



Voyager, Deep Space Nine welcome additions to Star Trek family

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Now that a full year of Voyager has aired, it's time for another look at the 30-year Star Trek tradition. How do the current series fare in comparison to the first two classics? Well, it may just be one woman's opinion, but let's just say it's a Trek-ucated one.

Despite the roaring success of the original Trek, Next Generation and the fledgling Voyager, Deep Space Nine has taken more heat than Scotty's engines ever took from Kirk. Strange enough, since DS9 boasts better plot and character development, more realistic situations and stronger writing than any other Trek.

Many Trekkies defected from the ranks for the first time with Deep Space Nine. Some cite the stationary nature of the show; instead of flying around the galaxy in search of new adventures to have and new women (of any shade of hideous green) to enjoy, the crew of DS9 is forced to sit around Quark's bar entertaining themselves in the holo-suite.

depth the other shows never had. Instead of stumbling onto a planet of barbarians, wrecking their lifestyle and then taking off and leaving them to clean up the mess, Sisko and company have to deal, week after week, with the problems they cause.

The down side is obvious: to keep up, you can't miss too many episodes. But the political entanglement, personality clashes and less-than-cohesive nature of the crew make for more intriguing plot lines than the Kirk-dominated original crew or the way-too-happy crew of Next Generation.

This season Lieutenant Commander Worf from the Next Generation joined Deep Space Nine in an attempt to raise ratings for the newer show. And as we all know, everybody loves a Klingon. Unfortunately, Michael Dorn (Worf) has basically been used as background filler. There has been little, if any, character development for him. This is incredibly disappointing considering the way Worf was filled out in the last few seasons of Next Generation.

Voyager, on the other hand, has been welcomed

with open arms by Trekkies and publications like "TV Guide."

Now there is something good to be said for the newest incarnation of Trek. For one thing, there's a female captain, to which I can only say, it's about time. Unfortunately, Janeway has to share the limelight with Chakotay, the former captain of a Maquee ship, now second officer on Voyager.

It may be a subtle detail, but Voyager is the first ship with two even chairs for the captain and the second in command. If you'll remember, Kirk's Enterprise had only one command chair (with Sisko's Defiant on DS9 following the same format) and Picard had three chairs, with the captain's chair clearly in the center. Having two equal chairs seems to undermine Janeway's ability to captain on her own, without the help of some man.

There is one basic problem with Voyager as a program. It's Gilligan's Island in outer space. I think you may recall the basic plot: every week they try to get home and every week they fail. The basic futility of the whole thing makes me

feel weary of the show before the opening theme begins.

But if Voyager were having some original adventures, maybe that would save the show. Apparently, Voyager's writers spend a lot of time watching original Trek episodes, because Voyager is basically a rehashing of plots that weren't that great in the '60s. Remember the giant space blob that turned out to be (gasp!) alive? Or maybe you recall all of the space/time anomalies and, well, other anomalies Kirk bumped into.

Voyager also took cues from the successful episodes of Next Generation that involved popular Earth characters from the 19th and 20th centuries, like Professor Moriarty from the Sherlock Holmes stories. This season we found out what happened to Amelia Earhart on Voyager. (DS9 elaborated on the incident at Roswell.)

So what's the verdict? Do DS9 and Voyager hold up the fine Star Trek tradition of the past? Well, it's not black and white. DS9 is a departure from Gene Roddenberry's original concept. He believed in having no friction among the crew. But DS9 is a better show than it's predecessors

because of this strife. It's a show that deals with relationships, which we can relate to. You just can't get teary eyed over the fate of a computer generated amorphous blob, whether or not it's living. And when you come down to it, Star Trek always has been and always should be about interpersonal relations.

Voyager is still a show just getting used to walking in its squeaky new shoes. And the cast is fantastic, like any Star Trek ensemble. And when you look back, Next Generation and DS9 took some time to really get things together. Voyager has had the advantage of a loyal and supportive audience from day one. Give the show another year, and they may be the best thing to come out of Trek.

But for now, Voyager is dragging and Deep Space Nine is full of life. Trek fans who were disgusted with DS9 early on should consider taking a new look at an old station. And hang in there with Voyager, because the best thing about Star Trek is you never know what will happen next.

Stars come out for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

For Mariah Carey, it was the music of Gladys Knight and the Pips that pulled her "through a lot of lonely times" and touched a chord.

Carey repaid the favor Wednesday night by introducing the soul-singing group during the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 11th annual induction ceremony.

Also inducted were the Shirelles, David Bowie, Jefferson Airplane, Pink Floyd, the Velvet Underground and the late blues balladeer Little Willie John. Folk singer Pete Seeger was honored

as an "early influence" on rock performers, and the late Tom Donahue, a pioneering disc jockey in San Francisco, was inducted in the "non-performer" category.

For 43 years, Knight sang with the Pips, her brother Bubba Knight and cousins William Guest and Edward Patten. The group split up eight years ago.

Knight called their induction the culmination of a dream.

"From the very beginning, we set goals for ourselves," Knight told the packed Grand Ballroom at Manhattan's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

"We wanted a Grammy, we wanted a hit record, we wanted to play the Copacabana and we wanted to be in the Hall of Fame one day."

The group scored its biggest hit, "Midnight Train to Georgia," in 1973, and won a 1989 Grammy for "Love Overboard."

Madonna, herself a future shoo-in for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, credited Bowie for setting her on the path to stardom.

Hearing Bowie at her first rock concert, at 15, made her "a changed woman," the Material Girl said, as she

accepted the award for the absent rocker.

"I was your normal dysfunctional, rebellious teen-ager from the Midwest," she said. "He has truly changed my life. Thank you, David, wherever you are, for inspiring me."

Inspiration was a common theme among the presenters, who spoke poignantly about the music that shaped their lives.

Beverly Lee of the Shirelles was pointed in her acceptance speech.

"We deserve this. What took you so long?" she asked before joining the other surviving members of the group, Shirley

Alston and Doris Kenner-Jackson, to sing a brief medley of Shirelles hits. Micki Harris died of a heart attack in 1982.

Of the Velvet Underground, which had a short but influential existence, inductor Patti Smith was typically poetic: "They opened wounds worth opening, with brutal innocence."

Band members John Cale, Lou Reed and Maureen Tucker performed "Last Night I Said Goodbye to My Friend," their tribute to guitarist Sterling Morrison, who died of cancer last year.

Cale said the honor "makes an astonishing point to young musicians

all over the world. Sales are not the be-all and end-all of rock 'n' roll. Inspiration and artistic freedom is the cornerstone of rock 'n' roll."

Phil Lesh of the Grateful Dead introduced his fellow San Franciscans, Jefferson Airplane, describing the group as "the best in the world on many a night."

Rick Wright, a member of Pink Floyd, accepted the honor with grace.

"Sitting here tonight, I was thinking, we've all touched people with our music," he said. "That what I wanted to do."

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