

# GE NEWS

Vol 8 Issue 42 2015

WOMEN TALK SCI FI



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17/18 OCTOBER 2015  
MELBOURNE SHOWGROUNDS

formerly Armageddon Australia

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THE GIRL WHO SMILES!



# WOMEN IN SCIENCE





**MELBOURNE**  
**17/18 OCTOBER 2015**  
**MELBOURNE SHOWGROUNDS**

formerly Armageddon Australia

Some of us Geeks may have known a Popular Culture Expo that happened around October in Melbourne. It was called "Armageddon"! This year it changed its name to AMC – Australian Movie & Comic expo [www.amcexpo.com.au](http://www.amcexpo.com.au)

With a wide range of guests from Supernatural (the two Meg's) Nicki Aycox and Rachel Miner, John Wesley Shipp from The Flash, (the original and now The Flash's dad) with Detective Eddie Thawne - Rick Cosnett. Arrow's, Michael Rowe, Sean Maher and Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D's, Dichen Lachman and Continuum's Garza – Luvia Petersen. Of course no Expo is complete without actors from the Stargate franchise, this time all three series were represented Corin Nemec (SG-1), Rainbow Sun Francks (Atlantis) and Lou Diamond Phillips (Universe). Bernie Kopell's panel was especially fun (Siegfried, Get Smart), at 82, he still showed his quick wit to the audience.

Make sure you put AMC in your diary for October next year go to their webpage and Facebook to keep up to date and see who is coming next year.





FOR SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY  
FILM AND TELEVISION

# THE APOLLO AWARDS



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# CONVENTIONS ARE US!

I (Eugenia) attended Sydney Comic Con, [www.ozcomiccon.com](http://www.ozcomiccon.com), on my own as Gerri was not able to go! This time it was at the Entertainment Centre which is situated where there is a picturesque view of the Sydney Harbour and the bridge. The outside of the building did not give me a hint of what was to come, but inside it was transformed into a Geek's paradise with exhibitors galore and guests a plenty. If you were a Stargate fan then this was the show for you, Richard Dean Anderson headed the bill, with David Hewlett and Rachel Luttrell who was returning to Australia for the first time in 10 years and Christopher Heyerdahl (Sanctuary and the Twilight movie series). Actors from other genre shows included Kris Holden-Reid and Paul Amos, of Lost Girl, Rachel Nichols of Continuum, Evanna Lynch, of Harry Potter and Supernatural's Jim Beaver.



The highlight for me strangely enough was Sam Lloyd, one of the guests provided by Gifts for the Geek [www.giftsforthegeek.com.au](http://www.giftsforthegeek.com.au). Not because he played Ted Buckland in Scrubs, but the fact that he played Neru, one of the aliens in Galaxy Quest, a brilliant, funny movie about fandom (you and us really LOL!) and well worth a watch every couple of years. I had a great chat with him about how his four lines in the movie ended up on the cutting room floor, much to his disappointment as he is a huge Sci Fi fan. Sam is also an accomplished musician and performs with "a Capella" group called 'The Blanks' [www.theblankswebsite.com](http://www.theblankswebsite.com) who also appeared on the Scrubs soundtrack. As always Oz Comic Con has lots to see and do and never enough time to do and see it all.





Christopher Lee was born in Belgravia, London, 27<sup>th</sup> May 1922. During WW II he worked with the military in many roles, finishing with the rank of Flight Lieutenant, and did not start his acting career till 1947. Even though he was told he was 'much too tall to be an actor', he still pursued it and for ten years he was cast in many parts until finally, he was cast as Frankenstein's monster in a Hammer Horror movie, The Curse of Frankenstein leading to his first appearance as a vampire in the film "Dracula".



Hale: Christopher Lee

Until Lord of the Rings and Star Wars, Dracula was the character that was most associated with Christopher Lee. Along with Peter Cushing (another Hammer Horror actor) he appeared in over 20 Hammer movies, 10 of which he played "Dracula". His association with Hammer lasted till the early 1970s. In '77 after he had played "Scaramanga" in the James Bond movie, The Man with the Golden Gun, he moved to America worried that he was being typecast as a horror film actor.

