

The Drink Tank Issue 122



Handicapping The Hugos

I'd been planning on doing this issue for a while. As soon as the Hugo Noms got posted, I was going to go through and Handicap them all, give odds and so forth. I even started working on it based on solid assumptions and word of mouth. Somewhere along the way I was thrown a curveball: I ended up on the list of nominees.

Now, if you'd ask me what I thought my chances were of being nominated, I'd have said 10-1 for Best Fan Writer (with Dave Langford 1-3, Claire at 2/3, Steven Silver at 3-4, John Hertz at 2-1 and Guy Lillian also 2-1). If you'd asked about The Drink Tank, I'd have said 20-1 (with Plokta at Even money, Banana Wings at 4-3, File 770 6-5, Challenger also at 6-5 and Chunga at 2-1). You can see that I really didn't think I'd make the list. My two inclusions were hardly the only surprises this year. In fact, I'd say it was a little more shockworthy than usual. This issue will be all about my thoughts on who will win, why, and interesting little tidbits along the way. I've also employed my team of unwitting spies to bring me good info when I had none.

As for getting nominated, it's a huge honor. I can't think of something that's happened to me in my life that's been more unexpected and wonderful. I don't think this for egotism, but knowing that my name and the name of my zine will be on that list (and in that Wikipedia entry) for the rest of fandom's



lifetime is a great feeling. You can read the next SF/SF for a more detailed "Holy Mother of Ghod!" article on the subject.

I have so many people to thank that I'm just going to do first names and if it happens to belong to a couple of different people, it's meant for both of you! I do have to say a single shout-out to the man who made it all possible by having founded eFanzines.com. To Mr. Bill Burns, I salute! I also gotta give big ups to my Pops. I miss ya big guy and I'm sure you'd have had a good laugh the moment you found out about it. So, here's thanks to the best damn fannish

friends a guy could have-

Lloyd, Frank, John, Mike, Yvonne, Trey, Barbara, Kevin, Andy, Elisa, James, Mark, Claire, Guy, Evelyn, Genevieve, M, Jay, SaBean, Judith, Lisa, Ed, George, Vanessa, Leigh Ann, Niall, Greg, Steve, Jason, Dave, David, Don, Doug, Jean, Eva, Espana, Brian, Martin, Marty, Miles, Colin, Catherine, The Legendary Ted, Peter, Bill, Randy, Andy, Jeff, Sabre, Cruz, Kathryn, James, Eric, Erica, Howie, Kelly, Diana, Kristen, Karen, Alana, Myra, William, Shannon, Kiyoko, Gary, Dag, Judy, Neil, girl whose name I never remember, guy whose name I always forget, Arminder, Alex, Ken, Lance, Elliott, Wayne, Susie, Mom, Diana, Reyna, Earl, Harry, Hank, Don, Cullen, Ron, Scott, Kate, Sarah, Sara, Cera, Chris, Christopher, Christian, Charles, Chaz, Chuck, Charleen, Janice, Alisa, Melissa, Mel, Melinda, Dr. Tong, Nick, Norm, Noodleboy, Ric, Little Naitch, Ray, Bam Bam, Hulk, Derek, Marin, Ryan, Lon, Rosa, Peter, Pete, Pedro, Ricky, Brian, Evan, Rey, Eddie, Johnny, Bailey, Ben, Sprinkles, Justin, Jules, Lillian, Lila, Lily, Horace, Bobby, Bob, Robert, Rob, Geri, Spike, Tom, Hope, Art, Jack, Milt, Arnie, Joyce, Merric, Luba, Jaime, Teresa, Theresa, Sheila, Radio, Craige, Michael, Tom, Todd, Ted, Tim, Thelma, Jameson, Ghod, Elvis and the American Dream.

Comments?

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THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST FANZINE!!!



THE DRINK TANK (50 ISSUES IN 2006)

Editor- Christopher J. Garcia

Regular Contributors- M Lloyd, Sa-Bean MoreL, Frank Wu, Lloyd Penney, John Purcell

Type of Zine- eZine

Amount of Content from Chris

Garcia- A whole bunch, more than 100 articles over the space of the year.

What it's got going for it- Variety of contributors who rarely show up anywhere else, lots of art, Available to all on eFanzines.com.

What's Going Against it- Not a well-edited zine, few 'Big Name' regular contributors, no regular print version, smallish readership, frequency means that many issues get skipped, little coverage in other zines.

While it's so very nice to be nominated, there's almost no real chance for The Drink Tank to win the thing. The lower profile really makes it a long shot. The two things it has going for it are frequency (so theoretically folks who only stop in when they here about a particular issue might think that it's a better zine than it is) and the general out-there-ness of the folks involved. Still, I don't see it being a serious threat to winning, though I'm told that Japanese fandom could go any of a number of ways.

Odds- 15-to-1

CHALLENGER (TWO ISSUES)

Editor- The Great Guy Lillian III

Regular Contributors-

Type of Zine- eZine with Print Component

Amount of Content from Chris

Garcia- I think I had an LoC in one issue, though I had a short article in a 2005 issue.

What it's got going for it- Top-notch writing and layout. Strong presence around fandom. Large readership. Available on-line. Long-running with many nominations.

What's Going Against it- It's never managed to win. Not from the UK.

Mostly web-based zines haven't won since Emerald City in 2004.

I really like Challenger. I've been a fan since I came back to fandom and one of my earliest articles in any fanzine was in Challenger. Even with all that quality, I'm still not sure if it can win. There's some buzz, but not nearly as much as for the top three.

Odds- 6-to-1

BANANA WINGS (FOUR ISSUES)

Editors- The incomparable Claire Brialey and Meganaut Mark Plummer

Regular Contributors- Max, James Bacon, Greg Pickersgill, ATom,

Type of Zine- PrintZine

Amount of Content from Chris

Garcia- I think I had two LoCs in 2006 issues and an article coming up in 2007.

