

BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C 1J6. *BCSFAzine* solicits electronic submissions and black-and-white line illustrations in JPG, GIF, BMP, or PSD format, and offers printed contributors' copies as long as the club budget allows.

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This Month in BCSFA

- Thursday 14 October @ 7 PM: **October Book Discussion** at the Grind gallery & café, 4124 Main Street (near the corner of Main and King Edward), Vancouver. Book to be discussed will be *Clan of the Cave Bear* by Jean M. Auel.—Doug Finnerty
- Sunday 24 October* @ 7 PM: **BCSFA meeting**—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton (Recreation Room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions. *Date not confirmed.
- Friday 29 October: **'BCSFAzine' production.**

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/>. The BCSFA e-mail lists are BC SciFi Assc (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_sciFi_assc/) and BCSFAnet (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcsfanet/>).

Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

Dave Haren

tyrbolo@comcast.net

Friday 10 September 2010



Hi Felicity,

(Insert forgotten senility joke.)

Movies: archive.org has a nice copy of *Curse of the Swamp Creature* up.

Mad scientist is conducting experiments with evolution on the locals deep in the rural swamps of Texas.

Audio books: Librivox.org has *Brigands of the Moon* by Ray Cummings available on-line for those who are too lazy to read for themselves.

This was a serial in the Clayton Astoundings of the 1930s.

I am particularly enthused about Earl Kemp's perzine which has lots of documentation about early science fiction publishing. Odd that less than 100 years ago the field of SF books was very small print runs with production values which were limited badly by budgets. The hardy souls who valiantly struggled to keep the stories alive would be proud

to see the visuals of *Avatar* and probably disgusted by the storyline.

Slavoj Zizek has some YouTube talks up and in one he discusses the ideological shifts in moderne culture using *I Am Legend*, the book version and the three movies. From the Vincent Price which followed the book fairly well to *Omega Man* with Heston he tracks the mutation of the theme into the silliness of the Will Smith ending.

Richard Matheson's original punchline ending, second only to Ellison's *Boy and His Dog* punchline ending, has been distorted and dumbed down by the society which created the various versions of the movie to meet their own ideological interpretations.

I found that an interesting thesis.

Jane Fancher has a new ebook up, *Ring of Alizant*. Cherryh.com and follow the links. This one follows the career of the electromagnetic apprentice who was a minor player in the earlier books.

Diane Duane is also selling ebooks for quite reasonable prices.

If the people around you are in need of re-conditioning, you can send them to this YouTube channel: revstang. But tell them this is a secret man was not meant to wot of.

I had seen the videos of Toronto during the G20. Interesting to get a report which isn't a propaganda effort but confirms the material that is for an agenda. Nice.

One disclaimer: my own art is pretty sad in the 2D department; the stuff I send is from public domain books snagged at random.

Warm regards,
Dave Haren

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Monday 13 September 2010

Dear Felicity:

Hello!, and thank you again for another *BCSFazine*, issue 448 this time. The past month has been a thrill ride, so perhaps I can share some of that as I comment on this issue.

I see there's a Hugo winner on the front cover! Brad Foster won himself yet another silver rocket at the ceremonies in Melbourne near the beginning of September. [*Congratulations, Brad!*]

We couldn't possibly go to Melbourne to attend, but we were able to follow the awards ceremony online via a text site, and seeing you didn't here a loud yell from the direction of Toronto, you can tell that I didn't win, but if one must lose, it's best to lose to someone like Frederik Pohl. It is a true honour to be nominated, and I have some hope to return to the ballot at Reno. Yvonne and I have our memberships, and as long as we can afford it, we will be there. Anyone from BCSFA going south for Worldcon in 2011?

I see lots of discussion about video game designers. I am not a video game player at all, but I am looking to see the move of Ubisoft from Montreal to Toronto. The main reason is the possibility of doing voice work for them for future game modules. The Ubisoft executives are shmoozing around the Toronto International Film Festival, looking for A-list actors who might be willing to make a little extra money by doing voice work. Thank you, Michael Bertrand! Voice work is fun, and I have been lucky enough to find an outlet like this. I found the studio and agent I am with through an ad in Craigslist (his ad, not mine), and I decided that I'd spend the money on a contract and professional demo disk. This has been meant as an attempt to make a little money while I continue to search for daytime work. In the meantime, I find additional voicework through Craigslist and Mandy.com, and I have a second audition on Tuesday for a possible set of commercials. I have also found there's a voiceover community in Toronto, but I may not be able to join them, mostly because I do not have my own recording studio. Well, maybe at some point in the future, as soon as I can find out how to put one together.

Looks like Taral and Michael Bertrand agree with me on *The Secret of NIMH*. Great story, great animation, it heralded Don Bluth as a successful Disney graduate, and independent animator in his own right. And afterwards...what happened? Bluth followed his stunning debut with commercial crap.

The Fan eXpo was a logistical fiasco. We hadn't been to one of these in ten years, but we participated in that steampunk fashion show. Dealing with broken promises on the part of the show, day passes instead of global passes, selling tickets in spite of the fact the fire marshal had locked down the Metro Toronto Convention Centre North, re-entry lines that could take as long as two or three hours to get back into the building, even if you went into the coffee shop built into the convention center, and most exhibits invisible to those of us less than six feet tall...I got belted three times by huge backpacks. The fashion show was fun, but for some reason, three-quarters of our audience got up when the last masquerade contestants left the stage. If we don't do another fashion show, it may be more than ten years before we return. To give the show credit, they recognized that they were underprepared for the show, and they got about 10,000 more people than they expected.

Greetings to VSteam, and I see that a new group, Queen City Steam of Regina, has joined us with Steampunk Canada. More and more groups are springing up. I hope we can get together in April in Toronto.

The fall beckons, and while most of our local conventions are done, October holds the Hamilton Steamposium and the Victoriana Show in Cobourg. November has SFContario, Toronto's new SF literary convention, and we will be there. Thank you for another *BCSFAzine*, and please do keep them coming.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

Michael Bertrand
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Tuesday 28 September 2010

I am not sure Harper punished Toronto for not voting for him, but I agree that wherever the G20 goes, rights get trampled and people get hurt and freedom dies a little more, and all so that these unelected and unaccountable thugs do not have to even see a protester.

Sadly, social anxiety had me in its grip and I was unable to attend Jenn and Ryan's wedding. Congrats to the happy couple!

I'll be curious to see how this *Steampunk Palin* business turns out. I have had the idea myself of trying to make subversive art by creating characters who have all the superficial qualities of right wing heroes, but who espouse subtly different, and vastly more sane, points of view. All while loving Mom, apple pie, and the red white and blue, of course.

Finally, Taral's "Moon Juice" article got me thinking about something that has bothered me for a while, namely, the idea of lying in the service of your ideals. Is it justified to exaggerate findings of water on the moon in order to get funding for real science? I am strongly inclined to say no, though I am not sure if my point is logical and pragmatic, or simply the result of my strong belief in the search for the truth, which is incompatible with lies of any sort.

Hope folks are enjoying VCon. Seeya next month!

