

MADAME FALBEAUX'S



CINÉMA MYSTIQUE

The Devil and William Shatner

The Good Colonel has the com, screens are on the widest possible scan, and it's time to monitor all communications from this quadrant of the galaxy for (long, dramatic pause) — Shatnerfest '09!

Our computer sensors have picked up Shatner signals from YouTube and other alien sources that will form a matrix of merriment for our viewing pleasure. Collectively, our annual Shatnerbrations, have plumbed the depths of Shatnerian oeuvre and we aren't even close to the bottom.

But before we go where no man has

comes, *The Survivor*. And I'm not talking about a reality show. There's nothing real about a floating space squid that can assume the form of any humanoid it comes in contact with. Of course, once aboard the cartoon Enterprise, the space squid takes the form of Captain Kirk. Aside from an ink blotch left on the command chair, no one notices the difference.

Meantime, in the reality that is YouTube,



Ernest Borgnine, in the background with heavy makeup, is burning a wax effigy as a shirtless Bill Shatner gets ready to let loose one of his patented primal screams in this scene from *The Devil's Rain*.

etcetera, let's go where we've been nine times previous, our ongoing serial, *Federal Operator 99*. This month's episode finds G-man Jerry Blake's plucky secretary, Janet Kingston flying off into space (maybe I've found a Star Trek connection here) over a cliff in a laundry basket (well, maybe not). Now, for those of you who object to having women stuffed into laundry baskets, be assured, Miss Kingston is not really in the flying laundry basket, it's just one of those serial chapter-ending tricks they pull to get you to watch the next episode.

From the 1973 Star Trek cartoon series

there is a feast of Shatnerian material for our annual featurette — *An Actor's Life*. This edition features the work of this decade's finest impressionist, Frank Caliendo. I've shown "Judge Shatner" and the MadTV "Boston Legal" spoofs before, but this time they're listed on our program. Also officially part of the program is Weird Al Yankovic's first Billboard Top Ten chart placement after 30 years of recording — "White and Nerdy." I've never been much of a Weird Al fan, but this record and video is probably the best thing he's ever done. Plus,

continued on back

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

All Aboard the Enterprise Edition

GATES MCFADDEN (3/2/1949) — Played Dr. Beverly Crusher (a psychiatrist would have fun analyzing the writer who named that character) on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

JAMES DOOHAN (3/3/1920) — In this month's Salon feature, *Friday's Child*, "Scotty" gets the run of the ship.

ALAN HALE JR. (3/8/1918) — The "Skipper" of the... oops, my mistake, I've got "The Minnow" and "The Enterprise" mixed up.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

“Careful defendant, flattery will get you (long, Shatnerian pause)... everywhere.”

— Frank Caliendo impersonating The One True Shatner (TOTS) in a skit entitled, “Judge Shatner.” It’s a spoof of daytime TV judge shows from Caliendo’s show, *Frank TV*.



“Look! I’m a doctor, not an escalator. Spock, give me a hand!”

— Dr. McCoy gets a bit irritated as he helps a very pregnant alien queen (Julie Newmar) ascend a rocky slope in the *Star Trek Original Series* second season episode, “Friday’s Child.”

Captain Kirk does get a mention in it. Thus, it’s on the program.

I’ve also added a close encounter of the wrestling kind. Shatner confronts Jerry “The King” Lawler at a Worldwide Wrestling Federation (WWF, now WWE) event. Shatner uses his Starfleet training muscle memory to lay “The King” out of the ring. Some of you might remember that it was Lawler who earlier did a “work” (that is, a fake battle in wrestling parlance) with Andy Kaufman when the latter was touring with his “man wrestles with women” comedy/reality routine.

This year’s *Star Trek: The Original Series* (ST:TOS) feature is, **Friday’s Child**.

