Alpha News Service
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SPACE: 1999 SOCIETY

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LANDAU: SPACE 1999 IS "MORE ACCEPTED NOW"

The star of TV's supreme SF series talks about moonbases, meteors, and motion pictures

Recently, Martin Landau was interviewed for TV in Flagstaff, Arizona. He commented on a wide range of topics, speaking with enthusiasm and fondness of his days on Space: 1999. He doesn't exactly remember everything well, though, as you'll see in this article.

Martin Landau is smiling, vibrant, energetic-looking, this despite the thinning patch of hair atop his head which is the only indication that age is catching up with him. His face reveals not lines of age but of character. At the moment he is talking about his early career, not as an actor but as an illustrator.

"I studied fine arts and started as a cartoonist and illustrator on the New York Daily News, and then I went into night clubs as a comedian. I was writing material for other comics. I did that for a year and a half...I was still very young...and then I became an actor. So this is my third career.

"I loved acting. I went to the theatre, you know, having been born and bred in Brooklyn, New York, when I was five or six years old, and it was magical. It was terrific. I also liked the comic strips, so I tried that. I still paint and draw in

(cont'd on p. 3)

Johnson & Allder Win Best FX

Brian Johnson and Nick Allder, who produced the special effects for both seasons of Space: 1999 and are working on "The Empire Strikes Back: Star Wars 2", won Oscars for Best Visual Effects for their work in the movie "Alien", during the Academy's 52cd annual awards presentation on April 14.

Campaign moves well

The Space: 1999 letter campaign has been joined by three other 1999 fan groups: Main Mission Alpha, Rising Star Alpha and Alpha News Service (Melrose MA). An encouraging number of replies have been received from notices placed in two of those groups' newsletters, and from an ad in Starlog #34.

The campaign will be directed at both ITC Entertainment and local TV stations. Local stations make independent decisions regarding purchase of shows like Space: 1999 and are VERY important to the campaign. Plans for the campaign are as follows:

(1) Fans are asked to write letters in support of Space: 1999, addressed to Mr. Abe Mandell, ITC Entertainment, The Galleria, 115 E. 57th St., New York NY 10022.

HOWEVER: we request that you send the completed letters to the Society's address, not directly to ITC. The letters will be collected here and the entire amount will be presented directly to ITC during the 1980 Convention in New York this August. The reason for this is to maximize the impact on ITC by giving a large amount of mail at one time.

(2) Fans are asked to write letters to the most important decision makers, the programming directors of your local TV stations. Send as many letters as possible to stations in your area, and don't give up! This part of the effort will be most effective over the long term; programming directors make decisions based on ratings and viewer requests. Our goal is to convince them that a large audience still exists for Space: 1999. Ask them to request 1999 from ITC Entertainment.

Progress reports will be included in future issues of the Society's newsletter.

SAVE: 1999! α

SPACE Graffiti

Several months ago OMNI magazine had a write-in contest involving SF graffiti. You know, cute stuff like "Black Holes Suck". Stuff like that.

Well, we want to do a takeoff on the idea. If you have any Space: 1999, UFO or related artwork that you might have seen on a space station wall somewhere, why not send it to us? Some possible examples:

"I SURVIVED BREAKAWAY"

"MAYA HAS WARTS"

Your graffiti can be serious or funny, a quote from a show or an original zinger. It can be as adult or as silly as you like. Send your ideas to us; we'll print the best ones next issue. Be Seeing You. (or is that from some other show?)

What WILL You Do, Barry?

Many U.S. members may be familiar with TV commercials for American Express Traveler's Checks, featuring tough-talking Karl Malden, who warns against the risk of not using "American Express".

While monitoring Canadian TV broadcasts from London, Ontario about a year and a half ago, SNS director Ted Hruschak was surprised to see an American Express commercial featuring Space: 1999 star Barry Morse. Unlike Malden, Morse extolls the virtues of "American Express"in a "fatherly" fashion, much like his role as Victor Bergman on Space: 1999. Who better than an Alphan to promote traveler's checks? α

FOUND— Ed Bishop

Now it can be told.

Mary Bloemker of Main Mission Alpha writes to tell us that yes, Virginia, that IS Ed Bishop in the cockpit of the Aries 7-B in "2001: A Space Odyssey". He is the pilot.

