

THE
GENESIS

MATRIX

(ReBooted)



The Magazine Of
Genesis Sci-Fi
May 2013



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May 2013



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KEEP CALM
IT'S THE CRICKET
SEASON!

GOLD CHANNEL

The trouble with being semi-retired is you lose track of the passing of days. One day you are in the Lake District, the next you're attending a wedding in Missouri, and the editor of this illustrious magazine has to write your Gold Channel for you. Then, once you do it make it home, you are bombarded with new information and the need to attend meetings and stuff. To all this you then add events such the Genesis Book Club and last week's Corsham Sci-Fi Family Fun Day (*more on that next month—Ed*), and you get a pleasant mix. Plus, training for my new career and a 5 to 6 week contract of work. As of time of writing I have now completed a whole 6 days of work THIS YEAR.

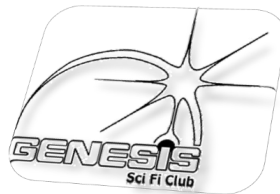
Okies, back to Genesis, as we are all aware the new *Star Trek* film is released into cinemas on the 9th May, and being a somewhat slow-witted (at times) ChairPerkin I only spotted this because I caught a trailer while watching Live TV last night (I usually only watch recorded stuff, and therefore whizz through adverts at 30-times speed) and so I thought, "Coolio, hope whoever is doing this month's programme does something to mark it. Oh hang on that would be me. Coolio, 6 hours of ST:TOS. Sorted!".

Then reality hit (I hate it when it does that). Okay, not just ST:TOS start to finish but Space Opera; ships, explosions (yes, Matt, going BANG!) and dodgy, tacky music. Could I get away with an episode from each of the five *Star Trek* series? You bet I could, "by the power of Greyskull make it sew!"

So without any further misdirection and hoax program build-up, it's time to Boldly Go!

Chairperkin Prus

"I've not idea why my mini-bar was stocked with pies..."



The Doctor Who Prom is back for the 50th Anniversary this year, on Saturday 14th July, at the Royal Albert Hall, and tickets go on sale very soon. We have a list of people who have expressed interest in going, so today is your final chance to put your name on the list if you have not already done so. Tickets cost between £14 and £57 but we'll be trying to get hold of 'mid price range' tickets. However, they normally sell out in minutes, so we are not going to guarantee that we'll be able to get them.



Nine Worlds is a new convention which might be a tad ambitious in its aims. According to the organisers, it's about 'gaming, film, cosplay, fandom, literature, science, geek culture, meeting people and having a really big party'.

The event was funded via Kickstarter, so a lot of people already have advance tickets, but regular tickets have now gone on sale. The convention takes place from 9-11 August at Heathrow, and you can find out more at nineworlds.co.uk.

Cinema Trips

Films being released over the next few months which we may be going to see...

- > *Star Trek Into Darkness* > *The World's End* (14th August)
- > *The Hobbit: Part 2—The Desolation Of Smaug* (13th December)

MEETING DATES FOR 2013.....

	Pub	Book Club	Main meeting	Program/ Quiz
May / June	23rd May	25th May	2nd June	Ross McNaughton
June	20th June	22nd June	30th June	Antony Walls
July	18th July	20th July	28th July	Steve Brice
August	15th August	17th August	25th August	Mark Sinclair
September	12th September	14th September	22nd September	Paul Belsey
October	10th October	12th October	20th October	Matthew Greet
October / November	31st October	9th November	10th November	Robert Green
December	5th December	7th December	15th December	The Committee

Pub meetings are at the Queen's College Arms on the A340 between Basingstoke and Tadley until further notice.



BLAKE'S 7 FINALLY ON THE WAY BACK

Classic sci-fi series *Blake's 7* is to be remade for the Syfy network, it has been announced.

FremantleMedia International said 13 hour-long episodes will be written by *Heroes* writer Joe Pokaski.

It added, in a statement, that *Casino Royale* and *Goldeneye* director Martin Campbell was also on board.

The original series, which ran on the BBC between 1978 and 1981, followed the exploits of a group of renegades and convicted criminals.