Calendar

Note to print readers: underlined events have an associated URL. Links included in the PDF version at <http://www.efanzines.com/BCSFA/>.—Julian Castle

Already in Progress

6 July–23 December 2010: [From Pong to Pokemon: Video Game Exhibition at the Surrey Museum](#), 17710 56A Avenue, Surrey, BC. Artifacts from history of video games in four hardware categories: arcade (*Computer Space*, *Street Fighter II*), home console (*Super Mario Bros.*), computer (*World of Warcraft*), and handheld (Game & Watch). “Play days” (where visitors can play the games): “The Moderns,” 17 July 2010—Nintendo 64, Playstation 3, etc.; “8- and 16-Bit Era,” 25 September 2010—Nintendo Entertainment System, Sega Genesis, etc.; “Early Days,” 27 November 2010—Atari 2600, Intellivision, ColecoVision, etc. Lecture: “A History of Violence in Video Games,” 14 October 2010. Register at <http://www.surrey.ca/>.—Julian Castle “Enjoy this look at how video gaming has changed people’s recreation time and opened up new industries and career opportunities. Find out how gaming itself has changed from arcade days and *Pac-Man* to the latest handheld devices and *Pokemon Platinum*. Adults \$5, seniors/students \$3.75, child/youth \$2.50, 5 & under free.”—Keith Lim

October 2010

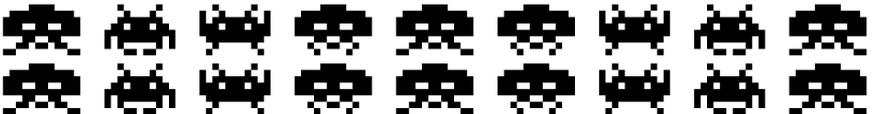
October is National Stamp Collecting Month and International Starman Month.

1 October 2010: Premiere of films *Let Me In* (horror/vampire) and *Case 39* (horror/demon).

1 October 2010: [Fontana Friday: Stargate Universe Season 2 Episode 1](#), 6:30 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6.—Keith Lim

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 October 2010: [Strategies Open Board Game Nights](#), 6 PM at Strategies Games & Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd) Vancouver, BC.—Keith Lim

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 October 2010: [Drexoll Vancouver Game Nights](#), 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games Vancouver (Kitsilano), 2860 West 4th Avenue (west of Macdonald), Vancouver, BC V6K 1R2.—Keith Lim





1–3 October 2010: VCON 35 at Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel, 7571 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC, V6X 1A3. Vancouver's Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention. Theme: *Steampunk: From Alchemy to Zeppelins*. Author Guest of Honour: Cherie Priest, Artist Guest of Honour: James Beveridge, Music Guest of Honour: Heather Dale. Full weekend membership: \$60 at the door. Student & child discounted rates & one-day memberships available. <http://www.vcon.ca/>—Keith Lim

2 October 2010: Stargate Repair and David Nykl (Radek Zelenka) at VCON, 11 AM at Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel, 7571 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC, V6X 1A3. “For the second year in a row, our gate will be set up on site at VCON. This year, we’d like to do a few cosmetic repairs to make it more gorgeous than ever...Then, we can head over to the Richmond Centre food court for lunch, before coming back to VCON for a showing of David Nykl’s new movie, *The Beast of Bottomless Lake* at 1:00 and a ‘Q and A’ session afterwards.” (VCON one-day Saturday membership: \$35.)—Keith Lim

2 October 2010: Immortal Brush Miniature Painting Contest, 12–4 PM at Strategies Games and Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd Avenue), Vancouver, BC, V5V 3N9. Fourth annual miniature painting contest. Five categories. Prizes, including for just entering. Entry deadline: 12 noon. Figures on display 12–4 PM. Awards given at 4 PM. Gathering votes from our spectators for an extra customer vote category.—Keith Lim

2 October 2010: Thrill the World Dance Rehearsal, 12–4 PM at Roundhouse Community Centre: Performance Theatre, 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver, BC. Full instructions on how to dance to Thriller in preparation for Thrill the World 2010. Teaching of the whole dance, step-by-step, in the four-hour session (with breaks of course).—Keith Lim

2 October 2010: Training Day (second Dragon Quest IX group training meetup), 1 PM at Metrotown Mall Food Court, 4700 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC, V3J 1A1. Group training meetup before the big meetup at GameDeals [Saturday 9 October 2010]. “By the fireplace. find the red head with DS.”—Keith Lim

2 October 2010: Toren Atkinson’s Big Nerdy Art Show Opening Night, 8–10 PM at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2420 Main Street, Vancouver, BC. Toren Atkinson will be showing paintings, drawings, and comic art from the past 14 years of his illustration career, including stuff from *Call of Cthulhu*, *Dungeons & Dragons*, and his HP Lovecraft-inspired rock band the Darkest of the Hillside Thickets. There will be plenty of tentacles and orcs.—Keith Lim

2 October 2010: VSteam Presents: The VCON 35 Steampunk Dance Party, 9 PM at Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel, 7571 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC,

V6X 1A3. Vancouver Steampunks (VSteam) will be hosting VCON's annual dance party, but with a steampunk twist, so park your dirigibles and stop in for one of VSteam's (on-their-way-to-becoming-famous) steampunk parties. (VCON one-day Saturday membership: \$35).—[Keith Lim](#)

2–3 October 2010: 24 Hour Comics Day, 11 AM Saturday to 11 AM Sunday.

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 October 2010: [Strategies Miniature Figure Painting](#), 10:15 AM–12 PM at Strategies Games & Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd) Vancouver, BC. Free, but book in advance: space is limited.—[Keith Lim](#)

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 October 2010: [Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming](#), 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster, BC.—[Keith Lim](#)

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 October 2010: [Strategies Miniature Gaming Day](#) at Strategies Games & Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd) Vancouver, BC.—[Keith Lim](#)

2–3 October 2010: Strategies: Ray Ophoff/Drift Art Show on Main Street, 11 AM–6 PM at Strategies Games & Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd) Vancouver, BC. The 6th Annual Drift Art Show runs all up and down Main Street at different businesses. Strategies's featured artist for the weekend will be Ray Ophoff. Come down and check out Ray's paintings, and ask him questions. [Strategies Games/The Drift](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

2–31 October 2010: [Toren Atkinson's Big Nerdy Art Show](#) at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2420 Main Street, Vancouver, BC. Toren Atkinson will be showing paintings, drawings, and comic art from the past 14 years of his illustration career, including stuff from *Call of Cthulhu*, *Dungeons & Dragons*, and his HP Lovecraft-inspired rock band the Darkest of the Hillside Thickets. There will be plenty of tentacles and orcs.—[Keith Lim](#)

3 October 2010: [Miniature Gaming Campaign: Warmachine/Hordes](#), 1–5 PM at Strategies Games & Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd) Vancouver, BC. Come down to the shop to participate in our campaign. We will play for the next four Sundays, you may show up for as little or as much of the campaign as you like. You will need your rule-book, force cards, dice; 15 pts. To 35 pts. of painted troops.—[Keith Lim](#)

3 October 2010: [Nerds Knit at VCON](#), 2 PM at Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel, 7571 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC, V6X 1A3. Whether you are planning on going to VCON or not, seems like the Vancouver Airport Marriott would be a good place for a geek to go to knit during the first weekend of October. If you're attending, you might want to sit and chill for a bit. If you just want to poke your head in and wave to your friends, this is your excuse.—[Keith Lim](#)

