



SHORT TAKE

STAR TREK: THE REBOOT

By LB

Gwen the Beautiful and I saw the new STAR TREK film in a multiplex in Mountain Home, Arkansas, 40 minutes from our ranch. The audience consisted of about 20 people. This was a big crowd for venue, and the manager of the theater was genuinely pleased.

Only one person in the audience looked to be under 50. An 11 year old boy with his dad. The audience of aging Trekkers who didn't even know they were Trekkers loved the film, making all the right noises at all the moments when the new cast echoed the old cast in facial expression. body language, or by uttering a character's fondly remembered signature line.

I loved the film and also hated it as well.

Loved the reboot because it brought back so many great memories/associations. And because I was so glad to see Kirk and the others young and filled with fire. When I'd first met them they were in their 30s. Now it was early 20s time, and everyone had that shiny beauty that comes in the morning of adulthood.

Hated the reboot because the only reasons I loved it were because it brought back those memories and because I was so glad to see the crew of the Enterprise in all its youthful vigor.

And the thing is, to make me happy, to make this a love-love situation instead of love-hate, all the makers of this version of STAR TREK needed to have done was make it *about something*.

The essence of STAR TREK—hell, the essence of Gene Roddenberry, who was one of my first discoverers/mentors—was idealism. As Gwen pointed out, this film could've displayed that idealism with just one soaring Kirk, "We do this because it's the right thing to do, dammit! Because it makes the universe a better place!" speech.

I would've gone ape, would've wet both my eyes and my pants if I'd gotten a look/listen to Kirk the firebrand striking at the heart of the eternal mystery, fighting for something meaningful and not just for the sake of the fight.

On the other hand, there's another angle that might be enough to perfect the film for me. If you look at it as a true bromance, the love love story of Kirk and Spock, with Elder Spock the Guardian Angel hovering over them to make sure they unite so their love and passion can fire up the universe and keep it strong, then that in itself could be meaning enough.

Hmm, I think I'm onto something. As soon as I start thinking of this as the gayest STAR TREK ever I also see it as possibly the best. Sorry, homophobes. (But not *real* sorry.)

Recommendation: See this baby. Cheer with it. Laugh and cry.