

Star Trek IV

by
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TIME TRAVEL IN A NEW MOVIE

What happens when a group of space travelers from the 23rd Century ventures back to the 1980's? Get ready, because it's going to happen this December in your local movie theater. That's where and when Admiral James T. Kirk's crew reports for duty in *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*. If you're a *Star Trek* fan, you know the events will be anything but boring.


In their latest adventure, Admiral Kirk, Mr. Spock, Dr. McCoy, Scotty, Lieutenant Uhura, Chekov and Sulu travel back in time to 1986. If that sounds like no big deal, imagine what it would be like to take a ride back to the 1600's. The purpose of the *Star Trek* mission: Change events in our time to prevent the destruction of Earth three centuries later—in their time.

More details on the plot of *Star Trek IV* are being held top-secret by the movie's producers. But we do know that Admiral Kirk orders his crew back to San Francisco, California. According to the script, that's the place where the Federation of Planets (a sort of interplanetary United Nations) was first assembled. When they arrive, the futuristic astronauts are in for a large

dose of culture shock.

This is not the first time the crew of the *U.S.S. Enterprise* has traveled through time. In one episode of the 1970's TV series, Kirk and Spock crossed over to 1930's Earth. In another, they wound up in the 1970's.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE: ROGERS



The *Star Trek* movies include special effects such as smoke and fire.

Meet Mr. Chekov

Special effects for television and movies have come a long way since the TV series was made. Back then, a strange being was usually played by a person in a lizard suit. Today special-effects experts use computers and robots to show us aliens and spacecraft.

To find out about these changes, CONTACT talked to Walter Koenig, the man who plays Russian navigator Pavel Chekov.

Walter remembers when "special effects" was nothing more than good acting by the cast.

"Whenever the *Enterprise* was struck by enemy missiles, or an asteroid shower," he says, "the cameraman would shake the camera and we'd all fall out of our seats."

Nowadays, in the movie versions of *Star Trek*, the actors still fall out of their seats, but they have a little help. The film crew can mount the set on a special device that rocks the actors out of their positions.

Below: Mr. Chekov meets his enemies in *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*.



In *Star Trek IV*, Kirk and Spock travel back in time to modern-day San Francisco.

Since today's special effects are so much more realistic, Walter says, the actors sometimes feel that their adventures are real. In making the new movie, he says, "When they filmed our craft 'landing' in San Francisco Bay, I felt like it was really happening!"

Time Traveling Trekkies

"Mr. Chekov" really enjoyed the time traveling theme of this latest *Star Trek* movie. In *Star Trek IV*, the voyage of the crew back to their roots is accomplished by orbiting the sun faster than the speed of light (186,000 miles per second).

"I don't know if it could happen in real life," Walter says. "But the idea of traveling faster than the speed of light and ending up in another time is exciting."

Meanwhile, a lot of real time has passed since Walter first played Chekov on the television series. Back then, he says, no one dreamed *Star Trek* would be so successful. When he signed on, it was only supposed to be for one show. But one show turned into a season and then two seasons and now four blockbuster movies.

Walter believes that all this space exploration in film gives him a special appreciation for the real space program.

"I think I'd like to spend time out in space. There's so much out there that we don't know about. I'd like to be a part of the excitement of discovering new worlds."

Walter may never get the chance to blast off to another solar system. But, for him, *Star Trek* has brought space a little closer to home. ☞