

About the T-shirts...

"There was a star danced, and under it was I born."

— Shakespeare, "Much Ado About Nothing"

This year's STARMAN FAMILY-CON is Much Ado About *Something!* The STARMAN movie premiered in 1984, making this the Twentieth Anniversary of STARMAN's beginnings. Our T-shirt this year strives to commemorate this milestone with a design celebrating twenty years of appreciation and dedication to the themes, values and Spirit of STARMAN.

At the left in the top arc, the word "STARMAN" incorporates the movie publicity's descending star image, paying homage to the powerful icon of a cosmic traveler and mapmaker fallen from the heavens to the perils and joys of Earth.

In the upper center, the word "FAMILY" has a family grouping in the "i"...parents and child standing together as the central unit of human life.

On the upper right, the word "CON" features the first of four sea turtles, an endangered species and mascots of this convention. The United Nations has recognized 2004 as "International Year of the Sea Turtle"...shining a spotlight on these beautiful and mysterious creatures, whose existence is now threatened. Our turtle here is exultant, standing on her hind legs and lifting her flippers to the sky, joining us in all that we celebrate this historic year.

Why sea turtles? Star Turtles were the first official mascots of Star Island (see www.kundar.net) and were first highlighted as a cause in Bruce's novella, SNOWSTORM. While not mentioned in the movie or series, their status as an endangered species ties them into the themes of STARMAN, and our turtles join peregrines, wild horses, and marine mammals in our roster of threatened beings given assistance and nurturing by Spotlight Starman International.

In the center of our design is a sphere...a finite yet unbounded symbol from both the movie and the series, representing the magic inside us that, with a little help, can be made real in the physical world.

In the upper left of the circle is our quote, "There was a star danced, and under it was I born." Why a quote from Shakespeare? It couldn't be more fitting...our StarFamily was "born" under the "dancing star" of the movie twenty years ago. We are pleased to honor the Bard on his 440th birthday with his first-ever appearance on our T-shirts. In case you didn't know, or just forgot, Angela performs a bit of "King Lear" in the episode "Secrets," giving Starman a touching introduction to the world's favorite playwright. Trivia question: What other episode(s) reference(s) Shakespeare?

In the upper right, the dancing star with a "20" emblazoned on its chest beams out our message of celebration to the entire Universe. Around it, more stars twinkle in the sky. Not counting those on the turtle shells, there are 22 stars in this design, reflecting the 22 episodes of STARMAN's first season.

Under that star-filled sky, in the central part of our sphere, Paul and Scott dance on the beach. Paul points to our lodestar, echoing the SSI Logo, which has appeared on so many earlier T-shirts. They dance on the same sloping beach featured on the 1993 T-shirt for the Star Island Adventure convention. Closer to the water are two Starfish, a symbol of the 1998 Convention, which celebrated International Year of the Ocean. All these elements from prior designs signify the enduring quality of our fandom.

At the very bottom, a female sea turtle, the mother, climbs up out of the water to dance with Paul and Scott before she lays her eggs and returns to the sea.

At the left, a father and son turtle swim toward the beach, eager to join the celebration. The father has one flipper lowered protectively over his son, and they look to each other for mutual support and love, as a father and son did on our TV screens. We have, of course, named these turtles "Paul" and "Scott."

This year's T-shirt was designed by Bruce Jividen and Vicki Werkley and drawn by Bruce Jividen. Jeanne Williams drew the Paul and Scott figures, and Vicki Werkley provided art direction.

Next FAMILY-CON (2006) will celebrate the premiere of the STARMAN TV Series in 1986 and twenty years of enjoyment since then. We're already planning a stunning commemorative T-shirt that will honor the series and our past gatherings in a new-under-the-sun design and technique.