Which goes to show you the differences between television and film. On our videotape of "2001" we would never have guessed that that was Ed Bishop. He's too small, too blurry in that scene to really make out. When "2001" was re-released to theaters last month, we attended, and sure enough, there was Ed Bishop accepting a food tray from a Pan Am stewardess.

Now, can anybody tell us where Ed Bishop was in "Saturn 3"? This time, we know!

LANDAU

(from p. 1)

my leisure, but I...just liked it. You know, every kid goes to the movies. I used to go every Saturday afternoon, and I said, 'I can do dat.'

"I went away to summer stock. Everyone said I was good, but I knew where and how I was good and how I wasn't. So then I came back and studied acting. I auditioned for the Actors' Studio. Two thousand auditioned that year; two of us got in. Steve McQueen and I were the only two accepted that year. And since then, I've been teaching acting, and I kind of even spell Lee Strasberg at the Actors' Studio in California when he's in New York. The three of us take over: Shelley

(p. 6)

ANDERSON INSPIRES CONVENTION DONATION

At convention '78 in Columbus, 1999 producer Gerry Anderson expressed an interest in cancer research. In respect for Mr. Anderson, the proceeds from Convention 1980 will be donated to The American Cancer Society. For more information, see p. 11

Commpost

Orion Ventures offers one of the best sources for color slides from Space: 1999, UFO, "Star Wars", Star Trek and many other F & SF films and TV shows. Send your wants and a SASE for a complete list of shows and films we have slides from to: Orion Ventures, c/o Robert R. Rozek, 106 W. Highland Pkwy., Roselle NJ 07203.

Wanted - Space: 1999 and The Prisoner items, especially posters, stills and books. If you have any items of either or both shows, please write and state the price and condition. The address is: Cathy Conrad, 320 Hartwell St., Royston GA 30662

Gerry Anderson Fans - we have many rare and unusual science fiction collectibles based on Space: 1999, Captain Scarlet, Thunderbirds, UFO,etc. Items include candy and bubble gum cards from the U.S. and abroad, annuals and quality fan publications plus many other out-of-the-way collectibles. Send 50¢ for our 1980 catalogue. A.L.F.A. Archives, 1930 West Side Drive, Rochester NY 14624, U.S.A.

NEW 1999 NOVEL - 'Double Episodes'; two full-length Space: 1999 adventures: "E.T.A. TO ALPHA: UNKNOWN" and "RETURN OF THE TAYBOR", written by Bonnie J. Yoman. 100 pages of text alone! PLUS complete and original artwork by Jeffrey Smith. 50 orders must be received to warrant publication costs. ORDER NOW for summer '80 distribution. Send $5.00 check or money order to: Bonnie J. Yoman, 174 East Madison, Petersburg MI 49270.

Wanted - British year 1 & year 2 novels, #8 by Pocket Books, #2 by Warner, British Posterbooks, Charleton Magazines, Soundtrack, Presskits, Eagle & Hawk model kits, all on Space: 1999. Send pricelist to address below.
For Sale - 1999 novels, Man from U.N.C.L.E., Planet of the Apes, creation of "King Kong", Starsky & Hutch novels. Send for pricelist to Steven Reder, 11507 Preble Co. Line Rd, Brookville OH 45309

Wanted - The book "THE MAKING OF SPACE: 1999" by Tim Heald, published 1976 by Ballantine Books. Please write first telling condition of book and price. Roger Williamson, Box 955, Shellbrook, Saskatchewan CANADA SOJ 2EO.

RISING STAR ALPHA - A fan club devoted to both Space: 1999 and Battlestar Galactica. Dues for one year $6.00. For more information contact either Rickey or Darrell Jones, P.O. Box 65, Caruthersville MO 63830. (SASE appreciated)

Wanted - Space: 1999 items: models, (assembled or unassembled) articles, reviews, etc. Please write if you are willing to sell any of this material at a reasonable price. Please state the condition of the material. Address: Dennis Van Willis, 905 Edmond St., Valdese NC 28690

ALPHA NEWS SERVICE - NEWSBRAKE; the only news/summary sheet in 1999 fandom! Current issue (#1) only 5¢ plus SASE. One sheet tells it all: "THE '80 CON", SPACE in California, GALACTICA 1980 and more! Also, if you would like a free sample of the ALPHA NEWS SERVICE news-zine, mention it with your order and it will be sent at no cost to you. Send order to ALPHA NEWS SERVICE, c/o Dick Di Pirro, 160 W. Foster St., Melrose MA 02176. (NOTE: this publication and the newsletter of the SNS are separate publications and should not be confused. --sns)