3 October 2010: *Star Trek Meetup: \$#! My Dad Says*, 4 PM. [Location shown only to members of the Meetup group.] William Shatner has a brand new show, a sitcom. By this time the pilot and a couple episodes will have broadcast, so the group will take a peek.—Keith Lim

3 October 2010: *The Innocent's Progress*, debut reading at VCON, 4–5 PM at Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel, 7571 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC, V6X 1A3. The debut public reading of excerpts from *The Innocent's Progress and Other Stories*, a steampunk erotica collection by Peter Tupper. “When sex is ritualized and marriage is sacred, the slightest misstep can bring your world tumbling down.”—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 October 2010: Drexoll Poco Game Days, 1–6 PM at Drexoll Games Port Coquitlam, 107B–2748 Lougheed Highway (Westwood Center beside Westwood Street), Port Coquitlam, BC.—Keith Lim

5 October, 2 November, and 7 December 2010: Greater Vancouver Boardgames Meetup Group Monthly Meetup, 7 PM. [Location shown only to members of the Meetup group.] The games played depend on what everyone brings. If there is a game that you would like to play let it be known and we'll see if someone can bring it. Also if you have a great game to share we're always excited to try it out. \$1.—Keith Lim

6 October 2010: Uncanny X-Force Day. Consult your nearest comics retailer for celebrations.

6, 13, 20, and 27 October 2010: Board Gamers: Dungeons & Dragons—Encounters, 5 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster, BC.—Keith Lim

6, 13, 20, and 27 October 2010: Cloudscape Workshop, 7:30 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P6.—Keith Lim

8 October 2010: SFU Choir: *Dr. Horrible*, Part Deux, 6–9:30 PM at Maggie Benston Atrium, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC, V5A 1S6. “So, for all those of you who missed our recent earth-shattering performance of the *Dr. Horrible's Sing Along Blog* medley, and our fabulous youtube recordings are not enough, we will be performing it again! The SFU Choir will be performing at the upcoming EXPO SFU Fundraiser.” SFU Choir (1)/Expo SFU/SFU Choir (2).—Keith Lim

8 October 2010: *Caprica Returns*, 6:30 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. *Caprica* returns three months early. (Or several months late, depending on if you ask a fan or a network executive.) They've moved *Caprica* to Tuesday nights, but we'll watch together on Friday like we always do.—Keith Lim

9 October 2010: IPMS (International Plastic Modellers Society) 40th Annual Fall Show, 9 AM–4:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, “Arts Studio” (second floor), 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, BC. This year’s theme: the Royal Canadian Navy. The event of the year for modellers in the Greater Vancouver area, attracting modelers from Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest. Recent shows have had around 470 kits entered in dozens of trophy or ribbon categories. Not limited to IPMS members; anyone can come and view the show or enter a kit to be judged; the objective is for the best kit in a category to win, not the best kit built by an IPMS member. 17 & over: \$3, 16 & under: free. info@impsvancouver.ca [sic].—Keith Lim

9 October 2010: Strategies: Miniature Game Day: Firestorm Armada, 12–6 PM at Strategies Games & Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd) Vancouver, BC. Bring your painted fleet down for an afternoon of space ship combat. This is also a good event to try your freshly painted fleet for the first time. All you need to play is a starter box worth of painted ships and a copy of the rulebook.—Keith Lim

9 October, 13 November, and 4 December 2010: Pop Culture Collectibles Fair, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver, BC. New & vintage comics, toys & collectibles, records, CDs, VHS, DVDs, manga, anime, books, video games, magazines, *Star Wars*, Hot Wheels, wrestling, Canucks. Free parking. Door prizes. \$3.—Keith Lim

9 October 2010: Thrill the World Dance Rehearsal, 1–5 PM at Sunset Community Centre: Gymnasium, 6810 Main Street, Vancouver. Full instructions on how to dance to Thriller in preparation for Thrill the World 2010. Teaching of the whole dance, step-by-step, in the four-hour session (with breaks of course).—Keith Lim

9 October 2010: Portable Gamers: The Last GameDeals Dragon Quest IX Meetup, 1 PM at GameDeals, 407 Columbia Street, New Westminster, BC, V3L 0A2. It looks like Dragon Quest is kind of winding down in this group; collecting 300 maps at PAX will kind of do that for you. Everyone’s reached the max revocations that they want to do, have all the best gear, finished all the post game story. We’re all getting ready to move onto the next big thing. But not until we have one last grind and canvass-fest.—Keith Lim

9 October 2010: David Weber (*Out of the Dark*) Author Event, 3 PM at White Dwarf Books, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5. A White Dwarf Books Author Event: meet David Weber, author of *Out of the Dark*. About the book: The Galactic Hegemony has been around a long time, and it likes stability—the kind of stability that member species like the aggressive, carnivorous Shongairi tend to disturb. So when the Hegemony Survey Force encountered a world whose so-called “sentients”—“humans,” they called themselves—were almost as bad as the Shongairi themselves, it seemed reasonable to use the Shongairi to neutralize them before they could become a second threat to galactic peace. And if the Shongairi took a few knocks in the process, all the better.—Keith Lim



10 October 2010: Nerd Knitting Circle at La Fontana, 1 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. Our last two knitting sessions were just so much fun, we're doing it again! (can anyone say "addicted"?!) All geek knitters (and wannabes) welcome! Experienced or beginner, bring your sticks. Organizer will be giving a refresher on knitting basics for them as need it. Or bring your own crafty project and enjoy getting creative with your geek peeps.—Keith Lim

10 October 2010: Babylon 5: Crusade Part 2, 4 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. Group will watch the first episode this day after having seen "A Call to Arms" during the last episode. The geek knitters will be here before, so bring your needles if you like.—Keith Lim

13 October 2010: Reimagining Cascadia: Writing Futures We Might Want to Live In, 7–8:30 PM at Peter Kaye Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6B1. Bleak urban dystopias abound in popular fiction—and most of us wouldn't want to live in them. Are we resigning ourselves and our children to defeat by imagining such grim futures? How can we think and write hopefully about our future? Free. Authors Donna McMahon, Paula Johanson, Lisa Smedman.—Keith Lim

13 October 2010: Vampire Lit Writing Group, 7 PM. [Location not chosen yet.] We have chosen a topic for you to write about, if you choose: vampires and blue-collar or everyday occupations. If the topic inspires you, wonderful. If you prefer to bring a sample of something else you've written, also wonderful. Keep writing!—Keith Lim

13 October, 10 November, and 8 December 2010: Valinor, A Vancouver J.R.R. Tolkien Monthly Meetup, 7 PM. [Location shown only to members of the Meetup group]. Meet several of the organizers of Valinor to learn about continuing events (such as the Reading Group and RPG) and events to come in the future. \$2.—Keith Lim

14 October 2010: Thrill the World Dance Rehearsal, 6–7 PM at Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver, BC. Full instructions on how to dance to Thriller in preparation for Thrill the World 2010. Teaching part of the dance, step-by-step, in the 60 minute session. Please make sure that you wear comfortable shoes and clothes that you can sweat in, and that you bring a water bottle.—Keith Lim

14 October 2010: From *Pong* to *Pokemon* Lecture: "A History of Violence in Video Games," 7:30–8:30 PM at Surrey Museum, 17710 56A Avenue, Surrey, BC. Video game violence has been a presence since the dawn of the arcade era. Join the "From *Pong* to *Pokemon*" exhibit curator, Ryan Cousineau, for a presentation ranging from 1976's *Death Race* to the latest controversies, with stops at *Mortal Kombat* and else-

where. 16+ years. Pre-registration required. \$5. Surrey: Exhibitions/Surrey: Fall Programs/Georgia Straight #1/Georgia Straight #2.—Keith Lim