Roj Blake, played by Gareth Thomas, was a political dissident, arrested, tried and convicted on false charges by a brutal totalitarian government, and then deported from Earth to a prison planet. Stealing a spaceship, Blake and his team conducted a campaign against the ruling Terran Federation.

Comparing *Blake's 7* with *Star Trek*, *The Independent* said in 1998: "No 'boldly going' here: instead, we got the boot stamping on a human face which George Orwell offered as a vision of humanity's future in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*."

At its peak, the series was watched by 10 million viewers and was sold to 40 countries. *Blake's 7* merchandise including books, magazines, annuals and toys were also released, but for many years, the company who held the rights to the series consistently failed to make use of them.

However, the latest announcement is not the first time a remake of *Blake's 7* has been

attempted.

In 2003, a miniseries was shelved after actor Paul Darrow - who played Kerr Avon in the original show - left the project.

Later in 2008, Sky One announced it had commissioned two 60-minute scripts for a potential series but two years later said it had decided not to proceed.

A radio adaptation, featuring *This Life's* Daniela Nardini as villain Servalan, was made in 2006, and more recently, Big Finish Productions, under licence from rights-holders Blake's 7 Enterprises, have released full-cast audio dramas and dramatic readings of new stories, featuring the original cast, on CD and MP3 download.

According to FremantleMedia, the new series will be set in 2136 and will "tell the story of seven criminals - six guilty and one innocent - on their way to life on a prison colony in space, who together wrestle freedom from imprisonment".

It continued: "They acquire an alien ship which gives them a second chance at life and become the most unlikely heroes of their time".



Chief executive officer David Ellender said: "*Blake's 7* was such a forward-thinking concept that the show continues to have resonance with audiences today."

Source: bbc.co.uk

APOLLO ROCKET ENGINES RECOVERED BY BEZOS TEAM

Two long-lost engines from Apollo-era rockets have been hauled from a depth of more than 4km in the Atlantic Ocean.

The F-1 engines are from the first stage of a Saturn V rocket, which were used throughout the Apollo programme and some of which launched men to the Moon.

A number of engines were first found nearly a year ago by Bezos Expeditions, run by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. The two recovered engines will now be restored and put on public display.



The F-1 was a workhorse engine for the US space agency NASA as the most powerful single-chamber liquid-fuelled engine ever developed. Five F-1 engines sat at the bottom of the Saturn-V rockets used throughout the Apollo programme.

After three weeks at sea, the Bezos Expeditions team recovered two such engines using remotely-operated vehicles.



Because the engines' serial numbers are partially missing, it remains unclear which Apollo mission they are from - that may become clearer during restoration.

Mr Bezos is a long-time space enthusiast and also leads Blue Origin, one of a number of private spaceflight firms aiming to drastically reduce the costs of spaceflight.

"We've seen an underwater wonderland - an incredible sculpture garden of twisted F-1 engines that tells the story of a fiery and violent end, one that serves testament to the Apollo program," Mr

Bezos wrote in a blog post from the ship Seabed Worker, now on its way back to Cape Canaveral.

"Each piece we bring on deck conjures for me the thousands of engineers who worked together back then to do what for all time had been thought surely impossible."

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NASA administrator Charles Bolden released a statement congratulating the team, saying: "This is a historic find and I congratulate the team for its determination and perseverance in the recovery of these important artefacts of our first efforts to send humans beyond Earth orbit."

Source: bbc.co.uk

Is he half human? Did an exercise bike cause him to regenerate?
Which incarnation fought in the Time War? Some, more or fewer of
these questions may be answered in.....

DOCTOR WHO



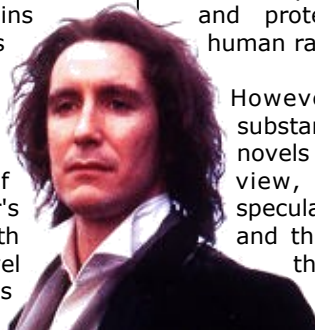
For one night only in the middle of the 1990s, everyone's favourite Time Lord was outed as being (shock-horror) half human – on his mother's side.

