MOVIES

'Star Trek: Insurrection' same old stuff, with new twists

Lam a Trekker, don't call me a Trekkie. And only a true Trekker can tell you the problem that other Trekkers will have with "Star Trek: Insurrection." It's not a problem that will keep them away from this, the minth film in the feature series, but it's one which makes us wonder how much loyalty will be left to support the next one. "Insurrection" draws too-heav-"Insurrection" draws too-heav-"

"Insurrection" draws too-heav-"insurrection 'graws too-neav-ily upon plot lines from the orig-inal "classic" series, from "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and from its own previous films. The New York Times has correctly called it "a glorified TV episode."

Fans deserve and should demand more. And yes, we know — "Star Trok II: The Wrath of Khan' was based on an episode from the original series and saved the franchise. But it had neither the franchise of the franch

In "Insurrection," our TNG crew warps to the aid of android Lt. Commander Data (Brent Spiner), whose positronic brain has blown a gasket. He's been assigned to a cultural survey detail, observing the 600 inhabi-tants of an idyllic planet from the safety of holographically camouflaged suits (they've used the built-into-the-mountain

We soon learn that there's a connection here, and it's more than just screenwriter Michael Piller's apparent thing for apos-

trophes.

The Ba'ku planet's rings emit a radiation that regenerates cells in its adults, who are more than 300 years old. They are all gorgeous and have turned their back on technology to lead the simple life. It's a life admired, if not envied, by Enterprise Cap-

tain Jean-Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart), who becomes enam-ored with the beautiful and wise Anij (Broadway's Donna Mur-

The Son'a are a race of aged prunefaces who all look like the evil Emperor from "Star Wara." They've convinced Star Fleet to relocate the 600 Ba'ku to anothrelocate the 600 Ba'ku to another world in order to drain the rejuvenating energy from the rings to use for themselves and the galaxy at large. To accomplish this, they've recreated holographic duplicate city inside a huge transport ship. (The same premise from a TNG episode when Worf's half-brother proposed that exact plan but for a different reason).

So now Picard must choose between a direct order to butt out and his allegiance to the Prime Directive of non-interference. He objects to "the forcer relocation of a small people to satisfy the demands of a large one." When I Didn't we hear that same thing about "the needs of the one outweighing the needs of the many" in Star Treks II, III and IV?
"Insurrection" does boldly go

a de la companya de

III and IV?

"Insurrection" does holdly go further in one department. The gags just keep on coming, mostly a result of the radiation's effect on the crew's libidos. Commander Riker (Jonathan Frakes, who skillfully directed) gets real cuddly with former main squeeze Counselor Troi

(Marina Sirtis); Lt. Commander Worf (Michael Dorn) finds him-Worf (Michael Dorn) finds him-self in need of extra-strength Klingon Clearasil; and Picard and Data do an in-flight duct from "H.M.S. Pinafore" (Picard: "Worf, do you know Gilbert & Sullivan?" Worf: "No, I haven't had the chance to meet all the new crew members").

new crew members").

The special effects are better, using computer-generated imagery rather than motion-control model photography for its space battle sequences.

But overall it's the same-old same-old; a glorified TV episode is right. We want more, guys, more, Make it so.

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(B)

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New "Trek": Brent Spiner, Patrick Stewart and Michael Dorn star in "Star Trek:

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 18

Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 18

TINE LAST EMPEROF

Residual of Uthandro Bertolucci's
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-You've GOT MAIL*
A romantic comedy about two book store owners, rivals who accidentally fall in love in cyberspace with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, Dec. 25 Scheduled to open Wednesday, Dec.

"MIGHTY JOE YOUNG"

An update of the classic 1949 RKO adventure film in which a zoologist stumbles upon a 15-foot gorilla while exploring in Central Aftica. Stars Bill Paxton, Charlize Theron.

PACCH ADAMS
Turce story of a misfit physician whose unconventional approach to hooling causes headeches for the medical establishment. Stors Robin Williams.

