

חדשות האגודה – יוני 2024 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy 2024

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "אדון האור" מאת רוג'ר זילאזני. ויתקיים ביום חמישי 27.6, בשעה 19:30, בדירה בת"א. לקבלת המיקום יש להירשם במייל של דפנה קירש. בדף האירוע בפייסבוק.

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לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה או בדף האגודה בפייסבוק.

Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

This month's roundup:

- Special Wartime Issue (#9): Some thoughts
- Quick discussion of 3 time-loop movies

Our usual tidbits from the Web.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

Special Wartime Issue #09

Dear Readers:

More than 254 days have passed since October the 7th, 2023!

In 1948, it was all about 5 Arab armies that wanted to drive Israel/Jews into the sea.

Today, it's 7 physical fronts (+ the virtual Cyber front), not to mention the UN, ICC, politicians in numerous European and US states, college campus professors and their students, etc...

VS. the humane right and obligation to free our remaining 120 hostages!



And the world continues to falsely condemn Israel of stealing Arab land, Apartheid, Pink-washing, Ethnic-cleansing, and even Genocide...instead of backing us up 100% in the War against Terror...

Leybl Botwinik, Editor

For a relatively unbiased report with images: <https://www.space.com/satellite-images-rafah-israel-gaza>

Time-loops: Movies Discussion

Reviewed by: **Leybl Botwinik**

I recently came across an interesting movie called **ARQ** (see: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5640450/>) that reminded me of a time-loop episode in **X-Files**, as well as in other movies (**Edge of Tomorrow** – with Tom Cruise) and various other TV programs (including various **Star-Trek** series' episodes).

The basic premise of a time-loop is that the persons involved are reliving a period of time that may last, say an hour or so – or an entire day (or more). They are basically 'stuck' in that loop, experiencing events as if running against a stopwatch or an hourglass, and when the 'sand' runs out – they instantly restart at the beginning of the loop. Usually, they don't even realize (at least at first) that they are in that loop.

At some point, someone – sometimes it's only one person and sometimes others – 'join in' and discover that something is wrong with that moment in their life, that they are repeating crucial events again and again. Due to some random factor, or free choice – one or two aspects of the person's experience within the time-frame changes or is changed by the person, and the loop is either broken, or slightly modified – until the time runs out, and the person starts from scratch again – though with new knowledge or with a slight modification in the setting or circumstances.

ARQ (2016) is a fairly serious take on that, with the main character trying to survive a terrorist invasion into his home. They want to steal his "ARQ" invention that produces infinite energy – and that also seems to be affecting the time-stream, causing the time-loop.



Edge of Tomorrow (2014) is another serious time loop story, where the main character is fighting off an Alien invasion. The movie's ad poster has "Live. Die. Repeat" as the plotline's motto.



In addition to **ARQ**, I also saw another time-loop movie recently, called **Boss Level** (2020). This one has some humour in it. The main character constantly wakes up the day of his own murder/assassination and attempts to unlock the mystery behind his own untimely demise.

What makes the stories unbelievable (in both sense of the word), is how the person reliving the time-loop period keeps trying different timing, different activities, and choices, to 'beat the odds' and survive. Every time he reboots to the beginning of the loop, he has gained some knowledge and experience from the previous 'lifetime-loops' and figures out new ways to reach some otherwise unattainable goal. In many ways, these stories are like a video game, where you keep fighting until you either win or 'die' but can then reboot and start all over again – but in the next round, with enhanced knowledge of 'what not to do', as well as what to try, to go to the next level.

