



DRINK TANK





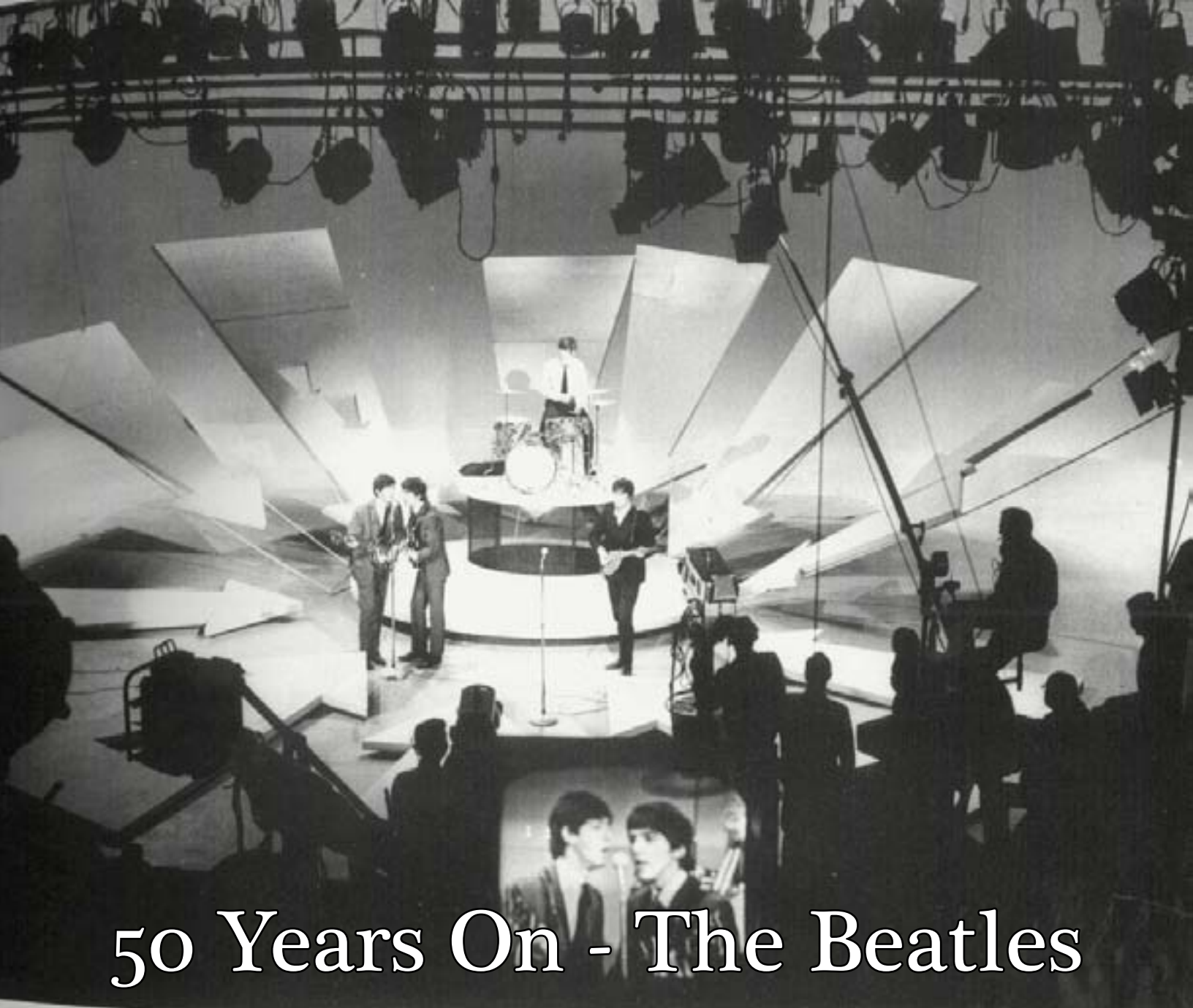
Once again, a great Mo Starkey cover and a wonderful one from last time that she gave me several things of and I only used the one because, as you all know, I suck.

