



NEWS RELEASE

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Latest *Star Trek* Beaming Down to Jackson's Michigan Theater; Screening to Feature Writer with Local Ties, 'Captain Kirk' Actor *Free Event Includes Costume Fundraiser to Promote Childhood Literacy*

JACKSON, Mich. [Jan. 7, 2015]— “Mind-Sifter,” one of the most loved tales from the *Star Trek* universe, is now an episode of the award-winning Web series *Star Trek New Voyages*—and it’s beaming down to the Michigan Theater in Jackson.

“Mind-Sifter” will debut Thursday, Jan. 22. The free event will include a panel with actor [Brian Gross](#), who portrays Captain James T. Kirk in the series, and screenwriter Rick Chambers, a communications consultant from Kalamazoo who works with Jackson County organizations, including United Way of Jackson County. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the episode beginning at 7:30 p.m. Also, those who attend the screening in costume will help raise money for early grade reading initiatives through Energizing Education.

Produced by Cawley Entertainment Co. and Retro Film Studios LLC, [Star Trek New Voyages](#) presents new adventures of the starship Enterprise crew based on the original *Star Trek* TV series. Guest stars in past episodes including original series actors George Takei, Walter Koenig and Grace Lee Whitney.

In “Mind-Sifter,” a tortured Kirk is lost in the past and presumed killed, and while his shipmates struggle to come to terms with his death, newly promoted Captain Spock ([Brandon Stacy](#)) is faced with a resentful crew, an enemy threat, and haunting mental images of his suffering friend.

“‘Mind-Sifter’ is a powerful tale about loss, loyalty and determination,” Gross said. “The events in the story completely upend the lives of the Enterprise crew. That made the episode challenging and fun to do. I’m excited to see it on the big screen at the Michigan Theater.”

As the legendary Kirk, Gross carries the mantle first borne by William Shatner in the original series and later by James Cawley, senior executive producer and creator of *Star Trek New Voyages*. Gross is an accomplished actor of film and television. His credits include *N.C.I.S.*, *Saving Grace*, *Anger Management*, *C.S.I.*, *Crime and Consequences* and many more, as well as the lead in the TV film *Gila!* and a role in *Red Tails*, the acclaimed 2012 biopic about the Tuskegee Airmen.

“Mind-Sifter” was published in a collection of short stories, titled *Star Trek: The New Voyages*, in 1976. Written by Shirley Maiewski, widely known as “Grandma Trek” for her involvement as a *Star Trek* writer and advocate, “Mind-Sifter” has long been admired as a tale that captured the magic of the original series.

The teleplay for the screen version of “Mind-Sifter” was written by Chambers, a Kalamazoo author and lifelong *Star Trek* fan. This is his third script for *Star Trek New Voyages*. He is owner and president of public relations firm [Rick Chambers & Associates LLC](#) and author of the novel *Radiance*.

“I remember being captivated by Shirley’s story when it was first published, and I’ve been in love with it ever since,” Chambers said. “It was a huge honor to be part of bringing her story to life. The talented cast and crew of *Star Trek New Voyages* did an amazing job.”

Admission is free. As part of the screening, attendees are encouraged to dress up in costumes based on *Star Trek* to support early grade reading. For every person in a *Star Trek* costume or other science fiction outfit, Rick Chambers & Associates will donate \$10, up to a total of \$500, to [Energizing Education](#) through [United Way of Jackson County](#) to support programs aimed at childhood literacy.

“Knowledge, entertainment and imagination all rely on our ability to read,” Chambers said. “This is a great way to have fun at the screening while helping more kids read well at a young age.”

About the Michigan Theater

The Michigan Theatre, the last and largest theatre built in downtown Jackson, opened April 30, 1930. It was built for the mainstream popular entertainment of the day — vaudeville and movies. Operated by Butterfield Theaters until 1978, the building was acquired by the Michigan Theatre of Jackson Inc., a not-for-profit Michigan corporation, in 1993. The group continues to restore and operate the theatre, bring in classic films, art films, live theatre productions, concerts, meetings, and other community events. The project will finally transform downtown Jackson’s sleeping beauty into a major attraction for the entire region. On the Web: www.michigantheater.org

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