Lee was a big fan of Tolkien and was known to read The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings trilogy at least once a year for the majority of his life. It is said that he did meet Tolkien by accident in a pub and fan-boyed out! When he heard that Hollywood was going to make the Lord of Rings movies he took a role in the 1997 TV series The New Adventures of Robin Hood as a wizard so that he could show evidence that he could play a wizard. When he heard that Peter Jackson was directing the films he sent him a picture of himself dressed up as a wizard hoping to get the chance to audition for Gandalf. Peter Jackson however felt that his age and natural ability to play villains made him a better choice for Saruman.



The Lord of the Rings movies marked the beginning of a career revival which continued when he played Count Dooku in Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones (2002), and Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith (2005). Being a world champion fencer he did most of the lightsaber fights himself. A younger generation is now introduced to this amazing actor.

Lee was also an opera singer (his great-grandparents founded one of the first Australian opera company), spoke six languages and has appeared in the Guinness Book for being the tallest leading actor at 6'5" and appearing in the most films.

Something you may not know is that Christopher Lee was a big heavy metal fan and in 2010 at the age of 88 released a full heavy metal album titled, "Charlemagne: By the Sword and the Cross". He also made a metal Christmas album in 2012. He was the oldest metal performer, and the oldest musician to hit the Billboard music charts.

Right up to his death at the age of 93 Christopher Lee was still working. In 2014 he appeared in The Hobbit: The Battle of Five Armies and in 2015 was the voice of the Narrator in, Extraordinary Tales and appeared as the lead, "The Boss, Mr. President", in Angels in Notting Hill.



Lee passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015





A psychological Science Fiction, with an unexpected twist.

Support this independent Australian venture.

What is it about?

Rommy is an alcoholic writer whose relationship is falling apart. Rommy suspects his partner, Mary, is cheating on him. Amongst all this turmoil a green woman begins to appear. But before long she is beginning to ask Rommy to do things he is not necessarily comfortable with.

Cast

Rommy – Dean Kirkright  
The Green Woman – Christine Husband  
Mary – Lauren Gregory  
Sgt Fischer – Scott Knight

Written and Directed by Samuel McDermott  
Produced by Dia Taylor and Samuel McDermott

[http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4604996/?ref=nm\\_knf\\_i4](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4604996/?ref=nm_knf_i4)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djkVO\\_Tb5f4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djkVO_Tb5f4)

Here are some other short films written and produced by Dia Taylor and directed by Joel Johnston.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COs-UHOixHU>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKpH\\_Ea3aHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKpH_Ea3aHA)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CEdPcOpC-E>  
[http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4620906/?ref=nm\\_knf\\_i3](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4620906/?ref=nm_knf_i3)





# WOMEN IN SCIENCE

## Henrietta Swan Leavitt

Who is Henrietta Leavitt and what did she do? Some may recognise the name by its use in the naming of Asteroid 5383 Leavitt or the Leavitt crater on the moon, but who is the person that is behind these names?

Henrietta Swan Leavitt, born in Massachusetts, 1868 attended Oberlin College, and graduated from the Society for the Collegiate Instruction for Women, now called Radcliffe College. She studied a wide range of subjects only finding astronomy in her final year and staying for another year to study after gaining her BA. After her graduation Henrietta travelled somewhat and came to suffer an illness that left her deaf. On her return and recovery she volunteered in 1895 to work at the Harvard College Observatory, but it took seven years for her to be finally employed as a staff member at the rate of \$0.30 per hour! This rate being more than a factory worker, was less than that paid to a clerical worker. It being said that at the time that the head of the Observatory, Edward Pickering, hired women because if he had employed men with the same educational qualifications he would have had to pay them significantly more money.



"Found in a photo album of Annie Jump Cannon, one of the scientists employed by Pickering)



(This blink comparator at [Lowell Observatory](#) was used in the discovery of Pluto.)

Working in a tidy and dark office with lots of other women Henrietta employed as a "Computer", (who were generally women astronomy graduates), her job was to examine photographic plates of stars taken by different male astronomers, women were not allowed to use the telescope at the time! She did this on what is known as a 'blink comparator', a machine that quickly switches from one image to the next allowing comparisons to be seen. She worked on what are called "Cepheid variables", a type of star that goes through periods of brightness and dimness. She discovered many of these being called by one astronomer as "a variable star fiend". Henrietta in her work was able to find that she could relate a given's star's brightness to its magnitude. This made it possible for the measurement of a star's distance from earth! The author of her biography, *Miss Leavitt's Stars*, George Johnson says she was "The women who discovered how to measure the Universe." It seems that Henrietta in her discovery allowed many who followed to gain recognition following up on her research. For instance it is speculated that even Edwin Hubble may not have found that the Andromeda nebula was not located at the edge of our galaxy, but a million light years further away. Pickering, because he was the director of the Harvard Conservatory claimed the right to publish her work under his name and even his successor, Harlow Shapley was able to gain fame building on her work and once again she was barely mentioned.