This startling revelation, which smacked of 'making-the-Doctor-a-bit-like-Mr-Spock-for-an-American-audience' has not been revisited since the series was re-launched in 2005, even though the 'half human' incarnation has long been firmly entrenched in the 'canon' of the show, with his likeness used on novel covers, and in comics, a continuing extensive range of audio stories, and more importantly drawn on paper in the 'Journal of Impossible Things' (*Human Nature / The Family Of Blood*) and in two flashback sequences in the 'New' series (*The Next Doctor* and *The Eleventh Hour*).

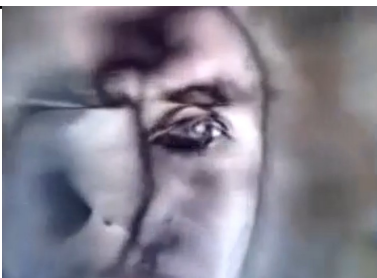
According to Wikipedia, the spin-off novels and audios have tried various methods to explain this revelation, suggesting that the Doctor retained some human DNA from his time as Dr John Smith (in which the Doctor, using bought technology, became biologically human with a different persona unaware of his Time Lord self) in the Virgin New Adventures novel *Human Nature*, (although as that story has been re-made for TV Featuring the Tenth incarnation I think that explanation can now be discounted). Or perhaps his origins have become muddled by agents manipulating his personal time-stream (the Eighth Doctor Adventures novel *Unnatural History*), hinting that it is only the Eighth Doctor who is half human, or that only his mother's incarnation at the time of his birth was human. Kate Orman's novel *The Room with No Doors* features

a time-travelling Victorian lady, Penelope Gate, who later books, such as *Unnatural History* and *The Gallifrey Chronicles*, hint may be the Doctor's mother, but do not elaborate on how this came to pass. In the New Series Adventures novel *The Deviant Strain* by Justin Richards, the Doctor comments that his DNA is "close" to that of humans. In the IDW Comics story *The Forgotten*, the Eighth Doctor remarks that he simply convinced the Master he was half-human, "with nothing more than a wide-eyed expression, a couple of words, and a half-broken Chameleon Arch." However, as noted above, the canonical nature of the novels and comics is uncertain. The idea of a "half-human" Doctor is further discredited by the 2008 series finale *Journey's End*, wherein the Doctor expresses dismay at his "half-human" double, and explicitly states that a human/Time Lord cross such as Donna becomes in that story has never existed before; events later in the episode show the latter combination to be inherently unstable. Furthermore, it was heavily implied by Russell T. Davies that "The Woman" in *The End of Time* is the Doctor's mother, and she is clearly one of the Time Lords with a vote on the Council. Despite all this, the notion that the Doctor is part human could certainly explain why he has always held such a strong affinity – and protective nature towards the human race.

However, not having read a substantial number of *Doctor Who* novels I think from my own point of view, a more tangible, less speculative explanation is required, and this, for what it's worth is my theory.



As we know from *The Christmas Invasion*, immediately after a regeneration the Doctor's body is in flux and buzzing with residual regeneration energy for up to 18 hours after his regeneration. Somehow, during the surgery carried out by



Grace Holloway, matter with human DNA (skin particles, whatever) entered the Doctor's system and was absorbed into his physiology when he regenerated in the morgue a few hours later. (Don't ask me how, this is a crackpot theory, and I'm not going to deeply examine the potential short-fallings of hygiene standards of your average cardio-vascular operating theatre, so just hear me out). A side effect of this was that for a while, and until the residual energy dispersed, he had human eyes and was in effect, half-human. The Doctor instinctively knew that something had changed and for a while had no qualms about saying so, and using it his advantage. The Master doesn't say the Doctor had *always* been half human, although it would have been more accurate to say *this* doctor is half human'. The 'on my mother's side' line was a just a quip added by the Doctor to cause temporary bemusement to Professor Wagg, whose security badge he was trying



