

## Sci-Fi Tidbits



### Stars Join SG-1, Atlantis

From Sci-Fi Wire, February 7, 2005

SCI FI Channel announced that Beau Bridges, Lou Gossett Jr. and The X-Files Mitch Pileggi will join the casts of Stargate SG-1 and Stargate Atlantis as the two shows gear up production for their new seasons.

Bridges will join SG-1 as Gen. Hank Landry, the new head of Stargate Command, when Jack O'Neill (Richard Dean Anderson) is promoted to oversee Homeworld Security. Bridges will have a regular role on SG-1 and will also appear in a few episodes of Atlantis.

Oscar winner Gossett joins the cast of SG-1 in a recurring role as a Jaffa leader who vies with Teal'c (Christopher Judge) for political control of the new Jaffa nation.

Pileggi, best known to SF fans for his recurring X-Files role as assistant FBI director Walter Skinner, takes on a recurring role in Atlantis as a hard-nosed colonel who butts heads with Dr. Weir (Torri Higginson) and Maj. Sheppard (Joe Flanigan).

SCI FI Channel confirmed that Farscape star Ben Browder will join the cast of SCI FI's original series Stargate SG-1. Browder will join the cast in the show's upcoming ninth season; no information on Browder's role was available. Meanwhile, the show's producer, MGM, is still working on a deal to bring back SG-1 star Richard Dean Anderson (Gen. O'Neill) in some capacity.

Production on both Stargate SG-1 and Stargate Atlantis is set to begin in March for summer premieres on SCI FI.

### SCI FI Renews Galactica

From Sci-Fi Wire 09 February 05

SCI FI Channel has ordered a second season of its hit series Battlestar Galactica, which has aired five episodes of its first season of 13 episodes. Details of the renewal, including which cast members will return, how many episodes will be produced and when the second season will commence were still being worked out at press time.

Battlestar Galactica has been a ratings winner for SCI FI since its Jan. 14 premiere. The latest episode, Feb. 4th's "You Can't Go Home Again," scored the show's best ratings yet, with 3.2 million viewers.

For the show's second season, creator and executive producer Ronald D. Moore previously told SCI FI

Wire that he has already been working on as many as six new scripts to resolve the multiple cliffhangers that will end season one. Moore added that he wants to delve deeper into the show's religious themes and open up the Cylon world a bit more in the coming season. Moore continues to post his thoughts on a personal blog on SCI-FI.COM. Battlestar Galactica airs Fridays at 10 p.m. ET/PT, part of the channel's SCI FI Fridays lineup.

## **Galactica Returns This Summer**

From Sci-Fi Wire 23 February 05

SCI FI Channel announced that the second season of its hit original series Battlestar Galactica will premiere this summer, with 20 new episodes. The channel added that the entire ensemble cast will return for season two, including Edward James Olmos, Mary McDonnell, Katee Sackhoff, Jamie Bamber, James Callis, Tricia Helfer and Grace Park. Also resuming their roles are executive producer and writer Ronald D. Moore and executive producer David Eick.

Galactica will resume production in Vancouver, B.C., in March and will again anchor the channel's SCI FI Friday block of prime-time original series.

The series, which premiered on Jan. 14, has been averaging over 3 million viewers per episode and has quickly become SCI FI's highest-rated original series and has received unprecedented critical acclaim. Galactica airs Fridays at 10 p.m. ET, part of the channel's successful SCI FI Friday lineup, which also includes Stargate SG-1 and Stargate Atlantis. Galactica ends its first season with a finale episode on April 1.





## **Eccleston quits**

From [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) 31 march 2005

Ninth Doctor Who actor Christopher Eccleston has decided to quit the role, it was confirmed last night. Billie Piper will be staying on as the Doctor's companion, however.

Squarely in the Frame For the role of Doctor number ten is David Tennant, currently starring in Russell T Davies' Casanova, and about to appear as Dr Briscoe in BBC Four's live broadcast of The Quatermass Experiment on Saturday.

Talks are in progress with the actor, although a BBC spokesperson said that other names might still be put forward.

Blimey - It's all go, isn't it?



## **Tenth Doctor announced**

From [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) 18 April 2005

David Tennant will play the next Doctor, it was announced today by Jane Tranter, BBC Controller of Drama Commissioning. Tennant, whose recent credits include BBC Three's Casanova, Blackpool and He Knew He Was Right, will star alongside Billie Piper who returns as Rose Tyler for the upcoming Christmas Special and second series.

"I am delighted, excited and honoured to be the tenth Doctor!" said David. "I grew up loving Doctor Who and it has been a lifelong dream to get my very own TARDIS.

"Russell T Davies is one of the best writers television has ever had, and I'm chuffed to bits to get the opportunity to work with him again. I'm also really looking forward to working with Billie Piper who is so great as Rose.

"Taking over from Chris is a daunting prospect; he has done a fantastic job of reinventing the Doctor for a new generation and is a very tough act to follow."

"Christopher Eccleston's wonderful Doctor has reinvented the role, so that it now appeals to the best actors in the land," noted Executive producer/writer Russell T Davies. "I'm already writing David's first new adventure on board the TARDIS!