Unfortunately, Henrietta died of cancer in 1921 at the age of 53. Recognition of a sort did come to her in 1925, when a Swedish mathematician Gosta Mittag-Leffler wrote a letter to her stating 'Honoured Miss Leavitt, your admirable discovery ... has impressed me so deeply that I feel seriously inclined to nominate you to the Nobel Prize in Physics for 1926'. Unfortunately a Noble prize is not awarded posthumously. Some of those mentioned above have profited from her work, gained recognition by having telescopes or Superclusters named after them, and not just a minor crater on the moon! Whilst she was not allowed to pursue her own work some of male colleagues have said she "possessed the best mind at the Observatory," and was "the most brilliant woman at Harvard".





# Star Trek The Journey Continues...

CBS has announced that a new Star Trek television series will commence production in 2016 and will be available in January 2017!!!!

They tell us that this new series will introduce new characters, new worlds and new civilisations, but still remain true to the Gene Roddenberry inspired original series with the exploration of issues that are facing us today!

The new series will have Alex Kurtzman as executive producer, the co-writer and producer of both new Star Trek movies since 2009.



With Star Trek entering its 50th year anniversary in 2016 it is only apt that this show gets a new outing for fans. As we all know that there have been rumours for many years about a new Star Trek show since the cancellation of Star Trek: Enterprise in 2005 (wow 10 years already!!)

James Whitbrook (<http://io9.com/7-things-we-want-in-the-new-star-trek-tv-show-1740580586>) on the io9 website tells us that there are “7 Things We Want In The New Star Trek TV Show” click on the link above to see his explanations.

These are in reverse order:

7) A post-Star-Trek-XI look at the Prime Universe...

6) ... Or *The Next Generation* of The Reboot

5) A New Ship—That’s Not An *Enterprise*...

4) More Boldly Going

3) Lots of weird and wonderful aliens

2) A Diverse Cast

1) Something Really New!



Do you agree with him?





<http://www.startrekcontinues.com/aboutus.html>



<http://starttrekrenegades.com/home/><http://starttrekrenegades.com/home/>

And just to get  
you in the  
mood for more  
Star Trek!



<http://www.auroratrek.com/>



<http://www.starttreknewvoyages.com/>

What is Issuu? Issuu is where magazines go to live after publication! A place where you can find a magazine about, well anything! You can even do your own and upload for the world to see! As the site tells us "From giants of the publishing industry to art-school graduates seeking a first job, issuu gives anyone with digitally bound content the ability to upload and distribute their publications worldwide. In just minutes. And as often as they'd like." Like trains, TV, movies, comics, philosophy, education, and much, much more. The site is available at <http://issuu.com/> To highlight some of the publications that you can see we thought we would point you to this one!



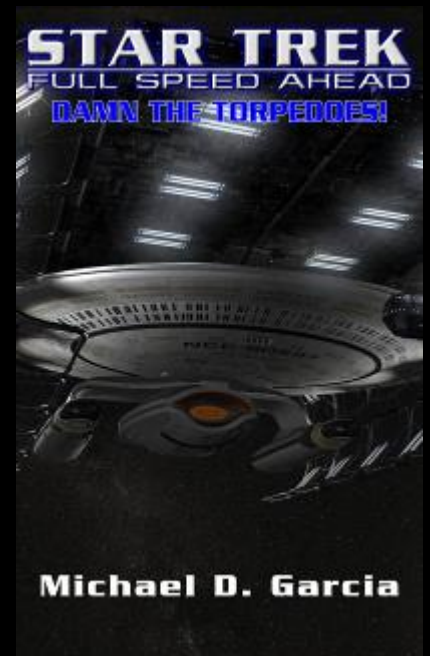
TrekUnited Publishing

This page on Issuu states that:

