

BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#521

\$3.00/Issue

October 2016



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BCSFAzine © October 2016, Volume 44, #10, Issue #521 is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization. ISSN 1490-6406.

Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or Apartment 601, Manhattan Tower, 6611 Cooney Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V6Y 4C5 (*new address*).

BCSFAzine is distributed monthly at White Dwarf Books, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5; telephone 604-228-8223; e-mail whitedwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies C\$3.00/US\$2.00 each. *Cheques should be made payable to "West Coast Science Fiction Association (WCSFA)."*

This and Next Month in BCSFA

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Sunday 16 October at 7 PM: | October BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. |
| Friday 21 October: | Submission deadline for November <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally). |
| Friday 28 October: | November <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically). |
| Sunday 20 November at 7 PM: | November BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's. |
| Friday 18 November: | Submission deadline for December <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally). |
| Friday 25 November: | December <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically). |

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

WCSFA Social Committee Chairman/Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562

Vice President: TBD

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Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 778-895-2371

FRED Organizer: Michael Bertrand, 604-447-3931

VCON Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmasters [Garth Spencer](#) and [R. Graeme Cameron](#)). The BCSFA e-mail list is "BC Sci-Fi Assc." (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Low-resolution back issues of *BCSFAzine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (thank you to webmaster Bill Burns). Contact Felicity for high-resolution copies.

Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Friday 24 March 2017



Hi Felicity,

VCON splits into three parts!! Wow, Vancouver must be the hotbed of SF now.

[Like when stock splits, so you know it's going up in value. ☺]

I've started reading SF again. Rummaged through the bookshelf and dug out all the Best Of books there. I'm not too sure about some of the picks but at least there aren't any *Varney the Vampire*¹

levels of prose. Rummaging around at archive.org has resulted in locating a few juicy titles which promise far more than they will deliver. Farmer had a few works that showed promise back in the day but most of pulp SF required vast amounts of imagination to fill in the erotic. With a title like "Temptress of the Tower of Torture and Sin"² any young lad would feel his imagination go into overdrive. The cover was a great help along those lines. That's from *Avon Fantasy Reader* #14.³

Be of good cheer. Anyone who thinks they have the ideal template for a human being is obviously painfully full of shit. That never stops the majority of people from fitting into that category. That leads to the proverb "everyone has a mad scheme that will not work," but hope springs eternal. Once you decide that you are going to be you without paying much attention to the so-called advice of others things go a lot better. Friends accept you for what you are warts and all. Others are just pursuing some mad scam of their own at your expense.

I've been following *Iron Blooded Orphans*⁴ on animefreak.tv. It paints a pretty dim future for humanity as the "human discards" try to gain a place in the world. The background politics is pretty murky and the interpersonal relationships are even stranger. I doubt that there is going to be a happily-ever-after ending to this one.

PDFD #9⁵ is up on efanzines.com. It's worth your time to read.

CJ Cherryh and Jane have been having adventures with their giant outdoor aquarium. Ponds are wonderful until you have to do major maintenance.

-
- 1 *Varney the Vampire; or, the Feast of Blood* (1845), by James Malcolm Rymer and Thomas Peckett Prest.
 - 2 "Temptress of the Tower of Torture and Sin" (AKA "The Voice of El-Lil") by Robert E. Howard (October 1930).
 - 3 *Avon Fantasy Reader* #14 (July 1950), edited by Donald A. Wollheim.
 - 4 *Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans* (2015).
 - 5 *PDF Dragon* #9 (March 2017), edited by John Thiel.

*The Book: On the Taboo Against Knowing Who You Are:*⁶

“At the root of human conflict is our fundamental misunderstanding of who we are. The illusion that we are isolated beings, unconnected to the rest of the universe, has led us to view the ‘outside’ world with hostility, and has fueled our misuse of technology and our violent and hostile subjugation of the natural world.



In *The Book*, philosopher Alan Watts provides us with a much-needed answer to the problem of personal identity, distilling and adapting the ancient Hindu philosophy of Vedanta to help us understand that the self is in fact the root and ground of the universe.”

[A lot of the outside world is hostile. We just want to be OK. I can contemplate enlightenment better from my bed in the suburbs. Living in rural poverty, as Watts advocates, doesn’t appeal to me.]

[Synchronicously, the cover of PDF Dragon #9 says “Perhaps Meher Baba will teach man to see,” and Meher Baba is also the author of a book called The Book (1925).]

“Democrats must provide ‘training’ that focuses in part on teaching Americans ‘how to be sensitive and how to shut their mouths if they are white,’ urged the executive director of Idaho’s Democratic Party, Sally Boynton Brown, who is white.”

Links:

<http://math.ucr.edu/home/baez/teaching.html>⁷

[I could try to use some of this in teaching music theory (or learning stand-up comedy), although I only teach one person at a time, and always sitting down.]

https://archive.org/details/sacredidiot_yahoo_Rico⁸

Rico Rodriguez man with a horn.

[There’s a typo on that page that gives his birth and death dates as 7 October 1934–4 September 2215. According to Wikipedia he died 4 September 2015, but I liked the idea that he’s some wise-guy who’s decided to live exactly 280 years. ©]

<http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/things-you-never-knew-you-needed-a-lifesaving-toilet-200075>⁹

You’ll have to think up your own comment for this one.

[I like the phrase “toilet snorkel.” That’s a hilarious chunk of language.]

“Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., has just introduced legislation to end the Education Department. The text of the bill is simple: ‘The Department of Education shall terminate on December 31, 2018.’ That’s it. I’d like to see what would happen to all

6 *The Book: On the Taboo Against Knowing Who You Are* (1966) by Alan Watts.

7 University of California, Riverside, Department of Mathematics: “How to Teach Stuff” (23 January 2006) by John Baez.

8 The Internet Archive: “Rico!” by Zappology.

9 Apartment Therapy: “Things You Never Knew You Needed: A Life-Saving Toilet” (13 February 2014) by Carolyn Purnell.

the programs the department runs—they're the meat of the problem—but the simple bill is a major step in the right direction.”¹⁰

As a John Taylor Gatto fan, I'd have to say that is the smartest thing ever to enter the debate on the deplorable American school system. Without Federal meddling those states who want some educated folk in the next generation might have a chance to change their local schools.