14 October, 11 November, and 9 December 2010: Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30 PM at HR MacMillan Space Centre (downstairs auditorium), 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 3J9. Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Vancouver monthly meeting, shared with the general public at no charge.—Keith Lim

15 October 2010: IPMS (International Plastic Modellers Society) Vancouver Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, “Arts Studio” (second floor), 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, BC. Fall show post mortem. Door prize draw. Non-members: first meeting free, \$2 drop-in fee thereafter.—Keith Lim

15 October, 12 November, and 3 December 2010: Trumpeter Games Night, 7 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex (by Metrotown), 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. Non-members: first meeting free, \$6 drop-in fee thereafter.—Keith Lim

15–16 October 2010: Vancouver Antiquarian Book Fair 2010, Friday 3–9 PM, Saturday 10 AM–5 PM at Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6B1. Over 30 top booksellers from across Canada featuring rare and exciting material for sale. \$5 for both days.—Keith Lim

15–31 October 2010: Dunbar Haunted House, Sunday–Thursday 1–9 PM, Friday–Saturday 1 PM–12 AM at 6478 Dunbar Street, Vancouver, BC. The Dunbar Haunted House has grown out of a love of Halloween and a desire to connect with their community. For six years, the residents have decorated the house and raised money for charity through donations. This year, they revisit the Terror of History with possibly one of the scariest displays yet. Visit them if you dare. Live actors nightly from 6:30 PM. Free; donations accepted, 100% to charity. This year’s charities are the B.C. Professional Fire Fighters’ Burn Fund, the Vancouver Police Union Charity Foundation, and the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau.—Keith Lim

16 October 2010: Strategies: Miniature Game Day: Flames of War and Wings of War, 1–6 PM at Strategies Games & Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd) Vancouver, BC. Bring down your fully painted Flames of War forces to battle. Meet a new opponent or challenge a friend. Bring down 1000 Pts or more Late War force. Or bring down your Wings of War models and rules for a massive aerial dogfight.—Keith Lim

16 October 2010: Canzine West: Zine Fair and Festival of Alternative Culture, 1–7 PM at W2 Storyeum, 151 West Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC. Giant zine fair: over 150 zines from across Canada on display and for sale! The heart of the event, indie publishers both in print and online come from across the country and the continent to show their wares. Be amazed at the creativity, ingenuity, and sheer weirdness. \$5 at the door. Includes a copy of the fall issue of *Broken Pencil*. Broken Pencil/Facebook.—Keith Lim

16 October 2010: Geeks with Sticks head to Serenity Valley, 2 PM at McBurney Coffee & Tea House, 20504 Fraser Highway, Langley, BC, V3A 4G2. A meetup for the Noob Knitters to continue working on honing their wicked knitting skilz. (*Organizer note: “I have to check that our knitting circle will be welcome, so the venue may change—otherwise, we’ll be the ones with the sticks.”*) [Sci-Fi Creations/BC Browncoats](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

16 October 2010: [WOW: Steamworks—Dinner/Drinks before Ghostly Gastown tour](#), 5:30 PM at Steamworks Brewing Company, 375 Water Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 5C6. “Some people might want to meet up for dinner &/or drinks before we do our Ghostly Gastown Tour—I am scheduling these separately so that you aren’t all obligated to be at one more than the other.”—[Keith Lim](#)

16 October 2010: [WOW: Ghostly Gastown tour](#), 7:45 PM. [Location shown only to members of the Meetup group.] “I [organizer] spoke to Mark—the mysterious guy that does the tours—he’s going to do one for us for October 16 at 8 PM—it’s two hours of walking through Gastown & some of the historic haunted sites and buildings—hearing stories of ghosts & paranormal activities throughout Gastown. Bring your camera!” RSVP by 12 October. Need at least six people. \$15 to tour guide.—[Keith Lim](#)

19 October 2010: [Threshold of Contact: Exploring UFO Origins \[One Book, One Vancouver\]](#), 7 PM at Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6B1. Explore the origins of UFOs and discuss advanced technologies from extraterrestrial civilizations with the BC UFO Society.—[Keith Lim](#)

19–24 October 2010: [23rd Vancouver International Writers & Readers Festival](#) at Granville Island (multiple venues), Vancouver, BC. The Vancouver International Writers Festival is one of North America’s premiere literary events, held annually over six days in late October. The Writers Festival attracts the world’s best writers to Vancouver. Internationally renowned and undiscovered authors mingle with 14,000 readers of all ages in intimate, interactive and informal settings on Granville Island, an urban oasis in the heart of Vancouver.—[Keith Lim](#)

21 October 2010: Naked Girls Reading—Horror!, 7–10 PM at the Beaumont Studios, 316 West 5th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V0R 1K2. “The Most Provocative Literary Series in the World”—*The Globe and Mail*—is coming to Vancouver. Diamond Minx and Rosie Bitts (of Best Bitts Productions) are excited to launch: Naked Girls Reading Horror. “This stuff will scare your pants off! It’s already done that to ours!” Readings by: Michelle L’Amour, Diamond Minx, Rosie Bitts, Maggie Pie. \$15/\$20 front row seating. [Eventbrite/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

21–24 October 2010: [Surrey International Writers’ Conference](#) at Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel, 15269 104th Avenue, Surrey, British Columbia, V3R 1N5. Master classes 21 October 2010; conference proper 22–24 October 2010. For more information visit <http://www.siwc.ca> or contact coordinator Kathy Chung at

kathychung@siwc.ca. For registration instructions see <http://www.siwc.ca/2010/registration> or phone 604-594-2000. Membership prices range from \$48 (Friday-only membership for young writers under 19) to \$535 (three-day membership, including meals), plus HST.

22 October 2010: Premiere of films *Hereafter* (supernatural thriller) and *Paranormal Activity 2* (horror/demon).

22 October 2010: Robots & Monsters Opening Reception at Ayden Gallery, 88 West Pender Street, Suite 2103, International Village (Tinseltown) Vancouver, BC, V6B 6N9. Featuring: Megan Majewski, Rachel Sawatzky, Chris Brett, Curtis Hamm, Steffen Quong, Christopher Williams & more. Live chocolate sculpting by Rachel Sawatzky.—Keith Lim

23 October 2010: Thrill the World—“Thriller” Zombie Dance, 1:30 PM registration, 4 PM dance at Roundhouse Community Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver, BC. Thrill the World is an annual worldwide simultaneous “Thriller” zombie dance for a world record, for charity, and as a tribute to Michael Jackson. Participants are asked to donate a minimum \$10 to the Vancouver Food Bank. Spectators are also invited to donate food or money to this very worthwhile cause. Dancers: please arrive at 1:30 PM to begin registration, brain-eating, and milling about. The Vancouver Film School will also be on hand to do your makeup for you. Minors will need to have their parent or legal guardian’s consent to participate. The consent form will be available at the event.—Keith Lim

