

New pandemic horror feature film STAYCATION stars Star Trek, Star Wars, and Classic Horror actors

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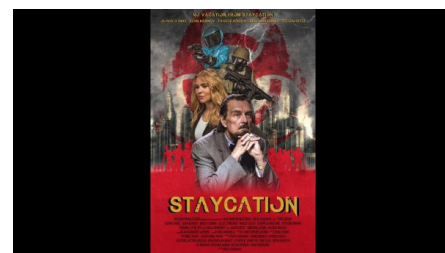


By *Valerie Milano*

Los Angeles, CA (*The Hollywood Times*) 5/9/21 – With a mix of name actors drawn from science fiction and horror genres, STAYCATION is a pandemic horror feature film currently in production and set for release in early 2022. This film stars Olivia d'Abo (*Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*, *The Wonder Years*, *Conan the Destroyer*), Sean Kenney (*Star Trek: The Original Series*), Tracee Cocco (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Star Trek: First Contact*), Eileen Dietz (*The Exorcist*), Kelli Maroney (*Fast Times At Ridgemont High*), Laurene Landon (*Maniac Cop*), G. Larry Butler (*Frankenstein vs. the Creature From Blood Cove*), along with newcomers Bailey Sorrel and Gilles Stricher.

Logline:

As the world roils in the throes of a global pandemic and the warnings of a renowned virologist fall on deaf ears, two roommates put their lives on pause to help search for a friend's missing partner.



Synopsis:

The Nix virus is winning. Scientists scramble for a vaccine but to no avail. Virologists Edward Bellows (Sean Kenney) and Samantha Weaver lead the charge as they monitor the state of the

country and the world in their lab. Meanwhile, Britt and Marnie live large on the government dole as they weather through the crisis. Their idyllic lives get interrupted when a friend pleads with them to locate his missing fiancée. As the two lazily embark on their adventure, the numbers of the infected grow larger by the day.

Preamble:



Staycation is a science-fiction, apocalyptic horror movie about a grim, end of the world pandemic and its effects on people the world over. It even has the veneer of a typical zombie movie with promises of undead hordes terrorizing the living. While most such movies begin with humanity defeated, Staycation begins with humanity fighting back, staving off the virus as best they can. It takes the urgency of Contagion (2011) and Outbreak (1995) and sprinkles it with notes from Dawn of the Dead (2004) and 40% of the film in the style of the smartphones/computer screens/found footage genres Unfriended (2014), Searching (2018), and Host (2020), as well as fake commercial interludes seen in Robocop (1987).

The story mixes several media elements to convey the vast extent of the pandemic and the many lives affected by it (a subject matter that can be related to by everyone who is currently living through Covid-19). It uses TV interviews, zoom calls, social media live streams, global news coverage, YouTube videos, podcasts, and even late-night cable access commercials to showcase how humanity adapts and adjusts during the pandemic. These elements are all scripted, cast with actors, shot, and adjusted with visual effects to simulate the medium in which they originate.

Production

Scenes already in the can (having already filmed last November and December 2020) depict an interview between scientist Edward Bellows and journalist Grace Baxter (Olivia d'Abo) as well as a zoom call between Matt (Gilles Stricher) and his partner Cathy (Bailey Sorrel). These characters set the tone for the rest of the movie showcasing the challenges faced by people dealing directly with the pandemic and those caught in its wake. Further



filming commences in May and June 2021.

The majority of the movie unfolds like a traditional cinematic narrative with depictions of urban vistas gradually transforming into the nightmarish hellscape we all know and love.

IMDb Page: <https://pro.imdb.com/title/tt12975102/>

Indiegogo Campaign Page: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/staycation-pandemic-horror-film-w-star-trek-actors#/>

Promotional Poster: https://c1.iggcdn.com/indiegogo-media-prod-cld/image/upload/c_limit,w_695/v1610560046/ndyddvalzcs2rioee4wq.jpg



Russ Emanuel Director Bio: Russ Emanuel is an award-winning American director, producer, and independent filmmaker, having directed such actors as John Heard, Robert Picardo, Vincent Pastore, Glynnis O'Connor, Hallie Kate Eisenberg, Jeremy London, Ryan Hurst, William Devane, Marina Sirtis, Sean Kenney, Armin Shimerman, and Gary

Graham. He grew up in both Japan and the United States and graduated from U.S.C. to study Cinema-Television. He founded Russem Productions in 2002 to promote his films including GIRL WITH GUN (2005) and documentary RESTORATION OF PARADISE (2014). Presently, STAYCATION (2022) marks Emanuel's sixth foray into feature filmmaking, after directing P.J. (2007), CHASING THE GREEN (2009), THE LEGENDS OF NETHIAH (2012), and OCCUPANTS (2015), and AMERICAN WISPER (2019).



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Valerie Milano is the well-connected Senior Editor and TV Critic at TheHollywoodTimes.Today, a showbiz/promotions aggregate mainly for insiders. She has written for Communications Daily, Hollywood Today, Television International, and Video Age International plus freelanced for others. Valerie donates and works closely

with the Human Rights Campaign (Fed Club Council Member), GLSEN, Outfest, NCLR, LAMBDA Legal and the Desert Aids Project. She is a member of the Los Angeles Press Club. Milano loves meeting people and does so in her fave getaway Palm Springs as a member of the Palm Springs Museum of Art and the Old Las Palmas area community member. For years Valerie was a board member and one of the chief organizers for the Television Critics Association's press tours. The tours take place twice a year in Beverly Hills/Pasadena.

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