[I'm a John Dewey fan, myself. The school system needs an overhaul so that it (a) protects its students from abuses by each other and by the faculty, and (b) prepares them to think critically about and demand accountability from the elites.]

<https://boingboing.net/2017/02/11/take-a-3-minute-vacation-with.html>¹¹

Surf's up!!!



“Zuckerberg Thinks He’s Cyber-Jesus—And Publishes a 6,000-Word World-Saving Manifesto.”¹²

Best headline of the week!!!

[The article’s pretty snide but it sounds like Zuckerberg’s heart is in the right place. Maybe McCarthy should have smoked whatever Zuckerberg was smoking; then he wouldn’t be so bitchy.

There’s no biographical information about McCarthy online but from his attitude and his photos I’d bet he’s about my age. Let’s not discourage billionaires from pouring money into saving humanity.]

“Oof: Dave Rubin Makes Claim That Jesus ‘Was Around a Lot of Muslims’ Because He Was in the Middle East.”¹³

Best headline of the next week!!!

[Like Rubin, I was not aware that Islam did not exist yet in Jesus’s time. Would it be safe to say then that he was around a lot of Arabs?]

<https://torrentfreak.com/pirate-site-with-no-traffic-attracts-49m-mainly-bogus-dmca-notices-170219/>¹⁴

Most entertaining news item of the week. Tubularly Recursive Man!!!

[?]

10 The Cato Institute: “Don’t Block the Education Secretary, End the Department of Education” (10 February 2017) by Neal McCluskey.

11 Boing Boing: “Take a 3-Minute Vacation with Surfer Mitch Parkinson” (11 February 2017) by Andrea James.

12 The Register: “Zuckerberg Thinks He’s Cyber-Jesus—And Publishes a 6,000-Word World-Saving Manifesto” (17 February 2017) by Kieren McCarthy.

13 Townhall: “Oof: Dave Rubin Makes Claim That Jesus ‘Was Around a Lot of Muslims’ Because He Was in the Middle East” (19 February 2017) by Christine Rousselle.

14 TorrentFreak: “Pirate Site with No Traffic Attracts 49m Mainly Bogus DMCA Notices” (19 February 2017) by Andy.

<http://nautil.us/issue/45/power/this-man-is-about-to-blow-up-mathematics>¹⁵

Some substance worth following up.

[Norm!]

<https://law.duke.edu/sites/default/files/centers/cspd/musicomic/Theft.pdf>¹⁶

263-page comic book worth a read, from Boyle of Public Domain Law fame.

<https://archive.org/details/TheDirtyBookV2N1>¹⁷

From ye olde dayes!!

[Nostalgic!]

“A 2006 study showed that 73% of psychologists refuse to show their data after publication, even after agreeing to do so. It sounds shady, but *Nature*’s article seems to suggest that an embarrassed unfamiliarity with the rigors of science is still sadly at hand in the halls of psychology.”¹⁸

Now you know why most real scientists sneer at the “soft sciences.”

[They still shouldn’t.]

<http://www.secrettransmissions.com/2017/02/public-access-esotericism-pre-social.html>¹⁹

Austin Outer Limits???

[Ha! ☺]

[I miss real community access TV. It died out here first by being replaced by a bland corporate version, then disappearing altogether. Before that happened, the best show on our local channel was one where anyone could submit a video and it would be played. Sometimes it was just pleasant nature footage but other times it was weird and awesome. Maybe we should start a YouTube channel that’s like a cable access channel, not just in the sense that YouTube is the modern equivalent, but striving for the same 1980s aesthetics.]

<http://existentialcomics.com/comic/125>²⁰

That which does not kill us makes us stranger.

[Who was it who said “Nietzsche was an asshole”? (It was in a book of quotes I read 23 years ago.) It’s difficult to make the case for morality to a sociopath. In the end all you can do is try to protect yourself from them.]

<https://getchip.com/pages/pocketchip>

The FEL line is a cute touch.

[Felines are always cute!]

<https://baconfatblog.blogspot.com/2017/03/modular-battlestations-ship-landwehr.html>²¹

Worth a look!!

15 Nautilus: “This Man Is About to Blow Up Mathematics: Harvey Friedman Is About to Bring Incompleteness and Infinity Out of Quarantine” (23 February 2017) by Jordana Cepelewicz.

16 *Theft! A History of Music* by James Boyle, Jennifer Jenkins, & Keith Aoki (2017).

17 The Internet Archive: *The Dirty Book—Users Guide to Erotic Software* (1982).

18 Boing Boing: “Psychology Journal Editor Asked to Resign for Refusing to Review Papers Unless He Can See the Data” (2 March 2017) by Rob Beschizza.

19 Secret Transmissions: “Public-Access Esotericism: Pre-Social Occult Media.”

20 *Existential Comics*: “Philosophy Overdose.”

21 Baconfat Log: “Modular Battlestations Ship, Landwehr, Imperial Guard, Space Marine Attack Bikes, Zombies and Robots.”

[Neat. ☺]

http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176252/tomgram%3A_danny_sjursen%2C_surging_to_failure/#more²²

Tells a lot about what is going on.

Links end.

Not to be outdone in personal nuttiness, the pictures are from Victorian SF done in 1/72 scale.

This vignette is the attempt by QVODD to capture a Martian Hookworm using Fate Armaments vehicles. The distraught Martian owner of the Wrym rushes to the rescue. Twin SandWeasels herd the Wrym towards the Claws of the Steam Crab. This incident



occurred during the Terran counterattack on Mars during the War of the Worlds. Bemused Martian aristocrats watch from a distance on their sunning plats. An alerted tripod war machine bears down on the alien intruders. Will the DDs capture the Wrym? Will the farmer recover his livestock? Will the tripod save farmer and Wrym?

[*What's QVODD?*]

Mounting his bicycle the reporter from the *Times* seemed to be closing in on the coming action until he spotted the tripod. Unfortunately the intrepid reporter chose to depart at high speed towards the Martian horizon to avoid the clash. His preference is to record the dispatches from the Officers Club bar without getting too close to a fact.

You'll have to puzzle out the many mysteries here by yourself.

And a quick bit of comp advice. The VLC open sourced video/audio player can play most anything. I even managed to get it to extract the video from an odd Asian format set of optical disks. Turned out to involve giant swords and jumping in the air a lot. Digging into discarded tech now and again gets some interesting finds.

