the photograph of a statue or a landscape once you've seen the three dimensional thing (try imagining that with the Grand Canyon or the Statue of Liberty). Sometimes the actor/tress doesn't look the way I've imagined the character and it's even more difficult because I keep on thinking that it is the wrong person.

And a movie based on a book cannot be anything else than the interpretation of the story by someone else. Someone whose emotions might not have been triggered by the same things than you, someone that saw something else in the story. I think a good story is unique to everyone and so everyone has a different conception and perception of it. But that won't stop me from going to see "Lord of the Rings" hoping it will be great.

I enjoyed the movie "Dune" but without trying to compare it to the book. I liked it as a somewhat different version, a kind of a book's 4th cover presentation, it couldn't show all the complexity of Herbert's masterwork ! I liked "Millenium" but saw it so long after I read John Varley's book that I didn't try to compare them.

On a different level, I enjoy to read a novelization after I've seen a film because there I get the character's thoughts.

Bye, Chantal



Date: Sat, 15 Jul 2000 10:14:38 AM EDT  
From: Pat and Steph Obley

I think there are benefits and disadvantages to making movies out of books. It depends on the book, but sometimes you can notice something new about the story by seeing it in a visual format or experience it in a new way. Other times, it ruins the mental picture you have conceived or changes the story in an important way. An example of one I think worked, although some would disagree, is Carl Sagan's Contact. As usual, some things were left out from the book to the movie, but the essence of it was the same. I think the movie version was intelligently done. It seems most books don't come out well on the big screen or comic books for that matter. Both mediums depend on imagination of the reader. I think the ones that do work have had a lot of input from the authors themselves. It will be interesting to see if the Lord of The Rings movies do the books justice.

Steph

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That's about it for this week. There's been a lot of news and I hope you have enjoyed reading about even a little of it.

Let me know if you like the new "around the sci-fi genre" column. Since there are so many projects underway in the science fiction arena, I thought you'd like a quick and dirty way of keeping on top of what is going on.

Have a great weekend.  
Be safe!  
Sandy

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