



## Horacio Rodriguez

LA TV and Film Industry Examiner



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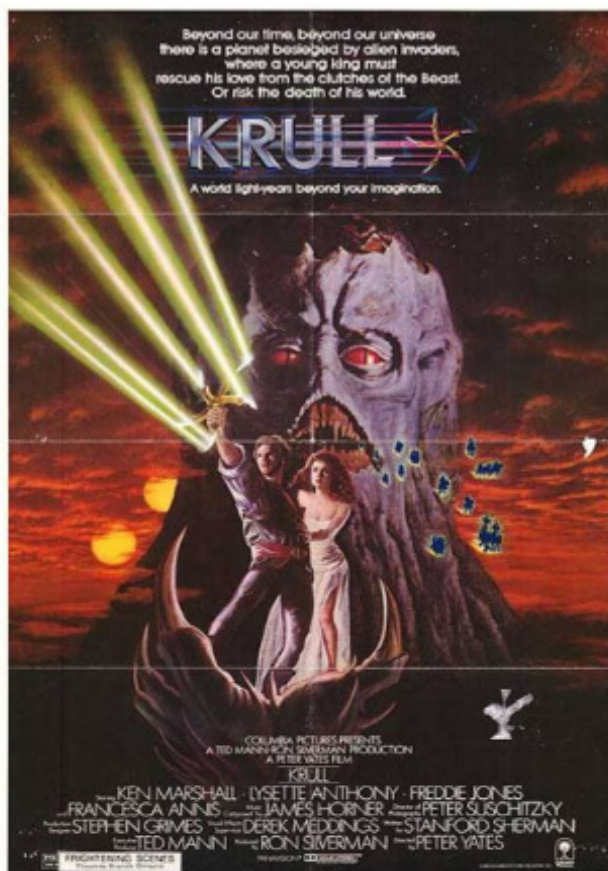
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# 8 sci-fi movie titles that make good band names



You're in the garage taking a break from jamming with your buddies. After playing "Smoke on the Water" for the umpteenth time you all decide that before you can take the band to the next level you need a good name (and by next level you mean someone else's garage and/or backyard kegger where someone has inevitably over pumped the tap and the beer is all foamy).

You feign cleverness and decide to name your band after a semi-obscure sci-fi movie -- a feat already accomplished by Duran Duran when they mined "Barbarella" for their moniker.

The band also talks merchandising and you throw out a few unconventional ideas they really dig. You feel good because you finally get to apply what you learned in that adult night school marketing class you never finished. After rejecting a few movie

titles ("Embryo" was deemed too "biological" and "Yog - The Monster from Space" was just a straight WTF) you ended up with eight "solid" options:



## "SOYLENT GREEN" (1973)

**As in:** "Ladies and Gentleman please welcome SOYLENT GREEN!"

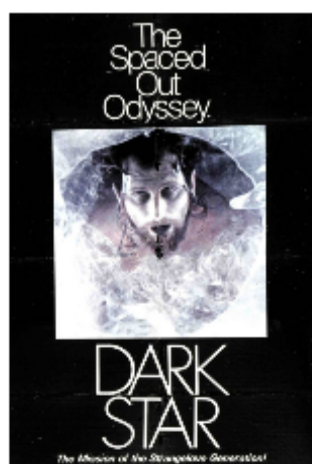
**Music sounds like:** Norwegian synth-pop rock band heavily influenced by Kraftwerk and A-HA.

## What's this movie about anyway?

If you don't already know Soylent Green is "made of people!" then you've been busy in the seventh ring of hell giving Jimmy Hoffa pedicures or something equally random.

**Merchandise:** T-shirts emblazoned with close-up of Charlton Heston yelling "It's made of people!" Be the envy at NRA

conventions. **Bonus:** Granola bar tie-ins because earthy/cardboard food is in right now.



### **"DARK STAR" (1974)**

**As in:** "Ladies and Gentleman please welcome DARK STAR!"

**Music sounds like:** Goth band spawned from the likes of Marilyn Manson and other bands that suck.

### **What's this movie about anyway?**

John Carpenter's directorial debut features a hippie looking dude riding a surfboard in space until he burns up during a planet reentry. He's like the Silver Surfer but with a sub-orbital flesh burning followed by horrible death.

**Merchandise:** Duh. Surf boards. **Bonus:** Dark Star brand rolling papers because you're going to need 'em before you surf in space, pal.