What it's got going for it- It's an English fanzine. It's got the highest quality writing of any nominated zine. It's brilliantly laid-out and print only gains respect these days. Mark and Claire are highly thought-of.

What's Going Against it- Not on-line, which is a big deal this year with required exposure to Japanese voters.

There's only one reason why Banana Wings probably won't win: the on-line matter. My guess is that the majority of Japanese voters (and let's remember that LACon members aren't eligible unless they join Nippon 07) will be looking on-line for info on the various nominated zines, and since Banana Wings isn't on-line yet, it's probably not going to get the votes from the Japanese that would be required for victory, which is a shame as it's the best written zine in the world right now (with the possible exception of eI). The fact that it's a British zine adds a little cache.

Odds- 3-to-1

SCIENCE FICTION FIVE YEARLY (ONE ISSUE)

Editors- Geri Sullivan and Randy Byers

Regular Contributors- Harlan Ellison, Rich Coad, Robert Silverberg, Steve Stiles, Lee Hoffman (founder)

Type of Zine- PrintZine with PDF on eFanzines.com

Amount of Content from Chris

Garcia- Absolutely none!

What it's got going for it- Long-standing quality zine which has become very legendary. The recent loss of Lee Hoffman led to more visibility. This is the last issue

What's Going Against it- Not an Eng-



lish zine.

I'd love it if SFFY took home this Hugo, but I don't think this is the year, sadly. Yeah, it's a legend and the issue was great, and I think it'll be close, but not quite.

Odds- 2-to-1

PLOKTA (TWO ISSUES)

Editors- All-powerful Alison Scott, Sensational Steve Davies, and Superman Mike Scott

Regular Contributors- Sue Mason, Flick, Max, Guilia de Caeser, Abi Brown

Type of Zine- PrintZine with PDF available on plokta.com

Amount of Content from Chris

Garcia- Article about faking being at WorldCon 2005. It's one of the more fun things I wrote in 2006 and it's got

a good photo thingee with it.

What it's got going for it- Won the last two Hugos for Best Fanzine. Well-written English zine. Excellent lay-out and art. Great web-presence. Well-respected group of contributors. Lots of colour.

What's Going Against it- Some splashback from two consecutive wins.

I like Plokta a lot, and I'm not just saying that because they used one of my articles. It's a very pretty fanzine with some really good writing and a good bit of fun. I'm told that's the Cabal boiled down to syrup as well. I'm a fan and I think it'll take it for the name recognition, the fact that it does have a serious website and the general quality. It's also got the whole English thing going for it, which is always a good thing despite Brits who seem to think that Americans won't vote for UK zines, my thought is that BritZines get far more respect than many US zines.

Odds- Even Money.

This category is solid, even with the inclusion of The Drink Tank. I'm proud to be in this great company. There were several zines that I'd have loved to have seen up there (Prolapse, eI, Pixel, Chunga, File 770) but you can't have it all. Plokta wins.

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST FAN ARTIST

TEDDY HARVIA

What he's got going for him- A lot of great History. A fun style that's easy recognised.

What he's got going against him- not much production that I've seen this year in current zines.

Art Provided for Christopher J. Garcia's zines- None.

Teddy's a legend and will probably be getting the Rotsler any day now and he's got a few Hugos already. I don't see him winning this year because he hasn't had a lot of new work showing up in zines (most of the stuff I see is older) but he's still quite popular. I'm saying Fan Artist will be a tight race this year.

Odds- 8-to-1

SUE MASON

What she's got going for her- Former two-time winner in this category. Frequent appearances in well-respected zines like PLOKTA. Being a member of the Cabal.

What she's got going against her- not much production for many US zines.

Art Provided for Christopher J. Garcia's zines- None.



Sue Mason beat Frank Wu twice for this award, once in Toronto and once in the UK. She's a helluva fun artist and her stuff is showcased beautifully in PLOKTA, which is probably the best zine to be seen in right now. Still, I'm thinking that a few things will keep her from winning, most notably the fact that we don't see a lot of her stuff in American zines.

Odds- 5-to-1

STEVE STILES

What he's got going for him- A lot of great History. Many consider him the greatest living fan artist. Cartoon style that's immediately recognised. Has never won the award. Is supported by various other fan artists. Appears in many top-flight zines and in Progress reports and so on.

What he's got going against him- Timing. Not as out with the people as many of the nominees. Perhaps a slight drop in the number of cartoons he's provided recently.

Art Provided for Christopher J. Garcia's zines- None, though he offered and I dropped the ball.

Steve should win one of these someday. There are a lot of folks that would love to see him do it, but mainstream fandom doesn't seem to notice him as much as the other four. Still, he's done very well with Fanzine Fans who tend to support him over anyone else (see his wins in the FAAn Awards) and he'll get close again, but I don't think this'll be the year he wins.

Odds- 4-to-1

BRAD FOSTER

What he's got going for him- A lot of great History. He's a multi-winner of the award. He's been putting out as much great art as he ever has. Recently started experimenting with using Photoshop for colouring his pieces and has produced some remarkable covers for The Drink Tank, Askance, Feline Mewsings and more.

What he's got going against him- I really can't think of anything.

Art Provided for Christopher J. Garcia's zines- He did Chris for TAFF art, pieces in issue 100 and The Second Annual Giant-Sized Annual.

This year it's a pitched battle between two giants. Brad Foster started doing those Photoshop colored pieces for zines like Pixel and has just blown up since. He's done art for so many people over the years and now he's put forward new and exciting stuff that just keeps getting better. I'd love to see Brad win, and I'm betting he will come very very close. He's got a couple of these awards (as do all the nominees except for Steve Stiles) and this could be the year when he wins it all again.

Odds- 4-to-3

FRANK WU

What he's got going for him- A lot of art show appearances. Art in lots of zines around the world. A strong pres-

ence as a writer for zines as well. More friends than anyone else I know. A genuinely nice guy.

What he's got going against him- There was a fuss raised when he won his first Hugo in 2004. Not so much last year.