23 October 2010: Life Beyond Earth? Astrobiology and the Search for Life, 8 PM at HR MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 3J9. Dr. James DiFrancesco main research has been on the origin of stars, but he has always been intrigued with the origins of life and will discuss his ideas. Presented as part of National Science and Technology Week through the Fall lecture series at the Space Centre. \$10.75 or \$15 for lecture + 7 PM astronomy show. Space Centre (“Coming This Fall”)/BC Browncoats.—Keith Lim

23 October 2010: Work Less Party: Sixth Annual Masquerade Ball, 8 PM–2 AM at Japanese Hall: 487 Alexander Street, Vancouver, BC. An evening of surprise, intrigue, mystery and an insane amount of insanity. The craziest party this side of Burning Man. Dance madness, body painting, the sinful roof, costume competition and a lineup of fantastic talent. Lineup: C.R. Avery Band, Orkestar Slivovica, Luciterra, DJ Nils (from beats without borders), Body Painting Competition, The Sinful Roof, Spank Arena, more TBA. Doors 8 PM, body art competition 9 PM, costume competition 12 midnight. Advance: \$13 in costume, \$15 otherwise. At the door/day of the event: \$15 in costume, \$20 otherwise. Work Less Party/Facebook.—Keith Lim

24 October 2010: Parade of Lost Souls, 9 PM–4 AM at W2 Storyeum, 151 West Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC. “Parade of Lost Souls is a powerful antidote to the cartoonish, commercialized version of Halloween (AKA All Hallows Eve AKA

Samhain AKA Day of the Dead) that predominates in our North American culture. The event was born out of Paula Jardine’s research into the different cultural traditions that celebrate this time of year in one way or another. From Eastern European harvest festivals, to the Day of the Dead in Latin America, to the Celtic traditions that place the end of October as the New Year, Parade integrates these diverse myths and rituals into a celebration that is equal parts raucous and contemplative in the multicultural community that thrives on Commercial Drive.”—[Keith Lim](#)

27 October 2010: **Peter Tupper**’s birthday.

28 October 2010: Plush Animal Lovers’ Day.

29 October 2010: Premiere of film *Monsters* (SF). National Frankenstein Day.

29 October 2010: Film Screening: *District 9* & *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* [One Book, One Vancouver], 7 PM at Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6B1. Just in time for Halloween! Break out your best alien costumes and come enjoy a double bill of Academy Award-nominated *District 9* and *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*. Prizes for best costume! Free.—[Keith Lim](#)

30 October 2010: The Echoes of the Haunted Frozen Fountain: Halloween Party 2010, 6 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. A joint sci fi fan group event. At this year’s Halloween party, we are having multiple tables themed after certain shows and/or movies, to entertain fans across the sci fi and fantasy community. Calling all cosplay enthusiasts and costume making pros, you are encouraged to dress up as anything to this party, from science fiction to fantasy, from *Lord of the Rings* to *True Blood*. (Just don’t go naked, please.) There will be costume awards, so get creative. [BC Browncoats/Before Dawn/Vancouver Battlestar Galactica Fan Club/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

30 October 2010: Life Beyond Earth? UFOs and other unexplained sky sightings, 8 PM at HR MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 3J9. Unidentified Aerial Objects—Join us for an informative evening discussing the phenomena of UAOs, more commonly known as UFOs. Long-time sky observer John Tanner presents a lecture on his extensive research into these mysterious objects. The Vancouver UFO Meetup Group will discuss sightings in the Vancouver area. Presented as part of National Science and Technology Week through the Fall lecture series at the Space Centre. \$10.75 or \$15 for lecture + 7 PM astronomy show. [Space Centre](#) (“Coming This Fall”)/[BC Browncoats](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

LE CAR
DUCK PHONES
THE ARCTIC ORANGE SHAKE
GRABUGE



30 October 2010: Jon Stewart's Rally to Restore Sanity. " 'I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore!' Who among us has not wanted to open their window and shout that at the top of their lungs? Seriously, who? Because we're looking for those people. We're looking for the people who think shouting is annoying, counterproductive, and terrible for your throat; who feel that the loudest voices shouldn't be the only ones that get heard; and who believe that the only time it's appropriate to draw a Hitler mustache on someone is when that person is actually Hitler. Or Charlie Chaplin in certain roles. Are you one of those people? Excellent. Then we'd like you to join us in Washington, DC on October 30—a date of no significance whatsoever—at *The Daily Show's* 'Rally to Restore Sanity.' "

30 October 2010: Stephen Colbert's March to Keep Fear Alive. "America, the greatest country God ever gave Man, was built on three bedrock principles: freedom. Liberty. And fear—that someone might take our freedom and liberty. But now, there are dark, optimistic forces trying to take away our fear—forces with salt and pepper hair and way more Emmys than they need. They want to replace our fear with reason. But never forget—'reason' is just one letter away from 'treason.' Coincidence? Reasonable people would say it is, but America can't afford to take that chance. So join the Rev. Sir Dr. Stephen T. Colbert, D.F.A. on October 30th for the 'March to Keep Fear Alive'TM in Washington DC. Shh!!! What's that sound?! I think there's someone behind you! Run!"



31 October 2010: Halloween.

31 October, 28 November, and 26 December 2010: Vancouver Roleplayers' Collective Monthly Social Gathering, 3 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P6. The purpose of the recurring meetings on the last Saturday of every month is to meet and greet and chill, to share a drink or two with fellow gamers, talk about your common interests and maybe even find yourself a gaming group.—Keith Lim

November 2010

5 November 2010: Premiere of film *Megamind* (computer animation/comedy/superhero).

6 November 2010: Veritable Shrine Commemorative Ball: Eugene's Axe Reunion + Thickets, 8:30–11:30 PM in Chilliwack. After 666 years, Eugene's Axe AKA Diesel Division is re-uniting for an unforgettable night of metal and they've invited the Darkest of the Hillside Thickets and Blisterin' Barnacles to join in.—Keith Lim

6 November 2010: The 2nd Annual Bellingham ComiCon, 10 AM–6 PM at Ferndale Events Center, Bellingham, Washington. Guests: Erik Larsen, Stephen Sadowski, Ian Boothby, Pia Guerra, Michel Gagne, John Lustig, James Dean Smith, Randy Emberlin. Comic books from every era: Golden, Silver, Bronze, and Modern Age; graphic novels, action figures, original art, collectibles, and much more! Exit 262—just three blocks off the freeway, 10 minutes from Bellingham, and 15 minutes to the Canadian border. Free parking! Admission: \$6 (kids 7 and under: free).