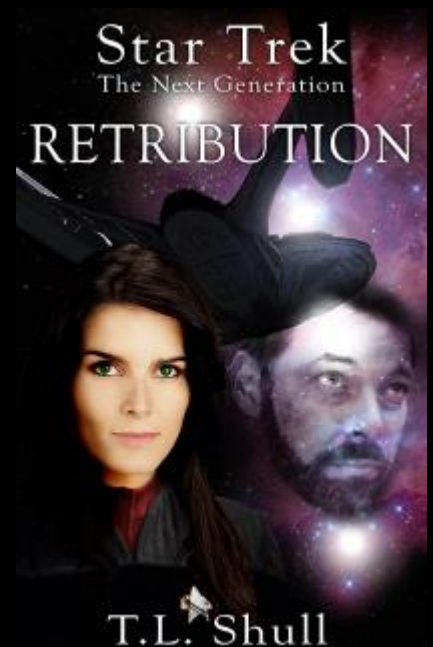
"Our mission is to help Star Trek fan fiction authors create and distribute their work, without any charge or expectation of favour beyond our common love of Star Trek. We do this without any implication of copyright ownership beyond the authors moral right to be identified as the writer and the owner of his/her original characters and ideas."

If you like reading fan fiction and you like Star Trek then you should check out their range of fan based stories. Some even across some different worlds and available in both comic and prose.

Click on the link to check them out! <http://issuu.com/>



And just to get you in the mood for more Star Trek!



BTW there lots more there than just Sci Fi you can find something on everything!



# THE 30 STAGES OF BEING ADDICTED TO A TV SHOW!

By Stacey  
Part 2

11. *Then you start to ship\**  
(\*ship is short for relationship and  
when you start to pair  
characters up with each other)



12. *Your social media is flooded  
with posts related to the show  
and your favourite characters.*



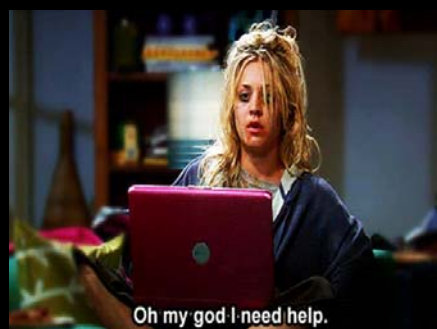
13. *Your OTP\* finally kisses. THE  
FEELS.*  
(OTP stands for one true  
pairing.)



14. *Suddenly there's a new  
character ....you hate them.*



15. *You now realize you haven't  
left your room for an entire  
week.*



16. *Your friends are seriously concerned and want an intervention.*



17. *But it's okay because you have almost finished the show.*



18. *If you're lucky your show is still on air and you get more episodes*



19. *When is the next one?*



20. *4 months!?!? I am going to die.*



**By Stacey**  
**Part 2**

**THE 30 STAGES OF BEING  
ADDICTED TO A TV SHOW!**





Paul McGann in the guise of the 8th Doctor did not have much opportunity to tell us more of this Doctor's story. Titan Comics now brings us more of this Doctor's story in comic book form! In the first of a new series of five interconnecting stories the 8th Doctor takes us on a journey from a Welsh village to the mysteries, the strange, and the bizarre as only the Doctor can do. In the first of the series The Doctor who on returning to his "earthly home" finds himself a new companion, Jose Day, painter, squatter and filled with "animae particles". Jose can paint things to life, this Doctor is gentler, a little more enigmatic and looks a country squire from long ago! Whilst this Doctor only appeared in one on-air story until Big Finish decided to honour his journey, and our next experience was in the fan-favourite minisode "Night of the Doctor" this carries on the stories of the Doctor that we don't know that well!



Every Geek/nerd knows about the cult movie Tank Girl, set in a post-apocalyptic Australia with human/kangaroo hybrids!!! Released 20 years ago with little given to fans since then, Titan Comics 'brings out what may be called a comic anthology of Tank Girl stories. Bizarre, weird and utterly outrageous this comic is not for the young. Completely outrageous, rollicking and laugh out loud funny, this is the first in a series of five. With 116 pages, different stories in different styles this comic has something for everyone, well not little kids. Watch out for a bit of language, adult themes and the odd bare body part! But hey it is 21st Century Tank Girl!!!!!!!!!!!!



