



חדשות האגודה – ספטמבר 2021 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy 2021

Due to the Pandemic: MINI-ICON 2021 is now 'hybrid' ... ☺

עדכון: פסטיבל מיני-אייקון 2021 הברידי... ☺

הפסטיבל יתקיים במתכונת היברידיית לכל אורכו – בחול המועד סוכות בימים רביעי, חמישי וראשון (22, 23 ו-26 בספטמבר) באשכול הפיס, עירוני א' בתל אביב. במתחם הפיזי יהיו שני אולמות תוכן עיוני, חדרי משחקי תפקידים, חדר סדנאות, חדר מפגשים וכמובן, דוכן האגודה עם "היה יהיה" החדש! במתחם הווירטואלי יהיו שני אולמות תוכן עיוני (אחרים) בשידור חי, משחקי תפקידים, חדר מפגשים, חדר סדנאות וחלל הסתובבות וירטואלי לחלוטין (פרטים באתר).

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "קץ הילדות" מאת ארתור סי קלארק (עם עובד, 1976, ינשוף, 2005), ביום חמישי, 26.9, בשעה, 19:00. מנחה: דפנה קירש. הקישור יתפרסם בדף [האירוע בפייסבוק](#).

ירושלים: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "תחנה 11" מאת אמילי סנט ג'ון מנדל, ביום חמישי, 30.9, בשעה 20:00. לפרטים על המפגשים של המועדון הקריאה ניתן להצטרף לקבוצת הפייסבוק: [מועדון הקריאה הירושלמי של האגודה](#), או ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים - [גלי אחיטוב](#), ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטס'אפ של המועדון.

כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים בלוח האירועים (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד) לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה או בדף [האגודה בפייסבוק](#).

Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

This month's roundup:

- 3 Short TV and Movie reviews
- Our usual, interesting tidbits from various websites.
- Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

"More Zion's Fiction" Volume 2 of Israeli SF&F to be launched at Mini-ICON 2021

Fun from the Web

- 'Blade Runner: Black Lotus' trailer + Sneak peek at the opening minutes <https://www.space.com/blade-runner-black-lotus-first-trailer>
- Are lightsabers theoretically possible? <https://gizmodo.com/are-lightsabers-theoretically-possible-1847326356>
- Taika Waititi's animated 'Flash Gordon' film is reportedly now going to be live-action <https://www.space.com/flash-gordon-film-taika-waititi-live-action>
- 13 Things 'Star Trek' Gets Right (and Wrong) About Space Tech <https://www.space.com/33600-star-trek-space-technology-countdown.html>
- Watch a sneak peek of the 'Star Trek: Prodigy' opening sequence <https://www.space.com/star-trek-prodigy-opening-sequence-video>
- Classic 'Star Trek' villains beam up in this deluxe guidebook from Titan Books <https://www.space.com/star-trek-villains-titan-books>
- Watch the first full trailer for 'Star Trek: Picard' Season 2 <https://www.space.com/star-trek-picard-season-2-trailer>
- Watch 'Don't Look Up' trailer of Netflix's dark comedy about a comet headed for Earth <https://www.space.com/dont-look-up-comet-impact-comedy-netflix-first-trailer>

- 'Bright green UFO' reported seen swooping through the clouds over Canada
<https://www.space.com/canadian-aircrafts-report-ufo-july-2021>
- Sneak peek at Disney's Space 220 restaurant at Epcot ahead of its September launch
<https://www.space.com/disney-space-220-restaurant-epcot-sneak-peek>
- Rocket Lab will launch Finnish cubesat this year to test space junk cleanup tech
<https://www.space.com/rocket-lab-space-junk-finnish-satellite-launch>
- Northern lights (aurora borealis): What they are and how to see them
<https://www.space.com/15139-northern-lights-auroras-earth-facts-sdcmp.htm>
- 5 Reasons Space Exploration Is More Important Than Ever
<https://www.extremetech.com/extreme/268062-5-reasons-space-exploration-is-more-important-than-ever>
- America's forgotten plans to reach the moon
<https://www.space.com/forgotten-plans-to-reach-the-moon>
- Best night sky events of September 2021 (stargazing maps)
<https://www.space.com/33974-best-night-sky-events.html>
- Tour Russia's new Nauka space station module with these astronaut home movies
<https://www.space.com/nauka-space-station-module-tour-astronaut-home-movies>
- China wants to build a mega spaceship that's nearly a mile long
<https://www.space.com/mega-spaceship-china-proposal>
- 'Megacomet' Bernardinelli-Bernstein: the find of a decade, here explained
<https://www.space.com/giant-comet-berardinelli-bernstein-discovery-size-activity>

Some Quick Reviews

Film Reviews by Gary Roth

- **Eve of Destruction | 2013 Action Disaster**



Briefly, a Denver, Colorado beam accelerator project to discover unlimited energy is sabotaged by eco-terrorists. Their tampering creates a dark energy black hole that could result in the possible annihilation of the world. Various ethical and moral questions are raised during the film, especially regarding "*Man playing God*" and attempting to change Nature in radical ways.

