

**Special Edition!!!!**  
Captain Christian, Editor

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Star Trek (2009)

Director: J. J. Abrams

Opening Weekend: \$112 Million

Expert/Online Reviews:

95% Approval Rating on Rotten Tomatoes, giving an average rating of 8.1/10

#59 All time highest rated film (8.6/10) on IMDB.com

Main Cast:

James T. Kirk - Chris Pine



Spock - Zachary Quinto



Dr McCoy - Karl Urban



Nyota Uhura - Zoe Saldana



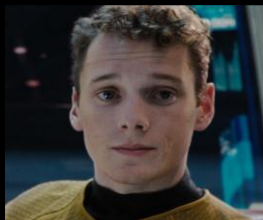
Scotty - Simon Pegg



Hikaru Sulu - John Cho



Pavel Chekov - Anton Yelchin



Nero - Eric Bana



Spock Prime - Leonard Nimoy



Personal Review by Admiral Ryan W. Dean

\*Spoiler Warning\*

This latest Star Trek film is as many have stated, a complete departure from the film franchise most of us have come to love throughout the years. Despite poor box office ratings for the latest films prior to this, fans still attracted towards the familiarity of what we've come to know as "Star Trek."

This 2009 Star Trek feels more like a Star Wars Film, from the special effects, to the sound effects, even down to Christopher Pike saying, "punch it," unlike the typical "Engage," we've come to know from Star Trek captains. Hearing Captain Pike say "punch it" immediately made me think of Han Solo in the cockpit of the Millennium Falcon. I expected Sulu at that point to cry out a Chewbacca-type growl, and then say, "woops, I mean, aye sir."

However, with all this said, I enjoyed the film immensely. It is an achievement to make a 2 hour, 20 minute movie "fly by." Additionally, while I may not \*like\* the plot of the film as much as some others that were apparently suggested, the actors worked with the material quite well, and while there are some definite "no-no"s throughout the movie, it still managed to deliver something which, unlike Star Wars Prequel films 1,2, and 3, didn't make me want my money back.

In the end, I would have preferred a Star Trek movie that continued in the timeline post-DS9/Voyager/Nemesis with perhaps a different crew, etc, and not a film that attempted to show a different timeline of events I've come to love throughout the Star Trek adventure. Also, I would have preferred the film to address a more "Human Condition" type of plot as is the common staple of Trek movies. But, I can also appreciate the concept of trying something new, and even though I feel it wasn't the worst it could have been, I personally feel it achieved a lot more than most were expecting. I was thrilled to see that Leonard Nimoy had more than a simple cameo, by the way, and was not disappointed.

During the first hour of the film, I turned to my wife and said, "Oh no. I may actually like this movie!"

Personal Rating: 4/5 stars

Personal Review by Lieutenant Junior Grade Brawn

\*Spoiler Warning\*

Firstly I believe that Star Trek XI is positively one of the best films I have EVER seen.

Visually it was absolutely spectacular, the only disappointment I felt in the whole evening was when I had my first look of the Enterprise, at the time I felt a slight twinge of disappointment (however nothing compared to when I first saw the Enterprise-E, or Archers Enterprise). With the single exception I was happy with all the visual effects and sets.

At first I was little confused by the story, although I am not all too familiar with TOS (growing up with TNG era stuff), I was sure that some of the events were non-canon (ie Kirk being born in a battle etc). However once the fact that the story was based in an alternate timeline, everything made a little more sense. The story I felt was strong compared to other films I have watched in recent times.

The cast I think was spot on, I can't really point out anyone who didn't suit the role. Visually, Simon Pegg as Montgomery Scott I feel wasn't exactly spot on, however the performance he gave was. I think the casting of the new Spock was absolutely spot on!

I think the film was almost perfectly balanced, length wise it was neither too long, nor too short (I must comment it was a quick 140 minutes). Pace wise, after a slow start it really got going and was fine. There was a good balance of battle scenes, dialogue scenes etc. It was always kept interesting.

I did feel that the humour brought into the film dragged it away from total hardcore seriousness and morbidity to being enjoyable. Although in hindsight it is probably a bit silly, Kirks allergic reaction aboard the USS Enterprise resulting in him having oversized hands was comedy gold in my opinion, although not strictly Star Trek, it was very captivating! Scotty was fantastically written and had other moments of comedy genius. The biggest laugh of the whole film was thanks to Chekov, due to an extremely strong Russian accent he is almost un-intelligible which raised a few eyebrows and laughs in the cinema.

There was only one thing I found really bad with the film. Once Captain Pike was taken captive by Nero, he had a Centaurian Slug used basically as a truth serum on him so that he would divulge information on Earths sensory grid. During the film it is not divulged whether or not he gave up the information or not. I do not like unfinished story threads like this.