### **"ZARDOZ" (1974)**

**As in:** "Ladies and Gentleman please welcome ZARDOZI!"

**Music sounds like:** E.L.O. knock-off with members wearing Stevie Nicks style witchy robes.

### **What's this movie about anyway?**

This movie makes no sense. All you need to know is that [Sean Connery](#) spends much of the movie wearing what looks like a red diaper accessorized with bandoleers. [See for yourself.](#)

**Merchandise:** Stylish bandoleers in a variety of colors for the Pancho Villa reenactment crowd. **Bonus:** Battery acid to promptly blind yourself after seeing Mr. Connery in his fetish outfit.



### **"WIZARDS" (1977)**

**As in:** "Ladies and Gentleman please welcome WIZARDS!"

**Music sounds like:** Short life span 1970s KISS rip-off band with a guest appearance on "CHIPS."

### **What's this movie about anyway?**

The only animated movie of the bunch has two brother Wizards fighting for control of a devastated earth and was probably made using something not related to sobriety. It also features a scantily clad fairy who's kinda hot. There I said it.

**Merchandise:** Victoria's Secret "hot post-apocalyptic cartoon fairy" lingerie to make your girlfriend even more uncomfortable with the fact she's dating you. **Bonus:** Wizard hats to match your girl's outfit. And ya, she's pretty much leaving you after that.





### "DAMNATION ALLEY" (1977)

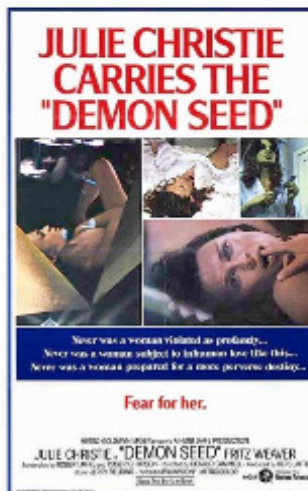
**As in:** "Ladies and Gentleman please welcome DAMNATION ALLEY!"

**Music sounds like:** Grunge because "nobody understands me" and "society's got me down" and "my flannel lacks softener."

### **What's this movie about anyway?**

The world is nuked to hell and a couple military guys decide to build a tricked out armed and amphibious RV they call a "[Landmaster](#)." They roam earth's wasteland looking for survivors and encounter magnetic storms, flesh eating cockroaches, cannibals and a Doors cover band playing "This is The End."

**Merchandise:** Children everywhere will love playing with a toy [Landmaster](#) creating their own adventures on a bleak radioactive landscape void of humanity that may be a reality in the not too distant future. Yay toys!



### "DEMON SEED" (1977)

**As in:** "Ladies and Gentleman please welcome DEMON SEED!"

**Music sounds like:** Punk rock for middle class disaffected youth tired of enjoying comfortable lives.

### **What's this movie about anyway?**

Proteus IV is a sentient computer who wants to get busy with Julie Christie and make a baby. Usually when a computer gets frisky you'd shove it off like an amorous Chihuahua stealing your leg's dignity.

**Merchandise:** Mobile app designed for lonely folks where

Proteus asks questions like "what are you doooing?" and "how was your day?" and "will you please consent to having a human/cyber child with me?"



### "XTRO" (1982)

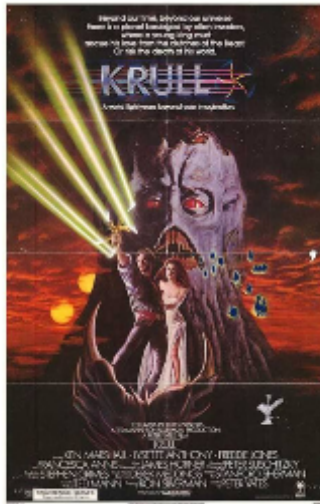
**As in:** "Ladies and Gentleman please welcome XTRO!"

**Music sounds like:** Heavy metal band fond of the same 4 chords.

### **What's this movie about anyway?**

Woman gives birth to a fully grown man from outer space. Fully. Grown. Man. *Birtherd*. Cue Alaskan pipeline sized epidural catheter connected to multiple drums of black tar heroin before you even begin to mask that hurt.

**Merchandise:** Write a parenting book. "What to expect when your birth canal is destroyed by an alien life form." Get on "The View."



### "KRULL" (1983)

**As in:** "Ladies and Gentleman please welcome KRULL!"

**Music sounds like:** 80s hair metal. First CD artwork includes a battle axe and/or some kind of dark ages armor by [Frank Frazetta](#).

**What's this movie about anyway?**

The hero's weapon of choice here is a Glaive, a medium pizza size magical star weapon thingy that looks like a Ninja star with an eager pituitary gland. And unless feathered hair is a naturally occurring phenomenon in this universe, Aqua Net abounds.

**Merchandise:** Glaive shaped coasters because you know when you have girls over they're gonna need a place to put their wine

coolers.





