ask the man on the street if he’s ever seen science fiction on TV, and the most common response
will be, “Sure, I’ve watched Star Trek.” But over the years there have been dozens of sci-fi pro-
grams. If you don’t believe us, check out the listings for cable’s Sci-Fi Channel. Many of these
shows—including some that didn’t “live long and prosper,” so to speak—have even been immortal-
ized on trading cards. From Lost in Space to Alien Nation, from Space: 1999 to seaQuest DSV,
here’s a look at the best—and worst—in small-screen sci-fi adventure.

Note: Prices are for NM sets.

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN
Syndicated, 1952–1957
Superman/Clark Kent: George
Reeves; Lois Lane: Phyllis Coates
Jimmy Olsen: Jack Larson
Not science fiction, you say? Hey,
the guy may be a superhero, but
he’s still a space alien. This low-
budget TV series lasted only five
years in its initial run, but it’s lived a lot longer in reruns—and in Topps’ “Superman TV” card series, still popular with older collectors.
Cards: 1965 Topps, “Superman TV,” 66 cards, $225
1965 Topps, “Superman TV (test issue),”
44 cards, $3,000

ALIEN NATION
Fox, 1989–1990
Matthew Sikes: Gary Graham;
George Francisco: Eric Pierpoint
Remember this early Fox TV offering, based on the eponymous movie? Human
detective Sikes was teamed with Francisco, an alien with a spotted, melon-
shaped head. Despite its occasional
preachiness, the show successfully devel-
oped a cult following in its single-season run.
Cards: 1990 FTCC, 60 cards, $12

BABYLON 5
Syndicated, 1993 (pilot),
1994–present (weekly series)
Captain John Sheridan: Bruce Boxleitner
A lonely space station, the last great
hope for peace in an uncertain universe.
It may sound like Star Trek: Deep Space
Nine, but the stories are more reminiscent of the original
Star Trek—perhaps because several writers from the old
Trek helped launch Babylon. Deja vu note: The show’s
cast initially included Bill Mumy of Lost in Space fame.
Cards: 1995 Fleer Ultra, 120 cards, $1.49 per pack

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA
ABC, 1978–1980
Adama: Lorne Green; Apollo: Richard Hatch;
Starbuck: Dirk Benedict;
Sort of a cross between Star Wars and
Bonanza. It didn’t last long, but it did intro-
duce Lorne Greene to a generation that
knew “Bonanza” only as a steak house
chain. Maybe the show would have lasted
longer if the producers hadn’t dumped
Apollo, Starbuck, Baltar, and the rest, and
brought the Battlestar and its flying motor-
cycles to Earth in Galactica 1980.
Cards: 1978 Topps, 132 cards, 22 stickers, $45
1978 Wonder Bread, 36 cards, $20
THE BIONIC WOMAN
Jaime Sommers: Lindsay Wagner; Oscar Goldman: Richard Anderson; Dr. Rudy Wells: Martin E. Brooks
Believe it or not, Lindsay Wagner actually won an Emmy (in 1977) as best dramatic actress for this series. The character first appeared on The Six Million Dollar Man when Sommers, Steve Austin's one-time fiancée, suffered a sky-diving accident. Doctors tried to save her by replacing her legs, right arm, and ear with cybernetic super-prosthetics. At the end of the story, the character was left in a coma—but she proved so popular the producers brought her back to life in her own series.
Cards: 1976 Donruss, 44 cards, $35

BUCK ROGERS IN THE 25TH CENTURY
NBC, 1979–1981
Capt. William “Buck” Rogers: Gil Gerard; Col. Wilma Deering: Erin Gray; Twiki (voice): Mel Blanc
With special effects remarkably similar to those seen on Battlestar Galactica, this tongue-in-cheek approach to the Buck Rogers story is pooh-poohed in serious sci-fi circles. Still, we’d bet most of those critics watched the show as religiously as we did when it first aired.
Cards: 1979 Topps, 88 cards, 22 stickers, $15

DOCTOR WHO
BBC, 1962–1992
Syndicated (U.S.), 1973–present
The Doctor: William Hartnell, Patrick Troughton, Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker, Peter Davison, Colin Baker, Sylvester McCoy
That’s right, good science-fiction TV actually existed outside the good ol’ U.S.A. Sure, the special effects in the show’s early years were pretty cheesy, the acting could be wooden, and some of the stories were trite, but at its best, Doctor Who was charming, amusing, and thrilling.
Cards: Cornerstone, 1994–95
Series 1, 110 cards, $12–15
Series 2, 100 cards, $14–18

THE INCREDIBLE HULK
CBS, 1978–1982
Dr. David Bruce Banner: Bill Bixby; The Hulk: Lou Ferrigno
It’s The Fugitive meets Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The result: Nothing like the comic book, which is probably why this show survived the axe that killed CBS’s Wonder Woman and Spider-Man series.
Cards: 1979 Topps, 88 cards, 22 stickers, $25