**We review it  
for you!**



Original Movie Poster via Wikipedia

# Sci Fi Hearsay

*Rumour, Gossip, Tittle-Tattle, Scuttlebutt, Idle Talk,  
Unfounded, Unconfirmed, Word of Mouth and more!!*

Could be a good year???? Check out the **NET** for new and cancelled shows!

## Cancelled/ Ending

Babylon  
Beauty and the  
Beast  
Constantine  
Continuum  
Defiance  
Dominion  
Falling Skies  
Haven  
Lost Girl  
In the Flesh  
Perception  
Under the Dome  
Wayward Pines

## Returning Genre Shows

12 Monkeys  
American Horror  
Story  
Arrow  
Bates Motel  
Bitten  
Bones  
Da Vinci's Demons  
Daredevil  
Dark Matter  
Doctor Who

Galavant  
Game of Thrones  
Gotham  
Grimm  
Hemlock Grove  
IZombie  
Last Man on Earth  
M.A.R.V.E.L.S.  
Agents of SHIELD  
Marvel's Agent  
Carter  
Once Upon a Time  
Orphan Black  
Outlander

Penny Dreadful  
Salem  
Sleepy Hollow  
Supernatural  
Teen Wolf  
The 100  
The Flash  
The Librarians  
The Originals  
The Vampire Diaries  
The Walking Dead  
Z Nation

## New Genre Shows 2015/16!

## Possibly, maybe, could be for 2016?

Marvel's Jessica Jones  
Marvel's Luke Cage  
Ash V Evil Dead  
Beyond  
Colony  
Containment  
DC's Legends of Tomorrow  
Emerald City  
Fear the Walking Dead  
Falling Water  
Heroes Reborn  
Limitless  
Lucifer  
Lumen  
Minority Report

Montauk  
Outcast  
Preacher  
Supergirl  
The Frankenstein Code  
The Magicians  
The Shannara Chronicles  
Westworld  
Zoo

13 Miles  
Alien Theory  
Alphamem  
Amaranth  
Brave New World  
Damien  
Dreadstar  
Empire of the Dead  
Greatest American Hero  
Global Frequency  
Krypton  
Marvel's Most Wanted  
Star Trek?  
The Living and the Dead  
The X-files  
Titans



# THE GIRL WHO SMILES!



Howdy, my name is Janelle although I don't often get called that and rarely answer to it I am most commonly known as Smiley and I'm here to tell you a little about how I got involved in the wonderfulness that is the Fandom world and craziness of conventions. I have a unique story of how I entered the world of Science Fiction Fandom, instead of becoming a fan of an actor/actress from a show I happened to do it the other way around. I was at that age where I wanted a change, to do something different so when catching a family member watching Stargate, Amanda Tapping immediately caught my attention and I was like "That's how I want my hair cut" so I googled her name to get pictures and happened to come across a transcript of a convention she'd been here for the previous year, I read through this transcript and it's amazing how something so simple can change your life. I was inspired straight away, this was the kind of person I wanted to be someone fun who can have a laugh but also care so much and do so much for the world around them...

From that moment on I was hooked, I wanted to watch everything she'd done so over the next year I started to buy the Stargate box sets and would watch whenever I could. It wasn't too long and I had managed to watch everything that was available at the time (at least in Australia) then I happened to find a great online chatroom for Stargate fans where I met some people who are still friends to this day, well over ten years later. Having never really been a person who had many friends, I found myself with friends from all over the world with the same interests as me, it still makes me smile to this day thinking of how much my life has changed since then, how many amazing things I have done, people I have met and lifelong friends I have made.



In 2005 I attended my first ever convention and my life has once again never been the same since, because once you enter this amazing world of Science Fiction fans and Conventions there's no going back. A couple of friends and myself from that chat room found out about this convention and decided we would all go together, we decided to go VIP to enjoy the full experience and what an amazing experience it was the guests in attendance were Rainbow Sun Francks, Torri Higginson and Alexis Cruz, we had a lovely dinner with the three of them it was amazing hearing their stories and just chatting to them, the following day at the convention we dressed up in costume and were some of only a few people who did and amazingly even to this day all of those of us in costume are friends and in contact. Not only did we enjoy our first convention we made a name for ourselves by getting the guests to try Vegemite on stage, Rainbow thought it was horrible and walked off calling us Evil so it stuck and for the next few cons over the years we were known as the Evil Vegemite Girls and we would get guests to try Vegemite on stage. I never in a million years would