Warm regards,

Dave

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Friday 31 March 2017

Dear BCSFen:

Issue 520 of *BCSFAzine* is here in paper and electronic forms, and thank you for sending both. Remember, if the finances are strained, I will be happy with just the electronic version. It means less need for storing lots of paper zines (as much as I prefer them) in Bankers' Boxes. And now, here's a LOC.

²² TomDispatch: "Tomgram: Danny Sjursen, Surging to Failure."



[As long as finances permit, I prefer to reward contributors with a paper copy.]

I definitely agree with Dave Haren on Mike Jittlov's green wizard, both the original short film and the later movie. Many years ago, Yvonne made a green wizard costume for a friend from Buffalo, and made it in time for a local convention with Jittlov as one of the GOHs. Mike saw the costume, and deemed it perfect, except for some wire in the front hem of the hood to give it a pointed peak on the forehead. A straightened paperclip did the trick, and our friend modeled it for Mike. Not sure his feet were on the ground at the time...

[Cool!]

If we live in a simulation (and sometimes, you can almost see the wiring a la holodeck), who gets the feeling it's coming to a logical, or perhaps illogical end? Will we see GAME OVER flashing in the heavens one day? Do we live in a multi-verse, or infinite layers of reality? Will our civilization live long enough to care?

[Sometimes I do fear that we're living at the end of history.]

Clinton worse than Trump? Nope, I don't buy that story either. (Saw a great bumper sticker on Facebook...Elect a Clown, Expect a Circus.) I think Hillary would have had much more progressive policies, with husband Bill to guide her, and I think Bernie Sanders would have helped a lot, too. I am amazed that Trump's getting away with so much crap, and so many broken laws, and no one is calling him on them, unless organizations like the CIA, FBI, etc., are working together to present a fool-proof case for impeachment. The Democrats better get their hands on a top-notch candidate in four years, and in two years, there are Congressional elections. Even Republican voters are shocked by the utter lies and destructive policies of Trump and his cronies, so I suspect a Democrat Congress will try to turn things around, and stop this idiocy. In the meantime, some voters say they admit Trump is a liar and a fool, but they also say they will vote for him next election. My head hurts...

[The Democrats need to get back in touch with their roots, and be the voice of the workers again. That won't happen until the voters throw out all the corporate establishment Democrats and replace them with populists like Sanders.]

John Purcell is getting ready for a fannish/steampunk tour of Europe for his TAFF trip, should he win it...He probably already knows about The Asylum, the big steampunk event in England Yvonne and I were at last year, but he probably already knows that all attendance and special event tickets were snapped up within minutes, in some cases. It is great fun, and maybe one year, we'll go again.

My LOC...we moved our hotel craft show table to its May event. Our next conventions where we are vending are CostumeCon 35 in Mississauga April 20-24, and Anime North in Toronto May 26-28. Two big conventions, and we could use the sales. We wish all VCON attendees a good time, and please, volunteer lots to make your relaxicon as much fun as a full con.

[I still have to figure out what to do about membership. The last I heard, the VCON 42 membership I bought at the VCON 41 dead dog party is still good for VCON 42, which is now next year—or I can use for this year’s VCON 41½, but in that case I have to contact them and let them know.]



We plan to go to Michigan in July for a steampunk convention, Motor City Steam Con, and we do not expect any problems at the border, as long as we are prepared properly. The tablets will stay at home, and we will have a folder with important documents. Flyers for the event will be with us, as will copies of our hotel reservation, and of course, our brand new passports, all of which can be made readily available to any US customs guard. We plan to be ready to make our weekend as hassle-free as possible.

[If you’re worried about border guards looking at your devices, I wonder if you could store documents in the cloud by e-mailing them to yourself, then collecting the e-mails after you cross. That might not help if they ask to read your e-mails.]

Thank you for this issue, and seeing it’s Friday, have a great weekend! Keep ’em coming.

[Thanks!]

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

John Purcell

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Sunday 9 April 2017

I must admit that it is fun to write a letter of comment on the September 2016 issue of this fanzine in April of 2017, and then see this LOC printed in the October 2016 issue of *BCSFazine* in June of 2017. Like I said in my LOC in issue #520, this is time-binding in full application. Or time traveling through time and postage stamps. Somehow it all seems right.

Dave Haren calls me a “post modern thinker.” A quick look at Wikipedia gives this definition:

“Postmodernism is typically defined by an attitude of skepticism, irony or distrust toward grand narratives, ideologies and various tenets of Enlightenment rationality, including notions of human nature, social progress, objective reality and morality, absolute truth, and reason. Instead, it asserts that claims to knowledge and truth are products of unique social, historical or political discourses and interpretations, and are therefore contextual and constructed to varying degrees. Accordingly, post-modern thought is broadly characterized by tendencies to epistemological and moral relativism, pluralism, irreverence and self-referentiality.”



Looking that over, I guess Dave is right in that I tend to contextualize events, people, and things, and definitely take an irreverent view of life in general. Yeah, this makes sense. Keeping this definition in mind, though, makes me wonder about his assertion that this year's TAFF election—which will be long over and done with by the time this letter sees print—is people's chance to "inflict" me on Europe

is a rather over-the-top use of hyperbole. I would have preferred the phrasing to be "infect Europe." Yeah, I like that idea.

How the heck can you WAHF Spider Robinson? I would love to hear from him and would print a LOC in a heartbeat. Of course, he might indicate his letters as DNQ, which is to be honoured. Still...you are so lucky to get missives from Spider. I haven't seen him in ages.

[I am indeed honoured to hear from Spider. The WAHF is for two reasons: one, his responses are brief notes of thanks for the zine rather than LOCs; and two, I once asked if I could print one of the brief notes in the letter column and did not get a reply, so I assumed I shouldn't.]

Hey, my new chompers are doing quite well, thank you very much. I appreciate the good wishes. Oh, and George Phillies mentioned in his letter that Vancouver is the "SF TV capital of the universe," which does seem to carry a solid bit of truth to it. The original *X-Files* series was filmed there, and in addition to *Supergirl* currently being produced in Vancouver, other current shows are *Arrow*, *The Flash*, and *Van Helsing*. Add in all the movies made in Vancouver and its environs, the area definitely has earned the monicker of "Hollywood North." This all reminds me that of all the cities in Canada I would be willing to relocate to, Vancouver is on the short list: other cities are Toronto, Quebec City, and the province of Nova Scotia. Who knows? If Canada builds a wall to keep fleeing Americans from streaming northward, we're screwed.

[Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand is graduating from Vancouver Film School soon, so let's hope there's lots of work for screenwriters here in the SF TV capital of the universe. ☺]

Well, I think that will do it for now. Take care, and I hope there will be good news to report in a little over a week when the TAFF 2017 voting is completed.

We Also Heard From: Brad Foster, Denny E. Marshall, Cathy Palmer-Lister, and George Phillies.

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

SEGA GENESIS

"IT'S PATRICK, HE TOOK OUT LIFE INSURANCE"
"CAPTAIN POWER AND THE SOLDIERS OF THE FUTURE"
"THE ADVENTURES OF THE GALAXY RANGERS"
"SLASH MARAUD"

Calendar

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

Recurring

6, 13, 20, and 27 October and 3, 10, 17, and 24 November 2016 (*Thursdays*): Thursday Hobby Build Nights, 6–9 PM at Ages Three and Up Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby.—A3U Gundam

6 October and 3 November 2016 (*first Thursday*): Drop-In Drawing for Adults: Pick Up a Pencil, 6–9 PM at Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond. [*No Drop-In Drawing in July.*]

6 October and 3 November 2016 (*first Thursday*): Wordplay: A Free Writing Prompt Group with Facilitator Alan Girling, 7–9 PM at the Network Hub, #205–810 Quay-side Drive, New Westminster.—Alan Girling

28 October and 5, 12, 19, and 26 November 2016 (*Fridays*): Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond.

7, 14, 21, and 28 October and 4, 11, 18, and 25 November 2016 (*Fridays*): Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 October and 4, 11, 18, and 25 November 2016 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 October and 5, 12, 19, and 26 November 2016 (*Saturdays*): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 October and 5, 12, 19, and 26 November 2016 (*Saturdays*): Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—Greg Cairns

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 October and 6, 13, 20, and 27 November 2016 (*Sundays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 October and 7, 14, 21, and 28 November 2016 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 October and 7, 14, 21, and 28 November 2016 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

4, 11, 18, and 25 October and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 November 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 October and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 November 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

4, 11, 18, and 25 October and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 November 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!, 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.—The Fictionals Comedy Co.

5, 12, 19, and 26 October and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 November 2016 (*Wednesdays*): Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meeting, 7:30–11:30 PM at top floor of Memorial South Park's Fieldhouse, located inside the park at 5955 Ross Street (at 41st Avenue), Vancouver.—Keith Lim/Julian Castle

6 and 20 October and 3 and 17 November 2016 (*alternate Thursdays*): Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers' Group, 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library, 6100 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, in Program Room or Connections Lounge.—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

13 October and 10 November 2016 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*]—Keith Lim

13 October and 10 November 2016 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim

8 October and 12 November 2016 (*second Saturday*): Teen Manga and Anime Group (former name Teen Manga Advisory Group), 3:30–5:30 PM at Harvey Southam Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. Free.—Julian Castle

11 October and 8 November 2016 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.

11 October and 8 November 2016 (*second Tuesday*): Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch, 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—large private room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver.—Keith Lim

12 and 26 October and 9 and 23 November 2016 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

21 October and 18 November 2016 (*third Friday*): IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, second floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

15 October and 19 November 2016 (*third Saturday*): Vancouver Comic Jam, 8 PM–late (sometimes ends when Wallflower closes at 1 AM) at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2420 Main Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

16 October and 20 November 2016 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

19 October and 16 November 2016 (*third Wednesday*): Richmond BC Writers’ Club Critique Night, 7–8:30 PM at Richmond Public Library, Ironwood Branch, Unit 8200, 11688 Steveston Highway, Richmond.—Richmond BC Writers’ Club

29 October and 26 November 2016 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

Already in Progress

1 September 2016: **Stephanie Leigh’s** birthday.

2 September 2016: Premiere of films *Morgan* (SF/horror; Michelle Yeoh, Brian Cox, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Paul Giamatti), *The 9th Life of Louis Drax* (fantasy; Aaron Paul, Oliver Platt, Sarah-Jane Redmond, Fiona Vroom, Barbara Hershey), and *Yoga Hosers* (fantasy/horror/comedy;



Harley Quinn Smith, Jennifer Schwalbach Smith, Justin Long, Tony Hale, Natasha Lyonne, Haley Joel Osment, Sasheer Zamata, Johnny Depp, Kevin Conroy, Kevin Smith, Stan Lee, Jason Mewes, Robert Kurtzman).

4 September 2016: **Lezli Robyn’s** birthday.

9 September 2016: Premiere of films *The Disappointment Room* (horror; Kate Beckinsale, Gerald McRaney, Joely Fisher), *The Wild Life* (computer animation; Carlos Alazraqui, Jeff Doucette), and *Demon* (horror/comedy).

11 September 2016: **Ziv Kowarsky’s** birthday.



15 September 2016: **Mike Jackson's** birthday.

16 September 2016: **Melissa Tookey's** birthday. Premiere of films *Blair Witch* (horror) and *Silicon Cowboys* (documentary).

19 September 2016: **Randy Byers's** birthday.

22 September 2016: **Peter Kuper's** birthday.

23 September 2016: Premiere of films *Storks* (computer animation; Andy Samberg, Kelsey Grammer, Jennifer Aniston, Keegan-Michael Key, Jordan Peele, Danny Trejo, Awkwafina, Ike Barinholtz) and *The Lovers & the Despot* (documentary).

30 September 2016: Premiere of film *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* (fantasy; Samuel L. Jackson, Judy Dench, Rupert Everett, Allison Janney, Chris O'Dowd, Terence Stamp, Tim Burton).

30 September–2 October 2016: **VCON 41** at Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel, Surrey, BC. Theme: Muppets, Puppets, & Marionettes. Guests of Honour: Robert J. Sawyer (Author), Jamie Anderson (Supermarionation), Eric Chu (Film Design), Karl Johanson (Editor, *Neo-Opis*), Stan G. Hyde (Godzilla Fan), and Spider Robinson (Master of Ceremonies).

October 2016

October is Bat Appreciation Month, International Starman Month, National Book Month, and National Stamp Collecting Month.

