

# 'Star Trek: Picard' review

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The streaming service CBS All-Access is furthering their continuation of the Star Trek legacy with the recent release of the first season of their new series, "Star Trek: Picard." Reprising his role as Captain Jean-Luc Picard from "Star Trek: The Next Generation" (1987-1994), Patrick Stewart is at the helm of this ten-part series.

Returning alongside Patrick Stewart are Trek alumni Jonathan Frakes, Marina Sirtis and Brent Spiner, who played Commander Riker, Counselor Troi and Lt. Commander Data, respectively. Also returning is Jeri Ryan, who played the character Seven-of-Nine in the spinoff series "Star Trek: Voyager."

The plot of this series takes place decades after the events of "The Next Generation" in a bleaker, darker future where synthetic lifeforms (also referred to as androids) are banned and everyone curses like middle schoolers who found curse words for the first time. The first

episode showed clear signs that this series is very out of character for a Star Trek series.

This series, like much of Star Trek's last 10 years of content, is more about flash and style over substance. Picard trades off the important moral, philosophical and social themes of previous Star Trek incarnations with gratuitous CGI effects and over the top action sequences that take up too much time out of each episode.

While watching William Shatner fighting a man in a rubber lizard-man costume in the original series wasn't the most thrilling action sequence, there was still a lesson in morality at the end of that episode.

Many of the returning characters, including Captain Picard himself, seemed very out of character. The tired, depressed old man who we see in "Picard" is a far cry from the intelligent, philosophical, diplomatic and courageous Starfleet captain we've seen in "The Next Generation."

Many of the other characters are shown to be brutal and some nearly cruel in a future where people are more attune to their morals, and I'm only talking about some of the good guys here. The villains are, of course, cartoonishly evil and one-dimensional.

The main theme of "Star Trek: Picard" is acceptance of differences and to not judge people for the actions and mistakes of others, as shown in this series when Picard helps a synthetic woman find her people and protect them from destruction by bland Romulan villains.

This theme has been conveyed many times throughout the history of Star Trek, and those older series do it better since there is a greater focus on those struggles and they weren't shoving loud action in your face every few minutes in a vain attempt to keep you interested, when it only did the opposite.

Overall, I must give this series one out of five stars. It earned the one star for its select few touching moments and speeches, but the rest of this series is riddled with plot holes, uninteresting characters and poor writing. This series boldly went where no man should have to go again.

This series is a hopeless, dark and depressing piece of science fiction, a thing we don't need these days. In the troubling times we live in now, we need the Star Trek series that gave humanity hope and taught us that we, together, could overcome great adversity, both in the universe and within ourselves.