have thought that I would have the confidence to do that, to get up on stage in front of an audience, but I did and several times. Over the years conventions have evolved and there are more and more every year, in different states across the country run by different organisations. Even though that very first convention wasn't run by First Contact Conventions they were present and I have seen been a loyal attendee and friend. Not only have I attended conventions for the last 10 years, I have also been involved and worked the show AMC Expo (Formally Armageddon) since its first show in 2007, we were the first expo to hit Melbourne and wow what an experience that was, something I will never ever forget and the reason I do it every year because it is just amazing, hard work but you meet so many people, make so many friends and sometimes you get some nice one on one time with the guests.

It's hard to believe it's been ten years I have been doing this amazing thing that has changed my life so much. I have attended and worked conventions in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide... I have even travelled to England twice and attended events there and in 2014 I worked the New Zealand Armageddon which was another incredible experience. I look back over the last ten years of my life and even I am amazed at what I have done, what I've experienced, what I've been a part of, the friends I have made, the celebrities I have met, the memories I have from all these amazing things. If I were to be asked which event is my favourite I could not tell you a specific event but I have to say that my favourite event each year will always be AMC Expo/Armageddon and not because I am a volunteer but because the atmosphere at these events is always so welcoming and friendly.



BY

JANELLE MATFORD



Back in those early days when I was just learning about Fandom through Amanda and Stargate I never would have thought that I would have had the opportunity to actually meet her, the person who made everything I am today possible, and yet not only have I met her once, I have seen her on several occasions including two events in the UK, and she definitely knows who I am, my favourite ever event with Amanda would have to be Armageddon 2011, it was such an amazing event and she was there along with Robin Dunne and Agam Darshi from Sanctuary who were also both amazing. I brought a ticket to a dinner with them along with other attendees and it was such a great night, enjoying a meal, chatting and just enjoying it, it's not an event that I will forget...

Over the years I have put together a website and on my website I have a section dedicated to all my Celebrity Experiences, this includes all the conventions I've attended over the years and photos and autographs from them. There's also a few convention reports that I wrote detailing my experiences, not just for my own benefit but to show how much fun conventions can be. I also have a list there of Tweets I've received from Celebrities because to me these are almost as important as autographs because they don't have to reply yet they do and it's nice to know that they have the time for you. My website is [www.SmileyGidget.com](http://www.SmileyGidget.com) and even though Conventions are a big part of my life that's not what I have on there, you will also see examples of my Photography and Artworks. Artworks which I actually sell for donations to the charity Sanctuary for Kids of which Amanda Tapping is a founder.

The last decade has been a crazy adventure for me and I hope that this is just the start because I don't ever want to give up something that is so fun and makes me so happy. Fandom and Conventions are such an amazing thing to be a part of and I can't imagine my life without them.

## BY JANELLE MALEOD



No prize, but

How many faces can a girl pull?

Can you name them all???? ↑



THE GIRL WHO SMILES!  
J. M. ~~~~~ A. V.  
P. V. ~~~~~ J. M.



# THUNDERBIRDS

# 50

Thunderbirds created by Gerry and Sylvia Anderson, who also developed other TV shows such as Stingray, Captain Scarlet, UFO, Space 1999, Jo 90, Supercar and Fireball XL5.

If it wasn't for Gerry being allergic to lime in plaster (he was studying fibrous plastering) we may have never seen the brilliant puppetry skills of this man and the world would have missed out on the futuristic machine designs and the heroic adventure tale he created.



It was Gerry and his team who developed the technique of 'Supermarionation', which involved recording the voices of the actors first. Then as the puppets were filmed an electric signal from the taped dialogue was hooked up to sensors in the puppets head making the lips move in synch with the soundtrack.



The Thunderbirds began in 1965, set 100 years in the future it revolved around the Tracey family. Founded by Jeff Tracy, an ex-astronaut, who along with his sons Scott, John, Virgil, Gordon and Alan, were International Rescue. (The Tracy brothers were named after the Mercury Seven astronauts Scott Carpenter, John Glenn, Virgil 'Gus' Grissom, Gordon Cooper and Alan Shepard). Jeff Tracy was one of the richest men in the world having made his money as a construction engineer. After he retired to look after his sons when his wife died his time is dedicated to the service of International Rescue which he established with the help of a scientist called "Brains".



