

A Space:1999 Fan Publication
Spring '76

Editor: Stephen Eramo



MARTIN LANDAU & BARBARA BAIN IN
SPACE:1999

A Letter From Your Editor

As you can see, Martin and Barbara are very happy about the success of Space:1999. I am also very happy about the success of Alpha. I want to thank all the people out there who made it possible. In upcoming issues I plan to have more features, articles, and photos. I think for a 15 year old I'm doing pretty darn good. I hope you all like Alpha Two.

Best to all:
Stephen

RED ALERT!

Your editor needs everyone's help! All of you, by now, have seen all or most of the Space:1999 episodes. I want to poll the top '1999 episodes in the next issue. When you send me your Acknowledgement Sheet I would appreciate it if on the back you will tell me your favorites. I will count up the votes for each show and then in Alpha #3 I will rank them in order of favorites. Thank You!

BLASTING INTO



THE FUTURE WITH SPACE 1999

This season's television sensation,
Space 1999, has grabbed the nation's
imagination. Is this series an actual look
at life in the 21st Century?

SPACE:1999 has been on Canberra's one and only commercial station since May 16th at the ungodly hour of 10:35pm. Fortunately, this is on Fridays, so I don't have to worry about heavy heads next day. It is a really beautiful show to look at, as well as being the first science-fiction of intelligence since STAR TREK. It takes a bit more getting used to, as it tends to be a bit more "way out" in its approach than ST. By that, I mean they take the view that space beyond the solar system is a really weird place to be. It is so unknown and unexplored that anything, no matter how contrary to the laws of physics or probability as viewed on earth, might happen and often does. They don't always try to explain everything away, as people are in "uncharted waters" as it were, and they don't have the data. They can only guess at various explanations for certain phenomena. And this really wakes, making for some striking and eerie episodes. Space is more of a mystery in SPACE:1999 than it was in STAR TREK where many things seemed taken for granted. The sets and special effects are marvelous and quite impressive - one thing of the alien ship, with its impression of vastness and age, in "collision Course" or the whole of the initial episode "Breakaway". I like the costumes, too, of Moonbase personnel, as they are practical and attractive. The women's are the same as the men's - type of close-fitting tunic over slightly flared slacks with a broad sash around the middle. A welcome relief from the mini-skirts, which might please the male audiences but are hardly practical, especially when exploring of "roughing it".

The emphasis, so far, has been rather different than most TV/film sci-fi in that the protagonists are acted on by the various occurrences and hence have a rather passive, less aggressive approach in their dealing with outer space. This is because of their situation. They are on a runaway moon, they cannot direct its course and have only limited weaponry. So they must trust the chance a lot. They are not ordered to any planet or area purposely. Things come to them rather than they go to the things. This avoids a lot of flag-waving, colonial approach of the "if-you-don't-~~like~~ my idea of society - I'll blast your culture out of space" attitude.

Anyway, to "Earthbound" - this involved the landing on the moon of an alien craft containing the last of a race, the Kaldorians, who are trying to find a new home, as their old world has gone sterile and everything on it. They were in a state of suspended animation when they landed but were awaked when the moonbase medical staff, thinking they were dead, opened one of the cases, causing the inhabitant to disintegrate. Christopher was the leader. If he had a name, it escapes me, (Captain Zantor-ed.) but may I say that I think this was one of the best characterisations I have seen him do in a long while. It has become one of my favourite roles of his, much better than "Leather Funeral", for example, and as good, though in a different way, as Scaramanga or Rochefort. He was aloof, proud, noble, yet rather touching without being sentimental as you caught some of his (and his race's) loneliness....when he reached out to touch both of Barbara Bain's hands in farewell and also the way he looked at her when he first met her (not to mention the fact that she was his choice for the suspended animation experiments to see if it was feasible for a Moonbase person to go with them, as they were on course for Earth). He created a picture of a rather serene, benevolent, wise member of a highly advanced race, beneath his aloof and proud exterior, as he took no revenge or made no attempt to punish those responsible for the death of one of the Kaldorians, fully realizing and accepting it as due to ignorance. Instead, he made a present of a very rare object, an egg of a certain type of bird on his world, to Commander Koenig (Martin Landau). He was really fascinating in this role, really alien and yet not alien. He looked impressive, too, with his long wig, flowing robes and graceful bearing.

Actually, that was one of the best episodes so far (though all but one have been good). It had a particularly grim and ironic end. Roy Dotrice was also in the episode and gave a good performance as the Commissioner who suffered said ironic fate.