Art Provided for Christopher J. Garcia's zines- Are you kidding me? This guy's been my rock. Without Frank, there'd be no Drink Tank. Also did Chris for TAFF art.

This is a hard one as Frank's one of my favourite people. He's got some detractors, but I love his stuff and so does a large swatch of fandom. His work has been in art shows at cons and in the pages of many many zines, including In A Prior Lifetime, The Drink Tank, Challenger, and more. He broke out and started a cartoon series called Guidolon that's a lot of fun (and not just because I'm the main character's voice) and he's been a favourite figure around cons all over the place. Still, I'm thinking this is a tough year with Brad changing his game so strongly.

Odds- 4-to-3

This whole category is tough, and there are a few folks who weren't nominated who'd have made excellent additions. There's Dan Steffan, who



won this year's FAAn Award for Best Fan Artist. I had him on my ballot (and I always do, since he's my fave fan artist in the world) and he's well-past due for a nom and a win in my eyes. Craig Smith is at that level too. And Taral Wayne. I'd love to see those guys get noms, and I think it'll happen. I'm betting Harvia drops off the ballot next year, and I'm putting Taral and Kurt Erichsen at the top of the list as likely to replace him. Or maybe Marc Schermeister.

What was very surprising about the nominees over-all had to be the absence of a single Japanese nominee. Japan has a bunch of Fan Artists (and Fan Writers and Fanzines, many of which were displayed at CascadiaCon) and it would have been nice to see one or more of them nominated.

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST FAN WRITER

CHRISTOPHER J. GARCIA

Where you can read his stuff- Well, you're lookin' at it, plus Pixel, Some Fantastic, Johnnyeponymous on LJ, various other articles, LoCs in Banana Wings, File 770 and VFW. Had an article in PLOKTA last year.

What he's got going for him- Writes a lot. Also has a fanzine nominated. Does some OK comedy.

What he's got going against him- Writing's not exactly the strongest you'll ever read. Topics range far outside of fannish interest quite often.

Writing Provided for Christopher J. Garcia's zines- Just a few things...

I've got no chance, and that's OK. I'm just hoping I beat out No Award for fifth place. The thing here is I'm not sure what I've been nominated for, whether it's the stuff that shows up in The Drink Tank or the stuff that I do elsewhere. Either way, it ain't gonna be me who takes home that rocket.

Odds- 20-to-1

JOHN HERTZ

Where you can read his stuff- He's had stuff in recent File 770s and does a regular zine for APA-L called Vandemonium. He's also seen in programme



books and various other places.

What he's got going for him- Good stuff in widely-read zines. Well-known around fandom and the subject of the HANA fund to send him to Japan.

What he's got going against him- Not involved in eLists.

Writing Provided for Christopher J. Garcia's zines- Oddly, none.

John was nominated last year

and with good reason. He's a darn good writer. I don't think he has enough penetration to win the thing, but he'll do OK. While I'll be beaten by No Award, he'll take over fourth place with a solid.

Odds- 10-to-1

STEVEN H. SILVER

Where you can read his stuff- He's had stuff in various zines like The Drink Tank, Some Fantastic and others, and he also does Argentus.

What he's got going for him- Writes a lot and is very high profile. Has a Best Related Book nomination this year as well.

What he's got going against him- Well, there's not much. Maybe not the most widely known name on the ballot.

Writing Provided for Christopher J. Garcia's zines- He had a piece in the This Were WorldCon issue.

Steven needs to win one of these someday. He's been putting out good stuff for a while now and it would be nice to see it recognised. He's got a good chance for Best Fanzine someday too (Argentus is a fine zine as well).

Odds- 5-to-1



DAVE LANGFORD

Where you can read his stuff- Mostly it's in Ansible, but he has a few things pop up every year in various zines. I rather enjoyed his recent article alongside Niall Harrison's brilliant piece in Zoo Nation. It's really not fair to put the real Dave Langford next to the next Dave Langford.

What he's got going for him- Writes Ansible, which is one of the few zines that enjoys a Mainstream Fannish Redership. Long tradition of winning

these things. His logner works, when they appear, tend to be really really good.

What he's got going against him-

There's been an 'Enough Already' backlash for a few years, but he keeps on winning. Not as prolific as many others on this list.

Writing Provided for Christopher J.

Garcia's zines- Sadly, none, though I've asked him for a piece.

Not picking Dave as the favourite feels odd, but looking at the noms, it just makes sense. He's a legend, he's in Cooperstown already, but there's still a lot of life left in Dave (even if Fluff Cthulhu has eaten his brain in that photo).

Odds- 2-to-1

JOHN SCALZI

Where you can read his stuff-His blog is the site for most of his fanwriting as I understand it. He's also got books out.

What he's got going for him- Big name as a writer (he won the Campbell last year) and very popular over-all. He does a darn entertaining blog.

What he's got going against him- He's a pro and that rubs some fans the wrong way. Winning the Campbell before being nominated for Best Fan Writer is kinda different.

Writing Provided for Christopher J.

Garcia's zines- None, but I've asked.

John's taking it home this year. He's gonna be the one that breaks the Langford streak. There were others who were believed to be The One (Cheryl Morgan, Evelyn Leeper, Andy Hooper, Claire Brialey) but Joe's gonna do it based on name rec and blog-power. Not that he doesn't deserve it, but I'm still kinda on the fence about the whole Pros getting nominated for Fan Writer. Still, he'll make a good and historic winner and I'm betting that he's the one for us.

Odds- Even Money

The interesting thing about this list is who's not on it. There's no Guy Lillian (he's been off the list for a couple of years, but he really deserves to be on it) and there's no Andy Hooper or Randy Byers, both of whom have put out some spectacular stuff this year. I was also surprised that Joe Scalzi got the nomination over Jay Lake, who is also a blogging heavyweight.

The big deletion has to be Claire Brialey. She's so damn good and to not have her on the list just doesn't feel right. She should be the one who takes over in the coming years as the most frequent winner. Instead, she'll have to accept the FAAn Awards like she should every year!