The 2-part TV mini-series contains plenty of action at a good pace and includes interesting interactions at all levels: between individuals (young and old), corporate and governmental bodies, public and private organizations, and Russians and Americans.

The plot, acting, science, etc. were all done well, with plenty of surprises from beginning to end.

The spectacular special effects are especially well worth watching.

- **Ground Zero: The Deadly Shift | 2008 Action Drama**



The movie (AKA "*Polar Opposites*") is another made-for-TV Movie. It is about an underground Iranian nuclear test that unexpectedly adversely impacts the entire planet. The main protagonist, David Terran had authored scientific theories predicting an inevitable shift in Earth's magnetic poles – but was ignored by his fellow scientists. When the Iranian underground nuclear test sets off a global phenomenon that matches David's doomsday scenario, he is called up to help solve the crisis.

Viewers are given a taste of the U.S. government's inner power struggles (the Secretary of Defense vs. his advisors, for example), the various considerations that go into decision-making, the blame-game when things go wrong or some opportunity was missed, etc. We are presented with some significant food for thought about hard science fact vs. "far-fetched" theories that end up being correct in spite of critics' denouncements.

Not all of the action takes place in the halls of power. The various settings that include a geophysics monitoring center, a medical cancer clinic, and the home of a scientist, all share equal footing/time as well.

It took some time, however, to get over the shock of a woman presented as the top general in the U.S. Army, and it was really neat to see a sleek, super-long special bomber jet in action. Also, it was strange to see the old bulky CRT computer screens, rather than today's sleeker flat-screens.

The movie was well worth watching - good acting, interesting plot, well-paced, nice special effects, a few unexpected surprises, and more.

I wonder if this motion picture was based on a story in a book -- perhaps CyberCozen readers can provide input?

LB: IMDB has Paolo Mazzucato as the screenwriter – He is an American writer and screenwriter, but Amazon doesn't have him down for this story – only some other books

TV review by Leybl Botwinik

- **Counterpart |2017–2019 – Season 01**

Very interesting plot:

About 30 years prior to the show's current setting, scientists in Berlin conducted an 'earth-shaking' experiment that duplicated our dimension. On the day that occurred, two absolutely identical parallel worlds came into existence (or to be exact, the original – Earth Prime – and its duplicate). So, 30 years earlier, everyone on Earth gets duplicated, but have the exact same 'history' (feelings, memories, characteristics, behaviour, likes and dislikes, etc.).

However, at this point, things began to change, and different things happen to different people, with people making decisions and taking different paths in life that change them – sometimes superficially, and sometimes fundamentally.

In fact – and this was kind of scary – in 1996 of the story's timeline, there was a pandemic on the duplicate Earth causing hundreds of millions of deaths globally (quite reminiscent of the

COVID/CORONA of our day). The repercussions are critical, since that pandemic still stays with them, and they need to 'zap' their hands every once and a while on street corners and are ever wary of the disease that is still around them. A TV ad shows schoolkids playing, and when one of them begins to cough, they all pull up masks to cover their faces...



Other than the scientists, only a very small number of bureaucrats in both worlds actually know about the existence of the 'other' parallel Earth - and that they have duplicates on the 'other side'. The pathway between the two worlds exists as a series of tunnels under the very building where the experiment was conducted, and an intricate set of very strict rules, checks and balances, and political and even social and scientific agreements have been put up to deal with this unique situation.

Our storyline deals with warm-hearted Howard Silk (Prime), a very humble and quiet civil servant who has for about 30 years been working as a simple 'cogwheel' in the system. He is totally ignorant of the greater picture – and not even sure what his specific very boring job of tallying and checking coded numbers is for.

One day, Howard Silk (Prime) is suddenly confronted by his exact duplicate from the parallel world. This Howard Silk2, is a high-level, cold-hearted, hard-nosed secret agent/trouble-shooter who frequently travels between the worlds on important assignments. He is pretty much disgusted by Howard Silk Prime who never moved up in life.

The two get involved in trying to uncover (and foil) a plot that was initiated by discontented survivors of the pandemic in the parallel world, who blame Earth Prime for the plague, believing that it was deliberately done to them. In order to get revenge. they plant Sleepers in our Earth Prime by assassinating key people here and replacing them with duplicates from that Earth – and plot some nasty acts of cold-blooded revenge.

Story and acting is well done. I can't figure exactly why Berlin was selected for the 'center' of action. Possibly the writer, Justin Marks, has some connection to Germany, or the story is somehow a parallel or reflection of the East-West Germany tensions of the Cold War (there are many subtle and obvious parallels, such as the well-guarded 'frontier' between the worlds, including a stretch of 'no-man's land').

I watched Season One's 10 episodes and look forward to the second (and final) season.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the above topics and with your OK, we may publish them!

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