SPACE:1999 TECHNOLOGY
by Stephen Eramo

Moonbase Alpha is Earth's supreme achievement in 1999. Self-sufficient and fully computerized, the fantastic lunar colony is Earth's global watchdog, silently guarding against sneak alien attack. Alpha is divided or "branched out" into main sections, some of which are, Medical Section, Engineering and Atomic Reactor Sections, Recreation Sections, Hydroponic and Recycling Plants, Technical Sections, Security, and other sections. Main Mission is the center or "heart" of the whole base. It contains the vital systems to keep Alpha functioning, Communications, Computer, Defense Systems. Lining the walls are rows of memory banks and computer facilities that house all of Alpha's classified data. The Commanders office is respectively in back of Main Mission, so put there so that he could oversee the activity in Main Mission. The main reasons that Alpha was established was, one, to repel possible alien attacks, and two, since atomic waste has become man's most pressing problem they had to store it somewhere, so they picked the dark side of the moon as a "dump", and Alpha personnel oversee the delivery of it from the Earth. You can see this was a mistake because it creates the disaster that was never thought could happen.

Moonbase Alpha is equipped with a fleet of Eagle Transports, this is their only means of base to planet landing. The Eagle is a twenty-seven foot, two-part transport. The first part is a command module/engine. The command module is the diamond shaped section at the front of the Eagle. It is fully equipped with navigation, helm, communication and defense equipment. At the back of the Eagle there is a four section nuclear powered engine, the command module and engine are attached by a set of rafters at the top of the Eagle. The second part is the passenger module, which separates the engine and command module. This is fitted with hatch, communication screens and on-board computer, as well as passenger seats. Lastly, the four square platforms at the corners of the passenger modules are the landing gear.

Alpha also has an inter-base transport systems called sub-shuttle tubes. These are circular passenger modules which carry the occupants to different sections of Alpha by means of air suction.

All Alpha personnel are equipped with their own, computer numbered, commlocks. These are used as inter-communications/hatch release devices. The first use, communications. With a little screen at one end, one can actually see and communicate with others on the base as well as on landing party missions. The second use, this device can automatically open and close a hatch that it is pointing to with a touch of a button. The hatches are also manually controlled in case of commlock malfunction or loss. This device can also be used to set off alerts and as a locator beam.

Alpha is also equipped with defenses. The first one defense screens, these are used to repel alien attacks and other phenomenon. The three main types are, Defense Screens, Radiation Screens (useful against certain classes of radiation), and Meteor Screen. Some problems arise with these. They can be severely weakened or knocked out if alien attacks is too strong and if Moonbase Alpha power goes out, so do the screens. The second defense are lasers. There are two types, hand lasers, which are normally carried and also a cannon type laser. The hand laser is easier to carry but is restricted much more in power and range than the cannon laser. Also, a certain number of Eagles are equipped with laser charges and all Eagles have all 3 types of defense screens.

SPACE:1999 THE ULTIMATE ADVENTURE SERIES

Space:1999, starring Martin Landau, Barbara Bain, and Barry Morse, is the most spectacular and expensive space science fiction series ever made for television. ITC has spent \$6,500,000 on the production of the series, which means each episode averages out to a cost of \$250,000. Such stars as Christopher LEE, Richard Johnson, Peter Cushing, Margret Leighton, Gianni Garko, and Joan Collins will appear in various episodes as special guests. The premise of "Space:1999" is this: Space travel near the turn of the century has become a commonplace and a vital part of everyday living. A series of routine trips between the Earth and Moon establishes the unquestionable existence of other life forms in space. This fantastic discovery brings all people of the world together in a common effort to protect itself against the potential threat of these other life forms. An early warning-defense system installation, called Moonbase Alpha, is created on the surface of the moon. Alpha is a kind of Outer Space United Nations as it is manned by 311 men and women representing all Earth nations. At this time in history, atomic power, has, coincidentally, become man's prime source of energy. But it has caused severe environmental problems on the Earth as there is no where to store its waste matter. A fateful decision is made to store atomic waste matter on the far side of the moon. As "Space:1999" opens, on September of 1999, the foolishness of this decision results in a catastrophe unequalled in the history of mankind. A succession of immense thermonuclear explosions occur that decapitate parts of the moon and completely alter its gravitational relationship with the Earth. In fact, the moon is blasted out of the Earth's orbit. Moonbase Alpha remains intact even as the moon careens inexorably away from the Earth. The 311 desperate inhabitants will never return to their home planet again. The Moonbase is their only home, and their goal now is to find a comatable planet on which to settle. The base is able to maintain survival conditions because it is self-sustaining. Food, air and water recycling installations are powered with atomic and solar power. All systems necessary for the life functions of the people and the computer-governed operations of the complex machinery, are operative, making the runaway moon completely self-sustaining. Thus the fateful journey of 311 men and women through the incredible vastness of space begins.