Watched a lot of short films this weekend. A LOT, and some of them were even in an honest to god theatre! I've been viewing shorts for the Silicon Valley Science Fiction Short Film Festival (SVSFSFF.weebly.com) and there've been so many submissions, far more than I'd expected. The only problem? They're almost all from Europe. We've got a couple of 'em from China, a couple from Brazil, and one American and another Canadian. Out of more than 80 films. It's not a bad thing, plurality seems to be Polish films, though strong representation from France and Spain is strong, but it would be nice to have some films in English or at least from North America.

I headed over to the Camera 3 in Downtown San Jose, which is a theatre I don't go to as often as I should. I headed over for two shorts programs - The Oscar Nominated Animated Shorts and the Live Action Shorts. All the films in both programs were great, but to me, there were obvious winners in each set.

For animated films, the wonderful Mr. Hublot, which we've programmed for Cinequest, is easily the best, though the retro-ish Get A Horse from Disney is a lot of fun. They also showed three extra shorts, A La Francaise (The Court of the Sun King... as chickens), The Missing Scarf (which we're showing at Cinequest) and The Blue Umbrella (easily my favorite of all the films). Mr. Hublot will totally win.

The Live Action films, just about as good as I've ever seen. The Voorman Problem, a twisty little movie starring Martin Freeman, is my fave, but the winner will be a French film called AVANT QUE DE TOUT PERDRE (JUST BEFORE LOSING EVERYTHING) which is so intense and so well-made, that there's no way it can lose. I loved the Danish film called Helium, though it's a Danish film so it was DARK!



50 Years On - The Beatles

The last time I did a 50 Years Ago article, it was JFK. This time, it's far less gruesome. The Beatles comin' to America. I grew up a Beatles fan. When I was a kid, I loved Sgt. Pepper's and The White Album and Yellow Submarine. Yeah, I was a late Beatles guy, not a big skiffle fan. Why? Well, I've always been bigger into more complex rock 'n roll, and growing up I had been big into Punk pretty early (like 4 or 5 when I loved The Sex Pistols, and a little later The Clash and Buzzcocks. My favorite Beatles songs growing up were Hey Bulldog, Norwegian Wood, and especially Helter Skelter. To this day, I'm still all about Helter Skelter. It's almost never included on the anthologies even though you can almost certainly trace a decade of musical influence to it. So much of the guitar-driven rock of the 1970s can be traced back to Helter Skelter, which was so different from anything else the Beatles ever did.

And yet, with all my love of The Beatles and old TV, I had never seen the full episode of the Ed Sullivan Show where they debuted until the great Brad Lyau brought it over to JC and Beth's place on Sunday, the actual 50th anniversary of the event. I had certainly seen various pieces of the broadcast, most notably I Saw Her Standing There, but we watched the whole episode, with the commercials included.

And it was MAGIC!

You see, they opened with The Beatles, which is a good thing, but like the old days of the WWF when Hulk Hogan would come out, it was more about the crowd reaction. The girls in the audience were INSANE! Screaming, hair-clutching, more screaming, more hair-clutching. It was amazing. They played great songs, and the

obvious focus was Paul, who sang lead on every song. He was the cute one, after all. Also, I finally got a joke from the Outkast video for Hey Ya!. They showed a run-down of the members of the band The Love Below in the video (which were all played by Andre 3000) and when they showed the character Johnny Vulture they noted "Yes Ladies, he's still single" under his name, which was a reference to the text under John's name in that first appearance saying "Sorry Girls, He's Married". I can't believe I'd never seen that before.

They perform their songs, and if there was any more proof needed that they were the biggest band ever, well, watching that first set of songs is proof enough. The crowd was so far into them, and having witnessed first hand everything from the New Kids on the Block to Justin Beiber, I can say for sure that there was never a greater fever.

And they weren't even the best thing on the show that night.

Now, as a lover of classic comedy, and musical theatre, there were two other events that made note in my mind. The first was the appearance of Georgia Brown with the cast from Oliver. It wasn't any special appearance, but it featured a very young Davy Jones. So the same night The Beatles appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show for the first time, a Monkee made his first appearance!