# 5 Movies Edgar Allan Poe Might Have Penned If He Wasn't Dead



Horacio Rodriguez, LA TV and Film Industry Examiner

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Slideshow: [5 Movies Edgar Allan Poe Might Have Penned If He Wasn't Dead](#)

If [Edgar Allan Poe](#) were alive today, he'd be that intense guy you've seen planted in front of a Mac at Starbucks. You know the one. Never looks up from his keyboard. Unkempt hair. Wears a flannel shirt too far-gone for Febreze.

Poe died poor and broken 150 years ago. Before his mystery shrouded booze infused demise on the streets of Baltimore at age 40, he'd still managed to write an ample supply of dark, twisted, woe inducing literature. He was the original Goth.

But let's suppose he was alive right now. And in between sinking his Twitter followers into despair with Tweets about the inexorable sadness of the human condition he found time to write a few Hollywood movies. What follows are five movies Poe might have penned if he wasn't suffering from dead.

## [SE7EN \(1995\)](#)

David Mills (Brad Pitt) and William Somerset (Morgan Freeman) are detectives in an unnamed, gritty, general hell hole of a metropolis. They're assigned a case involving a string of horrific murders based on the seven deadly sins (Gluttony, Envy, Lust, Pride, Sloth, Greed and Wrath). You'll never look at a box delivery from UPS the same way again.

**Poe story *SE7EN* most resembles:** ["The Murders in the Rue Morgue" \(1841\)](#)

In 1841, Poe published "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," where he introduced Parisian detective C. Auguste Dupin. This story is credited with introducing the first detective/crime procedural narrative and influenced Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes), Agatha Christie (Hercule Poirot) as well as

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TV procedurals like *CSI* and its ilk. But you won't find any crime lab montages accompanied by techno music or detectives wearing above pay grade European sunglasses. In "Rue Morgue" Dupin investigates a pair of grisly Parisian murders following clues that include an escaped orangutan with a shaving fetish, a nearly severed head and a body stuffed into a chimney. With "Rue Morgue" Poe proved he had an ample amount of Section 8 for *Se7en*.

### ***MEMENTO* (2000)**

Leonard Shelby (Guy Pearce) suffers from anterograde amnesia and unable to generate any new memories. A dicey affliction to have when gathering clues and tracking down the perps who raped and murdered your wife. Because of his affliction, Leonard must resort to getting tattoos to remind him of some critical information where for the rest of us a simple note on the fridge would have sufficed.

### **Poe story *MEMENTO* most resembles: "The Tell-Tale Heart" (1850)**

"The Tell-Tale Heart" follows an unnamed, obviously bat nuts narrator who murders a guy because of his "vulture eye" and dismembers the body before stuffing the fleshy jigsaw under the floorboards. Eventually the narrator's guilt and paranoia evolves into certified insanity when he starts to hear the heartbeat of his victim coming from beneath the floor. During a visit from the cops who are investigating a report of loud noises and screams coming from the man's room, he breaks down and confesses. Three years prior to writing this story, Poe's first wife Virginia died of tuberculosis. His crushing guilt over her loss landed him on a water slide of booze for the rest of his life. In *Memento*, Leonard Shelby mitigates the immense guilt surrounding his wife's death by creating a seemingly impossible riddle of paranoia and misdirected blame to distract him from the truth. Or was it just an excuse to get a few really sweet tats?

### ***OLDBOY* (2003)**

Oh Dae-Su (Choi Min-sik) is kidnapped and locked up in a hotel room without even knowing who his captor is or what their motive may be. While watching TV, he learns that his wife has been murdered and his daughter sent to foster parents. When finally released, *15 years later*, Oh Dae Su sets out with the aim of dispensing violent revenge on those responsible for stealing his life. After seeing this movie you'll think twice about

having sex with someone young enough to be your adult offspring.

**Poe story *OLDBOY* most resembles:** [“The Cask of Amontillado” \(1846\)](#)

In “The Cask of Amontillado,” an Italian nobleman named Montresor seeks revenge for an unnamed insult from fellow nobleman Fortunato. During a carnival, Montresor lures a drunk Fortunato to his basement by telling him he’s obtained a cask of Amontillado, a pricey and rare sherry (think of it as fancy Jägermeister). Once in the basement, Montresor manages to chain Fortunato to the wall and builds a brick wall entombing him. At the end of the story, 50 years after that night, Montresor brags about never being caught. Now that’s not revenge. That’s a Costco pallet size “that’s more mustard than I’ll ever need” kind of revenge. In *Oldboy*, Oh Dae-Su doesn’t pick up masonry during the course of his retribution but he does eventually track down his tormentors and leaves behind many corpses that won’t have the luxury of an open casket funeral. But unlike Montresor, Oh Dae-Su doesn’t walk away with a clean wipe. In addition to slicing off his own tongue, Oh Dae-Su discovers a high octane icky revelation that will certainly make future Thanksgiving dinners a little more awkward.