1 October 2016: **Dave Strutt's** birthday.

3 October 2016: Techies Day.

4 October 2016: **Barbara Scutt's** birthday.

5 October 2016: **Jim Naguib's** birthday.

6 October 2016: **Arthur Hlavaty** and **Jason Solomon's** birthdays. Mad Hatter Day.

7 October 2016: **Howard Chaykin's** birthday.

8 October 2016: Fun Promotions Pop Culture Show, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. Admission: \$3; kids under 12: free.

“New & vintage comics, toys & collectibles, records, CDs, VHS, DVDs, die-cast, Lego, figurines, electronics, computers, coins, *Star Wars*, Hot Wheels, wrestling, Canucks.” <http://www.funpromo.ca/>. 604-521-6403. funpromo@shaw.ca.

10 October 2016: **Kaine Delay**’s birthday.

11 October 2016: **Ivy Blais**’s birthday.

14 October 2016: Premiere of films *Max Steel* (SF; Maria Bello, Andy Garcia) and *Miss Hokusai* (anime; Barbara Goodson).



15 October 2016: **Verne Siebert** and **Dusk McRate**’s birthdays.

16 October 2016: **Duncan McGregor**’s birthday.

19 October 2016: **Gareth von Kallenbach** and **Cathy Palmer-Lister**’s birthdays.

20 October 2016: **Richard Waters**’s birthday.

21 October 2016: **Christopher Garcia**’s birthday. Premiere of films *Ouija: Origin of Evil* (horror; Henry Thomas, Sam Anderson) and *Boo! A Madea Halloween* (horror/comedy; Tyler Perry).

23 October 2016: **Don Thompson**’s birthday.

25 October 2016: Punk for a Day Day.

27 October 2016: **Peter Tupper**’s birthday. Frankenstein Friday.

28 October 2016: **Church Haley**’s birthday.

30 October 2016: **Kirstin Morrell**’s birthday.

31 October 2016: **Lucretia DeVille**’s birthday. Halloween. Increase Your Psychic Powers Day.

November 2016

3 November 2016: **Dale Speirs**’s birthday.

4 November 2016: Premiere of films *Doctor Strange* (fantasy/comics; Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Tilda Swinton, Benjamin Bratt, Meera Syal, Stan Lee, Chris Hemsworth) and *Trolls* (computer animation; Justin Timberlake, Zoey

Deschanel, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Christine Baranski, Russell Brand, Gwen Stefani, John Cleese, Jeffrey Tambor, Ron Funches, Grace Helbig).

5 November 2016: **Shannon Enns** and Hello Kitty's birthdays.

6 November 2016: **Stan Hyde**'s birthday.

7 November 2016: **Tim Maruyama**'s birthday.



11 November 2016: Premiere of films *Arrival* (SF; Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker, Tzi Ma) and *The Love Witch* (horror/comedy).

12 November 2016: **Toulouse LeTrek**'s birthday.

18 November 2016: **Ken Kato**'s birthday. Premiere of films *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* (fantasy; Colin Farrell, Dan Hedaya, Jon Voight, Ron Perlman, Johnny Depp) and *Officer Downe* (SF/comics; Kim Coates, Phil Morris).

24 November 2016: **Spider Robinson**'s birthday.

25 November 2016: Premiere of film *Moana* (computer animation; Dwayne Johnson, Temuera Morrison, Jermaine Clement, Alan Tudyk, Troy Polamalu).

26 November 2016: **Amy Hearn**'s birthday.

News-Like Matter

Notes from September 2016 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand, Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, William Graham, and Teresa "T-Cat" Spanics.

The next FRED will be at VCON!

Ray's coasters are cork board and absorb water/moisture.

I confused everyone by using the phrase "pirate fandom."

Kathleen is writing one poem per month this year.

Kathleen mentioned World War I trench re-enactors who dig a trench and decorate it to look like a trench from the Great War. I said "trenchpunk" would be a subgenre and people would be disappointed it wasn't about coats.

Fru has to attend a three-hour lecture on copyright tomorrow night. He mentioned that I'd said he should record it and post it online.

Ray said that PBS can't get *American Bandstand* because of music rights. Fru replied that his mental image of PBS people is the parents from *Family Ties*. I said I

was glad I wasn't political/didn't have politics back then because I would have hated Alex P. Keaton, instead of enjoying him rolling across the room in his office chair and being Michael J. Fox.

Fru said that if the USA elects Trump the world will give up on the USA.

Ray mentioned BC Ferries.

Kathleen relayed that Barb said “*Star Wars* crackers. Let’s see what Darth Vaders taste like.” I said “Don’t choke on them.”

Teresa reminisced about the time on the farm when the ammonia tanks derailed. The town was evacuated. The cows got moved to the stockyard. Bicknell’s Trucking paid for it.

Ray said that new TV season starts next week. I replied that there might be a new *Bob’s Burgers* tonight. Ray said that if so, it’s up against the Emmys. We all discussed whether we feel like watching/care about awards shows anymore. Ray liked that the Oscars were hosted by Johnny Carson and before that, Bob Hope. T-Cat remembered the Bob Hope quote: “Welcome to the Academy Awards, or as we call it at my house, Passover.” That reminded me of Gore Vidal reviewing a book and saying that it must have been a lot easier for the writer to write than it was for anyone else to read.