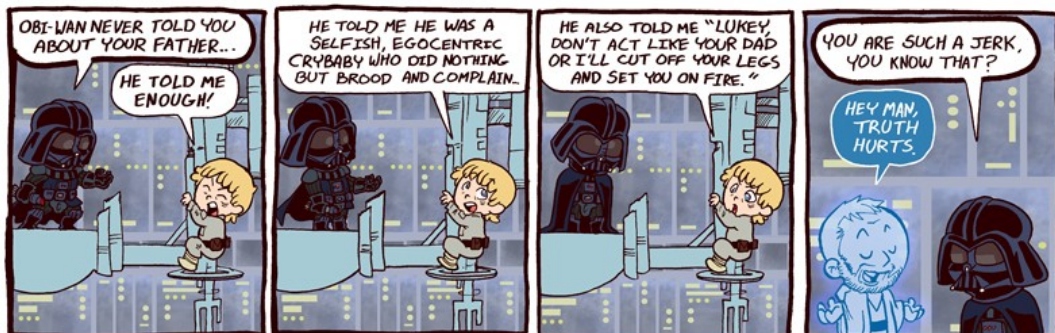
to 'half-inch' at the time. The TARDIS, being telepathically linked to it's Time Lord occupant, adjusted it's own structure to match the Doctor's. Once the Doctor's new form settled down, and he was no longer 'in flux' so to speak, the human element quietly disappeared from his physiology, which 'reset' itself to it's default, 100% Time Lord state.

At that point, he's wholly Time Lord again and the fact he was half human (on his mother's side) for one night in 1996 (or a couple of days in 1999/2000, whichever way you want to look at it) never needs to be mentioned again.

So at the end of all that over-analysis, I suppose I really need to finish with something kind of remotely profound and deep and meaningful. This being the case, there is only really one thing I can say, or at least quote from the half-human (on his mother's side) Doctor himself.

"I love humans. Always seeing patterns in things that aren't there".

Jeremy Ogden





Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones – or: Green Dude Dies First

Anakin: 'Do you call this a diplomatic solution?'
Amidala: 'No, I call this aggressive negotiations.'

Last month I admitted to liking *The Phantom Menace*. But actually, this film has a far better reputation among fans, and is far better than its precursor, even if it produces a rather scary moment with Yoda fighting on the front-line.

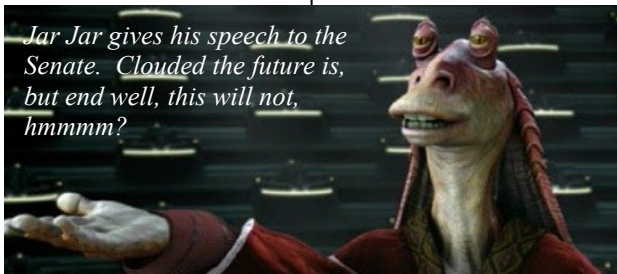
The flaws with *The Phantom Menace* are, by and large, repaired. Without giving too much away, Jar-Jar Binks actually has a role beyond looking cute and causing havoc: we see far less of him but he becomes a pivotal figure in the Republic's gradual decline into the Empire. Things are properly telegraphed and foreshadowed, including Dooku (an incredibly *silly* name for 'Darth Saruman', but never mind) displaying the Death Star, as well as Bobba Fett looking suitably aggrieved when his big moment comes. The climactic scenes on Geonosis cap

off a movie that is deep in world-building, from the almost Dickensian underbelly of Coruscant to the squeaky-clean clone

factory. There is less of a messianic tone to the film than there was in the first one: it is where Anakin is portrayed as more hot-headed than Obi-Wan, without making Obi-Wan look like a stick-in-the-mud. This is a subtlety in writing that Lucas should be proud of, because too often the two characterisations are polarised. It's also the first film in which

I have actually noticed the *leitmotif* for Anakin's eventual fall being introduced alongside the more heroic music: the *Imperial March* is played when he shows evidence of letting maverick, vigilante action turn into shades of the Dark Side within him.