QUASIMODO MONSTER MAG. AUGUST '75



Articles, Reviews, Etc.

SPACED OUT :

Trekkies, rejoice! No, "Star Trek" is not returning to the TV screens, but a new, inventive sci-fi show has just been aired. Called "Space:1999", the show stars husband and wife team who made the improbable "Mission:Impossible!" capers possible, Barbara Bain and Martin Landau. At a cost of \$275,000 to produce per episode (there are 24 episodes and they took 16 months to film), the special effects are bound to be fantastic! There are giant brains, identical doubles of the characters in the series and a 1,000 year old man out there in outer space. Not only is there life on other planets, but there is a cliffhanger to the story too—"Space:1999" begins with a tragedy. It seems that the earth's moon was blasted out of orbit with 300 people from all nations on it, and they can't get back to earth. They have to find a planet to settle down on before their supplies are used up, which only gives them 15 months before they all die. Landau is the commander of this "lost" moon and Barbara portrays a doctor. Sounds really exciting, doesn't it? Hope this series proves to be as much fun as "Star Trek" was. If Bain and Landau are as successful at solving problems on this series as they were on "Mission:Impossible", there's finally bound to be a happy ending.

PHOTOPLAY 1975

SPACE:1999-----CAN IT TAKE THE PLACE OF STAR TREK?

For the past six years, ardent Star Trek fans---trekkies, they call themselves---had to be satisfied with reruns and annual conventions dedicated to their favorite program. A cult grew around the adventurers in outer space and contrary to all expectations their interest has expanded, not declined. Now their passions are rekindled over a brand new sci-fi creation, "Space:1999". A British production starring the old "Mission:Impossible" duo Martin Landau and wife Barbara Bain, 1999 has made the big wig execs of the three national networks eat their words and scramble for a piece of the pie. When 1999's production company, ITC, offered the show to the networks for the fall season, there were no offers. So 1999, in effect, created a fourth network by going into syndication. Amazingly enough some networks scrubbed shows such as Cher, \$6 Million Dollar Man and Rhoda, when they saw how popular 1999 was becoming. The story is basic--a colony from earth is based on the moon, is blasted out of orbit by a nuclear explosion. Now Alpha moonbase is destined to search for a new planet, a new home for their 300 men and women. Meanwhile they encounter strange space creatures, the likes of which Captain Kirk and the Enterprise never saw. Even if you were a fanatical trekkie you'll not want to miss Space:1999!

SCREEN STARS JANUARY 1976



TELEVISION FRONT

This section concerns an episode of Spac:1999 shown here in Boston on February 16, 1976. As you know, in Alpha One I reviewed all first season '1999 episodes. According to my records there were only supposed to be twenty-four (24) episodes this first season and I reviewed all of them. Well I switch on my set and I see the title being shown as "Space Brain", this would make twenty-five episodes. I wanted to mention it to see if anyone else saw it and if they have any info on how they slipped in another episode. Well, since I didn't catch it before, below is a review and rating of the episode.

SPACE BRAIN : ****

An outbreak of strange hieroglyphics on all of Alphas view screens and commlocks is actually a giant Space Brain trying to contact Alpha and to help it from certain destruction with the brain itself. While trying to communicate with the brain, a strange foam-like organism invades Alpha. Koenig cannot find out what it is or if it is friendly or not. The foam is actually anti bodies trying to destroy Alpha before it enters the brain.

Space:1999 Products

Paperbooks: The fourth in a series of Space:1999 paperbacks is out, it's titled Collision Course. The episodes Collision Course, The Full Circle, End of Eternity, and Deaths Other Domain are included in it. Price: \$1.50

POCKET BOOKS

ADS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, Etc;

If anyone out there has ads they would like printed please feel free to send them along. I will print them free of charge.

ALPHA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SHEET

Please return to editor; Stephen Eramo 5 Kimball Drive Stoneham, Massachusetts 02180 USA

NAME _____ DATE RECEIVED _____

HOW DID YOU LIKE IT? _____

FAVORITE ARTICLES, PHOTOS, FEATURES, ETC: _____

SUGGESTIONS _____

THANK YOU

SPACE 1999