I get the feeling that there might be an extra scene on the DVD which will explain this but was cut out for pacing reasons.

I must also say I cringed during the Nokia/Budwiser product placement moments (co-incidentally my telephone had itself gone off about a minute before and I thought it was me once again!). I must say following this movie I am now a fan of female Orion Cadets (as was Kirk) attending starfleet academy and hope to see more in Star Trek XII!

Personal Rating: 5/5 Stars

Review from Lieutenant Boudreau

I seen the movie last night, and I must say I loved it. There were a lot of similarities between Star Trek 09 and The Wrath Of

Khan, especially how Nero tortures his captors, not to spoil it for those that haven't seen it. There weren't too many things about the movie that I didn't like, the only thing I didn't care for was Vulcan being destroyed. But overall it was an amazing movie. It was quite different from the shows. I think if someone watched the 09 movie on tv, they probably wouldn't know it was Star Trek; whereas the original Star Trek shows are very easy to spot that they are Star Trek shows, no matter what show it is, TNG, Voyager, Enterprise, etc.

The characters were bang-on in my opinion, from Kirk's womanizing, to Bones extreme Hypochondria. I loved the part when Kirk was in bed with the Orion Cadet, most people identify Kirk with sleeping with "Green Women", LOL. Overall I loved the movie and am looking forward for Star Trek II.

5/5 Stars

Review from Lieutenant Junior Grade Tangent

I got to my theatre about 25 minutes early (I sprinted to the kiosk) to find that the place was pretty empty. At first I was worried that everyone was already lined-up inside (the way they were with Dark Knight even a few days after it had been released), but I approached the theatre and nothing met me. Inside there were a father and his young son (bless him), both of whom openly commented on my being the third one. Charming. People arrived as the previews began, though. Still, I was expecting more excitement and anticipation about the movie, so I assumed there would be a bit of a rush...or...a crowd at all.

Once there, I experienced a visual overload; too much awesome stuff happening all at once to appreciate. Too many close-ups of the action to literally get the full picture. They were awesome, but I feel like I was trying to watch three movies at only managed to comprehend a third of each.

Although I do not mind our Trek being messed with (at least it is only messing itself, which it does VERY frequently (Voyage Home, First Contact, Enterprise....list goes on)), they could at least have the decency to do it well. There were far too many plot holes. The main plot itself was, in my opinion, lacking. If the writers have to include a forced expository scene, then it's bad writing. One has to ease one's viewers into what's happening, not introduce it in an emotionless (no pun) plot-inducing mind-meld.

If Star Trek was trying to deliver a good movie-through-plot, FAIL. Oh well. The purpose of this movie was, however, to reintroduce the characters to us so that the franchise could continue. EPIC WIN. This was done so well (the sole exception being that whole car-over-a-cliff bit (the only purpose, I detect, was to introduce some blatant product placement, NOKIA)) that it left the audience entertained. I LOVED the industrial-complex engineering! The whole Enterprise looked like it could actually exist! I like to see the guts of the ship.

Kirk was very much to my liking. He was the James Bond; quippy. He was a bit of an arrogant jerk, but he was a LIKABLE arrogant jerk, unlike Shatner's Kirk.

Chekov was great. Wictor, wictor. You've probably seen that I did not recognize him if you've been following this thread.

Re Sulu, consider this. If he had not made that mistake, the movie would have ended. Sounds like fate, not incompetency.

Scotty was very entertaining. I loved that whole water coolant scene.

Re Uhura, I agree. Um, pardon me, I did not follow TOS as much as others, but where did that Spock romance come from? I remember a single song in Charlie X that raised my eyebrows, but I saw no other signs of this romance coming.

A few parts of the movie could have been a little more subtle. It was a little funny, though.

For the record I rate this movie 80%. It lost 15% on plot (-7.5% main conflict, -7.5% Old Spock mind-meld scene), and 5% on both the car scene and the overloading effects and sounds in the first few minutes. Perhaps I will change my views after I see it a second time in a few days? It can only get better.

4/5 Stars

Expert Film4 review:

'Lost' creator JJ Abrams is handed Star Trek to make it shiny and new. Simon Pegg, Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto star

★★★★

James T Kirk (Chris Pine) is a farm-boy from Iowa who leaps before he looks; an impetuous adrenalin-junkie slumming it in bars and avoiding the legacy of his father, who died in command of a Federation starship. Spock (Zachary Quinto) is a half-human, half-Vulcan divided by the two paths his mixed parentage offers - should he adhere to the pure logic of his Vulcan upbringing, or admit some of his emotional human side?