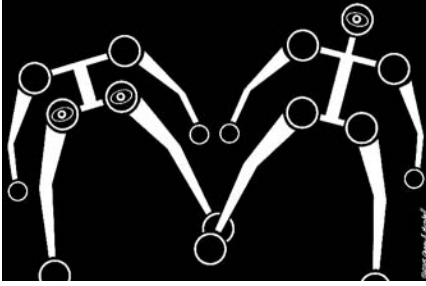
Felicity Walker

Sunday 18 September 2016

Passages: September 2016

🐼 Jon Polito (29 December 1950–1 September 2016). Actor. Genre work was *The Clairvoyant* (1982), *CHUD* (1984), *Remo Williams: The Adventure Begins* (1985), *Highlander* (1986), *Tales from the Crypt* (1989), *The Rocketeer* (1991), *Dinosaurs* (1991), *Viper* (1994), *The Crow* (1994), *Blankman* (1994), *The Shaggy Dog* (1994), *The Invaders* (1995), *Life with Louie* (1995), *Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco* (1996), *Millennium* (1996), *The Pretender* (1996), *Early Edition* (1996), *Invasion* (1997), *NightMan* (1997), *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show* (1997), *Tale of the Mummy* (1998), *Oh Yeah! Cartoons* (1998) *Lands of Lore III* (1999), *Good vs. Evil* (1999), *Stuart Little* (1999), *Batman Beyond* (1999), *The Invisible Man* (2000), *The Adventures of Rocky & Bullwinkle* (2000), *The Tangerine Bear: Home in Time for Christmas!* (2000), *Mimic 2* (2001), *The Chronicle* (2001), *Black Mask 2: City of Masks* (2002), *American Dad: The New CIA* (2005), *Threshold* (2005), *Avatar: The Last Airbender* (2005), *Masters of Horror* (2005), *Medium* (2005), *Ghost Whisperer* (2005), *American Dad!* (2005), *Happily N’Ever After* (2006), *Dead Head Fred* (2007), *Chowder* (2007), *El Tigre: The Adventures of Manny Rivera* (2007), *Rock Monster* (2008), *Animated American* (2008), *Super Capers: The Origins of Ed and the Missing Bullion* (2009), *The Spectre* (2010), *Superman/Shazam!: The Return of Black Adam* (2010), *DC Showcase Original Shorts Collection* (2010), *Ben 10: Ultimate Alien* (2010), *Atlas Shrugged: Part I* (2011),

Batman: Year One (2011), *Thundercats* (2011), *Robot and Monster* (2012), *Anti-Muse* (2012), *Ultimate Spider-Man* (2012), *Batman: Arkham Origins* (2013), and *Batman: Arkham Underworld* (2016). Three-time *Murder, She Wrote* (1984) guest-star.



John Hostetter (6 October 1946–2 September 2016). Actor and artist. Genre work was *Aladdin and the Magic Lamp* (1982), *Knight Rider* (1982), *Katy Caterpillar* (1984), *The Transformers* (1984) (as Ramhorn), *GI Joe* (1985) (as Bazooka), *Castle in the Sky*²³ (1986), *The Stepford Children* (1987), *GI Joe: The Movie* (1987), *Leonard Part 6* (1987), *Quantum Leap* (1989), *Kiki's Delivery Service*²⁴ (1989), *The Flash* (1990), *Flesh Gordon Meets the Cosmic Cheerleaders* (1990), *The People Under the Stairs* (1991), *Dragon Slayer*²⁵ (1992), *Frogs!* (1993), *Wilder Napalm* (1993), *Tekkaman Blade II*²⁶ (1994), *Final Fantasy*²⁷ (1994), *Roswell* (1994), *Bio Hunter*²⁸ (1995), *Black Mask*²⁹ (1996), *Princess Mononoke*³⁰ (1997), *Spicy City* (1997), *Twilight of the Dark Master*³¹ (1997), *Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction* (1997), *From the Earth to the Moon* (1998), *Star Trek: Insurrection* (1998), *Golgo 13: Queen Bee* (1998), *Spawn* (1997), *Vampire Hunter D* (1999), *Vampire Hunter D: Bloodlust* (2000), *Gen*¹³ (2000), and *Kermit's Swamp Years* (2002). One-time *Murder, She Wrote* (1984) guest-star.

Leslie H. Martinson (16 January 1915–3 September 2016). Director. Genre work was *Topper* (1953), *The Atomic Kid* (1954), *Batman* (1966), *Batman: The Movie* (1966), *The Green Hornet* (1966), *Wonder Woman: Who's Afraid of Diana Prince?* (1967), *The Immortal* (1969), *Circle of Fear*³² (1972), *The Six Million Dollar Man* (1974), *Wonder Woman* (1975), *The Bionic Woman* (1976), *Bigfoot and Wildboy* (1977), *Fantasy Island* (1977), *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* (1979), *The Kid with the Broken Halo* (1982), *The Powers of Matthew Star* (1982), *Manimal* (1983), *The Fantastic World of DC Collins* (1984), *Airwolf* (1984), and *Small Wonder* (1985).

Hugh O'Brian (19 April 1925–5 September 2016). Actor. Genre work was *Rocketship X-M* (1950), *Fantasy Island* (1977), *Cruise Into Terror* (1978), and *Doin' Time on Planet Earth* (1988). One-time *Murder, She Wrote* (1984) guest-star.

23 AKA *Tenkû no Shiro Rapyuta*.

24 AKA *Majo no Takkyûbin*.

25 AKA *Dragon Slayer Eiyuu Densetsu: Ouji no Tabidachi*.

26 AKA *Uchû no Kishi Tekkaman Blade II*.

27 AKA *Fainaru Fantaji*.

28 AKA *Baio Hantâ*.

29 AKA *Hak Hap*.

30 AKA *Mononoke-Hime*.

31 AKA *Shihaisha no Tasogare*.

32 AKA *Ghost Story*.

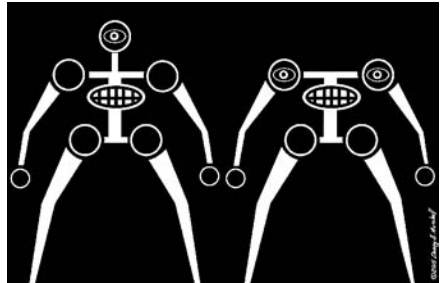
👤 **Hazel Douglas** (2 November 1923–8 September 2016). Actress. Genre work was *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1* (2010) and *The Great Martian War 1913–1917* (2013).

👤 **Lord Littlebrook (Eric Henry Edward Tovey)** (3 January 1929–9 September 2016). Professional wrestler.

👤 **James Stacy** (23 December 1936–9 September 2016). Actor. Genre work was *Something Wicked This Way Comes* (1983) and *Highway to Heaven* (1984).

👤 **Giuliano Carnimeo** (4 July 1932–10 September 2016). Director. Genre work was *The Exterminators of the Year 3000* (1983), *Rat Man* (1988), and *Computron 22* (1988).