Each Thunderbird machine has a specific role in rescue operations. Scott pilots Thunderbird 1 which is fuelled by atomic power, rocket propellant and turbo jet fuel. It is the fastest of the Thunderbirds reaching speeds of over 15 000 mph.



Thunderbird 2, is a heavy duty freighter piloted by Virgil. It is relatively slow but is the 'work horse' in the team providing all the materials needed for a rescue.



Alan is the pilot of Thunderbird 3, which is sometimes co-piloted by Scott. It is a Space rocket and is fuelled by a combination of atomic electricity generators, particle accelerators and chemical rockets.



Thunderbird 4, is in charge of undersea rescue and is piloted by Gordon. It is able to travel on both land and sea with aid of hover jets and atomic generators.



Thunderbird 5, is a space station circling the earth scanning for messages of distress. It can only be reached by Thunderbird Three and is operated by John Tracy.



Every heroic tale needs a good villain and in this case International Rescue's nemesis is, "The Hood"! The Hood, who desires to possess the secrets of Thunderbirds technological power so that he can rule the world. Of course he does, what supervillain does not want to rule the world?

Working with the Tracy's is the very sophisticated women, Lady Penelope Creighton-Ward, who along with her chauffeur Parker act as a secret agents for International Rescue. Lady Penelope is always cool, calm and there is never a hair out of place. However, Parker is just a tad bit "cooler"!!!



Since 1965 The Thunderbirds have been broadcast in over 66 countries, and has been continually. It is considered to be the Anderson's most popular and commercially successful series. In the 1990s it was adapted for radio and has spawned two feature-length film sequels, a live-action film (which wasn't the best), and a mimed stage show tribute. There were other remakes of the show during the 80s and 90s but with little success.

This year a computer animated version has hit the screens called Thunderbirds are Go. It is a British and New Zealand collaboration made by ITV Studios and Pukeko Pictures using a combination of CGI and miniatures made by the wonderful NZ Weta Workshop. The vehicle and set design has been updated to reflect a more modern time but the charm and memorable features have been retained.







The sci-fi classic, *Lost in Space*, premiered on September 15, 1965. The first season was transmitted in black and white and for the first month met with little enthusiasm, but slowly gained popularity. Eventually it made it into the top ten weekly programs. The second season was then made in colour and with the colour came the what some may call it, as it was

defined at the time, 'campy'! There is an "unaired pilot" around that was made in 1964 that never made it to the TV screen at the time, but if you look around you just might find it!

Produced by Irwin Allen who also brought us other notable TV shows such as: *The Time Tunnel*, *Land of the Giants*, and *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* to name a just a few. *Lost in Space*, was about the Robinson Family headed by Professor John Robinson (Guy Williams), his wife, Maureen (June Lockhart) their children Judy (Marta Kirsten), Penny (Angela Cartwright), and Will (Billy Mumy) who on the space ship, Jupiter 2 take a five and a half year journey to a planet orbiting the star Alpha Centauri which possesses ideal conditions for human life. Pilot for the mission was Major Donald West (Mark Goddard) and the unintentional stow away was Dr Zachary Smith (Jonathan Harris) who was sent to sabotage the mission.



Due to the popularity of the *Forbidden Planet* movie, and its star, Robby the Robot, Irwin decided to also have a robot as a cast member. The robot created by Robert Kinoshita, was a B-9, Class M-3 General Utility Non-Theorizing Environmental Control Robot! Bob May was the one stuck in the robot suit, and Dick Tufeld, voiced the role. Robby the Robot also made an appearance in the two-parter 'War of the Robots'.



With the success of the "Batman" television show in 1966 and the "campy" production style, Allen decided to treat *Lost in Space* with the same production values and that it needed this style to compete with the success of *Batman*. The outfits became brighter, the action was at times over the top and the space villains became more and more ridiculous with creatures such, Space Cowboys and Bespectacled Beagles.





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With this the emphasis changed from a serious science fiction to the comical relationship between Dr Smith, Will Robinson and the Robot. The character of Dr Smith was originally going to be a guest starring role lasting for the first half the first season. Jonathan Harris wanted to stay, so he worked hard at every chance to change his character from the dark heavy to a comical and likable trouble maker, 'Never fear, Smith is here'.

