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MASTER AND COMMANDER

A British naval commander 'n his trusty medical sidekick find adventure - 'n themselves - in th' treacherous waters off th' tip o' **Tierra del Fuego**. Based on th' **Aubrey-Maturin novels** by Patrick O'Brian, this 2003 film was th' next t' last directorial work o' Aussie director Peter Weir. Th' film be well-nigh universally hailed by maritime fiction enthusiasts, but t'wind was taken from her sails like on her November release by ye blockbuster success o' **Pirates o' th' Caribbean** a few months antecedent. Stars Russell Crowe 'n Paul Bettany 'ave each expressed interest in a sequel, but prospects seem slim.

O'Brian's twenty-one novel series was initially launched at ye end of the nineteen-sixties t' general disregard but relaunched wit' great success in th' US in th' early 1990s, 'n th' books exerted unmistakable influence on **Star Trek: Th' Next Generation** 'n subsequent **Star Trek** properties. Which 'tis but plain logic, as th' books were initially commissioned t' serve th' existin' market fer t' **Horatio Hornblower novels** o' C. S. Forester. In creatin' **Star Trek**, Gene Roddenberry consciously modeled his Captain on Hornblower.

O'Brian 'n Forester both drew upon th' real life career o' several Royal Navy officers, most notably that o' Admiral Thomas Cochrane. O'Brian's fictionalizations didnae end wit' his litr'y output, yarr. Late in his life twas't come t' light that much o' wha' hae past fer his public biography was inaccurate 'n that at th' age o' 31, in 1945, he left his shorenname o' Richard Patrick Russ fer thet o' Patrick O'Brian 'n severed ties wit' a previous beauty 'n sprogs. His nouvellle belle c'était Mary Tolstoy 'twas, t'precedin' consort o' t' Count Dimitri Tolstoy, a distant cousin o' t' Russian author Leo Tolstoy.