

A WOMAN'S SPACE

No frakking around: *Battlestar Galactica* might just be the most feminist show on TV

Fanboys and comic-conventioners aren't the only ones geeking out over this month's return of the fourth and final season of *Battlestar Galactica*, the "reimagined" update of the '70s space shoot-'em-up. Since first airing in 2005, *Galactica* has earned a

Peabody, an Emmy, and legions of loyal female fans who are psyched—if a little surprised—to see so many forceful ladies on a sci-fi series about robots who are waging war on their human creators. Below, a primer on the women of *BSG*.—CORRIE PIKUL



PRESIDENT LAURA ROSLIN, LEADER OF THE FREE UNIVERSE

BACKSTORY

A breast cancer survivor and former schoolteacher, she immediately ascended from secretary of education to president of the 12 colonies after 42 higher-ranking bureaucrats were nuked.

WHY SHE'S NOT JUST ANOTHER SPACE PRINCESS

Although essentially a just president, she has the, er, ovaries to make tough, morally questionable decisions if duty calls—e.g., fixing votes, squashing civilian uprisings, and advocating assassination.

COULD BE THE LOVE CHILD OF:



Queen Elizabeth



Dick Cheney



CAPTAIN KARA "STARBUCK" THRACE, BADASS HUMAN FIGHTER PILOT

BACKSTORY

In the original series, Starbuck, played by a man, was a womanizing, cigar-chomping top gun. In this version, she's a swaggering, sexually ravenous vixen in a muscle tank who can outfly, outdrink, and outsmoke any guy in the fleet.

WHY SHE'S NOT JUST ANOTHER SPACE PRINCESS

While men are literally lining up to have her babies, she refuses to settle down, believing she's destined to save the human race.

COULD BE THE LOVE CHILD OF:



Wonder Woman



Will Chamberlain



NUMBER SIX CYLON, AKA A GENOCIDAL HUMANOID ROBOT THAT CAN COPY ITSELF

BACKSTORY

As a new-generation Cylon robot that is virtually indistinguishable from a flesh-and-blood woman, Six (named for her model number) was the linchpin in the almost-successful plot to wipe out the human race.

WHY SHE'S NOT JUST ANOTHER SPACE PRINCESS

With her bleach-blond curls and killer curves, Six, played by former model Tricia Helfer (who has graced the cover of this magazine), isn't just another Bond-bot. Deeply religious, she yearns to understand human emotions.

COULD BE THE LOVE CHILD OF:



Heidi Klum



2001: A Space Odyssey's HAL 9000



SHARON "BOOMER" VALERII/SHARON "ATHENA" AGATHON, A CYLON, TWO OF WHOSE COPIES HAVE INFILTRATED THE GALACTICA RANKS. THINK LINDSAY LOHAN IN THE PARENT TRAP, IN SPACE

BACKSTORY

A Cylon sleeper agent who's compassionate and empathetic to the humans and their plight. Despite being programmed to destroy *Galactica* and its crew, the two Sharons have been instrumental in keeping them alive.

WHY SHE'S NOT JUST ANOTHER SPACE PRINCESS

Manages to persuade her Cylon brethren to give peace a chance and enter into a (however temporary) coexistence with the humans.

COULD BE THE LOVE CHILD OF:



Pocahontas



John Wilkes Booth