***THE VANISHING*(1988)**

Rex Hofmann (Gene Bervoets) is on a road trip through the French countryside with his girlfriend Wagter ([Johanna ter Steege](#)). While at a rest stop, Wagter vanishes without a trace and Rex spends several years obsessively searching for her. He eventually meets Wagter’s kidnapper Raymond Lemorne ([Bernard-Pierre Donnadieu](#)). Raymond agrees to tell Rex what happened to his girlfriend but not before Rex takes a sip of his “specially” brewed coffee. You should *never* accept a cup of coffee from a crazy Dutchman.

This film is not to be confused with the 1993 Hollywood remake starring Jeff Bridges and Kiefer Sutherland. Its ending isn’t as effectively nihilist as the original and smacks of Hollywood boardroom tinkering. Ironically, the remake was directed by the same guy ([George Sluizer](#)) who directed the original.

**Poe story *THE VANISHING* most resembles:** [“The Premature Burial” \(1850\)](#)



It's documented that Poe had an irrational fear of being sent into an involuntary dirt nap. Along with "Premature Burial" he wrote two other buried alive themed stories: "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "Berenice." Poe wasn't the only one in the 19th century paranoid about a hasty trip underground. Some coffins of the day came equipped with bells that could be rung from the inside in the event you were misdiagnosed as dead or you were sent there because you're just too status happy on Facebook (indeed, no one cares what you ate for lunch). In *The Vanishing*, Rex's obsession with his girlfriend's fate leads to a premature burial minus the aforementioned "Hey! I'm not dead yet" bell.

### ***THE CROW* (1994)**

It's October 30 in Detroit and that means it's *Devil's Night*. Eric Draven (Brandon Lee) and his fiancée Shelly Webster (*Sofia Shinas*) are brutally murdered. Shelly is beaten and raped and Eric is stabbed, shot and thrown out the window. Exactly one year later, Eric rises from the dead with the help of a Crow of unknown origin and promptly begins to avenge his own murder and that of his beloved Shelly. Corpse reanimation via magical crow is the new Botox.

### **Poe story *THE CROW* most resembles: "The Raven" (1845)**

Poe's "The Raven" is about a visit from a talking raven to a man creeping into madness because of his lost love Lenore. The raven is kind of a douche and instigates the poor fellow by constantly repeating the word "nevermore." It's one of the most famous poems in American literature and oft parodied. It even made it into *The Simpsons* third season *Treehouse of Terror* where Bart plays the Raven and Homer the tormented. In *The Crow*, Draven quotes the poem just before he blows up a pawn shop: "Suddenly, I heard a tapping, as of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door. You heard me rapping, right?" Then boom! But aside from Draven taking liberties with Poe before inflicting heavy property damage, *The Crow* encapsulates a lot of reoccurring Poe themes like premature burial (or in this case premature death as Draven and his fiancé were so young), guilt (Draven wishes he could have done more to save Shelly), revenge (Draven kills everyone involved in his death) and plenty of supernatural elements because you need that sort of thing when rising from the dead.





## Horacio Rodriguez

LA TV and Film Industry Examiner



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# 5 buddy cop movies without the cops

March 12th, 2010 4:15 pm PT



Buddy cops. You know the formula. Two normally incompatible law enforcement personalities are forced to work together. They're initially resistant to new partner orders (usually from a shouting, zinger flinging superior) because they prefer to "work alone." Cue slow motion explosions, police work not done "by the book" and character exposition relayed via a shouting match in the middle of a shoot-out and/or reckless car chase with bad guys.

The formula hit its stride with 1982's ["48 Hours"](#) and arguably reached its "Citizen Kane" with 1987's ["Lethal Weapon"](#). A string of "buddy cop" set-up variations followed:

**Chicago cop gets partner from Soviet Russia:**

["Red Heat"](#) (1988)

**One cop wears Armani, the other Levi's:** ["Tango and Cash"](#) (1989)

**Cop gets partner outside own species:**

["Alien Nation"](#) (1988), ["Turner & Hooch"](#) (1989)

**He's from China! He's from the hood!:** ["Rush Hour"](#) (1998)

So the formula works well with law enforcement types. How well does it work outside the police beat? Here are five lesser known buddy movies whose dueling personalities are not The Man:



**["Hidden Fortress"](#) (1958)**

Peasants Tahei and Matashichi roam the countryside of feudal Japan in search of a fast buck. Regularly side-tracked by clan wars, bickering and greed, they're recruited with the promise of reward by Samurai General Makabe (Toshiro Mifune). Makabe needs their help delivering a feisty exiled princess and a large stash of gold across enemy lines all while evading an army in fast pursuit. Plot sound familiar? Just replace the peasants with R2-D2 and C-3PO, gold with Death Star plans and feisty princess with...a feisty princess and you've got