👤 **Alexis Arquette** (28 July 1969–11 September 2016). Actress, artist, and activist. Genre work was *Alien Nation* (1989), *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1992), *Miracle Beach* (1992), *Grey Knight* (1993), *Jack Be Nimble* (1993), *Dead Weekend* (1995), *White Man's Burden* (1995), *Xena: Warrior Princess* (1995), *Sometimes They Come Back...Again* (1996), *Scream, Teen, Scream* (1996), *Children of the Corn V: Fields of Terror* (1998), and *Bride of Chucky* (1998).



👤 **Gavin Frost** (20 November 1930–11 September 2016). Occult author, physicist, mathematician, and engineer.

👤 **Kim McGuire** (1 December 1955–14 September 2016). Actress, author, and lawyer. Genre work was *On the Air* (1992) and *Zork: Nemesis* (1996).

👤 **Dennis Shryack** (25 August 1936–14 September 2016). Screenwriter. Genre work was *The Car* (1977) and *Murder by Phone* (1982).

👤 **Don Bass (Donald Hollis Welch)** (14 March 1946–16 September 2016). Professional wrestler.

👤 **Hagan Beggs** (19 March 1937–16 September 2016). Actor. Genre work was *Star Trek* (1966),³³ *The Six Million Dollar Man* (1974), *The Amazing Spider-Man* (1977), *The Changeling* (1980), *The Hitchhiker* (1983),³⁴ *Airwolf* (1987), *The Odyssey* (1992), *Cyberteens in Love* (1994), *Highlander: The Series* (1992), *Poltergeist: The Legacy* (1996), *Millennium* (1996), and *Seven Days* (1998).

👤 **Todd Kimsey** (6 June 1962–16 September 2016). Actor. Genre work was *Galactic Gigolo* (1987), *Sliders* (1995), *Wing Commander IV: The Price of Freedom* (1996), *The Tomorrow Man* (1996), *The Burning Zone* (1996), *Dead Inn* (1997), *Planet of the Apes* (2001), *Project Viper* (2002), *Deep Shock* (2003), *Attila* (2013), and *Miracorp* (2015).

👤 **WP Kinsella** (25 May 1935–16 September 2016). Writer. Genre work includes *Sholess Joe* (1982)³⁵ and *Butterfly Winter* (2011).

33 Episodes “The Menagerie: Part I” (17 November 1966), “The Menagerie: Part II” (24 November 1966), and “Court Martial” (2 February 1967).

34 AKA *Deadly Nightmares*.

35 Adapted into film *Field of Dreams* (1989).



🐉 **C. Martin Croker** (10 January 1962–17 September 2016). Animator and actor. Genre work was *Space Ghost Coast to Coast* (1994), *Cartoon Planet* (1995), *Brak Presents the Brak Show Starring Brak* (2000), *Aqua Teen Hunger Force* (2000), *The Brak Show* (2000), *Perfect Hair Forever* (2004), *Sunday Pants* (2005), *Assy McGee* (2006), *Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters* (2007), *Ugly Americans* (2010),

Major Lazer (2011), *Invasion of the Killer Cicadas* (2014), *Mastodon: Asleep in the Deep* (2015), and *The X Mas Files* (2016).

🐉 **David Kyle** (14 February 1919–18 September 2016). SF author and fan. Cofounder (with Martin Greenberg) of Gnome Press. Wrote *A Pictorial History of Science Fiction*, *The Illustrated Book of Science Fiction Ideas and Dreams*, *The Dragon Lensman*, *Lensman from Rigel*, and *Z-Lensman*. Original member of New York’s Futurians. Chair of 14th World Science Fiction Convention, NyCon II (1956). Frequent zine contributor.

🐉 **Curtis Hanson** (24 March 1945–20 September 2016). Screenwriter and director. Genre work was *The Dunwich Horror* (1970), *Evil Town* (1977), and *Greg the Bunny* (2002).

🐉 **Gian Luigi Rondi** (10 December 1921–22 September 2016). Screenwriter and director. Genre work was *Beauties of the Night* (1952)³⁶ and *The Man Who Wagged His Tail* (1957).³⁷

🐉 **Peter Collingwood** (6 May 1920–23 September 2016). Actor. Genre work was *Spring-Heeled Jack* (1950), *The Balloon and the Baron* (1960), *Morgan!* (1966),³⁸ *Phoenix Five* (1970), and *Crosstalk* (1982).

🐉 **Jeff Mackintosh** (22 January 1971–24 September 2016). Graphic artist and game designer. Work included *Big Eyes*, *Small Mouth* (1999), and *Silver Age Sentinels* (2002).

🐉 **Bill Nunn** (20 October 1953–24 September 2016). Actor. Genre work was *Touched by an Angel* (1994), *Millennium* (1996), *Early Edition* (1996), *Spider-Man* (2002), *Spider-Man 2* (2004), and *Spider-Man 3* (2007).

🐉 **Robert Weinberg** (29 August 1946–25 September 2016). SF, horror, and comics writer, and zine editor (*Pulp*).

🐉 **Herschell Gordon Lewis** (15 June 1926–26 September 2016). Filmmaker. “The Godfather of Gore.” Genre work was *Blood Feast* (1963), *Monster A-Go-Go* (1965), *Jimmy*, *The Boy Wonder* (1966), *Something Weird* (1967), *The Magic Land of Mother Goose* (1967), *A Taste of Blood* (1967), *How to Make a Doll* (1968), *The Psychic* (1968), *The Wizard of Gore* (1970), *The Shadow of Chikara* (1977), *Retardead* (2008), *HG Chicken and the Chronological Order* (2016), *Blood Feast* (2016), and *The Curse of the Spongeman* (2017).

36 AKA *Les Belles de Nuit*.

37 AKA *Un Angelo è Sceso a Brooklyn* (An Angel Fell in Brooklyn).

38 AKA *Morgan: A Suitable Case for Treatment*.

🦋 **Jef Billings** (1945–27 September 2016). Costume designer. Genre work was *I Dream of Jeannie...15 Years Later* (1985).

🦋 **Ann Emery** (12 March 1930–28 September 2016). Actress. Genre work was *Rentaghost* (1976) and *Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde* (1995).

