

GENESIS II A NEW TREK INTO THE UNKNOWN!

by R. Allen Leider

How well do you know your cryonics? Did you know that Ben Franklin was considerably bugged by the fact that he couldn't be kept in deep freeze after death so that he might later be revived and check out how the country was doing? Did you know that Walt Disney once considered putting his body in deep freeze for a similar purpose? That today the bodies of many people are being entrusted to

cryobiologists in hopes that they will one day be brought back to life? That NASA is currently studying the possibilities of suspended animation? Well, it's all true, and now producer Gene (Star Trek) Roddenberry is getting into the suspended animation racket with his proposed teleseries GENESIS II. Here with all the pertinent details is TMT Media Editor R. Allen Leider . . .

Shades of Buck Rogers! It's Genesis II, latest wonder from the creator of Star Trek, Gene Roddenberry. His latest project premiered late last month with the hope that it will be picked up for the upcoming '73 season.

Genesis II combines the finest elements of several classic sources and blends them with Roddenberry's own masterful know-how into a futuristic montage geared for the serious science fiction audience. That same audience still follows Star Trek even though it's been off the networks for several years.

The basic premise of Genesis II is right out of Buck Rogers. A young scientist

(Alex Cord) is experimenting with suspended animation for a NASA project to send men to Jupiter's moons. Deep in the bowels of the Carlsbad Caverns, NASA has constructed a mammoth underground complex of laboratories and offices. This complex is joined with other underground sites by means of a super-powered subway shuttle car. The super subway is required because conditions above ground are not favorable to sea or air travel.

During the experiment disaster strikes. The complex crumbles, trapping Alex in his hibernation . . . for 154 years. In the year 2133 an exploratory party of

Dr. Hunt and Lyra-a take a stroll through the future.



Mariette Hartley essays the role of the lovely Lyra-a, a Tyranian beauty who, in addition to the usual components, also boasts two hearts and two navels . . . just in case.

survivors finds and revives him. Thus he is born again, into a world that has changed considerably.

WORLD OF CHANGES

The world of 2133 has two factions. One is known as PAX for Peace. These people have saved all the world's art, literature and cultural artifacts, the remains of the ruined NASA stronghold. The other faction lives in the city of Tyrania, a warlike encampment which hides a terrible secret.

Alex's guide through his readjustment is Lyra-a. A mutant like all Tyranians, she possesses two navels, two hearts and a strict control over her basic emotions, much like Mr. Spock of Star Trek. Lyra-a enlists Alex to help her thwart the PAX forces, who she claims are looters, and not the saviors of culture!

What is the truth? Who is the enemy, the seemingly peaceful Paxians or the hedonistic Tyranians? What is the horror that exists beneath the white towers of Tyrania and why is Alex suddenly the most valuable human on the planet Earth? Questions like these lead us in further and further into the new world of Genesis II.

The Genesis II pilot was produced by Warner Brothers Television under the expert direction of John Llewellyn Moxey. The skillful and convincing cast includes Ted Cassidy as a Pax agent descended from Comanche Indians, Percy Rodrigues as Isaac Kinsbridge, head of the Pax council, and Lynne Marta as Harper-Smythe, another Pax agent and ultimate "Ms." of the 2133 unisex cult.

HOPE LIVES!

The mood of the proposed series is one of hope. As the Pax guide tells us, "The Earth is renewing herself. The sky is bluer than before, the oceans are clear again and the lakes and rivers again teem with fish."

Episodes planned to follow the pilot promote Alex Cord, as scientist Dylan Hunt, to the head of Pax squad "Twenty-one."

Producer Gene Roddenberry explained that, "Each of the new Earth's varied communities, centered around some essential element of our own time, will be probed for its values and used as a model with which we can examine today's civilization. In this way, Genesis II is as much about 1973 as it is about 2133."

In creating the world of 2133 A.D., Gene Roddenberry enlisted the best world-creators in the business. Gilbert Clayton and his associate, George Fowler, worked closely with Cal Tech scientist Dr. Green "perfecting" the probable technology of the time. The sub-shuttle car used on the show, which links the continents together, is as much fact as fiction. Cal Tech scientists have a rudimentary system for boring through the Earth's crust with laser beams to form the type of smooth-surfaced tubes used by Roddenberry's super-subway. Oddly enough, the Genesis II team did not discover that this was so until after they had "created" the subshuttle as a permanent part of the series.

FUTURE TENSE

Soon 2133 A.D. blossomed out all over the Warner Brothers lot. Costume



The hibernating Dr. Hunt is discovered by a PAX exploratory party. When he awakes, he'll discover he's suddenly become the most important person on the planet.

designer William Theiss had finished his futuristic garb for the Tyranian soldiers, courtesans and others. The "others" are part of the mystery of Tyrania. The Paxians' dresses and uniforms are more utilitarian than the soft, fur-trimmed clothes of the Tyranians, stressing the essential difference between the two cultures. The show's ultimate weapon, in a world where it is forbidden to take another life, is the "STIM," an ultra-sonic pleasure-pain device based on brain wave interference. It is used like a sword and can bring the victim either the ultimate in pain or pleasure experiences without physical damage or death. Naturally, STIMs are a prime source of power for the Tyranians.

Genesis II is a natural for the old Star Trekkers and the new SF fans. The show is the ultimate model of perfection in both production and conception. It has enough flexibility for endless variations and directions for the theme to follow. The photography is gorgeous. After the ill manner in which the networks handled Star Trek, it is hoped that Genesis II will be dealt with more intelligently. ■