It was Harris who came up with the idea of calling the Robot different names such as 'bubble headed booby'. Irwin loved how Harris was playing the role and made him one of the main cast

By season three the Jupiter II could hop from planet to planet, but the stories became even more outlandish with space hippies, ice princesses and talking carrots! Some of the most bizarre aliens that were ever seen on TV and these days we have computer generation and we don't go that weird!



Despite the bizarre story lines, Lost in Space, is still fondly remembered and every now again you can still hear the catch phrase from the show with B9 saying "Danger, danger, Will Robinson"!





The Sci Fi world will remember Yvonne for her role as Batgirl in the 1966 Batman series and the Orion slave girl, Marta in the Star Trek episode 'Whom Gods Destroy'.

Her first appearance on the stage was not as an actor, but a ballet dancer. Discovered by Alexandra Danilova, a Russian-born prima ballerina, Yvonne joined the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo as its youngest corps de ballet member. She left the company over a disagreement about casting changes and moved to Los Angeles to continue her dancing career but ended up in movies.

During the early 1960s she appeared in television drama series' and the occasional spy fi, fantasy episode such as The Man from U.N.C.L.E, The Wild Wild West, Land of the Giants and The Ghost and Mrs Muir.

In 1967 Yvonne Craig began the role she is most remembered for as Batgirl in the third season of the series Batman. The Barbara Gordon character – mild mannered librarian, daughter of Commissioner Gordon by day, crime fighting superhero by night was created for the 60s series and later incorporated into the comic.

Yvonne did most of her own stunts including riding the Batcycle. Even though she owned her own motorcycle she didn't enjoy riding the Batcycle as the shock absorbers were taken off to put on the bat wings which were trimmed with lace!!



## YALE: YVONNE CRAIG



**Dick Grayson:** Holy apparition!

**Batgirl:** No, Boy Wonder. I'm Batgirl! You're no longer alone, Caped Crusaders.





The character of Batgirl was introduced as the producers wanted someone who could encourage an over 40 male audience and a prepubescent female audience to freshen and save the series as it was in danger of being cancelled. She played the independent, kickass superhero for 26 episodes before the axe finally fell.

Yvonne was very proud of the Batgirl character, it was portrayed in response to and a product of, the 1960s feminist movement. Barbara Gordon, as Batgirl was unique for her time being shown as an independent woman, free from the expectations of being a housewife or damsel in distress. Together with Batman and Robin the trio fought and won against villains such as, The Riddler, Penguin, and The Joker.

In 1964 Yvonne Craig was considered for the role of Vina (the Orion girl in the Star Trek pilot, The Cage) because of her dancing skills but missed out on the role which eventually went to Susan Oliver. She did play an Orion some years later when acting in the role of Marta, an inmate of the Federation asylum on Elba II in the 1969 episode, "Whom Gods Destroy". Her character is remembered for not only trying to seduce Kirk, but also trying to stab him. Marta died on the planet's toxic surface, by being blown up.

By the early 80s Yvonne moved out of acting and ventured into private business. For a while she was a co-producer of industrial shows and then started a career as a real estate broker. She returned to acting from 2009 to 2011 as the voice of 'Grandma' in the animated show Olivia. She died on 17th August 2015.



**YALE: YVONNE CRAIG**





# Geek Girl Problem

#9

When someone asks about a subject you love and you dive into a lengthy explanation .



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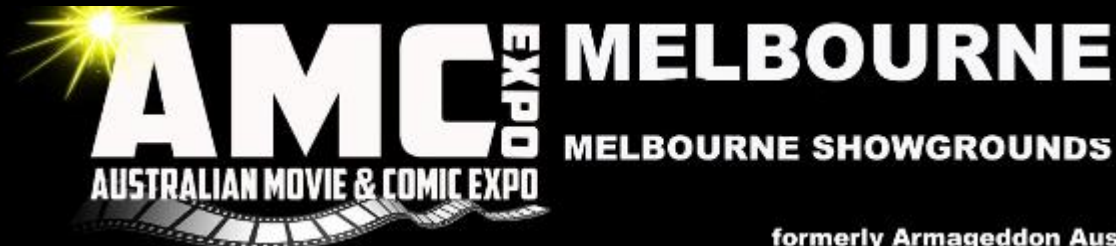
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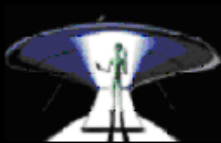
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