LAND OF THE GIANTS
ABC, 1968–1970
Capt. Steve Burton: Gary Conway; Alexander FitzHugh: Kurt Kosznar
If you’ve never heard of this one, picture Gilligan’s Island without a sense of humor. The premise: A suborbital plane carrying seven people—the captain, co-pilot, and stewardess, as well as a young heiress, an industrial tycoon, a master thief, and an orphaned boy—is damaged in a terrible storm and crashes in an unknown world populated by giants. The “Little People” became hunted fugitives as they tried to fix their plane and return home.
Cards: 1968 Topps test issue, 55 cards, $5,200

LOIS AND CLARK: THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN
ABC, 1993–present
Superman/Clark Kent: Dean Cain; Lois Lane: Teri Hatcher
Once again, an alien is an alien, even if he does leave teenage girls drooling over their TV sets. This version of Supes’ super adventures is known more for its snappy banter and sexy stars than adventurous stories.
Cards: 1995 SkyBox, 90 cards, $12

LOST IN SPACE
CBS, 1965–1968
John Robinson: Guy Williams; Maureen Robinson: June Lockhart; Don West: Mark Goddard; Zachary Smith: Jonathan Harris; Will Robinson: Bill Mumy; The Robot: Bob May; The Robot’s voice: Dick Tufeld
Ah, yes, the Space Family Robinson. This show had it all: a heroic family, an evil scientist, a gimmicky robot, and lots of lungs to scream at all the “Danger! Danger!” Rumor has it there’s a big-screen version in the works. Nepotism note: June Lockhart’s real-life daughter, Anne, played Sheba on Battlestar Galactica.
Cards: 1966 Topps, 55 cards, $525
THE OUTER LIMITS
ABC, 1963–1965
Creator: Leslie Stevens
This hour-long science-fiction anthology series resembled CBS's Twilight Zone, except that every episode ended with a moral provided by the same voice that advised us at the start of each episode, "We can control the horizontal. We can control the vertical." Who's we? Not Topps. They controlled only the trading cards.
Cards: 1964 Topps (Bubbles Inc.), 50 cards, $550

PLANET OF THE APES
CBS, 1974
Galen: Roddy McDowell; Alan Virdon: Ron Harper; Petes Burke: James Naughton; Zaius: Booth Colman; Urko: Mark Lenard
You know the story: 20th century astronauts are hurled into a post-apocalyptic future where humans are seen as a threat by intelligent ape rulers. This short-lived attempt to carry the success of the motion picture series to the small screen...failed to do so.

ROBOTECH
Syndicated, 1985–1987
The RoboTech cartoon was a conglomeration of three Japanese animated series, known in Japan as Supersional Fortress Macross, Superdimensional Cavalry Southern Cross, and Genesis Climber Mospeada. Originally, the shows were unrelated, but Carl Macek, who brought the series to the attention of U.S. distributor Harmony Gold, edited them together. The move dismayed Japanese animation purists, but helped the show reach a mass audience.
Cards: 1986 FTCC, 60 cards, $15

SEQUESTERED
NBC, 1993–present
Capt. Nathan Bridger: Roy Scheider; Lucas Wolenczak: Jonathan Brandis
Often described as "Star Trek undersea," this high-priced Spielbergian enterprise was panned by critics before it even aired. But the show has found enough of an audience to survive two seasons so far.
Cards: 1994 SkyBox, 100 cards, $10

THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN
Col. Steve Austin: Lee Majors; Oscar Goldman: Richard Anderson; Dr. Rudy Wells: Alan Oppenheimer (1973), Martin E. Brooks (1974–78)
This show was based on the novel Cyborg, by Martin Caidin. After being seriously injured in a crash, astronaut Austin is reconstructed by the Office of Scientific Information. His legs, right arm, and left eye are replaced with synthetic nuclear-powered mechanisms, giving him superhuman abilities. For some reason, this was a big hit in the '70s. Then again, this is the decade of disco and the polyester leisure suit we're talking about.
Cards: 1975 Donruss, 66 cards, $75
1974 Topps test issue, 55 cards, $3,500

SPACE: 1999
ITC (syndicated), 1975–1977
Commander John Koenig: Martin Landau; Dr. Helena Russell: Barbara Bain
This British-produced program boasted the presence of Mission: Impossible stars Landau and Bain in an attempt to cash in on the syndicated success of Star Trek. Though never a hit, the show had a cool premise: Earth's moon, knocked out of orbit by a radioactive explosion, wanders through space with 300 humans trapped on its surface. And here's something equally cool: If you collect the entire Donruss card series, the backs form a giant 66-card puzzle.
Cards: 1976 Donruss, 66 cards, $20

V
(weekly series)
Mike Donovan: Marc Singer; Dr. Julie Parrish: Faye Grant; Diana: Jane Badler; Ham Tyler: Michael Ironside; Willis: Robert Englund
They looked like us...but they were lizard people intent on conquering the Earth and turning all of humanity into one giant entrée! The Visitors appeared only two years after Buck Rogers left the airwaves, but their program was light years from that NBC series.
Cards: 1984 Fleer, 66 cards, $15; 22 numerical stickers, $20; 62 variation stickers, $40

'60s SCI-FI AND TERROR TV
This catch-all card series doesn't focus on any one program. Instead, it contains cards for many of the science fiction, anthology, and monster shows of the 1960s, including The Twilight Zone, The Prisoner, The Time Tunnel, The Invaders, and Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea.
Cards: 1994 Fun Fax, 50 cards, $25