🦋 **Gary Glasberg** (15 July 1966–28 September 2016). Screenwriter and producer. Genre work was *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* (1993), *Superhuman Samurai Syber-Squad* (1994), *Duckman: Private Dick/Family Man* (1994), *Viper* (1996), *Ghost Stories* (1997), and *Good vs. Evil* (1999).³⁹

Felicity Walker

Saturday 1 October 2016

Aurora Award Eligibility Lists and Nominations

The eligibility lists are open and ready for you to help us by adding works that were done in 2016 that you think people should nominate for the 2017 awards. These lists just contain works that are eligible to be nominated for this year's awards. Only the top five nominated works will be on this year's ballot.

Yes, this is a bit later than we had hoped for but we moved our website to a new provider and it caused us a few issues. As a CSFFA account holder you can add items to any of our categories by logging into your account and then go to: <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/aurora-awards/eligibility-lists/>.

At this point select the category you wish to add something to. Please make sure it has not already been added and make sure you are putting it into the correct category. If you see something that is in the wrong place or incorrect, please let us know right away. I will make those changes so do not add a new corrected item.

So, please help us make sure our eligibility lists are as complete as we can get then. Forward this to anyone who might want to add items to our lists.

Nominations will open on March 31st, 2017. You have until May 6th, 2017 at midnight EST to submit your choices. We will announce the finalists later in May. We hope to have the voter's package available to download shortly after that. This will depend on how quickly we are able to get items from authors and publishers.

To nominate you will need to purchase a 2017 CSFFA membership through our online form that is on your account page. Your account should automatically update after you have paid. If this does not happen contact us at once. Please do not pay a second time if Paypal says you have paid. Forward us your payment notice along with your name and the number for your account.

This year's awards will be handed out at Hal-Con in Halifax on Saturday, September 23rd. For information about Hal-Con go to: <http://hal-con.com/>.

Yours,

Clifford Samuels

Aurora Awards administrator

Website: www.prixaurorawards.ca

Email: admin@prixaurorawards.ca

Aurora Award Administrator

Tuesday 21 March 2017

39 AKA *G vs. E*.

Excess Resolutions for 2016, #4.6: Poetry—I Should Have Sent This Out Yesterday

Kathleen Moore

...or perhaps the day after tomorrow, but I was otherwise occupied at 8:15...

(August:) After the Next War

Who then will remember...

The weaving of tapestries

The playing of flutes and guitars

The writing of sonnets and limericks

The baking of cookies

The naming of stars?



This is not a new piece of mine—it first saw (limited) print about March of 1988, in a club zine I was editing, and its position in my “blank book” suggests it’s a few months older than that. The title has always been part of the poem.

Written under the conjoined influence of Madeleine L’Engle (“Walking on Water”), Alfred Bester (several stories in his *Stardust* anthology, including “Disappearing Act” and “Adam and No Eve”) and Ray Bradbury (“There Will Come Soft Rains” and “Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed,” from *The Martian Chronicles*).

And yes, this month’s message header was filked from Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark’s song “Enola Gay.”

—Kathleen

“I want to go back to the year 1945 again. I want to be in Hiroshima again. I want to go home.”—Closing lines of “Hobson’s Choice,” by Alfred Bester

Kathleen Moore

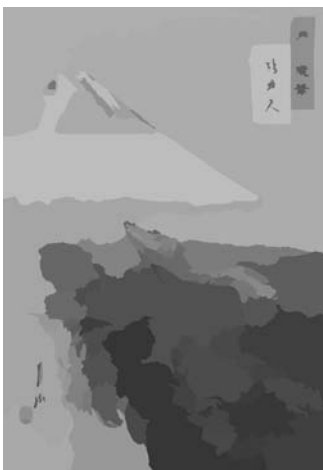
Sunday 7 August 2016

Review: ‘How to Train Your Dragon’

Michael Bertrand

I went to see *How to Train Your Dragon* yesterday, and it was...all right.

Oh, who am I kidding...I *loved* it! It was fresh, original, heartwarming, adorable, funny, and just plain fun from beginning to end. The characters are





lovable and engaging, the visuals are great, the creature designs are loads of fun (like hyper-realistic children's drawings), and it has a marvelous super happy ending. Score!

I'm very happy that I chose it as my "birthday movie." Usually, for my birthday celebration, I go to a movie then do dinner. Originally I was pondering *Iron Man 2* or *Shrek 4*, but I checked good old Metacritic, and the reviews for both of them were pretty meh, but the reviews for *How to Train Your Dragon* were much better, and I thought "Well, the reviews are good, and the plot sounds like something I'd love...what the heck!"

Best decision I've made lately.

The plot revolves around a lad named Hiccup who has the misfortune to be born small, skinny, and weak to a Viking father who is huge, thick, and strong. In fact, his father is the leader of their village on a hard-scrabble island where the Viking inhabitants are at constant war with the plagues of dragons who attack them, eat their sheep, and burn their houses down over and over again.

And these are not your ordinary dragons. They came up with some rather inventive creatures which might not seem like dragons to certain dragon purists, but what the heck, they have wings and scales and breathe...things. Close enough for me.

The only way for Hiccup to gain status in his village and redeem himself in the eyes of his disapproving father is to kill a dragon, which, being such a gracile example of humanity, he does by building a catapult that fires a weighted net.

And sure enough, he succeeds in downing the rarest and most dangerous kind of dragon, a powerful creature known as a Night Fury.

But when he goes to finish off the now wounded and terrified creature, he finds he cannot, and thus begins his transformation from would-be dragon killer to...well, I won't give away the rest of the plot.

But it's an epic tale of adventure, understanding, compassion, and craziness.

And I didn't even see it in 3D!

Go and see it, bring the kids, they will love it and love you for it.

But don't be surprised if they will want some rather odd-looking "dragon" toys after.

Michael Bertrand
The Million Word Year
Monday 24 May 2010



Art Credits

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <u>Felicity Walker</u> (font: <u>Yann Le Coroller</u>)..... | Masthead |
| <u>Brad Foster</u> | Cover |
| <u>Dave Haren</u> (photos)..... | Pages 1–7, 11–12 |
| <u>Teresa Spanics</u> (photos)..... | Pages 13–15 |
| <u>Denny E. Marshall</u> | Pages 16–17 |
| Clip art [<i>Space Ghost Coast to Coast</i> (1994) screenshot]..... | Page 18 |
| <u>JFY Daniel Gauthier</u> (font)..... | Page 20 (top) |
| Clip art (<u>Clker.com</u>)..... | Pages 20 (bottom), 21 |
| <u>José Sánchez</u> | Page 22 |

