



STARMAN ON DVD

**Project
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Spotlight Starman International (SSI) has created its own complete DVD set of the STARMAN TV series! Plus, there's also an "Extras" DVD containing several hours of bonus material!

DISCLAIMER

These fan-produced DVDs are an amateur, not-for-profit effort. No copyright infringement is intended. Should the STARMAN copyright holder make commercial DVDs available, SSI will immediately cease distribution of these copies.

SHIPMENT STATUS

Episode Sets: Now shipping and at a new, lower price!

Extras: Now shipping!

VHS Tape Sets: No longer available due to lack of interest (everyone has been ordering DVDs).

PAYMENT/REFUNDS

Cost for an episode set is \$90 and the "Extras" disc is \$10. Shipping is extra. The DVD's have professionally designed artwork for the interactive menus as well as the case and disc label.

Spotlight Starman International has always been committed to reaching and providing materials to as many people as possible who were touched by this wonderful show. That remains my goal as well, so I am quite willing to work out a payment plan for those who cannot afford the entire amount at once. Contact me for details that will fit your budget and timetable.

PayPal orders: PayPal charges fees for payments I receive. I prefer US buyers to send a check or money order to avoid these charges. I realize it is much easier for international buyers to use PayPal. On the order form, PayPal fees are included for Non-US shipping.

Though I cannot guarantee with 100% certainty that these sets will play on your DVD player (see “Compatibility” below), unlike other people who may provide lower-quality sets and who do not permit refunds at all if you’re not satisfied, I cannot in good conscience adopt this policy.

I don’t expect people to play all of their DVDs right after they receive them. We *are* talking nearly 22 hours after all! But I believe it reasonable to expect that there would be time for people to watch at least one DVD in its entirety within the first 30 days to make sure they can play them OK. If you are dissatisfied with the set, you may return it within the 30 days for a refund of the purchase price. Beyond the 30 days, but within the first year, if you find one of the discs I shipped was defective, you may return it for replacement.

SHIPPING FEES AND RELATED INFO

The episode set (and “combo” with Extras disc) will be shipped in a box measuring 8”x8”x7”. Total weight is approximately 3 pounds. Weight for Extras disc only is about 4 ounces.

All orders are normally shipped within one business day. Shipments to US destinations will include a delivery confirmation (no similar service is apparently available for international shipments). Not responsible for lost or stolen mail.

If you live in the US, please pay by check or money order only.

If you do not live in the US, the customs form will declare the contents as merchandise valued at the price you paid.

Contact me if you plan to order more than one episode set or Extras disc so we can determine the best shipping method and cost.

For those people who provide email addresses, I will send notification when their sets have been mailed.

HOW THE EPISODES WERE PREPARED FOR MAKING THE DVDs

Series actor Michael Cavanaugh (who played “George Fox”) recorded his own set of STARMAN episodes onto VHS tapes as they aired. During the STARMAN convention in 2004, he let me borrow his tapes so I could make copies to digital video tape. I then returned his tapes before the convention was over and have been working from the digital video tapes since then. I have also added in—from tapes other people have sent me—certain scenes missing from Michael’s tapes (he attempted to edit out commercials in most of the early episodes, so many scenes were clipped; also some opening and/or closing credits/themes were missing). To fill in these missing scenes, I examined approximately 110 tapes from other people, then picked the best versions to piece together in order to create the final episodes.

I also removed all commercials without clipping the actual scenes, put in the proper next episode previews and removed the local TV station/network “voiceovers” that were often part of the closing credits.

THE "EXTRAS" DVD

This disc features the following content:

The Presentation Video

This is the "promo" video (written by Mason and Gray) used by Henerson-Hirsch to pitch the STARMAN series concept to ABC executives. It has been *digitally enhanced* especially for this DVD. It's definitely NOT the STARMAN as we know it, but it's very interesting and fun to see Robert Hays as Paul and Christopher Barnes as Scott playing the earlier concepts of the characters. Although the promo never aired in its entirety, several of the scenes (jail cell with the flying plate, fire engine, father and son shaving, and more) made it into opening themes of the episodes. How many of these scenes can you identify? (We used to sell this video alone for \$15 as a fundraiser.) This video is a real exclusive because it is of co-writer/producer John Mason's copy, which he made available to our group.