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST SEMI-PRO

LADY CHURCHILL'S ROSEBUD WRISTLET

Editor- Gavin Grant and Kelly Link

What it's got going for it- Good material and a long run. Beat Locus back in the 1990s. A very strong contributors list. Kelly Link is a big deal (and was robbed for Magic for Beginners!) Recent cover features a sleeperhold!

What's Going Against it- It's not Locus. It's got a smallish circulation. Hasn't become a name among a large swath of fandom.

The biggest thing about this is that it got nominated. I'm sure it won't be the last time it's on the ballot. Sadly, I don't see it winning in a race with a behemoth and a half like the top two.

Odds- 20-to-1

INTERZONE

Editor- Andy Cox

What it's got going for it- Good material and a long run. Beat Locus back in the 1990s. A very strong contributors list. Home to a regular Dave Langford column.

What's Going Against it- It's not Locus. Doesn't get nearly the penetration into the US that it deserves.



In a different year, I'd say that Interzone would have a very good chance. This year, with the strange way the voting went (who expected no Japanese nominees?), I'm sadly certain that Interzone will be a fairly long contestant. Still, it'll do OK and for any zine that's been around 25 years, you're bound to have some long-time adherent.

Odds- 15-to-1

NEW YORK REVIEW OF SCIENCE FICTION

Editor- Kathryn Cramer, David G. Hartwell, & Kevin J. Maroney

What it's got going for it- Great commentary on the world of SF. excellent contributors list. Well-designed. Fifteen years old and still going strong.

What's Going Against it- It's not Locus, nor is it Ansible.

The New York Review of Science Fiction is a powerful zine that deserves a lot of respect, and it gets it. I suspect that when Locus' run of winning every year ends for good (not jsut for a one-off win as there have been over the last couple of decades) I'm pretty sure that NYRSF will be the one that takes over. Dave Hartwell deserves a lot of praise because of the work he does on the zine.

Odds- 8-to-1

ANSIBLE

Editor- Dave Langford

What it's got going for it- Beloved material and a long run. Beat Locus back in 2005. Any association with Dave Langford makes you an automat-

ic contender. One of the very few zines Mainstream fandom loves.

What's Going Against it- It's not Locus. The Langfordian backlash.

I read Ansible just about every month. That's more than I can say about most of the nominees (though I'm starting a subscription to Lady Churchill's) and I'm never disappointed. It's not really my thing, but it's very well done. This is another fanzine that's gone from winning Best Fanzine

to winning Best Semi-Pro.

Odds- 2-to-1

LOCUS

Editor- Charles N. Brown, Kirsten Gong-Wong, & Liza Groen Trombi

What it's got going for it- Long history of winning this award. Beloved by many, especially those working in the SF industry. Great contributors. The Gold Standard when it comes to SFcov-

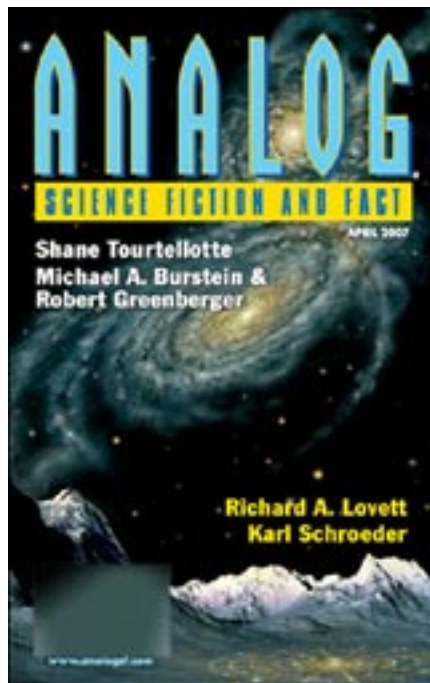
erage.

What's Going Against it- There's some backlash against a zine that always wins. Not as much influence anywhere outside the US and Canada.

I'm firmly of the opinion that Locus will keep winning until they fold. It's not my thing, but I'm seldom disappointed when I take a look at it.

Odds- Even Money

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST EDITOR: SHORT FORM



STANLEY SCHMIDT

Editor- Analog

What he's got going for him- Long-serving editor of one of the Big Three. Respected as both writer and editor. Had a better year than the last couple.

What he's got going against him- Hasn't won in a long line of nominations. Analog's not nearly what it used to be.

I'm torn between saying that Stanley, who I've always liked, will never again regain the top of the pyramid and saying that he's on the way back up again. Analog seemed to have lost its way a few years back. I'd love to see him beat predictions

Odds- 15-to-1

GARDNER DOZOIS

Editor- Year's Best SF

What he's got going for him- Long-standing editor and writer. Has a few of these Hugo things littering his home.

What he's got going against him- No longer editing Asimov's. Year's Best SF not nearly the showcase title it was a while back.

I'd love to see Gardner get back up and running as a contender, but I don't think it'll happen any time soon. Yeah, Year's Best is a great title, but it's lost a little lustre. I'm saying the shot is very long.

Odds- 10-to-1

DAVID HARTWELL

Editor- Year's Best SF and The New York Review of Science Fiction

What he's got going for him- Won the Best Editor Hugo last year. Well-liked and a respected. Solid year.

What he's got going against him- Tougher year in the category.

I'd almost feel bad about putting David in this spot if I didn't think that he'd be dominating it sooner or later. He's got it written all over him. This is a tough year and I'm betting that he'll move down the ladder a bit only to rise back up to the top.

Odds- 5-to-1

GORDON VAN GELDER

Editor- The Magazine of Science Fiction & Fantasy

What he's got going for him- Long-standing and top-quality editor of F&SF. Does some of the best rejection letters in the world.

What he's got going against him- Tough year.

I think that Gordon needs one of these Hugo thingees someday, but I'm not seeing it anytime soon. He's done a helluva job over at F&SF and I've really liked what he's done. I think he'll come very close, but not quite make it. I know a lot of people are talking about him winning, but not this year.