Wanted - Space: 1999 items. Will buy anything from Space: 1999 such as gum cards, toys, posters, pictures and buttons. Also will pay to borrow cassette tapes. Wish to buy REMCO Stun Gun, DINKY Eagle transporter (die cast metal).
For Sale or Trade - Have an extra set of "War Games" View-master reels, cover slightly worn but reels in excellent shape, w/booklet. N.W.P. Enterprises, c/o Neil W. Pyle, 12690 Buttonwood Circle, Riverside CA 92503

Ads continue to be free of charge to all members. Partial or full-page ads must be camera-ready, including halftone screening for photographs. Because the legality of selling off-the-air videotapes is still up in the air, ANS cannot accept any ads for videotapes unless documentation is filed as to the tape's legal origins. Send your ads to "Commpost", Alpha News Service, Box 11123, Cleveland OH 44111. α

(from p. 3)

Winters, Mark Rydel and I kind of run the place, when he's not there.

Landau was asked in "North by Northwest" was a significant contribution towards making him a "star".

"Well, I'd just gotten to California, and I had done one picture before that which was a picture with Gregory Peck called 'Pork Chop Hill' that Lewis Milestone directed, and the next film I did was 'North by Northwest'. Hitchcock had seen me in the play 'Middle of the Night' and had an imagination which was mind-boggling because of his ability to see that role in 'Middle of the Night', which was a very highly-charged, sort of macho guy, and cast me in a very kind of contained, different kind of character. And yes, I would say that was the beginning of my motion picture career, yeah."

Landau is not surprised, though, that fans remember him mostly for Mission: Impossible and Space: 1999. "Television," he says, "does reach an awful lot of people. We did three years and eighty shows of Mission, and three years and 72 shows of Space: 1999. Now, Space is playing in 120 countries and is dubbed into 28 languages."

Perhaps it is Landau's enthusiasm for 1999 which makes it seem, to him, as if it lasted three years instead of only two. He is exceptionally proud of the series.

"Only because we sort of instigated (the science fiction craze). I mean, it was two years before 'Star Wars'. And it's a series that...has been accepted now, and is being more accepted for some of the ideas we had. And, of course, special effects have more recently gotten more sophisticated, but Brian Johnson, who was doing our effects, and is doing this new 'Star Wars' movie, 'The Empire Strikes Back', was working with chewing gum and saliva.

"The effects were excellent. If you see them on a big screen, they're wonderful!"

On the subject of "Meteor", his more recent SF opus, Landau becomes philosophic about the way disaster movies seem to have such a morbid fascination for so many of us.

"I think they allow a certain kind of release of tension. To go through that kind of experience without any real physcial jeopardy is something that is very welcome to a lot of people. It's an adventure, and it's thrilling, it's exciting and it's fearful, and yet you know you're going to walk out of the theatre all in one piece."

And his future plans?

"I've got a number of movies that are going to be released in the next six weeks, three in fact. And then I'm going to produce and direct a movie I wrote, that's next. There's neither a part for Barbara nor myself in this. And then we'll se if we can do something together or apart or maybe we'll do a play. But I'm having a very good time."

I truly enjoyed the letter by Christian Horton in "Commlock" but I disapproved of the pessimism that followed it. You said that it was highly unlikely that anyone would like to publish a set of photonovels having anything to do with Space: 1999. I disagree. Space: 1999 is a growing fandom. Already there are more that thirty fan clubs around the world that are set out to prove this. I believe that if these organizations and the people that are involved with these clubs were to unite with a petition, Ballantine, Warner or even Pocket Books might see how popular the television series has become and set themselves on a photonovel goal.

I just loved the column "Star Trek Meets the Mysterious Unknown Force". I wrote an almost identical letter to Starlog magazine after I'd seen the movie.

By the way, I was glad to see the "Save Space: 1999" column. It's good to know that there are still people out there trying. Unfortunately, channel 9 in the San Bernadino county has been a casualty of the plague of Space: 1999 cancelations that have been taking place lately. Just my luck!