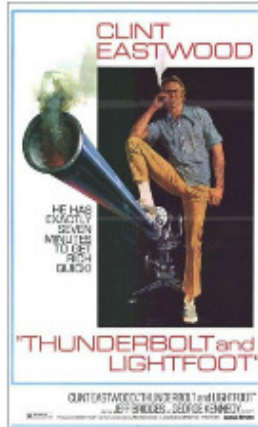
["Star Wars."](#) [George Lucas](#) has oft times cited this Kurosawa classic as an inspiration.





### "The Thin Man" (1934)

Based on the eponymous novel by Dashiell Hammett (who also wrote "The Maltese Falcon"), Nick and Nora Charles (William Powell and Myrna Loy) are a New York high society couple in a playful relationship full of witty banter. He's a retired detective and she's an heiress. When a close friend disappears Nick is lured out of retirement to solve the mystery while Nora rides shotgun. Many drinks and classic one-liners are had along the way.



### "Thunderbolt and Lightfoot" (1974)

Recent [Oscar](#) winner [Jeff Bridges](#) got a Best Supporting nom playing Lightfoot, a cocky young thief who inadvertently saves veteran bank robber Thunderbolt ([Clint Eastwood](#)) from an assassination attempt. After their meet and greet, Thunderbolt takes the inexperienced Lightfoot under his wing. They reunite with members of Thunderbolt's old gang (which includes George Kennedy) and plan a big bank heist using a 20mm German cannon. Because nothing says subtle like Nazi artillery. Directed by Michael Cimino whose next film was the Oscar bonanza "The Deer Hunter" followed by the career killer "Heaven's Gate." Ouch.



### "The Frisco Kid" (1979)

An orthodox Jew and a Wild West gunslinger both walk into a bar... Gene Wilder plays Avram Belinski, a Rabbi living in Philadelphia who's fresh from Poland. With ancient Torah scroll in hand, he leaves for San Francisco where he will serve as a congregation's new Rabbi. During the journey he's conned and loses everything but meets up with bank robber Tommy Lillard ([Harrison Ford](#)). While traveling together they encounter rough weather and terrain, Native Americans and learn the meaning of being a mensch.



### "The Late Show" (1977)

Art Carney plays aging detective Ira Wells who's short on dough and friends (think Phillip Marlowe in his later years where his distrust of humanity has left him bitterly cynical and alone). An old partner shows up on his doorstep one day with a mortal wound. Ira feels compelled to solve the mystery despite the fact he hates people and would rather stay home. In steps Lily Tomlin as Margo Sperling, an eccentric woman who's really only concerned with finding her cat. The two put

their differences aside (both generational and esoteric) and search for answers.





# 5 Movie Maternities Not Covered By Obamacare



Horacio Rodriguez, LA TV and Film Industry Examiner  
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Oops. Condom broke.

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Slideshow: [5 Movie Maternities Not Covered By Obamacare](#)

The health reform law officially known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) was signed into law a little over a year ago but it's still generating a collective throbbing forehead vein of anger from those who believe it's just more government intrusion and too expensive.

The text of the law is a daunting read at 1017 pages (but is still shorter than Charlie Sheen's monthly penicillin bill - ba-dum-DUM) so it probably hasn't been read by most Americans. But it's safe to say it doesn't cover any of the following cinematic maternities that are probably best served by a delivery room in Josef Mengele's basement anyway.

## ***THE FLY* (1986)**

Director David Cronenberg's remake of the 1958 Vincent Price classic follows Seth Brundle ([Jeff Goldblum](#)), a brilliant and eccentric scientist who has developed a working teleporter (think *Star Trek* transporters and think how pizza delivery times would improve). After granting an exclusive interview about the project to science magazine reporter Veronica Quaife ([Geena Davis](#)), the two become romantically involved. One night while testing the teleporter, Brundle's DNA is accidentally melded with that of a fly. Shortly thereafter Brundle begins his transformation into a fly although initially he doesn't exhibit any obvious symptoms. When Brundle figures out what's happening to his body (which resembles an entomological puberty) he tells a mortified Veronica. And because she's been biblical with the fly normally known as Seth Brundle and might be pregnant (ewww), she starts having horrific nightmares where she gives birth to a *larva*. No word if Oshkosh plans to launch a line of baby larva overalls.

**Reason for coverage denial:** "What the hell are you doing having unprotected sex with a fly? And would you blame a new man for leaving after telling him you slept with an insect and once gave birth to a larva?"