**“Regeneration is a huge part of the programme’s mythology, and I’m delighted that new, young viewers can now have the complete Doctor Who experience, as they witness their hero change his Face!”**

**“Christopher Eccleston has given an exceptional performance as the ninth Doctor,” added Executive Producer Julie Gardner. “David Tennant is a great actor who will build on the excellent work already done by Christopher in establishing Doctor Who for a new generation.”**

**Things you might not know about David:**

- His favourite band is The Proclaimers
- He was born in Paisley, Scotland on April 18th 1971, so this is a bit of an early birthday present for him!
- He once played a cross-dressing barmaid in an episode of the comedy series Rab C. Nesbitt

## **Second season is go!**

**From [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) 30 march 2005**

**According to the Guardian, Jane Tranter has commissioned more Doctor Who. “I want to make Doctor Who again,” she said. She claimed to be shocked by the first episode’s popularity. “I told myself I’d be completely and utterly thrilled if it got 6.5 million, but there was a little voice inside whispering ‘4.5 million’,” she admitted.**

**She also revealed that the show had scored a good 81 out of 100 in audience appreciation research. While other writers are still to be confirmed, Russell T Davies will be penning the 60 minute Christmas special. “It’s fantastic news,” said Russell. “It’s been a tense and jittery time because the production team has been working on plans for Series Two - scripts are being written already! - without ever knowing if it would ever get made. We could all have ended up unemployed. But now we can put all those plans into action and get going.**

**“It’s particularly good for BBC Wales. This is a major flagship show for the region, and their staff and crews are the best you could find. It’s a tribute to them that Doctor Who is returning. Cymru am byth!”**



## **Bakula: Enterprise Film Is Dead**

**Sci-Fi Wire 19 April 05**

Scott Bakula, star of UPN's canceled *Star Trek: Enterprise*, told *Sci-Fi Wire* that plans for a movie based on the show were put on hold when the regime changed at Paramount and the network pulled the plug on the show earlier this year. Bakula said he's willing to reprise the character of Capt. Jonathan Archer in an *Enterprise* film. "It's something I would be interested in doing," Bakula said in an interview at the show's wrap party in Hollywood last week. "They haven't [asked], but the reality is that Paramount has been under such internal upheaval in the last year that right now there's really nobody that's there that is a fan of *Star Trek*."

Bakula said that recent turnover of several key Paramount executives has dampened enthusiasm for future *Trek* projects. "It's all turned over, so I don't know what's going to happen with *Star Trek* as a franchise," Bakula said. "Obviously it's been very important to that studio for a great number of years and brought a lot of revenue for them. But I'm not sure how they will re-address or kind of re-approach it as the dust settles. But we'll see."

The nearly 40-year-old *Trek* franchise will find itself next year without an original TV series or future movie on the calendar for the first time since 1987, owing in part to the disappointing box-office performance of the last film, *Star Trek: Nemesis*, and the poor ratings of *Enterprise*, which winds up its four-year run in May.

But Bakula said that he thinks *Enterprise* could make a successful jump to the big screen. "I don't think there's any question about that," he said. "It's just, again, you've got to have interest from the studio, and that doesn't exist right now to my knowledge. It did before. You see, when we started, there was always the idea that we would be the next movie cast and movie ship. But all the people who were interested in that are gone." *Enterprise* airs Fridays at 8 p.m. ET/PT.

## **Weller Talks Enterprise Finale**

**Sci-Fi Wire 15 April 05**

Peter Weller, who plays a key role in upcoming final episodes of UPN's *Star Trek: Enterprise*, told *Sci-Fi Wire* that he will play a character who resembles some people today. "He's a xenophobe," Weller said in an interview at the April 13 wrap party for the cast and crew in Hollywood, Calif. "Isolationism is one thing, but he's actively pursuing the cleansing of planet Earth by ridding 'Terra Prime,' or Earth, of any alien impurity whatsoever. It kind of rings of some people walking around on this planet today."

Weller said that co-executive producer Manny Coto enlisted his participation because the two previously worked together in an SF TV show. "Manny Coto created and produced *Odyssey 5* for Columbia-Tristar and Showtime, which I starred in and directed a bunch," Weller said. "We became *Fast Friends*, and he brow-

beat me and browbeat me into coming onto Enterprise and guest-starring on a couple of episodes. When he finally told me they were going to be the last two on planet E, I said I might as well put my feet in the cement of immortality and go to the Paramount lot and shoot the [next-to-the-] last two episodes ever of Enterprise."

Weller, whose character is named John Frederick Paxton, added that he saw relevance in his xenophobic character's separatist behavior. "The great thing about the whole Star Trek legacy is that they ... metaphorize, they allegorize and they narrate what's going on the planet today," Weller said. "There's a lot of xenophobes walking around today who say, 'Only us, not them.' The bad news about that ... is that the great thing about the world is that people move. Rome tried to build walls to keep the people from moving, but the people will move. If they think they've got a good gig someplace, they will go there, and you can regulate it, but you can't stop it." Weller's episode "Demons" airs May 6 and "Terra Prime" airs May 13. Enterprise is on at 8 PM. ET/PT on Fridays

