



The Drink Tank



ISSUE THE SECOND

THOUGHTS AND STRANGENESSES
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
CHRISTOPHER J. GARCIA

So, I've made a second issue. Go figure. The first was an experiment, and I just thought that there was too much design when it could have been a lot simpler and even wordier. Go figure. This is the stripped-down version that I will regularly be running...until I realise exactly how much it sucks too!

The Current Viewing Season

I've been watching a lot of ABC TV of late. I grew up on all of ABC's classic shows of the 1970s and 80s. *Three's Company* and *Three's a Crowd* (starring Jeffrey Tambor, now on the fantastic show *Arrested Development*) as well as *Dynasty* and the like, and later still there was *The Drew Carrey Show* and *SportsNight*. I haven't watched ABC for ages and now they've just happened to pick up two great new shows (William Chatner's *Boston Legal* and *Lost*) and they brought *Alias* back to a strong level again, which makes me happy.

□ Fox is still strong. *Arrested Development* isn't at the level it was last season, but it's still a lot of fun. *The Simpsons* is great. This season has been bumpy, much like season 8, but I'm still highly amused (as is *The Little One*). *King of the Hill* has grown on me over the last few years, and *Malcolm* has plateaued at merely very good. I'm still not sure what they show on any night other than Sunday.

□ There is good science fiction on TV again. Channel 54 is showing *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* from 1981, which I'd never seen. *Red Dwarf* is back too. *Lost* qualifies, and if James Bond qualifies, so does *Alias*. I've got to say that the other show with elements of fantasy, *Veronica Mars*, has turned out to be far better than I expected.

The Festival Shapes Up

□ So, the first annual Silicon Valley Science Fiction Short Film Festival is a go at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA on October 8th, starting at 3. It'll be 20 or so shorts and hopefully a bunch of filmmakers will be there to chat up the audience. We've invited films from across the US, and a few International pieces too. It should be a good night, especially if the surprise guest I'm trying to land agrees.

□ If you've got a movie you'd like to have shown, or know someone who does, send me a mail (garcia@computerhistory.org) with details and I'll see what I can do about showing it.



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This Year in Chris

□ *So, this is a big year for ole Christopher J. Garcia. I'm the Toastmaster at BayCon, which is something I've wanted to do since my last stint around ConDom in the early 1990s. I'm performing the ceremony for my Poker Pals Donna and Mark's wedding, I'm in the Tournament of Champions Texas Hold-'em Tourney later this month, and I've got the big reading on February 12th in San Francisco. Big year for me, I know. All that is also on top of the shorts I'm planning on making (it's looking like 5 this year, including a dramatic SF weeper) and more than likely my feature, 5 Suicides. Honestly, this'll be the biggest year of my life, and it'll be hard to top, especially if I manage to do a good job at any of it.*

Standard Fandom Complaint

□ *Why is it that Media Fandom gets no respect? It's always bugged me that the section of fandom I hang out around is decidedly anti-Media fandom. Yeah, I know it conjures up images of San Diego Comic-Con, but there is a long tradition of Media Fandom that should become more integrated into mainstream con fandom.*

□ *Believe it or not, organised media fandom is older than literary fandom. 1926 featured the first Festival of the Fantastic, a film festival and discussion group that took place over a weekend in New York that had Welles as a Guest of Honour. There was even a table set-up to sell copies of films. Sounds like a con to me, and it ever drew more attendees than the first WorldCon!*

□ *Seriously, Film has become more and more accepted as Lit over the last three decades, but I'm waiting for fandom to realise that.*

□ *The other thing that this year promises is more traveling. I hate to fly, but I am certainly flying out to Philly for my second Philcon. I'll be headed to Roswell for the Film Festival there, and will also be going to the NASFiC in Seattle, NowWesCon in SeaTac, plus various cons up and down the West Coast. I'll be doing a few festivals, such as Sonoma Valley, and probably do a summer tour with The Chick Magnet. Should be a fun time, but I will be so very, very, well and truly broke.*

A Postage Stamp-Sized Story

The Simplistic Wizard

□ *He thought it and it was. Simple as that. He had unlimited wish, and grand imagination.*

□ *He'd think of a woman beyond all beauty serving him French fries at Wendy's and it would come to pass.*

□ *It was either magic or his own low standards.*



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MORE THOUGHTS AND STRANGENESSES
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Robot Boy Reviewed

- Student shorts can be a real drag. I've watched more than my share and quite often it is the combination of pretense and amateurism (not unlike this publication). I have to watch hundreds of them every year at various festivals and somehow I've even learned to love the bad ones on some level. The mountain of debris left behind while digging for gems doesn't bother me when I manage to find an amazing piece.*
- And Robot Boy is an amazing piece.*
- Robot Boy is the story of a pair of parents who decide to have a child, but to keep him in the proper order that they lead their lives, they add robot parts. The Robot Boy grows up, befriends a young girl named Molly, and the two of them build a rocket ship. That's the basic story, but the film is far more than that.*
- With a story like this, and likely with limited funds, director Ted Passon took the Expressionist route, with sets and props made of painted cardboard and duct tape. Never once did I question it when the rocket ship, made of cardboard and painted Tempura Yellow, began to take off. The moon in the sky is a cartoon moon. The low-tech feel comes across everywhere, including in the perfect set of brilliantly low-fi songs by Kimya Dawson and Adam Green. The acoustic guitar and vocals concept powers the film's emotional tone while still managing to play with the aesthetic.*
- This is a film of amazing depth and beauty. From the beautiful Cinematography of Johnathan Rosenberg to actress Molly McIntyre managing to pull off the 900 of acting, pure childhood innocence, the entire film is well beyond anything studios have released in the SF genre in years.*

Courage and Stupidity

Here's a winning formula: take real events that folks know slightly and make hilarious myth surrounding them. Courage and Stupidity does just that around the events of the filming of the original Jaws. The film is wickedly funny for anyone who knows how Hollywood works. There are producers meddling, Spielberg and Lucas reveling in the joy of their project, and an actor Kahil Dotay does the world's best Richard Dreyfus imitation. IT's a solid short that you can order on DVD from courageandstupidity.com.

The Adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle

Here's a winning formula: take real events that folks know slightly and make hilarious myth surrounding them. The Adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle does just that surrounding the events following Doyle's 'murder' of Sherlock Holmes. The writer's daughters are kidnapped and Doyle does his own detective-ing to find out who stole them. There's a lot of comedy here, but very little laugh out loud. The pay-off at the end is more than enough to make me smile and think that the whole thing was worth my time and effort.