Music videos, interviews and more

Each of the nearly 30 fan-created music videos is composed of a number of scenes picked from the series and/or movie, usually chosen around a theme (like fathers and sons) with the audio track replaced by a favorite/popular/theme-appropriate song. See interviews (with actors Hays, Barnes, Cavanaugh, and even with Executive Producer Michael Douglas) that aired before, during and after STARMAN's first season. Watch all FIVE variations of the opening themes in one place, a few in other languages. There're also TV ads for the show itself and for individual episodes. Plus a whole lot more, for a total of nearly *three and a half hours* of very special material!

Please note: This DVD does NOT contain commentaries or bloopers or behind-the-scenes type material that is typical of the kind of bonus content you find on movie DVDs.

The vast majority of the content on this DVD has been digitized from VHS tapes, and in most cases, the tapes were 20+ years old. There are some video and audio glitches as a result of the age of the tapes, but for the most part, the content is of good quality, and I did my best to smooth out some of the rougher spots.

The case art and part of the art used in the DVD navigation menus were created by Nancy Brauer with additional work by James Zimmerman.

Digital enhancement engineered by Bruce Jividen.

I must say, it wasn't easy creating the "Extras" DVD. I had to rebuild the project files in the DVD authoring software *four* times because of unresolvable problems; I suffered another major hard drive failure (fortunately I was able to recover most of what I thought would be lost); and the equipment I've been using to burn the DVDs started acting very temperamental mere days before they were due to debut at STARMAN FAMILY-CON 2008.

COMPATIBILITY

On June 28, 2006, I sent out a number of test DVD discs to people, and several of them had more than one DVD player. The result was discouraging—nearly half of the reports I got back stated there were problems reading the DVDs. I then spent a considerable amount of time researching the various problems reported and determined that it was not going to work for me to burn the DVDs using my existing equipment. So, I felt I had no choice but to buy hardware and software that would ensure a higher degree of compatibility; this also allows me to burn sets more quickly. This was an expense I had not originally budgeted for. I had to borrow a substantial amount of money from my personal savings in order to get the DVDs ready in time for the 2006 convention.

My research into the compatibility problems also indicated that I needed to use a higher quality of DVD media. So I ordered a much better—and more expensive—brand, one that cannot be purchased in stores.

The ultimate solution to any and all compatibility problems is to do what commercial DVD makers do—create a “glass master” that is then used to “stamp out” duplicates. None of the companies I’ve contacted that could do this would touch this project because of intellectual property rights concerns. The best alternative is what I’m doing now by using DVD-R media for the episode sets, and DVD+R DL for the Extras disc.

There is a chance that older DVD players will not be able to play the DVDs. Your DVD manufacturer may be able to provide “firmware updates” for your player that can allow playing the DVDs with no problem.

For these reasons, I’m unable to guarantee 100% compatibility.

DVD NAVIGATION MENUS

One quirk related to the menus is that after you navigate to a menu choice and press the ENTER/SELECT button on the DVD remote, all the menu choice “buttons” then light up as if they were all pressed at the same time. It’s a “cosmetic quirk” only and doesn’t affect the episode or chapter choice that’s actually made—it will play just fine. But we tried for a week to eliminate this quirk to no avail. I didn’t want to hold up the distribution of the DVDs any longer so I ended up deciding to live with it.

PLAYING THE DVDs ON A COMPUTER

The DVDs have been primarily created for viewing on a TV and not a computer. I had only VHS tapes as source material and not digital masters from Columbia. As a result, if you view the DVDs on a computer you may see “noise bars” near the edges of your computer monitor (and a very thin, distortion “ribbon” at the bottom of the screen) that do not appear on a TV. It is certainly watchable and I don’t want to discourage anyone from buying a set if they are only able to watch them on a computer, but I do want to make sure that people’s expectations are formed correctly.