Realising he will never be entirely accepted on his home planet, Spock enlists in Starfleet, the military wing of the Federation, an alliance of humans and aliens that aims to keep the peace throughout the galaxy. Wild James T Kirk is also persuaded to enlist by one Captain Pike (Bruce Greenwood), who catches Kirk in action in a bar brawl and decides he has exactly the qualities a peace-keeping federation requires.

After three years in Starfleet, these new graduates are thrown into the fray when Spock's homeworld of Vulcan comes under attack. The villain is Nemo, an aggrieved Romulan from the future (Eric Bana) out for revenge, with an enormous tooled-up Venus fly trap of a spaceship and a ball of "red matter" with which to wreak galactic destruction.

This rebooting of Star Trek does itself a favour putting Kirk and Spock's character conflict onto the bridge of the USS Enterprise. They are literally at one another's throats. The franchise collapsed under the double dose of the 'Enterprise' TV series and Star Trek X: Nemesis, which this reviewer described as "a lesson in diminishing returns". The whole enterprise buckled under the dead weight of consensus - consensus between the characters, consensus between fans and creatives toward the sanctity of continuity. With four long-running TV series, 10 films, numerous novels, cartoon shows and comic-books, Star Trek's continuity had become like one of those chapters in the Bible that details the begetting of the sons of Abraham; useful for a keeping track of who was related to who, but lacking in dramatic dynamism.

Continuity locks fans in, but keeps new audiences out. Continuity turns fans into believers, into a sect that no-one wants to join. Inspired by Russell T Davies' destruction of Gallifrey to free 'Doctor Who' from the tedium of other timelords, director JJ Abrams and his scriptwriters wipe out a crucial aspect of the Star Trek universe. By doing so they stop the film from being a prequel - a useless form that runs counter to the basic "we don't want to know what is going to happen" appeal of storytelling - and leap out of continuity. Now he can play with what made Star Trek appealing without having to worry if his Klingon is grammatically correct.

Star Trek really is a playful movie, grabbing greedily at the cascade of promise that was the title sequence of the original Star Trek. In spirit, it is more Kirk than Spock - a manic, relentless, action movie and the polar opposite of the 1979 Star Trek: The Motion Picture, the ponderous first cinematic outing for the USS Enterprise that took its cues from 2001: A Space Odyssey when everyone wanted more Star Wars.

JJ Abrams' Star Trek has fist-fights, phaser shoot-outs and epic space battles. The warp drive hits you in the solar plexus. Black holes destroy planets. Kirk gets it on with a green-skinned lovely.

The cast are young and hot and watchable. Chris Pine's Kirk catches William Shatner's yelps and grunts, Zachary Quinto's Spock arches an eyebrow like Nimoy and is convincing as a rawer, younger version of the character. Zoe Saldana's Uhura has a meatier role than the secretary-in-outer-space origins of the character. Anton Yelchin's Chekhov is initially awkward but you warm to this interpretation of the character as a precocious genius - mixing your classic Chekhov with Next Generation's Wesley Crusher. Karl Urban's Dr Bones McCoy is the actor whose performance leans closest to parody of the original. Simon Pegg arrives late as Scotty and has the best comic lines. The original Spock, Leonard Nimoy, also appears in a role far more substantial than the expected cameo.

It makes sense that Star Trek should return just as we enter a new era. You could argue that the spirit of the series was too at odds with the war on terror. Gene Roddenberry's liberal vision of the future, of a United Nations-style peacekeeping Federation, did not fit with the fear and aggression that followed 9/11. Every era gets the science fiction it deserves.

As Star Trek collapsed both under the dead weight of its own continuity and the new nasty political reality, one of its long-lost imitators, 'Battlestar Galactica', was relaunched as a compelling commentary on the George W Bush era, bundling in torture, religious conflict, suicide bombings and desperate, hunted heroes. Conveniently, just as a Democrat is once again in the White House, 'Battlestar Galactica' has finished and Star Trek has re-emerged to make the galaxy safe for liberals. That Barack Obama is reported to have shared the classic Vulcan salute of "Live long and prosper!" with Leonard Nimoy allows us to indulge in this grand theory, a tacit acknowledgement of the small but significant role Star Trek played in the history of American race relations when Captain Kirk and Lieutenant Uhura famously shared television's first interracial kiss.

Verdict

It's Star Trek, Jim, but not as we have known it. A masterclass in how to rebrand and relaunch a franchise. Sign us up for more alien girls, punch-ups, phasers, photons and misbehaving black holes.

Editors Note: I finally saw the movie last night and tried to come in with an open mind. My wife also came with, she hates star trek but she was curious. While i was disappointed with the obvious changes from actual star trek i was impressed with the story. What really got me was after the movie i got out really fast and managed to give out 48 business cards. The most noteworthy part of this was the group of 12 year old girls that came squealing out of the theater then surprised me with a declaration that Data was better then Kirk. nonetheless i feel that the reboot succeeded.