6–18 November 2010: 8-Bits of Destiny Art Showcase: All Your Art Are Belong to Us at Metropolis Comics and Toys, 4735 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC. First annual 8-Bits of Destiny Art Showcase, inspired by video games and video game culture, and presented by AWS Creative, Metropolis Comics and Toys, and Anime Evolution. For the first showcase, All Your Art Are Belong to Us, the theme will be art inspired by video games from '85–'95. Kick off with a “Mountain Dew and Cheetos” (the equivalent to wine and cheese for gamers) social, where the artists will have a chance to mingle with the public and potentially sell the pieces they have submitted. Part of the proceeds will be donated to a charity to be announced in the near future. Currently accepting submissions.—Keith Lim

12 November 2010: Premiere of film *Skyline* (SF).

13 November 2010: Life Beyond Earth? Exo-Planets and the Search for Earth-Like Worlds, 8 PM at HR MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 3J9. Join renowned UBC professor Dr. Jaymie Matthews as he presents an engaging talk about the search for exo-planets and the possibility of planets which might harbour the ingredients for life. Presented as part of National Science and Technology Week through the Fall lecture series at the Space Centre. \$10.75 or \$15 for lecture + 7 PM astronomy show. Space Centre (“Coming This Fall”)/BC Brown-coats.—Keith Lim

13 November 2010: Sin City Steampunk Fetish Night, 9 PM–3 AM at Club 23 West, 23 West Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC. “Ladies and Gentlemen, Messieurs and Madames and all other applicable monikers, the next Sin City Fetish Night is soon to commence! So shed your daily inhibitions for an evening of dancing, decadence and the partaking of spirits. Spruce yourself up in your favorite finery and equip yourself with tools of titillation! Gramophone grinders (TBA) will retrofit your brain with a revolutionary ruckus of steam-powered vociferations. Fancy a flogging? Indulge in our fully equipped dungeon with experienced dungeon monitors from the Vancouver DM Team. And as always, hosted by the *mad mad* majestic Mr. Dark! Strict fetish dress code as always, and though of course any fetish outfit you can dream up is great, we *highly* encourage sexy outfits for *sinners!* Theme...*steampunk!* *Outfit ideas:* historical military outfits, lace, ruffles and bustles, gears, cogs, copper and brass, goggles, spectacles, monocles, cigars, pipes, cigarillos. *Suggested shopping locations:* Gorilla Surplus (Broadway, between Clark & Commercial), New World Designs (downtown, on Cordova), Deadly Couture (downtown, on Cordova), Flaming Angels (downtown, on Seymour), Party Bazaar (4th Ave., between Cambie &

Main). For more info visit www.sincityfetishnight.com. See pics @ www.gothic.bc.ca. 19+. \$9 with pass/\$12 without.—Aaron Harrison/[Keith Lim](#)

17 November 2010: [Drawing Life, the Universe & Everything: Drawing Graphic Novels 101 \[One Book, One Vancouver\]](#), 6:30–8:30 PM at Peter Kaye Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6B1. Learn how to illustrate your own guide to life, the universe and everything with graphic novel artist Julian Lawrence. No experience necessary. Materials will be provided. Open to all ages. Free admission but registration is required, call 604-331-3607.—[Keith Lim](#)

19 November 2010: **Ashton Green**'s birthday.

19 November 2010: Premiere of film *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part I* (fantasy).

19 November 2010: [IPMS \(International Plastic Modellers Society\) Vancouver meeting](#), 7:30–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, “Arts Studio” (second floor), 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, BC. Door prize draw. Non-members: first meeting free, \$2 drop-in fee thereafter.—[Keith Lim](#)

20 November 2010: **Chris Stubbs**' birthday.

20 November 2010: [Hitchhiker's Innovation Expo \[One Book, One Vancouver\]](#), 12–3 PM at Promenade, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6B1. Come see what the future holds for us! Check out the latest gear, eco-gadgets and technology at our expo and electronic petting zoo. First 100 visitors get a free One Book, One Vancouver iPhone cover. Free.—[Keith Lim](#)

21 November 2010: [Vancouver Comicon](#), 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15th Avenue), Vancouver, BC.—[Keith Lim](#)

21 November 2010: [Geeks Go See *Deathly Hallows*](#), 1 PM. [Venue/time to be determined.] “We’ll try to see it at Metrotown, provided it is playing there. I’m going to make this a joint event with the Creative Geeks Society. Depending on when the show is on, we can go to Red Robin for dinner afterwards.”—[Keith Lim](#)

26 November 2010: Premiere of film *Raiponce* (computer animation/fairy tale).

27 November 2010: [Crafty Geeks Make Cunning Christmas Ornaments](#), 2 PM at Cocoa Nymph, 3739 West 10th Avenue (at Alma Street), Vancouver, BC, V5K 0A1. “Have an idea for a fannish ornament? Let’s get together and get our creative juices going. Any ideas on how to make a Death Star ornament? An ice planet would be cute. What would we use to make a teeny Stargate? What about an oragami Viper? A TARDIS couldn’t be that hard to make, eh? Could we make a light sabre with a glow stick? I bet Amber could show us how to cross stitch some lovely ornaments.

BSG and Stargate dogtags would make cute geeky ornaments. Hmmm, something with a Leaf on the Wind...How could we make a frilly Kaylee's dress into an ornament? Of course wooden stakes and crosses could be ornamental as well as useful. Bring your gear and your ideas and we'll get brain-storming."—[Keith Lim](#)

29 November 2010: [Vogon Poetry Slam & Vog-Off \[One Book, One Vancouver\]](#), 7 PM at Alma VanDusen & Peter Kaye Rooms, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6B1. Come to the Restaurant at the End of the Universe for our first-ever Vogon Poetry Competition. Fifteen of the universe's *worst* poems will be presented slam style for your pleasure (or not). Come cheer on your favourite Vancouver Vogon and you may win a prize. Free.—[Keith Lim](#)

News-Like Matter

Kevin McCarthy, 1914–2010



Seattle-born film, TV, and stage actor Kevin McCarthy, star of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956), died of pneumonia on Saturday 11 September 2010. McCarthy's other genre work includes *Piranha* (1978), *The Howling* (1981), *Twilight Zone: The Movie* (1983), and *Innerspace* (1987), but I will remember him most fondly for his delightfully campy performance as evil broadcaster R.J. Fletcher in "Weird Al" Yankovic's *UHF* (1989). In honour of Kevin McCarthy, I've chosen this month to run Michael Bertrand's review of *The Ratings Game* (1984), another of McCarthy's credits.

[Felicity Walker](#)

(Credits: "[Weird Al](#)" Yankovic; [Stan Hyde](#))

Monday 13 September 2010

Jane Badler Joins Cast of New 'V'

In 2009, as the new *V* series was starting production, executive producer Scott Peters (*The 4400*) said that he would like to cast original series actors on the new series in new roles, and confirmed that he had talked with Jane Badler, who played the sexy alien commander Diana throughout the 1983 and 1984 mini-series and the 1984–1985 regular series.

In an interview from the Vancouver set on Monday 13 September 2010, Badler told [tvguide.com](#) that she had indeed joined the new series, once again playing a Visitor named



Diana. This time, however, Diana is the mother of Visitor leader Anna (Morena Baccarin), who for the last 15 years has kept Diana imprisoned on the mothership in a cell designed to recreate the conditions of the Visitors' home planet. According to Badler, she faced a lot competition for the role, which calls for a less over-the-top performance than the previous version, and it felt good to win it even after so many years away from the series.

On a related note, original mini-series executive producer Kenneth Johnson, who is not involved with Peters' reimagining, is planning his own big-screen adaptation of the original mini-series.

Felicity Walker

(Credit: William Keck)

Monday 13 September 2010

Neil Gaiman to Guest-Star on 'Arthur'



Writer Neil Gaiman (*Sandman*) will voice a furry, animated version of himself in an episode of *Arthur* that airs on PBS Monday 25 October 2010. In the story entitled "Falafelosophy," catoid librarian Gaiman encourages Sue Ellen to write and draw her own graphic novel. The other story in the episode is also comic-related: "Tales of the Grotesquely Grim Bunny" is set at Elwood City's comic shop, where there have been changes in the material on the shelves, presumably grim and gritty ones.