There was some slight of hand magic, which is always fun, though the audience didn't really take a cotton to it, and an acrobatic act, plus McCall & Brill doing an act that did not connect with the audience at all. It wasn't a great skit, but it had some moments. Actually, it kinda seemed like they weren't happy to be put in the position of being right before the Beatles. It's a tough slot, for sure. All that was OK, typical Ed Sullivan stuff (and no, Topo Gigio was not on the show, though Ed made a brief reference to them early in the show) and then there was GENIUS!

Frank Gorshin.

Now, you know him as The Riddler from Batman, or perhaps Bele from Star Trek, or if you're a film fan, from That Darn Cat, or Preminger's Skidoo, but he was one of the truly great night club acts of all-time. He was best known as an impressionist, though not nearly as talented a vocal impressionist as Rich Little, who came up about ten years after Gorshin, but he was an incredibly physical comedian and impressionist. In fact, he was a sorta wiry morphing artist. He would become a character, and then transition into another. It's really cool to watch. He was the first impressionist to headline the Big Rooms in Vegas. I think the first time I went to Vegas as a kid he was at the Sands because I remember seeing his name on the big marquee and asking Pops who that was.

"He was the Joker," he responded, and I knew.

So, the bit he did on that Ed Sullivan Show episode, which was also his first of twelve appearances, was a fun one. It was all about what would happen if Hollywood actors would take over Congress. First off, they moved the Capitol to Vegas and were having a big meeting. Basically,



Gorshin moved between doing impressions of actors like Burt Lancaster, Dean Martin, Marlon Brando, and on and on. They were all done with exaggerated energy and those quick and pointed transitions. He was mesmerizing to watch, especially the way that he would pose for a second as a character and the audience would give their reaction to the new character, which had to be a tough road to travel because they were NOT there to see him.

But damn, did he nail it!

If the Estate of Frank Gorshin has not received a check from Jim Carrey for taking his gimmick from Gorshin's work, then there ain't no justice. The physicality of Gorshin's work is EXACTLY what Carrey did in his time on *In Living Color*, and especially during his *Ace Ventura* movies. The transitions are the big part, where Gorsin would sorta walk or turn from one character into another, Carrey would sorta crumble himself into the next character, but watching Frank's performance, it was so obvious that Carrey had grabbed influence from it. And why not? Gorshin was an absolute master of his craft and there aren't many who ever had it down as hard as he did. It was amazing watching him perform, even if he was over-shadowed on the night that'll always be called *The Night The Beatles Played*.





Guess what, people? LLOYD PENNEY!!!!

True to form, I have let three issues of The Drink Tank pile up, including the annish. Time to get back on track, and catch up with some comments.

Sweet! Let's do this!

362...Have a great time at Westercon, and ask Cory about living in Toronto. You really are coming up here for CostumeCon? We will be there as dealers, selling steampunk jewelry and other goodies. We are still saving to go to London...we have a room at the Aloft, and now, we just have to do some more planning, and saving. We will be making a firm decision about London before May.

We're lookin' very much forward to Toronto in... wow, just over two months! And of course, Westercon's going to be awesome! I like that Cory fellow!

As it gets tougher and tougher to afford to go Worldcon, the more I'd like to see the Hugo-voting-only membership at Worldcons, but I also must think that if you can't afford to go to Worldcon, can you afford to buy the books, or go to the theatres, to knowledgeably nominate and vote?

WorldCON's really setting us back. Last year, we were all over the place, and this year's much tighter because even though we got an incredibly cheap hotel (Travelodge, something like 150 pounds for the run!) it's till gonna set us back.

John Purcell, you haven't seen a multi-issue loc from me in a while? I'd need to check my records, but I do that on a regular basis. It's the only way I've got to get caught up.

I'm so far behind with LoCs. Lemme see, I last wrote one in... September.

My loc...that great job I had for the last two months of 2013 went away. My contract was not renewed, and it expired on Christmas Eve. I have found out since that the job was completed without me, mostly because they ran out of money to hire freelancers. We did about \$250 of business, and in the new year, we have already lined up three shows with tables, and see if we can do better business.

Bummer, but good goin' on the table business!