Rebecca Eisenhuth
(editorial advisor for Alpha News Service in Melrose, MA)
Bloomington, CA

/Sorry if we sounded pessimistic in estimating the chances for new 1999 products, but we were trying to temper our enthusiasm with realism and honesty. The cancellation of 1999 on TV stations all over the country, the disappearance of 1999 items from stores, and low convention attendance lead us to believe that more recent projects, such as the Star Trek movie and Buck Rogers are draining 1999 fandom.

We do not believe fandom is dead. You're right: there are fan clubs, even a few new ones here and there, and there will be as long as loyalists continue to support the show. In that spirit, we've written to Fotonovel Publications to see whether they'd be interested. A reply is still forthcoming. Fotonovels is the biggest photonovel publisher, but the others you mention are noted for fine SF, and we will try them as well. α

Since signing up with your organization in September of this year I have received only one publication from you, Alpha News Service Vol. 1, Number 1. I feel very strongly that as a member who joined an organization of Space: 1999 fans, who support a science fiction series which has something to say, and each member shelling out $3.50 for membership, that there should

be something more to us "shut-ins" than a newsletter every four month. There is no sense of belonging. There is no brace of kinsmanship, no extension of greeting hands across international borders, totally contradicting a major theme and concept of Space: 1999. If you intend to be the central headquarter which will unify all or most Space: 1999 organizations, then there will have to be a change in policy to deter such isolationism. This letter was not meant to tell you how to govern our society and I apologize if you are offended by the letter.

Melvin Low
Vancouver, B.C. Canada

/We're not offended at all; in fact, we're open to suggestions anybody might have as to how we can improve things. We thing the interchange of ideas in "Commlock" is one way, but what else would help? A pen-pal service? New 1999 products put out by the SNS? We'll let you members tell us.
The convention is the best way of meeting fellow members in a more personal manner, but as you know by now, neither of last year's conventions was very well-supported. We are working on plans to make this year's a big one, so keep your fingers crossed.
Actually, ANS comes out every three months (more or less...). You probably received ANS #2 soon after your December 19th letter. We hope "ANS REPORT", which comes between issues, helps keep the time between each issue from getting to be too long. α

I am a member of Estes EAC, will soon become a member of the NAR, and I've earned Estes Expert Rocketeer Award. I would like to urge fans to contact Charleton Publications to bring back the Space: 1999 comic books Over the years I have collected Space: 1999 objects. I have an Eagle over two feet long, four Space: 1999 books, a Hawk spaceship, Starlog magazines containing Space: 1999 articles, some buttons, stickers, folders, stationery, etc. Below are the addresses of companies which sell Space: 1999 objects:

TK Graphics, P.O. Box 1951, Baltimore MD 21203

J.S. Hurst, Collector's Editions P.O. Box 236, Vienna MD 21869

George Schwartz, 3 Woodland Ave Keansburg, NJ 07734

Grand Books, Inc, 659 Grand St Brooklyn NY 11211

A.L.F.A. Archives, 1930 West Side Dr., Rochester NY 14624

Second Genesis, 1314 SE Harrision, Portland OR 97214

Dinky Club of America, Box 850 Hewitt TX 76643

Charleton Publications Charleton Bldg., Derby CT 06418

Thank you.

Colin Stahlman
Hvndman PA

/We're indebted to you, Colin, and a little bit jealous: we don't have a Hawk! α

In Volume 2, Number 2 there was a letter from a Terry Shewmaker. He mentioned there was a station in his home town of Visalia CA that still showed Space: 1999, the only in all of California. If you might have the address of the station I would like to send a letter to them in support of them showing this all-time great SF series.
To the best of my knowledge Space: 1999 is no longer shown at all in Ohio. A station in Dayton had shown it, but they scheduled it at 11:00 pm Saturday nights. Another thing wrong is that there is no publicity whatsoever on the station's part. The series was soon cancelled.

This station has a talk show once a week that allows public phone calls. Once a month they have the general manager and program director on for people to ask questions to. A young man had gotten through once and asked, "Why don't you show the series Space: 1999 anymore?" To quote the program director, "Well...I get this question asked each month. The series hadn't received too great an audience here in Dayton, so we no longer thought it was necessary to broadcast it if no one watches it." How could they at 11:00 at night?
After the show was over they gave an address to write questions to the manager. I quickly wrote down the address and wrote to them. I asked them if that question were asked each week, it might mean we do want to see the show. I also mentioned the time schedule and publicity faults on their part. I made it as sincere as possible but they never answered my letter.
The next month I called them and finally got through. I asked them the questions I had asked in my letter. Before I could continue they informed me they were having trouble hearing me so they cut me off and went on to the next caller. Once again I wrote them. Once again I heard nothing from them.
I soon attended your first convention and fell in love with the publicity packets. A lady told me she received hers from her neighborhood TV station that carried Space: 1999 by requesting them. As soon as the con was over I quickly wrote the station. I had made a breakthrough; they sent me a set of publicity photos and an Official Handbook, but still no answer as to why.
As of today I have sent my 9th

letter to the station and STILL received no answer.

