“Star Trek Generations” BACKGROUND

The "Star Trek" generations converge in "Star Trek Generations" starring Patrick Stewart and William Shatner. In the futuristic adventure film, a mysterious astronomical phenomenon bridging different time frames brings face-to-face Captain Jean-Luc Picard (Stewart) and Captain James T. Kirk (Shatner)--the two famous captains of the Enterprise--in the 24th Century.

Rick Berman is the producer of the newest motion picture in the popular "Star Trek" legacy created by Gene Roddenberry. David Carson directs from a screenplay written by Ronald D. Moore and Brannon Braga, based on a story by Berman, Moore and Braga. Bernie Williams is executive producer and Peter Lauritson is co-producer of the presentation of the Motion Picture Group of Paramount Pictures.

"Star Trek Generations" brings the cast of the award-winning television series "Star Trek: The Next Generation" to the big screen for the first time with Jonathan Frakes, Brent Spiner, LeVar Burton, Michael Dorn, Gates McFadden and Marina Sirtis joining Patrick Stewart aboard the Enterprise in reprising their famous roles. Malcolm McDowell plays a dangerous alien, Dr. Soran. Also starring are original "Star Trek" series cast members James Doohan and Walter Koenig.

"Star Trek Generations" producer Rick Berman, who has overseen the evolution of "Star Trek" television productions since 1987, comments that the new film made it possible to involve "Star Trek: The Next Generation" characters in "a story larger in scope and more epic in design, offering action-adventure and the thought-provoking elements that have distinguished the 'Star Trek' films."

"In 'Star Trek Generations,' a long-lived alien goes in search of the answer to a mystery that he, by accident, uncovered," comments director David Carson. "The alien is willing to destroy civilizations to attain his goal. Both captains of the Enterprise together attempt to stop him."

Carson says that "Captain Kirk is an American icon and Captain Jean-Luc Picard embodies the same qualities -- courage, farsightedness, moral values and a future offering great hope." The director is making his motion picture directorial debut after an award-winning career directing British documentaries, telefilms and theater productions. Since moving to the United States in 1989, Carson has distinguished himself in American television. His work has included directing episodes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," as well as the longform pilots for "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," "South Beach" and "Sons and Daughters."

Rick Berman identifies that "Star Trek," in all its incarnations, owes its success to the vision of one man, Gene Roddenberry: "'Star Trek' by definition deals with

Roddenberry's vision of the 23rd and 24th Centuries. Whether it is warp speed or photon torpedoes, the United Federation of Planets or phasers or people beaming places -- it was all part of Roddenberry's lexicon."

The previous six "Star Trek" movies are "Star Trek -- The Motion Picture" (1979), "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" (1982), "Star Trek III: The Search for Spock" (1984), "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home" (1986), "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier" (1989) and "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991). These films, along with revenues from the original television series and various merchandising deals (including more than 40 best-selling novels), have grossed more than $1.3 billion dollars (U.S.$) worldwide.

"Star Trek: The Next Generation" premiered in 1987 as the No. 1 show in syndication. The show's list of awards and honors includes 16 Emmys, 46 Emmy nominations, the Peabody Award (1988) and the 1993 Hugo Award for Science Fiction Achievement. This year, the series has received an additional nine Emmy nominations, including Best Drama Series.

The "Star Trek" series, which now includes "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" and the upcoming "Star Trek: Voyager," are a universal phenomenon, airing in more than 100 countries. In addition, ten million people a year see the "Star Trek" exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.