

# Star Trek: Nemesis lets crew go out in style

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CORRESPONDENT

The movie's tagline reads: "A generation takes its final journey."

If that is true, then the cast of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (which has been around for 15 years) couldn't have had a better send-off than *Star Trek: Nemesis*, which is the 10th movie (the fourth featuring "TNG" who carry the baton passed from Kirk and Spock) in the sci-fi franchise, that has spanned more than 35 years and, in addition to the 10 movies, has had five different series set in the late Gene Roddenberry's vision of the future.

The movie opens with the debonair Captain Jean-Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart) toasting the marriage of his first offi-

cer Commander William Riker (Jonathan Frakes) and Counselor Deanna Troi (Marina Sirtis). After 15 years, Riker finally gets promoted to captain and takes command of his own ship, the *Titan*, and finally marries his beloved Deanna. About time on both counts!

Die-hard Trek fans (I heard it's politically incorrect to call them "trekkies") will like this scene as it features cameo appearances from former members of the TNG series (which ran from 1987-94), Guinan (Whoopi Goldberg) and Wesley Crusher (Wil Wheaton). They'll also appreciate the scene where Picard gets his orders from the newly-promoted Admiral Janeway (Kate Mulgrew, the lead in *Star Trek: Voyager*, which ended in 2001). There's also a mention

of William Shatner's Captain Kirk, who has a battle tactic named after him.

**TREK VILLAIN**

En route to Deanna's home planet for another wedding ceremony, the crew of the *Enterprise* cross paths — and swords — with the Remans, the planetary neighbors of the classic Trek villains, the Romulans. Under the leadership of Shinzon (Tom Hardy, *TV's Band of Brothers*), a clone of Picard from a covert Romulan plot that never came to fruition, along with his vicecro (Ron Perlman, *Blade 2*), the Remans plan to destroy Earth.

Interestingly enough, the Romulans — under the leadership of Commander Donatra (Dina Meyer, *Starship*

*Troopers*, *TV's Birds of Prey*) — approach Picard as allies and not enemies, aiding in the struggle against Shinzon in the hopes of ending their centuries-long feud between themselves and Starfleet. This is similar to the 1991's *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* (and the last featuring the cast of the original series — or most of them, anyway), where the Klingons ended their long-running feud with Starfleet.

In fact, John Logan (*Gladiator*), who penned the screenplay, wanted to include the Romulans in this installment, which is directed by Stuart Baird (*Executive Decision*). Logan, along with Rick Berman — "who" ended up where Roddenberry left off upon his death in 1991 — and Commander Data himself, Brent Spiner, came up with the story concept.



Patrick Stewart is Captain Jean-Luc Picard in *Star Trek: Nemesis*.

**TV SHOW OR MOVIE?**

Although the movie is good, it's not as good as it could have been. Slow-moving in parts, it can't seem to make up its mind whether it's an episode of "TNG" you paid \$8 for or a movie. It finally decides it's a movie in the end with a space battle that would make *Star Wars* creator George Lucas green with envy, especially the spectacular way Data makes it aboard Shinzon's ship.

Also, Geordi La Forge (LeVar Burton), Dr. Crusher (Gates McFadden) and Worf (Michael Dorn) have bit parts in *Nemesis*, as if they're thrown in for the fun of it, especially the latter two.

Then again, that's the trouble of taking a TV show and turning it into a movie: There's too many characters jockeying for screen-time in a two-hour flick rather than the course of a 22-episode season. In fact, a member of the "TNG" crew dies in this movie. Take heart, however, there's a backdrop to bring this character back.

Let's hope they don't. Why, you may ask? Those characters have run their course and I think this movie is an appropriate curtain call for Picard, Data, and company.

Further, do *Star Trek: Deep Space 9* and *Voyager* have enough of a fan-base as "TNG" does to warrant a big-budget movie, soldiering on in "TNG's" stead?

Let it end here. Cliché as it may sound, all good things

come to an end. Let this crew of the *Enterprise* go out on top and not get stale like some stupid horror movie franchise such as *Halloween* and *Friday the 13th*.

However, that decision is not up to me to make. That's ultimately up to the amount of money it grosses in its opening weekend as it takes on some real nemeses, particularly *Lord of the*

*Rings: The Two Towers* (which opened Wednesday, Dec. 18), and the two Leonardo DiCaprio films — *Gangs of New York* (opening Friday, Dec. 20) and *Catch Me If You Can* — co-starring Tom Hanks (opening Christmas Day — in the highly-competitive holiday movie season).

**RATED:** PG-13; violence.  
**RATING:** 7 (out of 10)

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