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### **THE MANITOU (1978)**

Karen Tandy (Susan Strasberg) is admitted into a San Francisco hospital after she discovers a tumor growing on her neck. After a barrage of tests, doctors discover there's actually a *fetus* growing inside the tumor. After some bizarre poltergeisty occurrences at the hospital, Dr. Snow (Burgess Meredith) becomes convinced the fetus is actually a reincarnation of a 400 year old Indian Spirit who seeks revenge on those who perpetrated the genocide of North America's native peoples (or perhaps just upset at all the comped casino buffets he's had to dish out). But before doctors can squeeze it out and hope for the best like a zit on your wedding day, the tumor gives birth to a *dwarf shaman*. Desperate for help, fortune teller Harry Erskine (Tony Curtis) recruits a witch doctor named John Singing Rock (Michael Ansara) in the hope he can send the evil midget shaman back to wherever these horrible movie premises come from.

**Reason for coverage denial:** "Your policy does not cover dwarf shaman neck birth"

### **ROSEMARY'S BABY (1968)**

Newlyweds Rosemary and Guy Woodhouse ([Mia Farrow](#) and [John Cassavetes](#)) move into a gothic New York City apartment building. Guy is a struggling actor and Rosemary a naïve housewife straight out of the 1950s. Their neighbors Minnie and Roman Castevet ([Ruth Gordon](#) and [Sidney Blackmer](#)) are the sort of annoying but ultimately harmless elderly couple you'd find on a sitcom about an annoying but ultimately harmless elderly couple. At first Guy can't stand the Castevets but then grows alarmingly close to them. After he gets the lead in a potentially career making play when the actor originally cast inexplicably goes blind, Guy convinces Rosemary that they should try and conceive a baby. But before they can light a few candles and crank up the Barry White, Minnie Castevet shows up with a batch of chocolate mousse. After trying the mousse, Rosemary promptly gets dizzy, passes out and has a semi lucid nightmare where she's having sex with a demon in a room full of naked onlookers. Rosemary soon discovers she's pregnant and discovers the Castevets are part of a satanic coven that recruited Guy to help them impregnate her with the offspring of Satan. Eventually Rosemary's fears are confirmed when the baby is born with glowing red eyes. And not the glowing red eyes you'd get after smoking too much of the medicinal.

**Reason for coverage denial:** "That's what you get for marrying an ambitious actor willing to sell your womb to Satan for a part in an off-Broadway play."

### **ALIEN (1979)**

The commercial spaceship Nostromo is hauling 20 million tons of mineral ore on a trip back to Earth. When the ship's computer receives a transmission from an uncharted planet, it awakens its crew of seven from hibernation. After landing on the planet to investigate, a giant chamber of eggs (think giant Cadbury eggs with a gooey alien center) is discovered by Executive Officer Kane ([John Hurt](#)). One of the eggs releases a creature that attaches itself to Kane's face. In a failed attempt to cut off the facehugger, it's revealed the creature has acid for blood. Eventually like most relationships based solely on physical attraction it detaches itself and dies. Initially Kane doesn't exhibit any adverse effects and the crew gathers in the ship's galley for a final meal before reentering hibernation and resuming their journey. After a couple of bites of food, Kane starts choking and violently convulsing before a creature bursts out of his chest, killing him and leaving a bloody mess that would bring the Brawny man to tears with feelings of inadequacy. The creature escapes and eventually starts pegging off members of the crew one by one like so many American Idol contestants.

**Reason for coverage denial:** "Your policy does not cover the consequences of 4 a.m. drive-thru visits to Taco Bell."

### **JUNIOR (1994)**

Gynecologists Dr. Alex Hesse ([Arnold Schwarzenegger](#)) and Dr. Larry Arbogast ([Danny DeVito](#)) develop a strong fertility drug but are forbidden by order of the FDA to test it on women (probably because with DeVito involved it has lemon cello as an active ingredient). With the help of an egg donation from Dr. Diana Reddin ([Emma Thompson](#)), Dr. Hesse impregnates himself and promptly begins to exhibit all the symptoms of an expectant mother. He eventually carries the baby to term and gives birth via a caesarean section. Hesse then quickly jumps into a time machine and travels into the past on an urgent mission to find and capture the writer of this movie before he can unleash this cinematic abomination - therefore saving humanity.

**Reason for coverage denial :** "We don't cover abortions and by abortions we mean this movie."

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## Ring Swallowed; Hilarity Ensues

March 4, 2009 10:06 PST By Horacio Rodriguez



Photo: Getty Images

Engagement rings: the new fiber.

**Tags:** [Engagement](#) | [Marriage](#)

For years, doctors have been telling us to eat more fiber. But this is ridiculous ...