"DANCING AT LUGHNASA" "DANCING AT LOURINGSA"
Exclusively at the Landmerk Mople Art
Theatre. The film adoptation of Brian
Friel's 1991 Tony Award-winning play
about five lonely sisters living a hardscrabble life in rural treland whose world

DOWN THE DELIA

An emotional and riveting story where big city meets small town, young meet old, parents reconnect with children, and life for everyone becomes something unexpected.

"THE FACULTY" THE FACULTY
Science fiction thriller that blends
teenage angst, cutting edge comedy
and out of this world special effects as

Drama: Al Freeman Jr. (left), Wesley Snipes and Alfre Woodward in Maya Angelou's "Down in the Delta," opening Dec. 25 at metro Detroit movie theaters.

the students of Herrington High School struggle to saye the world from alien domination. "SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE" "BHANESPEARS IN LOVE"
Witty and fast moving comedy set in
1593 that follows the trials and tributtions of Will Shakespoore, a struggling
young playwright who's suffering from a
terrible bout of writer's block until he
falls in love. Stors Josenh Fiennes,
Gwyneth Paltrow, Gooffrey Rush.

CHITLE VOICE
Magical musical comedy about the power and perils of expression. Based on one of London's most acctaimed hit plays, the story follows an aging but on-

"A CIVIL ACTION"
True story about an atterney willing to
risk everything to represent several fam-ilies who seemingly lost their children to
leukemia because of a nearby texic
waste dump. Stors John Travolta,
Robert Duvall,

Scheduled to open Friday, January 15

THE THIN RED LINE
The story of an American rifle company
during several months of one of the
fiercest struggles of the twentieth cen-

Magic Bag hosts animation fest

The 6th Annual Spike and
Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival
of Animation continues through
Sunday, Jan. 3 at the Magic Bag,
22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale,
Admission is \$\frac{5}{2}\text{ at the door, ID}
required. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.
film 8 p.m. Must bo 18 or older
for shows before 10 p.m. and 21
or older for shows after 10:30
p.m. Call (248) 644-3030 for
information, or visit http:// www.
sickandtwistodspike.com/
sick.html

sick and twistodspike.com/ sick html
The Magic Bog began hosting
the Sick and Twisted festival in
1993, unleashing Beavis and
Butthead for the first time on
unsuspecting Dotroit audiences.
Spike and Mike are Californiabased cartoon connoisseurs who
have been producing and showcasing new animation for the
past 20 years. The Sick and
Twisted show plays to sold-out
houses regularly around the

country.

The upcoming schedule:

Thursday, Dec., 17 · 1 Show ·
Doors 8 p.m. / Film 9:30 p.m. ·

Sunday, Dec. 20 · 1 Show · Doors 8 p.m. / Film 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 20 · 1 Show Doors 8 p.m. / Film 9:30 p.m. · 18+ Monday, Dec. 21 · 1 Show Doors 8 p.m. / film 9:30 p.m. · 18+ Tuesday, Dec. 22 · 1 Show Doors 8 P.M. / Film 9:30 p.m. · 18+ Wednesday, Dec. 23 · 1 Show Doors 8 p.m. / film 9:30 p.m. · 18+ Elosed Christmas Eve Friday, Dec. 26 · 1 Show Doors 8 p.m. / film 9:30 p.m. · 18+ Saturday, Dec. 26 · 2 Shows Doors 8 p.m. / Film 9:30 p.m. · 18+ & Doors 10 p.m. / Film 9:30 p.m. · 21+ Dotermined to outdo the soldout success of last year's festival,

the folks at Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Featival of Animation have compiled over a dezen brand new cartoons (plus old favorites) for their latest compilation, including "Fresty" a never-before-screened cartoon from the creators of "South Park."

"Frosty" was the first cartoon made by animators Trey Parker and Mart Stone, about the battle between a homicidal snowman and boby Jesus. It features early versions of the characters who later appeared in their follow-up "Spirit of Christmas" short and eventually the high-rated "South Park" television show. "Spirit of Christmas", which will be shown again this year after highlighting last year's festival, finds Santa and a grown-up Jesus in a Kung Fu battle to the death while the profane grade schoolers of South Park stand by.