Steven Reder
Brookville, OH

/Well! This is turning into a depressing column!
Seriously, stories such as yours are not uncommon. Many stations typically do not respond to fan mail. Even ITC in New York rarely answers Space: 1999 fan mail. That lady you met at the convention may have been our Convention Director, Mona Delitsky. She was one of the lucky ones to find a TV station willing to give away its 1999 material. Here in Cleveland, WUAB (ch. 43) is not so generous.
Oh, yes...if you're out there, Terry Shewmaker, could we have the address of the station in Visalia? α

What do YOU think? Is Space: 1999 fandom growing or dying? Any changes you'd like to see in the show if it IS revived? Want to ask questions about specific episodes?
Send your letters to "Commlock" The Space: 1999 Society, Box 11123, Cleveland OH 44111. Letters may be edited for clarity or space; direct replies will not be made. Fly Like An Eagle! α

TRADEOFFS

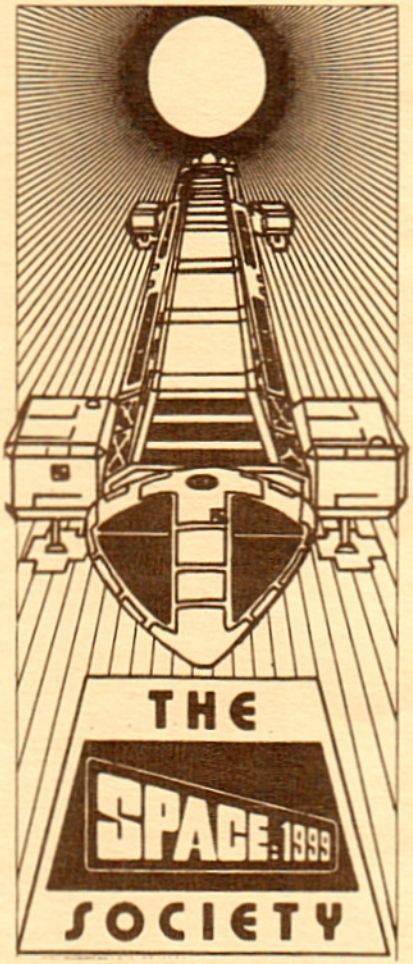
The Space: 1999 Society is now exchanging publications with 5 other SF fan organizations, including a prominent Star Trek group, the Star Trek Welcommittee. Welcome to Alpha, Trekkers! The other groups are Main Mission Alpha, Alpha Newsletter, Rising Star Alpha and the New Orleans Space: 1999 Society.

Indicium

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Daniel J. Pallotta and Ted M. Hruschak, editors. α

(We wish to apologize for the lateness of this issue of Alpha News Service and to thank you for your patience. We hope to keep a strict schedule from now on. We hope you'll agree that it was worth the wait.)

SPACE: 1999



CONVENTION 1980

AUGUST 23 & 24

Holiday Inn La Guardia

100-15 DITMARS BLVD.
NEW YORK, NY 11369

MEMBERSHIPS:

ATTENDING, $15.00
SUPPORTING, 7.50

BOX 11123,
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44111

Events include:

Ballotting for the OFFICIAL name for Space: 1999 fandom.

Selection of the BEST EPISODES of Space: 1999. (Other categories include Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Guest Actor, Best Guest Actress, Best Writer and Best Director.)

Space disco costume party (including music from 1999, "Love at First Bite", "The Amityville Horror", "Star Wars", "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and others; costumes are requested but are optional).

A variety of episodes of Space: 1999.

THE SPACE:1999 SOCIETY

BOX 11123
CLEVELAND OHIO 44111
a nonprofit organization

SM pending

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CLEVELAND, OHIO
PM
30 APR
1980



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4 ELAINE ST
PAWCATUCK CT 06379