College students Reed Harris and Kaitlin Whipple of Farmington, NM, had been dating for awhile when Harris decided to pop the question. Hoping to make a memorable impression, he decided to hide the engagement ring in a Wendy's Frosty milkshake. Thing is, Whipple ate the whole shake too quickly to notice she'd swallowed the rock. Talk about awkward brain freeze!

When Harris told Whipple what she'd done, she was shocked. "I thought he was joking," she told Matt Lauer on the "Today" show. "I couldn't believe that I swallowed the ring. I kept waiting for him to get down and propose."

A trip to the hospital for an X-ray confirmed the faux pas. Ultimately, their friends reminded them that Harris had yet to officially propose -- so, armed with the X-ray of the ring sitting comfortably in Whipple's innards, Harris got on bended knee and did the deed.

Determined to get the ring out of her body and onto her finger, Whipple armed herself with prunes and high fiber cereal. Friends assured her "this too shall pass" -- and the next morning, thankfully, it did. Whipple wrote on her blog, "I have never been so excited about my bodily functions." Umm, OK.

We wish the couple all the best -- and wonder if indecisive "Bachelor" Jason Mesnick's engagement ring doesn't end up in the toilet as well ...



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## Soap Stories We'd Like to See: Handcuff Your Husband

March 24, 2009 10:06 PDT By [Horacio Rodriguez](#)



Photo: Getty Images

"Till handcuffs do us part ... ?"

The term "ball and chain" is supposed to be figurative -- but Helen Sun took it to a more literal place when she handcuffed herself to her estranged husband in an attempt to reconcile with him.

Police in Connecticut say that Sun, 37, told them she wanted to have a conversation with husband Robert Drawbough without him leaving. So, **OBVIOUSLY**, she changed the locks on their bedroom and handcuffed herself to Drawbough while he was sleeping.

...And then proceeded to bite his arms and torso. You know - to wake him up for the talking!

But instead of dishing on how his day went, Drawbough grabbed his cell phone and called the cops - who charged Sun with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct, reckless endangerment, unlawful restraint, and impersonating Houdini without a license (which is still a crime in imaginary Connecticut).

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## Soap Stories We'd Like to See: Handcuff Your Husband

March 24, 2009 10:06 PDT By Horacio Rodriguez



Photo: Getty Images

"Till handcuffs do us part ... ?"

We're pretty sure, by the way, that once at the police station, Sun removed her mask, revealing herself to be "One Life to Live" character [Blair Cramer](#), before walking out of jail unchecked. This is SO up her alley! And what with John being a cop and all, she has access to the 'cuffs.

Also, with this new development, soap writers could stop trapping people in caves and cabins in order to get them closer. An accidental handcuffing is just as effective, and much easier on the production budget -- making it a recession-proof soap story we'd LOVE to see.

Which soap characters would you handcuff together?

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## Thanksgiving on the "Fringe"

November 10, 2008 7:00 PST By Horacio Rodriguez

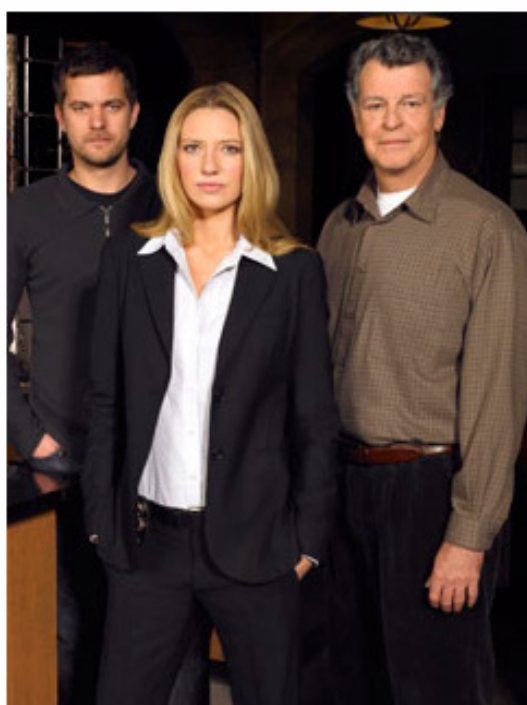


Photo: Fox

**Tags:** [Fringe](#) | [Thanksgiving 2008](#)

The folks of "Fringe" are busy people. Saving the world from mutations, mysterious hairless men, and the more "normal" terrorist threats leaves them little time to celebrate anything. How do we think they'll spend their Thanksgiving this year? The plan is to have a potluck din-din in Dr. Bishop's dingy Harvard University lab. For a group of people who've seen the worst of humanity and science, it's home for the holidays!

