

## KIDS TELEVISION

### Grant McIntyre - Globe and Mail

#### Thursday, 2030CE on YTV

Futuristic sci-fi series **2030CE** was a pleasant surprise when it launched last year: pleasant because it's visually innovative and polished, with a thought-provoking, Orwellian theme; surprising because it's a completely Canadian affair with the cool looks and plot pizzazz of a slick Hollywood production (co-created by Yan Moore, of *Degrassi* fame, the show is shot in Winnipeg).

The story takes place in the future - a year known as Common Era 2030, a post-apocalyptic period in which industry, government and science have formed a totalitarian bureaucracy called Nexes, which rules with a phony smile and an iron fist. It's a technological world where translucent computer screens appear out of thin air, chewing gum can make the chewer recite incantations and small groups can get together for telepathic "virtual conferences" - effects that are pulled off with smooth visual flair.

But it's also a world of thought control, where people can be reprogrammed into submission and made to accept menial functions with great enthusiasm. And to make matters worse, there's a virus spreading throughout the world that makes it impossible for anyone to live past the age of 30.

**2030CE** is a good story with an interesting array of characters. There's nothing new about rebels fighting an oppressive regime, but as a twist, all characters - rebel and authority figure alike - are young, most in their teens or younger. That means we get to see some good young actors at work, such as Elyse Levesque who's chilling as Dr. Rich, the evil head of the Nexes medical team, and Tatiana Maslany, who plays little Rome Greyson with charming spunk.

In the first season, a group of idealistic teens attempted to rebel against the oppressive regime. Handsome med student Hart Greyson (*Corey Sevier*) and his little sister, Rome (*Maslany*), along with friends Robby (*Neil Denis*) and beautiful Jakki (*Jessica Lucas*), formed an alliance to fight Nexes.

That season ended on a bit of a cliff-hanger, with Hart left in a mysterious coma and the others scrambling to save him. This season introduces a new character, Zeuss (*Curtis Harrison*, from MTV's *Undressed* and *Queer as Folk*), an outlaw hacker who joins the rebels in their hunt for heroes Hart and Robbie. In this week's season premiere, Rome pretends to be a compliant, reprogrammed janitor while trying to help Zeuss and Jakki get clues about Robby's whereabouts.

A well thought-out, compelling story, **2030CE** has just the right amount of gloss and glamour.