Felicity Walker

(Credits: John Booth; Rich Johnston; Syvyn11)

Thursday 16 September 2010

Book Discussion Update

Dear Felicity:

Here's notice of the next book discussion.

Next book discussion is Thursday October 14 @ 7 PM. Location is "The Grind" gallery and coffee house, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver. This time, we're discussing *Clan of the Cave Bear* by Jean M. Auel. In November, we're discussing *A Midsummer Tempest* by Poul Anderson. December's book is *Spare* by Michael Marshall Smith.

Sincerely,

Doug Finnerty

Doug Finnerty

Monday 27 September 2010

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

SOY BOMB

THE DAY THE UNIVERSE CHANGED

THE A-TEAM'S VAN

Comic Art News

Howard Chaykin fans may want to check out *Star Wars Insider* #122 when it hits the shelves on 14 December 2010.

The magazine is celebrating the 30th anniversary of *The Empire Strikes Back* with a new Chaykin *Star Wars* poster, included in each copy. The illustration also appears on the limited-edition collector's cover, available only at comic stores. (Chaykin's original promotional *Star Wars* poster was sold at the 1976 San Diego Comic Con.)



Chaykin was also the artist on the original *Star Wars* comic, and *Insider* #122 will print a never-before-published transcript of a meeting between Chaykin and George Lucas discussing the adaptation.

Meanwhile, the first page of interior art from John Byrne's revived *Next Men* has been previewed on the blog of IDW Publisher/Editor-in-Chief Chris Ryall. It looks reassuringly good. After a 15-year hiatus, *John Byrne's Next Men* resumes this December. Merry Christmas to Byrne Victims!

Felicity Walker

(Credits: Kevin Melrose; Chris Ryall)

Tuesday 28 September 2010

Lost Gems of Movieland: 'The Ratings Game'

Michael Bertrand

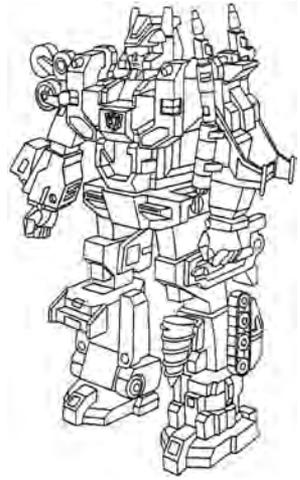
Last night, I watched a great little movie from 1984 that time has completely forgotten.

[This movie here.](#)

It stars Danny DeVito, Rhea Perlman, and a simply amazing star-studded cast including George Wendt (*Norm!*) as the hapless patriarch of a ratings-box family, Kevin McCarthy—best known as the scenery-gnawing villain from *UHF*—as a similar corporate villain that runs the ratings company, and Jerry Seinfeld in a cameo as a studio rep.

It's the story of a New Jersey trucking magnate (DeVito, who also directed) who moves to Hollywood and gets himself a mansion (with a living room that's an exact replica of the lobby of the Golden Nugget casino...classy!) and tries to break into the television business. Along the way, he meets another Jersey girl (DeVito's real wife, Rhea Perlman) who just happens to work for the ratings company Compu-tron.

Much wackiness ensues, and of course, DeVito ultimately succeeds (more or less), but the real beauty of the movie is its great big heart. There's tons of great character work by a lot of "That Guy!" character actors, including an incandescently gay butler turn by Vincent Schiavelli, and lots of witty dialogue ("Every since you got money, you've been dating all these beautiful women who treat you like dirt!" "It's a step up. Before I only dated *ugly* women who treated me like dirt!") but what makes the film so great is that the movie just glows with warmth and affection. DeVito is extremely lovable as a tough but naive goomba from Jersey, and all his friends, employees, and the cast members of his hilariously low-brow TV shows are all presented as great people.



And while the plot revolves around DeVito's rise to fame and he and Perlman's budding romance, everyone in this movie gets to do what they do best. It's obvious that DeVito as director knew how to get fantastic performances out of his actors, and wanted everyone in his movie to shine. No big ego limelight hogging here!

And as if all that wasn't enough, the movie is also studded with some hilarious satire of the television biz and Hollywood in general. Of particular note are the two segments wherein fictional TV network MBC presents its "new fall lineup." I nearly popped an O-ring laughing at their pitch-perfect parodies of terrible television shows, complete with theme songs and cheap premises.

The comedic timing was flawless (something I almost *never say*, being a self-appointed comedy bitch), and the movie flows effortlessly from scene to scene with virtually no padding and no wasted time.

All in all, the film was a delight from beginning to end, and I highly recommend it. For myself and my friends it was a particular joy because this was that rare dollar-bin find that vastly exceeded the usual expectations for such low-cost entertainment, but now that I've seen it I'd gladly pay full price for the DVD.

Oh, and for those of us who'd been wondering just what Danny DeVito has been doing since the days of *Twins* and *Junior*, he and wife Rhea Perlman founded a little company called Jersey Entertainment which, to date, has only produced obscure little indie films like *Pulp Fiction*, *Get Shorty*, and *Erin Brokovich*.

Hmmm. *Get Shorty*, a film about a guy from New Jersey who moves to Hollywood to get into the entertainment business...sounds familiar somehow... :-P

So go out and find yourself a copy of *The Ratings Game* (also distributed by bootleggers as "*The Mogul*") today, and enjoy this great little movie from Danny DeVito and the good ol' year 1984.

I personally guarantee you'll enjoy it.

Michael Bertrand

<http://www.millionwordyear.com/megaword2010/>

Monday 18 January 2010

'Doctor Who' Update

Ray Seredin

Although it's not confirmed yet, it looks like *Torchwood: New World* could be calling Vancouver home. The series' production team have taken tours of the area's major studios and are very impressed with them, and we should know which one they will be using any day. The reason they may be filming here is that John Barrowman (Captain Jack Harkness) is openly gay and his beliefs may make him feel uncomfortable working out of the still-somewhat-conservative California (though they do plan to do some second unit filming in both LA and San Francisco, as well as a number of other US cities).

Back in Britain, looks like new series six (or 32 if you're fan of it and the classic series) of *Doctor Who* will be broadcast on BBC One in two segments: one starting on the Saturday before Easter and running seven episodes, the other starting on the first Saturday in October and running six episodes. (Note: Oh my God, will someone from both Norwescon 33 and VCON 36 please write the BBC as soon as you read this, and try to get the North American debut of both these segments, mostly because they start to air in the UK during these conventions?)

Series head writer and executive producer Steven Moffat said "We'll split *Doctor Who* into two, so the end of series six (or 32) will now become series seven (or 33), with yet another cliff-hanger to end all cliff-hangers at the end of the spring airing that will bring all the kids back for more in the fall."

Being a long-time viewer of *Doctor Who*, I have already worked out that there will be a much shorter gap between series by doing this. Easter in 2011 falls on Sunday 24 April, meaning that the first episode of series six will air on Saturday 23 April, with the other six episodes going out on Saturdays until 4 June. Then there will be a 119-day break until Saturday 1 October, when the first episode of series seven airs, with the five episodes going out on Saturdays until 5 November. Then there will be another 50-day break until the broadcast of the Christmas special on 25 December. After that there'll only be 104 days before the start of series eight on Saturday 7 April 2012. So, heck, it's better than the 182 days we have this year between "The Big Bang" and the 2010 Christmas special.

