

It's Here! Four years in the making!

***Science Fiction Television Series:
Histories, Casts and Credits for 58
prime-time shows 1990-2004***

by Frank Garcia and Mark Phillips

A comprehensive showcase of 58 prime-time science fiction television series produced from 1990-2004. Each program is covered with an in-depth chapter, containing conversations with actors, writers, directors and producers. Plus "Who Goes There?" short quotes section, A Look Back at Science Fiction Television Series 1959-1989 and a Bibliography.

Mark Phillips of Victoria, B.C. Canada is a correspondent for Starlog Magazine. Frank Garcia of Vancouver, B.C. is a freelance writer who has written for Cinefantastique, Starlog and a variety of other publications.

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Histories, Casts and Credits for 58 Shows**

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Foreword by Brad Wright

ISBN 978-0-7864-2483-2

photos, appendices, bibliographies, index

431pp. hardcover (7 x 10) 2009

In 2004, eight years after having written and published their first book, *Science Fiction Television Series 1959-1989 - Episode Guides, Histories, Casts and Credits for 62 Prime-Time Shows*, Frank Garcia and Mark Phillips joined forces once again to create a sequel that picked up where they left off. In this second volume, 58 science fiction television series are documented in comprehensive detail spanning the 14 years from 1990 to 2004. Example titles of TV programs included in the coverage includes

Andromeda, *SeaQuest*, four *Star Trek* series, two *Stargate* series, and *Twilight Zone*. Many short-lived shows also are covered in detail. Those titles includes *Dark Skies*, *Earth 2*, *Mann & Machine* and *VR5*.

Speakers who appear in the book includes famed feature film writer/director James Cameron discussing *Dark Angel*, the series he co-created with Charles Eglee. Anthony Michael Hall reveals his thoughts about *The Dead Zone*, and both Luke Perry and Malcolm Jamal-Warner discusses their series *Jeremiah*. Covering *First Wave* are the series' cast: Sebastian Spence, Rob LaBelle and Roger R. Cross.

There is, however, one major difference between this volume and its predecessor, says the authors. "We decided to take the exact same approach as we did in our first volume," says co-author Frank Garcia. "But we did not include detailed episode guides in this book because of the Internet. Just about all of the information that we might have included are already out there. It's pretty much all available in just a few keystrokes by fans and interested viewers. So we opted to concentrate on new and interesting information about the making of the programs."

The results of the second book, says co-author Mark Phillips, are as comprehensive as it was in volume one. "In book two, we were able to track down more than 150 individuals who were intimately involved in the making of each show covered. We found actors, writers, directors and series creators. The stories they told are often revealed here for the first time. When a show goes off the air, no one bothers to run back for a post-mortem examination. Production information and interviews with creative artists on television shows are usually confined to pre-publicity and when the show is in production. Our approach, which is going back to the people long after a show has died, is very interesting. They often give us a 20/20

hindsight view on the birth, life and demise of a television show and the anecdotes are sometimes just priceless!”

Says Frank Garcia, “This time around, because of our extensive experience in writing the first book, we worked so much better and more efficiently. We knew how to do the book, from start to finish. We were able to complete the work faster as a result. We also went back to a couple of people we interviewed for the first book.”

The goal of writing this book was the same as it was in the first volume: Write an entertaining, informative and revealing account of the making of 58 SFTV shows, chock full of anecdotes. Here are some examples:

- In an uncredited contribution, Dixie Chicks singer Natalie Maines (who just happens to be the wife of the series’ star) sang “Amazing Grace” in the pilot episode of *Mysterious Ways*.
- When a shady looking guy dropped off a brown paper bag package at the *Dark Skies* production office, staffers got so paranoid that the office was evacuated and the LAPD Bomb Squad was ordered to investigate. After inspecting the package, the officers announced that the package was not a bomb but merely.... an unsolicited spec script! Red-faced producers and staff returned to their offices unharmed.
- While casting about for bit part actors in Mexico, during the filming of *Tremors: The Series*, directors had to deal with a very eager Mexican local who wanted desperately to get the speaking role. But to their chagrin, his performance was just so frightening they didn’t hire the guy.

- Just as the series was gearing up for the shooting of the series pilot, *Space Rangers* cast and crew had to suddenly shut down for a couple of days. Why? Because in Los Angeles, the infamous Rodney King riots had just broken out. A court verdict against Los Angeles police officers had enraged citizens of the city and the series crew members came into work injured. Buildings were also on fire in the neighborhood.

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Who's Frank Garcia?

Frank Garcia has been specializing in science fiction media reporting since the 1980s. His works have appeared in **Cinescape, Comic Scene, Cybersurfer, Dreamwatch, Filmfax, Sci-Fi, Sci-Fi Entertainment, Sci-Fi Universe, Starlog**, Titan Magazine's **Star Trek Magazine, TV Week** and **Video Watchdog** magazines. He wrote a double-issue (80 pages)

covering the first three seasons of *The Outer Limits* (1998) and co-wrote a second double issue on all five seasons of *Babylon 5* (2000) for **Cinefantastique** magazine. He was also a correspondent for the (now defunct) online newsmagazines **MANIA!** and **Fandom.com**.

Who's Mark Phillips?

Mark Phillips is a Canadian correspondent for the New York-based *Starlog* magazine. He has also written articles for magazines such as *Cinefantastique*, *Filmfax*, *Otre* and *Britain's TV Zone*. He lives in Victoria, B.C. Canada.