The first to arrive is Peter, having just left the local dive bar to loosen up for what's sure to be a spectacularly awkward dinner. It's fitting, because his potluck assignment was to bring booze. He arrives bearing many alcoholic gifts.

He finds his dad, Dr. Bishop, watching a VHS copy of "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" dubbed in Mandarin. His job was to cook the Turkey Day bird -- and sure enough, he's laid out quite a spread. He pushed together a couple of examination tables (that's right, the ones he uses to violate the laws of science; yuck!) and sitting in the center of the table is a large, juicy turkey. With wires protruding from it. They lead to a machine with lots of lights and buttons. Straight out of a 1950s science fiction B-movie. But the bird isn't cooked. Not even defrosted. What gives?

Bishop informs Peter that he plans to throw a switch and cook the bird when the guests arrive. It will cook to golden brown perfection in mere seconds. He says he developed this "Insta-Turkey" method during his repeat viewings of a brooding Charlie Brown contemplating life and plotting revenge against Lucy.



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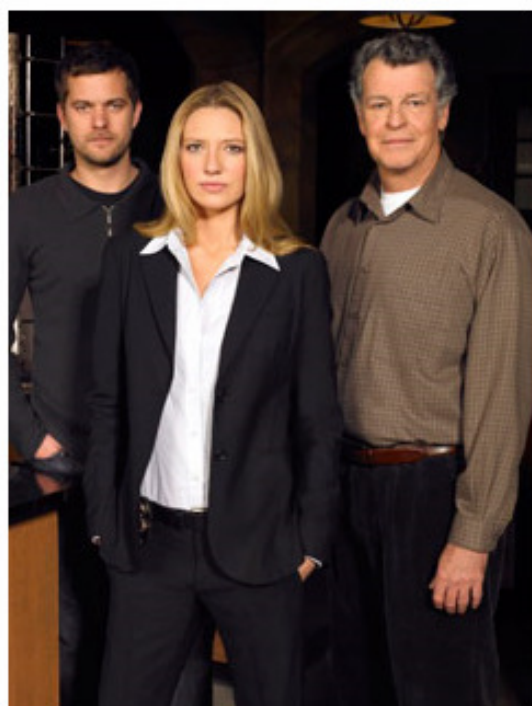


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Then Peter's cell phone rings. Olivia, who was supposed to bring side dishes, cancels. Something about an emergency involving a nine-year-old who's growing tentacles. Phone rings again. It's Phil, the dessert man, also cancelling. He was called to a FBI/White House briefing about a terrorist threat involving self-aware, robotic Hello Kitty dolls. But he sends his best.

Having lost their guests to national emergencies and scientific perversions, Peter and Bishop decide to go ahead and get that turkey going. Bishop produces a wry smile and flicks the switch. The bird starts rocking back and forth and a small plume of smoke escapes from its empty cavity. But the turkey lets out an eardrum-bursting screech, gets up and flies away -- crashing through one of the lab's windows.

"You've managed to reanimate a long-dead, frozen turkey, Walter. Normally that would be impressive -- but since that zombie bird was my Thanksgiving feast, I'm a little upset. Guess I'll just have to drink my dinner now."

"I'm sorry about dinner, Peter," Bishop says. "But more importantly, who's gonna pay for that window?"

To see how we think the rest of your favorite shows will be spending their Thanksgiving, [go here](#).

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## Robots Invade Fashion Runway (No, Really)

March 16, 2009 10:06 PDT By Horacio Rodriguez



Photo: Getty Images

"I don't unplug for less than \$10,000 a day ..."

**Tags:** [Runway](#)

The term "Robotic Fashion Model," redundant? Not so, say the Japanese.

On Monday, the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology in Japan unveiled a smiling, walking, talking, posing (work it, girl!) "Cybernetic human" that will soon make an appearance in a Tokyo fashion show.

Exhibiting many qualities of a living, breathing model -- it weighs 95 pounds, never eats, reportedly smokes to keep its weight down (OK, that part isn't true), and likes to date musicians (sorry, that's not true either -- somebody stop us!). It can't do any household chores and hasn't cleared safety standards to share the catwalk with human models, but developers believe those qualities aren't far off.

It's not clear yet if the robot is more like Wall-E (inquisitive, cute, and caring) or a "Battlestar Galactica" Cylon (hot and prone to catfights, because the human race just doesn't understand it). Seriously though, we think this is amazing -- and look forward to seeing this heavy metal beauty at Fashion Week sometime in the future.

The recent "America's Next Top Model" [audition riot in New York](#) was quickly quashed by police, without serious injuries -- but would it have been so easy to stop a robot-model rebellion? We think not. If these new robots become popular, unemployment lines are going to suddenly have a lot more attractive people in them ...