Odds- 3-to-1

SHEILA WILLIAMS

Editor- Asimov's

What she's got going for her- Well-liked and hugely respected. Long overlooked by voters. Had a great year this year.

What she's got going against her- Tougher year in the category.

I think she'll win and there's a lot of buzz around that happening. While I don't read as many ProMags as I should, I liked what she put out this year that I read.

Odds- 2-to-1

And where's Mike Resnick?

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST EDITOR: LONG FORM

Since I don't know enough about each individual editor to do a full person-by-person account, I'll go strictly off of what I've been hearing people say over the last few weeks and what I personally know. I really wish there were a comprehensive resource where I could get the info on who edited what and when. I found one, but I couldn't figure out what was what by the way that the information was presented.

Anyhoo, the battle would seem to be between two people: Patrick Neilsen-

Hayden and David Hartwell. Hartwell won the Best Editor last year and is the only one on both the Long and Short Form ballots. Patrick's been on the ballot a lot and has a strong following.

That's not to say this is a simple two horse race. There's a lot of sentiment for Jim Baen, who recently passed away. There's a precedent for a dead winner set a few years back so it's not unthinkable.

Lou Anders is a guy I know little

about, but in none of the gossip mills has anyone been talking about him winning, so I'm thinking that he's a long shot.

Ginjer Buchanan. I like Ginjer. I met her a few years ago and she was really nice. Sadly, I'm not thinking she has enough pull to take this one.

Of all the houses listed, Tor is the powerhouse. It's gotta be either Patrick or David, unless sentiment takes over and it's Jim. I'm calling David in a very close vote.

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: SHORT FORM

STARGATE SG-1 200

What it's got going for it- a strong fan following. Good acting. the only episode of SG-1 that I've watched all the way through without having to go to the bathroom.

What's going against it- It ain't Dr. Who. I haven't looked at the ratings lately, but I believe it's the lowest rated of the shows nominated.

It's a really good episode and one of the few that I've seen. I'm not a big SG-1 fan, but had I started with this ep, I think I would have ended up as one. It's a comedy concept that deals with everything that I love.

Odds- 15-to-1

DR. WHO- ARMY OF GHOSTS AND DOOMSDAY

What it's got going for it- It's Dr. Who. The story is an important one as it writes out a major character. David Tennant is awesome.

What's going against it- There is such a thing as vote-splitting, but it rarely happens. Both the other eps nominated from Who are better. No Sarah Jane Smith or K-9 in this pair. The story's



not nearly as good as the best of the Who nominees.

I love David Tennant and his version of The Doctor. I'm saying that this'll come last of the three. I like this storyline, but it's not nearly as good as the other two that are up.

Odds- 10-to-1

DR. WHO- SCHOOL REUNION

What it's got going for it- It's Dr. Who. The story is an important one as it brings back two major characters. David Tennant is awesome.

What's going against it- There is such a thing as vote-splitting, but it rarely happens. While old-timer Whovians love this one, youngsters might not get it entirely. Do try the chips...

Yeah, this one is my personal fave for the season. I love K9 and Sarah Jane and I can't wait for the Sarah Jane Adventures. It should be a very fun little series.

Odds- 5-to-1

BATTLESTAR GALLACTICA DOWN-LOADED

What it's got going for it- It's the refreshing alternative to Dr. Who. Great cast. Strong fanbase.

What's going against it- It's not Dr. Who.

I didn't get to see it all (I still have troubles accepting a Battlestar Gallactica without Dirk Benedict and Lorne Greene) but I've heard folks raving about it.

Odds- 3-to-1

DR. WHO- GIRL IN THE FIRE-PLACE

What it's got going for it- It's Dr.

Who. The story is awesome and it's got Sophie Myles in it! Easily the Whovians favourite episode of the season. David Tennant is awesome.

What's going against it- There is such a thing as vote-splitting, but it rarely

happens.

This is the big one and I'm fairly certain that it'll be the big winner.

Odds- 2-to-1

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: LONG FORM

CHILDREN OF MEN

What it's got going for it- A really good movie by a director whose got a name that's growing every year. One of the best action sequences in years. A wonderful cast. A very thinking man's film.

What's going against it- It's the smallest film on this list as for number of people who've seen it and I'm not sure it's on DVD yet.

Clive Owen is a Ghod and probably should have been James Bond. Naw, Danny Craig is too damn good. The film's not one that I'd normally think of for the Hugo nomination, but it's great to see it up there. Still, I don't think it's gonna win

Odds- 15-to-1

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN- DEAD MAN'S CHEST

What it's got going for it- A very popular franchise. Lots of folks saw



it. Great effects (won an Oscar), and Johnny Depp is always entertaining. Has been released on DVD.

What's going against it- It ain't Curse

of the Black Pearl and no one was as good in the second as they were in the first. Some people might not enjoy Hamster-inspired fight scenes.

I know I'm in the minority who thinks that Dead Man's Chest was almost as good as the first film, but it was so much fun. I'm amazed that they've managed to do two films at this quality level without watering either down when it came to production values (and it's fair to say that the Prod-Val on the second film might have been higher than on the first!). Still, I think there are enough people who didn't enjoy it as much as I did who won't vote for it

Odds- 10-to-1

A SCANNER DARKLY

What it's got going for it- A Phillip K. Dick story made into a very experimental movie by an awesome director. Fans believe that it was unfairly over-looked. Another thinking man's science fiction

story. Has been released on DVD.

What's going against it- It's a small film in terms of release. Some say that it was too much like the story it was based on. Some didn't like the animation.

It's a good movie, no doubt, and if it had done better in theatres, I'd say it'd win, but it didn't make that leap. It did do well in Japan, though. The reaction of fans when it wasn't nominated for the Best Animated Oscar tells me quite a bit.

Odds- 8-to-1

THE PRESTIGE

What it's got going for it- Great acting in a strong script directed by

a strong director. A film for thinking people with enough eye candy for all. Based off a Christopher Priest book Available on DVD. David Bowie playing Tesla. 'nuff said.