I think Amidala steals the show in the first two films, if not the whole prequel trilogy. The best bit is that she can pick up a gun from time to time without turning into an action girl. Modern heroines are either badass action girls who are trying to be one of the boys, or wilting violets with no other redeeming features dropped in to give the hero a love interest or someone to save. There are comparatively few feminine women in positions of power that don't involve kicking bottom.



Jar Jar gives his speech to the Senate. Clouded the future is, but end well, this will not, hmmm?

And I *still* want her wardrobe. The reason I said Coruscant looks Dickensian is the odd juxtaposition of cyberpunk technology

with female clothing straight out of *Jane Eyre*. Amidala and her colleagues are supposed to be high society, but the women in the city scenes are surprisingly well-covered for a futuristic aesthetic. Do you know what? I enjoy this. People today have a variety of styles of dress, a more diverse attitude towards clothing, and this to me reflects

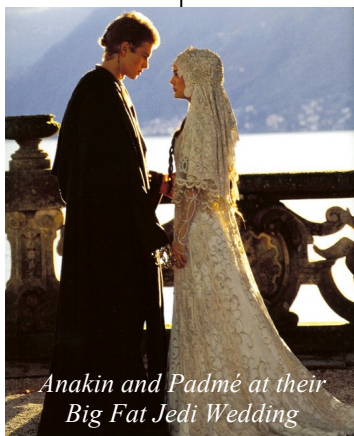
the expression of human creativity better than the utilitarian clothing of *Star Trek*. Although Amidala is conveniently dressed in a catsuit for the big fight scene, she is not hampered by her clothing: rather, it defines her as a stateswoman at home both in diplomatic and courtly situations, and on the battlefield.

This is a big fantasy fight film without the silliness of *The Phantom Menace*. It has some very tender 'talkie' moments, and some really epic battles. Yoda manages not to look ridiculous when fighting in battle. The only disappointment is that, after finding Shmi and murdering her captors in what amounts to cold blood (since he is more than a match for them), Anakin doesn't then go on to actually display a change. It might have made a better transition between the second and third films and explain his sudden volte-face more completely,

although I guess they wanted him to be with Amidala at the end. And, to be quite honest, the subsequent plot really relies too much on Jar-Jar giving Palpatine his stealth coup: there really should have been a bit better way to stage this. I still can't quite believe Amidala would be so stupid as to give Jar-Jar her vote in the Senate, without at least a mentor or an advisor to back him up. It's a moment which positively screams: 'That is so not going to end well. At all.'

But that's about the only dropped ball in this excellent, excellent film. It's not high-brow, arty literature or classic, hard science fiction. It's just a good science fantasy romp with an unusual nuance to it, like the rest of the series. And it's really hard to get too worked up about that.

Louise Stanley



Anakin and Padmé at their Big Fat Jedi Wedding



2013 FILM RELEASES



OUT NOW:

Oblivion (19th April)
Iron Man 3 (3rd May)

FUTURE RELEASES

Star Trek: Into Darkness (10th May)
After Earth (7th June)
Superman: Man of Steel (14th June)
The Wolverine (26th July)
The World's End (14th August)
Riddick (6th September)
Star Wars Episode II: Attack Of the Clones (3D) (20th September)
Thor: The Dark Worlds (8th November)
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (22nd November)
The Hobbit: Part 2—The Desolation Of Smaug(13th December)

Source: Various places on T'Internet. Correct at time of writing but subject to change at half a pico-second's notice, at the whim of the big-wigs at film studios and distributors who decide such things.

RASA

I WAS SICK FOR TWO DAYS,
UNTIL RASA SPOTTED THE
PROBLEM.

IN THE OLD DAYS
WE'D USE STRAPS — BUT MOTYLECKI

BANNED THOSE AS
CRUEL...

WELL, I DID TELL HIM NOT
TO GO WALKING AT NIGHT

HE'S JUST BORED.
HE WANTS TO
GO HOME...

THIS ISN'T A LUNATIC
DOCTOR.

— IT'S HIS DREAMS, MAKING HIM SICK.

I'LL GO AND CONSULT WITH A
SHAMAN.

by Louise Stanley

ARE YOU NOT ACTUALLY ONE YOURSELF?!