Besides, if I were in charge of BBC One, I would start broadcasting *Doctor Who* season six on Saturday 22 October, air seven episodes (that would end on 3 December), take a 35-day break for the holidays, then start showing series seven on 7 January 2012 with another seven episodes (that would end on 18 February). See, almost all of Britain has the same kind of weather conditions between the start of October and mid-March as Southwestern BC, Western Washington, and a good part of Oregon has in those same months: "rain." So a lot more people will be sitting



'round the tellies trying to find something to watch, meaning higher ratings for the good Doctor and his companions.

Production on series six of *Doctor Who* is now underway in Upper Boat, Wales as well as the surrounding area. As I write this they are working on a story entitled "What Are Little Boys Made Of?" by Mark Gatiss. For all you Neil Gaiman fans in BCSFaland, the episode he wrote, "The House of Nothing" (with guest star Suranne Jones, formerly of *Coronation Street*) starts production as we go to press, and will be the third to air when the series returns next spring.

As I said last time, looks like the Doctor will have two companions for a while (if not for the whole two seasons), as Amy's husband Rory will become a permanent member of the TARDIS crew. This will be another first for the long-running series as Mr. and Mrs. Rory Williams will be the first married couple in the history of *Doctor Who* (though because it's a family show there will still be no hanky-panky in the good old TARDIS). Also the outlandish and mysterious Dr. River Song is returning with more of her "spoilers" for the Doctor and company, though none of the episodes with her character have been filmed yet.

Well, my good Doctor, you did it again, for the fourth time since the series returned in 2005 (only losing in 2009 to Joss Whedon's *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*): *Doctor Who* has won the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form, at WorldCon in my old home town of Melbourne, Australia. (Note: When will we see Vancouver, Canada under "cities that hosted a WorldCon"?) It was for the very moving episode "Waters of Mars," which showed that even the all-powerful Time Lord, with all his best intentions, can't stop a person from dying when she was supposed to die. This kind of writing is making the new series stand up on its own, but paying homage to the Doctor's character roots in the classic series.

As for the classic *Doctor Who*, the time gap between the release of classic series DVDs in Britain/Europe and rest of the world will be no more as of this coming January. The Tom Baker story "Meglos" will become the first *Doctor Who* DVD to be simultaneously released globally sometime that month. As most of us fans know in North America there was a six- to eight-month gap between the British release and the release over here. Although there still will a "gap" with its release, the 1996 Fox/BBC *Doctor Who* TV movie (with the Pertwee logo and filmed you-know-where) will be hitting the store shelves in North America for the first time at about the same time as "Meglos." (Note: Please call or e-mail me if you want to come over to my place and *MST* it.) Also falling into the "gap" is the Tom Baker story "Revenge of the Cybermen" that comes out over here on 2 November. (Oh great! I will have three out of seven complete seasons of the Fourth Doctor before Norwescon 33 next spring.)

That's all for now. Be seeing you next time with my report from VCON 35.
Cosmic Ray Seredin

Ray Seredin

Thursday 16–Thursday 23 September 2010

Zines Received

‘Opuntia’ #69.3 (September 2010). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. APAzine issue.



“Mailing Comments on FAPA #290”: Dale listens to the radio while driving but can’t tolerate commercials. Since my current car’s tape deck is broken, I’ve been listening to a lot more radio. When an ad comes along I just hit “scan” and go to the next station. Jamie Kellner would say this means I’m stealing radio, but he’s wrong; I never consented to listen to the ads. Tip for the radio industry: pleasant, non-annoying ads are less likely to drive away listeners.

Film studios that put out fast copies of big-budget movies to capitalize on the latter’s popularity remind Dale of the imitation Beatles albums of the 1960s. Similarly, in the 1980s and 1990s, there were “greatest hits” and “film soundtrack” albums that turned out to be cheap cover versions.

Dale’s photo of the Calgary skyline clarifies something for me: the Saddledome arena is actually shaped like a saddle—though not a dome.

“Mailing Comments on FAPA #291”: Dale says that Bolivia will not get rich from its lithium deposits, as those are relatively common. Oh well—back to coca!

“Seen in the Literature” (passages in scientific journals noticed by Dale): I notice that the articles quoted tend to bury the lead. I appreciate Dale’s clarifying notes at the end and hope to see more of them in future editions of “Seen in the Literature.”

Also: “What Is FAPA?”; “FAPA Clearcut Award” (for most pages published in a mailing); “Mailing Comments on FAPA #292”; “Letters to the Editor.”

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

PIANO TIES
ENVIRONMENTALISM
SERGEANT SLAUGHTER
TYPEWRITERS WITH SCRIPT FONTS
SAMURAI PIZZA CATS
TMNT FOR NES

E-Zines Received

‘The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette’ #21 (June 2010). Published by Garth Spencer, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5W 1L4, garthspencer@shaw.ca, <http://efanzines.com/RSSNG/rsng21.pdf>.

(I’m not sure when originally I received this.)

“Recent Fan News”: “It is as if, when a national Canadian SF and fantasy award or a transnational travel fund was conceived, already they were ideas whose time had passed. I have joked that these institutions were what happened when Canadian nationalism met SF fandom. Almost nobody got the joke.” Joke?

Also: nice cover art by Ken Fletcher; “Recent SF News”; “Letters”; “Illegible History” (handwritten archives); “Guest Editorial” (by Rajiv Witherspoon-Li); “ ‘Ambulance Blues’: A T.O. Travelogue” (more history of Neil Young in Toronto).



‘Ansible’ #228 (September 2010). Published by David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, UK, <http://news.ansible.co.uk/>. Submitted by Garth Spencer. A brisk, interesting read. “As Others See Us” (mentions of SF or fandom in mainstream media) and “Thog’s Masterclass” (amusingly clunky writing that would make good Turkey Reading material) are particularly entertaining.

‘The Fortnightly Fix’ #15 (27 September 2010). Published by Steve Green, steve.green@livejournal.com, <http://efanzines.com/FFix/FortnightlyFix-15.pdf>.

“Down the Locol”: Cathy Palmer-Lister writes that “*Firefly* was unusual in blending the old westerns with SF.” Unusual for 2002 in live-action, perhaps; the 1980s saw many animated space westerns, the best two being *The Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers* and *Saber Rider and the Star Sheriffs*. For that matter, the original *Battlestar Galactica* was such a “wagon train to the stars” that even Gene Roddenberry would find it a little too on-the-nose. As Cathy points out, the Wild West metaphor translates easily to the final frontier.

Also: “They Were Wrong About Mark Twain, Too”; “Reasons to Be Cheerless (Part 1-2-3 in a Series).”

‘The Newsletter’ (September–October 2010). Published by the Burnaby Writers Society, 6584 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, BC, V5G 3T7, <http://www.bws.bc.ca/info@bws.bc.ca>. Submitted by Eileen Kernaghan. “Workshop Meetings”; “Who Sold What to Whom”; “Events”; “Courses, Sources, and Resources”; “Markets”; “Contests and Awards”; “Publish or Perish” (a rhyming poem with changing rhythm and meter—painful). Prosaic in style but potentially very helpful to writers.

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

THE MAESTRO FRESH WES
THE BATTERY OF THE MONTH CLUB
AMBER MONOCHROME MONITORS

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