What's going against it- As SF, it's a bit thin.

Another really solid film that got nominated. I'd say it was at least as good as anything I saw last year and the way it relates to the wrestling wars of the 1980s is remarkable (And I promise I'll write that article soon).

Odds- 4-to-1

V FOR VENDETTA

What it's got going for it- A great adaptation of a great graphic novel. A truly remarkable performance from

Hugo Weaving. great cinematography and a beautiful score. Big release and well-received for the most part.

What's going against it- Not liked at all by Alan Moore and some fans complained it was too different from the comic.

There's a lot to be said about V for Vendetta. The changes made it play better in the US in 2006 and I thought it was just about perfect the way it went down. I think that the performance of Hugo Weaving separates it from every other film in the category this year.

Odds- 2-to-1

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

Again. I don't know enough about the pro artists to do a full thing, but here's what I think I know and what I've heard.

The last couple of years have been very interesting in this category, with the first and most notable thing being that Michael Whelan is missing. That could be because he turned down the nomination because he was a guest of the con or he could have missed the cut (and that's happened before).

The folks who are up are a great bunch. John Jude Palencar is a great artist and I think he has a chance. John Picacio I'm not nearly as familiar with, but I hear that he's well-worth a nomination, though no one seems to think he'll win. Stephan Martinière is a personal fave, though less for his book covers and more for the fact that he's an excellent production designer in animation. Bob Eggleton is a legend and is always worth nominating and

putting high on your final voting ballot. Donato Giancola is another guy who is just fantastic and this can be shown through the fact that he's amassed a load of Chesleys and a Hugo that he won last year.

I'm torn. I'm thinking that it's either a long-time winner like Eggleton or Donato repeating. There's really no bad choice here and I'm hoping that Donato wins again because he's done some great stuff! About Writing: Seven

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST RELATED BOOK

ABOUT WRITING: SEVEN ESSAYS, FOUR LETTERS AND FIVE INTER- VIEWS BY SAMUEL DELANY

What it's got going for it- A good look into writing. The Delaney...I mean Dalaney...I mean Chip's name.

What's going against it- Not as widely read as you think. Never featured on NPR.

I'm surprised this made the ballot. I haven't read all of it, but what I read was OK. I like Delany's stuff, but this was a little too 'writers write' for me.

Odds- 20-to-1

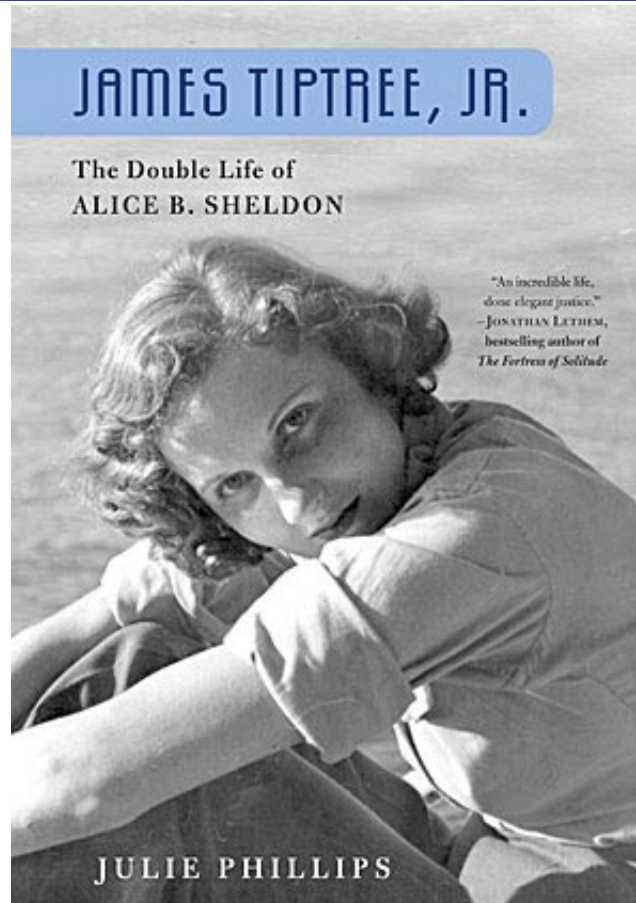
COVER STORY: THE ART OF JOHN PICACIO

What it's got going for it- An art book from a nominee for Best Professional Artist Hugo. Art books have done well in the past.

What's going against it- Not featured on NPR. Picacio isn't going to win Pro Artist, most likely. It's a good book but it hardly made a blip compared to the big ones on the list.

Odds- 12-to-1

WORLDOON GUEST OF HONOR



SPEECHES

What it's got going for it- It's about WorldCon and it's a darn good read. Edited by very popular folks (Steve Silver and Joe Siclari).

What's going against it- Not featured on NPR. Well, not everyone's as into FanHistory as I am. The book doesn't

get everyone, but it does get most of the big speeches that we'd otherwise never get to hear.

I reviewed this for Some Fantastic and I thought it was really good. Yeah, not quite perfect, but really enjoyable. Silver and Siclari are enough to get it plenty of votes.

Odds- 5-to-1

HEINLEIN'S CHILDREN: THE JU- VENILES BY JOE MAJOR

What it's got going for it- A very good book by a very popular fan writer. Lots of press in various places. There are a lot of Heinlein nuts who will vote for it just because of the association.

What's going against it- Not featured on NPR. Some people have started to tune out all things Heinlein do to the massive push he's gotten recently.

I liked it. I think Joe did a great job and in another year, it'd win the whole thing. As it stands, it's running in a tight race for second.

Odds- 4-to-1

JAMES TIPTREE JR.: THE DOU- BLE LIFE OF ALICE B. SHELDON

What it's got going for it- It was

featured on more than one NPR programme. A thorough and engaging biography. The subject is a legend in the SF field.

What's going against it- Over-exposure?