Art from Michele Wilson

363...When it comes to the Hugos, I promised myself that if I know so little about what's happening, I won't nominate, and if I don't know any of the candidates, I won't vote. I think a non-informed vote is worse than no vote at all. Same goes for the Aurora Awards, I am finding I know little about what's happening in Canadian fandom, too.

Careful Lloyd - Remember being responsible voter and not voting is letting the Irresponsible voters who don't care that they're irresponsible have the voice that the responsible voters should have. Wait... was that right?

364...Or is this 365? Not sure! This 9th anniversary sure looks good, but just one thing...I never watched Twin Peaks! You're bringing this zine to a close? Perhaps zines like Journey Planet and Exhibition Hall are more your style now? Well, when you do shut it down, it will be sorely missed.

It's just time. A few folks have asked what happened and I really had no answer. It just felt like the right time to do it. 10 years. Round numbers no one ever believe are accurate!

One page on three issues? Looks like that's what it is this time. I have still promised you my Loscon 39 report, so maybe I can get moving and get it to you. Until then, T-minus one year, and let's make it spectacular.

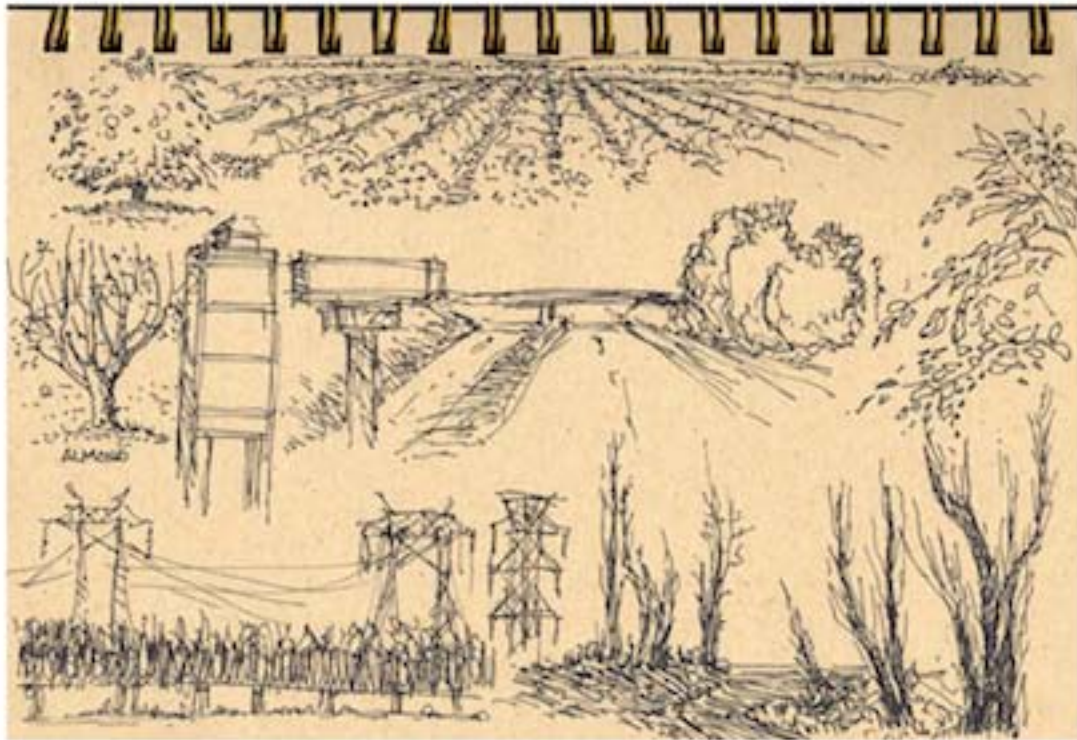
That would be awesome, Lloyd! Always good to have stuff from ya!

Yours, Lloyd Penney.



Trips to Gallifrey

Sketch book drawings of the way to the Doctor Who convention,



Trips to Gallifrey. If I wasn't driving I had the chance to sketch the countryside.



Sketch book drawings of farms along Highway 101 and 05. I'm totally distractable. Someone in the car mentioned Tin Tin and I had to draw Snowy. I miss the Gilroy area and Casa de Fruits.

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