During test-playing of the DVDs on a computer using a software program called VLC, we noticed that the menu buttons appear to be “on” all the time, similar to the quirk described above under

“DVD NAVIGATION MENUS.” I contacted the authors of VLC and was informed this is a bug in the DVD navigation component of their software that’s provided by a third party. It’s a cosmetic problem only, and you will still see a difference in the visible button “state” as you make selections of episodes/chapters.

POSSIBLE FUTURE VERSIONS OF THE EPISODES

I’m considering a future project that would create a version of the episodes that would be compatible with Apple’s video iPod (all 22 episodes would easily fit on one) and Sony’s PlayStation Portable. If this is of interest to you, please let me know so I can see if there are enough interested parties to justify the time investment.

THE PLEDGE

These DVDs are intended only for people who connect through SSI. This project has always been not-for-profit and has no intention of distributing this product widely. Nor do we want to be the inadvertent source for STARMAN episodes being distributed for profit. Any proceeds beyond covering the cost of supplies, production, and maintaining the equipment I donate to the STARMAN FAMILY-CON/In-Your-Pocket Fund account

There have been some concerns from StarStaffers (STARMAN series actors/staff/crew) about how the DVDs might be distributed. As part of our assurance to the StarStaffers who have supported us, we want to do our best to protect the project and safeguard the product—both the content that was taped and our own artistic efforts in production and packaging. There have already been attempts to “steal” our product, undoubtedly with profit in mind.

During STARMAN FAMILY-CON 2006 where the DVDs debuted, people were very excited and impressed with the incredible artwork done for the DVD case covers by Nancy Brauer, the graphic artist for this project. However, we later discovered that two different online auction sellers had “appropriated” Nancy’s DVD case artwork from SSI’s web site in order to sell their own lower-quality DVDs of the series. One of the sellers, when asked, claimed to have done all of the artwork him/herself, but never even contacted Nancy for permission to use it, much less participated in the project.

Nancy and I have put a LOT of time into this project. We do not want the results of our efforts stolen or otherwise undermined.

Many of the people who have ordered are new and/or unknown to us so we realize we run the risk of having those people resell or redistribute our product for their own benefit. In the STARMAN universe, we believe in trusting people and asking people to be on their honor. To that end, we’ve now decided the purchase of the DVDs must be accompanied by a signed pledge (similar to what we’ve asked when distributing exclusive materials such as unproduced STARMAN scripts and some on-the-set photos). This pledge is on the order form.

I must have a signed and dated copy of this pledge in my possession before I can ship your set.

Anyone placing an international order using PayPal must send the signed pledge separately by postal mail.

STARMAN DVD ORDER FORM

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this page and mail to the address at the bottom.

Item	Price	Total
Episode Set (11 DVD's) Only	\$90	
(US) Media Rate	\$5	
(US) Priority Mail	\$14	
(Non-US) Global Priority Mail	\$39	
Final Total		

Extras Only	\$10	
(US) First-class	\$3	
(Non-US) First-Class	\$5	
(Non-US) Flat rate Priority	\$14	
Final Total		

Episode Set and Extras Combo	\$100	
(US) Media Rate	\$5	
(US) Priority Mail	\$14	
(Non-US) Global Priority Mail	\$39	
Final Total		

Contact Todd if you would like to pay in installments.

Your Shipping Address and Contact Info	
Name	
Address	
Phone	
E-mail	
Opt-in <input type="checkbox"/>	Check here to receive project-related news by email (this is a very low-volume mailing list).

STARMAN Episode Set/Extras Pledge

“I, the undersigned, promise I will not copy (except as a backup for my own use), sell or otherwise distribute further my set of SSI STARMAN DVDs—or the associated artwork—by any means, electronic or otherwise, nor will I allow anyone else to do so.

“I promise that I will only lend my set to people I can trust to abide by this pledge as well.

“If I am purchasing a set as a gift, I am promising on that person’s behalf and will inform the recipient that s/he is bound by this pledge.”

Name:

(please print)

Date:

Signature:

Make checks/money orders payable to:

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