There's an 800 pound Gorilla in this category and this is it. I don't think anyone expects anything other than the Tiptree bio to win the award. The NPR programmes it was on, Fresh Air, Forum and I think City Arts and

Lectures, pushed it as one of the best bios of the last year. I'd certainly agree, as I found the style to be remarkable. Well worth reading and voting for.

Odds- Even Money

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST SHORT STORY

KIN BY BRUCE MCALLISTER

What it's got going for it- I didn't read it until today. Interesting writing from an interesting writer.

What's going against it- Not bad, but I know I've read considerably better stuff in Strange Horizons and F&SF, not to mention various anthologies.

Sheila Williams' chances look very good when you think that she's responsible for 3 of the 5 in this category. This is the weakest of them and I don't expect it to do terribly well. Not that it's a bad story, but it's not on the level of the tops in this one.

Odds- 20-to-1

EIGHT EPISODES BY ROBERT REED

What it's got going for it- I didn't read it until today. Well-written stuff from a well-liked author who's been nominated a number of times.

What's going against it- Not the best thing Reed's done in the last few years. Has never won a Hugo. Name recognition isn't as high as the top three.



Sheila Williams' picked well again, but it's also not the type of story that I'd pick to win awards. I'm afraid this one'll lose too.

Odds- 20-to-1

IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS BY TIME PRATT

What it's got going for it- I didn't read it until today. Very good stuff. Pratt's a very popular writer and this is some of his best stuff in a while.

What's going against it- Good, but not great, name value.

Solid, borderline spectacular.

Odds- 5-to-1

THE HOUSE BEYOND YOUR SKY BY BENJAMIN ROSENBAUM

What it's got going for it- Didn't win for one of the best stories of the last decade two years ago and the crowd may give him sympathy votes. A really good story on its own too. I would say Ben is number three on my list of fave shorter length writers.

What's going against it- He's a bit odd...

Strange Horizons put out good stuff this year and this would be my fave too. I'm thinking that name value coupled with very high quality prose will put him in second.

Odds- 3-to-1

HOW TO TALK TO GIRLS AT PARTIES

What it's got going for it- It's by Neil freakin' Gaimen, that's what! Also a funny story and it's got the most presense of any of the pieces nomi-

nated and I'd go so far as to say that it's actually a great story. I love the concept of the story (guys, a party, girls...or are they?)

What's going against it- Well, personally I've never been a big Gaimen fan (I

know...I know.)

Well, YOU can't say that Neil didn't out-perform my expectations on this one. He did another book of short stories and this original piece just made me very happy, even if the rest of

the anthology left me a little flat. I will say that it deserves to be nominated and even win. It's so good, it made me forget I really don't like reading Neil Gaimen!

Odds- 5-to-3

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST NOVELETTE

ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE BY MIKE RESNICK

What it's got going for it- A typically good Mike Resnick story. Mike's a very popular writer (and editor). There may be some sentiment for anything that appeared in Jim Baen's Universe.

What's going against it- Not the best Resnick in recent memory. It feels a little dated in my eyes.

It's a tight category with none of them being super-heavy faves. I think Mike'll get lost in the sea of good work.

Odds- 10-to-1

DAWN, AND SUNSET, AND THE COLOURS OF THE EARTH BY MICHAEL FLYNN

What it's got going for it- A popular author does a good story.

What's going against it- Tough category this year.

It's a tight category. I'm thinking that Flynn will be close to the pack instead of the top.

Odds- 8-to-1



YELLOW CARD MAN BY PAOLO BACIGALUPI

What it's got going for it- I didn't read it, though at least two Brit friends

of mine rave about it. I have enjoyed Paolo's stuff before.

What's going against it- Tough category this year. Not as big a name as some.

I can't say that it was good stuff from personal observation, but everyone I've talked to who is into short stuff liked it a lot. I'm going to get it, but I just ran out of reading time (and nearly fell asleep while reading one or two other pieces)

Odds- 7-to-1

THE DJINN'S WIFE BY IAN MC- DONALD

What it's got going for it- Ian's a big star writer and this is one of his better pieces of late. The last line "It is as the old Urdu poets declare," says A.J. Rao. "Paradise is indeed contained within a wall." is without question one of the best of the last few years.

What's going against it- Tough category this year. Bigger with Brits than other countrymen.

It's the kind of story I enjoy and

it's probably the best thing I've read at this length from McDonald. It's an awesome read and I'm hoping that others will go to the web and read it because it deserves to strongly contend in this crowded field.

Odds- 5-to-1

POL POT'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER BY GEOFF RYMAN

What it's got going for it- A marve-

lous and powerful story. Ryman is an up-and-comer.

What's going against it- Appearing in F&SF might hold it back. Some might be turned away by the way the narrator works throughout the piece.

This one may not be as much on the RADAR as the McDonald, but it's so damn good. Part ghost story (which has a touch of the Winchester Mystery House story to it) and part love story...sort of. I really like the tech-

niques that he used and I'm hoping that I see more Ryman soon. I have to say that I'd pick this over any of the others on the list, but I could see the appeal of the McDonlad piece over this one for those who have a more traditional view of things. I'm hoping that this wins, but it'll be close no matter who wins.

Odds- 4-to-1

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST NOVELA

A BILLION EYES BY ROBERT REED

What it's got going for it- I read this on BART while going up to San Francisco and thought it would make a good nomination. It combines Mormonist theory with environmentalist thinking with Universe hopping!

What's going against it- Sadly, I don't think it holds up against the rest in the category. Reed's been accused of not using slick writing (which probably explains why he's in Asimov's a lot).

Reed gets another Nom and it's a worthy piece, though not the strongest in the set. I like the concepts, I like the presentation, and I liked the way he wrote it, though some have criticized his lack of panache.

Odds- 12-to-1



THE WALLS OF THE UNIVERSE BY PAUL MELKO

What it's got going for it- It's a playful, Universe-hopping story!

What's going against it- I could see someone hating the way Melko wrote the piece.

This is another Universe hopping story and a Nebula nominee as well. It's a lot lighter and more fun than Reed's, but it's also very good. I liked this a lot better the second time I read it and when I reread it this morning, I was even happier.