There’s lots of action as Shatner and crew beam down to a planet full of tall, Viking types who are just itching (they do wear a lot of fur) for a fight. Some notable appearances include Julie Newmar as a pregnant queen who has a thing for Dr. McCoy (see quote). The Klingon is played by Tige Andrews who some may remember from his recurring role as Captain Adam Greer in *Mod Squad*. The leader of the planet’s inhabitants, called “Akaar,” is played by Ben Gage. He was a former big band singer who was married for fourteen years to filmland’s water queen, Esther Williams. The character who usurps Akaar’s throne, “Maab” is played by Michael Dante. He was one of the fighters Elvis beat up in *Kid Galahad* which we saw this past January. The Salon is very synergistic.

And for those of you wondering: the old nursery rhyme goes, “Friday’s child is full of woe.” A later version of the poem switches the “full of woe” to Wednesday (And that’s why the daughter in *The Addams Family* is called “Wednesday”). This later version has Friday’s child as “loving and giving,” but I think the older version fits the title better.

For you ladies who just can’t get enough of William Shatner with his shirt off, **The Devil’s Rain** gives you a full serving, complete with a pentagram carved on his chest. Fresh off of his “Dr. Phibes” horror classics, director Robert Fuest joined the parade of “devil worship” films being done at the time (e.g., *The Devils*, 1971; *The Wicker Man*, 1972; *The Exorcist*, 1973). The failure of this film drove Fuest back into the hell that is television from whence he came. He had a good cast to work with, though. In addition to Lt. Commander McHale and Captain Kirk, this film didn’t appear to hurt the careers of Eddie Albert, Tom Skerritt, Keenan Wynn, Ida Lupino, or John Travolta.

Of course, it didn’t help. *Col. Tom*

SERIAL

1. **Federal Operator 99** (1945) - *Chapter 10* - “The Case of the Hidden Witness” The perky Miss Kingston hides in the back of the laundry truck used by Belmont’s gang for a robbery. When gun moll Rita tries to ditch the truck, the perky one jumps her, takes over the truck and gets to the nearest phone to alert G-man Jerry. Jerry rushes to the Belmont gang’s hide-out for a showdown. BUG

CARTOON

2. **The Survivor** (1973) - A multi-tentacled alien with the ability to morph into various shapes impersonates Capt. Kirk and starts an inter-stellar incident.

FEATURETTE

3. **An Actor’s Life** - Several YouTube shorts include: Two routines from impressionist Frank Caliendo, a *Boston Legal* spoof and *Shatner’s Court*; Weird Al Yankovic’s 2006 hit *White and Nerdy*; plus, in 1995, Shatner goes one on one with Jerry “The King” Lawler at a wrestling event.

FEATURES

4. **Friday’s Child** (1967) - Stardate 3497.2: The Enterprise parks itself in orbit around Capella IV, a planet that contains a race of tall, Viking-like inhabitants. As the Capellans are fierce warriors, this gives Shatner and the stunt crew lots of fight scenes. The Capellan Chief is assassinated and Kirk and company are compelled to rescue the slain chief’s newborn baby.
5. **The Devil’s Rain** (1974) - A film from the director of the cult classic, “The Abominable Dr. Phibes.” This is not a classic, but it does have Shatner with his shirt off and screaming at the top of his lungs. And if that’s not enough, look for Ernest Borgnine in devil makeup and a very young John Travolta as a cult member.



Vote for your favorite bad film of 2008. Get your ballot form at our website.



TOP 5 SHATNER SCREAMS

Bill made his bones with his patented primal scream. Here, for your consideration, are your Good Colonel’s five faves.

5. When Shatner got behind the wheel of a racing car in a 2007 reality show, he let out an eerie “wooooooh” as he drove.
4. As he’s about to be sacrificed to Satan in *The Devil’s Rain* (1974), Shatner let’s it all hang out (above).
3. In 1963’s “Nightmare at 20,000 Feet” from *The Twilight Zone* series, TOTS screams as he shoots the gremlin.
2. From *The Transformed Man* LP (1968), I give you three words: **MISTER TAMBOURINE MAN!!!!**
1. Finally, just one word from *Star Trek II* (1982): **KHAAAAAAAAAANN!!!**