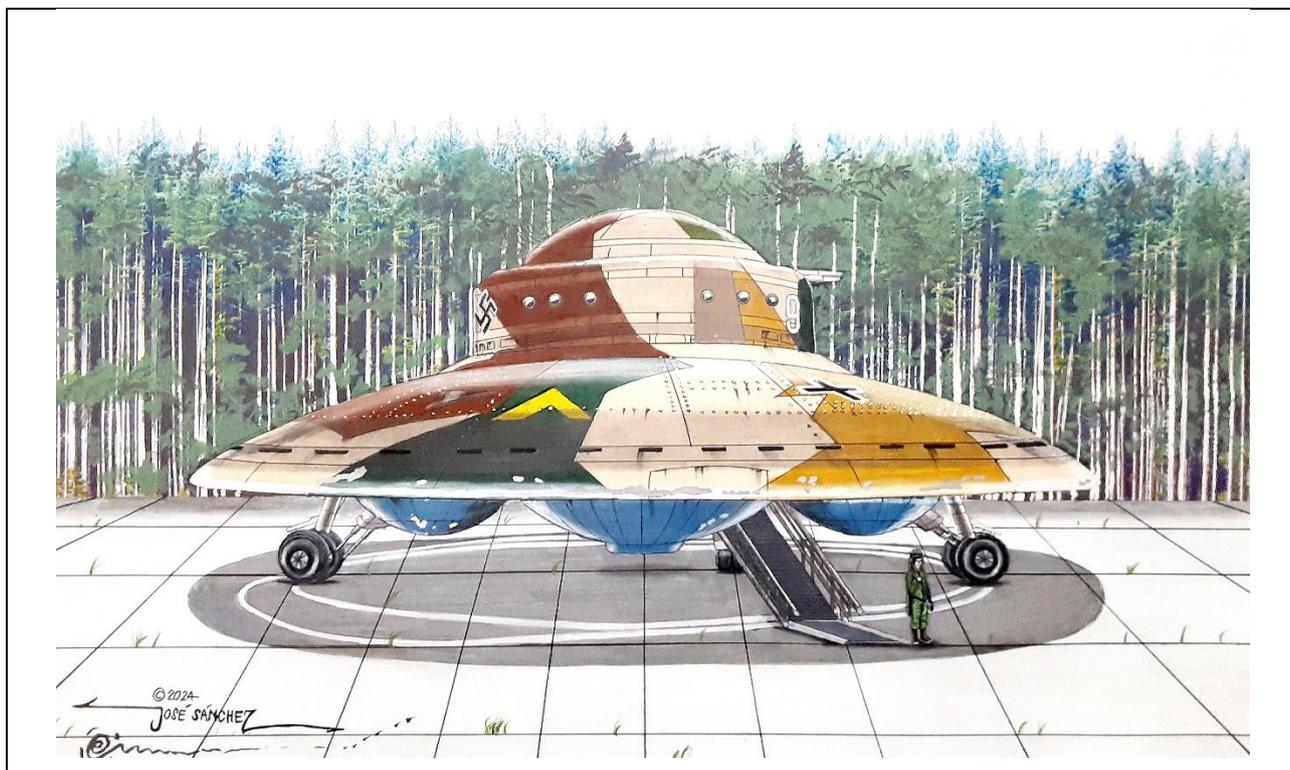
On the subject of a similarity with video games, there is the movie **Free Guy** (2021), where the main video-game character 'wakes up' after repeating a typical day, wearing the same suit, entering the bank where he works, greeting his friend the security guard with the exact same dialogue and greeting, etc., ... until one day he 'wakes up' and starts making his own decisions, etc.

As for the 3 films mentioned her (**ARQ**, **Boss**, and **Edge**), I enjoyed all three, as well as **Free Guy**, with **ARQ** topping the list. This is because in **ARQ**, more than one person becomes aware of the loop, including **[SPOILER ALERT]** – eventually – the bad guy, thus greatly reducing the probability of his survival.

Interestingly enough, the time-loop concept seems to be quite a popular theme in SF, and over 70 (listed) films have been produced since 1969, using time-loops as a basis for the plot.

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_films_featuring_time_loops.

Also: <https://screenrant.com/star-trek-time-loop-episodes-ranked/>



WW2 Antigrav UFO: Haunebu 2 on the Tarmac

A German officer guards one of several top-secret UFOs, allegedly tested during the Second World War. Christened the Haunebu 2, this was the second prototype model in a planned series of three super-secret antigravity flying saucers that back then, were part of the "Nazi Super Weapons" proposal to end the war.

Jose Sanchez, Artist

Fun from the Web

- Relive the Artemis 1 mission in this new NASA mini-doc
<https://videos.space.com/m/IuiRNBo9/relive-the-artemis-1-mission-in-this-new-nasa-mini-doc>
- 'We are ready:' New NASA documentary looks ahead to Artemis 2 moon mission (video)
<https://www.space.com/nasa-artemis-1-moon-mission-success-and-preparation-video>
- Should we seal DNA samples of Earth's endangered species in a moon crater?
<https://www.space.com/coral-reefs-moon-climate-change>
- 'Warp drives' may actually be possible someday, new study suggests
<https://www.space.com/warp-drive-possibilities-positive-energy>
- Handle Mars with care: Guidelines needed for responsible Red Planet exploration, experts say
<https://www.space.com/mars-exploration-geoconservation-alien-life>
- What Is a Quantum Battery? And When Will It Power My Laptop?
<https://gizmodo.com/what-is-a-quantum-battery-and-when-will-it-power-my-la-1851522062>
- India makes breakthrough by test-firing new 3D-printed rocket engine
<https://www.space.com/india-test-fires-3d-printed-rocket-engine>

TV&MOVIES

- What did Noa see in the telescope in 'Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes?'
<https://www.space.com/kingdom-of-the-planet-of-the-apes-telescope-mystery>
- Assignment Earth the Star Trek spin off series that never happened
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTd8h_-Of7Q
- Best sci-fi movies with 90%+ on Rotten Tomatoes
<https://www.space.com/best-sci-fi-movies-with-over-90-percent-on-rotten-tomatoes>
- The history of the Jedi Order in 'Star Wars'
<https://www.space.com/history-of-the-jedi-order-in-star-wars>
- Is Dune just a cheap ripoff of Star Wars?
<https://www.quora.com/Is-Dune-just-a-cheap-ripoff-of-Star-Wars/answer/Franklin-Veaux>
- Watch the 1st trailer for 'Dune: Prophecy' prequel series (video)
<https://www.space.com/dune-prophecy-first-trailer>

COMICS

- Learn how to become an astrobiologist in new issue of NASA's graphic novel series
<https://www.space.com/nasa-astrobiology-graphic-novel>

GAMES

- Play This Now: Final Fantasy VII Rebirth Review
<https://www.pcmag.com/reviews/final-fantasy-vii-rebirth>

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