Odds- 10-to-1

INCLINATION BY WILLIAM SHUNN

What it's got going for it- A really good, twisted, philosophical story. It

reads like William Gibson's good stuff mixed with Arthur C. Clarke's great stuff and T.C. Boyle's average stuff.

What's going against it- That last part of that author cocktail could turn people off. Not the biggest name author of the bunch.

Wow. I hadn't read this piece until I started this list and I found it on the Nebula nominees site and I was very impressed. The line "Late for my curfew and trembling, I grasp the doorknob that is not a doorknob." is enough to make me happy, but the whole thing is just wonderful. Sadly, I don't see other being as enthusiastic as me (and when has that happened?)

Odds- 8-to-1

LORD WEARY'S EMPIRE BY MICHAEL SWANWICK

What it's got going for it- A really good story from a really good writer with a really good fanbase.

What's going against it- There's always been a contingent that sees Swanwick as overly rough.

I read this on-line this week and I wasn't blown away, but it is powerful reading. Swanwick does characters right. His name alone puts him up higher than the others, and the story is worthy too, even if it's not totally my cup of tea. Swanwick always does well, and this is no exception.

Odds- 4-to-1

JULIAN: A CHRISTMAS STORY BY ROBERT CHARLES WILSON

What it's got going for it- Robert Charles Wilson is always exciting, has a good following and here wrote a good story. Niall Harrison liked it.

What's going against it- I don't see any.

Niall said several wonderful things about the story in Strange Horizons. The one that I totally agree with was his last words: "What Julian has been trying to tell Adam, and what Julian has been trying to tell us, is simple, but heartfelt: here comes tomorrow." That's why it'll win.

Odds- 2-to-1

THE 2007 HUGO AWARD FOR BEST NOVEL

BLINDSIGHT BY PETER WATTS

What it's got going for it- I started reading it and I have to say it was well-written. Niall liked it a fair bit.

What's going against it- I only got about 50 pages in and stopped.

I started to read this and I thought it wasn't my thing. Even when I stopped, I knew this wasn't the kind of book that wins. Reading various reviews I've come to the decision that it lacks that special something that usually wins this award exists in other's eyes too!

Odds- 12-to-1

EIFELHEIM BY MICHAEL FLYNN

What it's got going for it- Good book by a popular author (how many times have I said that in this issue?).

What's going against it- Not nearly as good as some other Flynn books. The parallel structure might turn folks off.

Another one that I didn't manage to finish, though I made it a good way through. I love the settings, especially the way he describes Medieval Germany. It's a thing that'll usually make me take notice. It didn't feel like a winner, though.

Odds- 9-to-1

HIS MAJESTY'S DRAGON BY NAOMI NOVIK

What it's got going for it- Really good book that even Evelyn enjoyed when I read part of it to her.

What's going against it- While there's no longer a serious anti-fantasy contingent, it's still usually pushed behind really good SF.

I liked this and I think that Novik will win the Campbell (and this is Handicapping the Hugos and the Campbell is NOT a Hugo!). Good story of Dragons and the English Military.

Odds- 5-to-1

GLASSHOUSE BY CHARLES STROSS

What it's got going for it- Hugely popular writer of really wild and wonderful science fiction. He's what would happen if Aldous Huxley, David Peoples, Elvis Costello, Marvin Minsky and William Gibson all got together to write an SF novel.

What's going against it- Nothing big.

I really like Charlie Stross. I really do. I read this book and it kept me going. I'm a big fan (and not jsut because of his facial hair) and his blog is great too. I'm thinking that he's big enough to the point that he can pretty much win Best Novel based on name recognition and a good novel. In this case, he'll come in second based on name recognition and a really really good novel.

Odds- 3-to-1

RAINBOWS END BY VERNOR VINGE

What it's got going for it- Really good novel by one of the most popular SF novelists going today. He writes smart and strong science fiction in a style that jsut keeps going.

What's going against it- Nothing big.

It'll be close, and I could see a tie. This is Vernor's first book that I could make it all the way through without giving up for a while.

Odds- 3-to-1

And I have to say that these opinions are based largely on buzz and my own opinions (because I'd love to be able to say that Joe Major was gonna walk home with a Hugo for Heinlein's Children) and tries to take into consideration the fact that the Japanese Votership won't be the normal voting block, but there'll be a good sized US and UK votership as well. There are things I think are missing (Guidolon! Pacheco Progress! Claire Brialey! Dan Steffan for Best Fan Artist) but I kinda like this list...except for the lack of Japanese and Female noms.

So, there you have it. If you're one of the beautiful people who are checking in for the first time to see

why The Drink Tank is nominated, welcome and I should say that things aren't usually this serious. Hell, there's hardly one image of a busty lass in this issue!

And now I'll be working on a few regular issues, and then the big If I Ran WorldCon issue. That'll be followed by a few more regular issues and then This Were WorldCons. Mark Plummer, Claire Brialey, Andy Hooper, and John Purcell have said they'd send stuff for that one, and I'm probably gonna be able to get a few more folks. I'll be editing some of my Dad's notes so that I can present a thingee abotu the 1968 WorldCon.

And that's gonan be everything. LoCs in the next issue and a few fun things. See ya!

ART FROM- SELINA PHANARA, FRANK WU, JAMES LOGAN, FRANK WU, BRAD W. FOSTER, LAB, LUCIOUS KAYNE, TRIMUPH THE INSULT COMIC FROG, CHRIS GARCIA, JOHN PILEY, CHAZ BOSTON-BADEN, NEIL LEPP AND ALAN WHITE. I'D LIKE TO THANK NIAL HARRISON, STRANGE HORIZONS, KEVIN ROCHE, ED, TREY HADDAD, BARB, BASFANS, MIEK WALTON, FRANK WU, JOHN PURCELL AND OTHERS FOR ALL THE BUZZ! YOU CAN SEND YOUR THOUGHTS TO GARCIA @COMPUTERHISTORY.ORG

