

SF/SF Science Fiction/San Francisco

The nothing special, sorta weekly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area.

Issue 4

email: SFinSF@gmail.com

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Editor: Jack Avery

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eLOCs

Chris Garcia writes:

Another very good issue of SF/SF. I've been turning folks onto it over the last week and a lot of them seem very enthusiastic. Now if only some of them would stop reading and start writing, that would be great.

I want to thank Lloyd for looking out for my best interest. I don't think I'd die while putting out issue 372. That's only a month or so away at my current pace! I hope Lloyd does to a *Toronto Fandom Weekly*, which would be great if he put it

out on a Monday, so that way I'd hit T-Dot on Monday, SF on Wednesday, and Vegas on Friday. That would be a nice schedule.

There are a lot of BArea folks who are off at WorldCon. Cheryl 'I've got a Hugo' Morgan and I put out a hoax newsletter that I'm sending to folks and Cheryl is putting on the Emcit.com site. It's good fun.

I missed Zombie Mob, not because of anything other than the fact that I got terrible direction from MapQuest. It had it in the Sunset district. I, who have no clue about SF driving, drove around for almost an hour and never found them. Love the article and it looks like a great time was had by the undead. That BART photo was great, as was the girl with the split tongue. Creepy!

Ah, the legendary Peaches Christ. I've been hearing that name for ages now and I've never managed to make anything. SF

is a mystery to me, just far enough out of reach that I can't really do things up there unless they're during the day. I love roller derby. It's been making a comeback for the last few years with a circuit and a big population in Austin Texas. Really fun stuff to watch. I'd say that those photos alone make this issue high-brow!

Yes, I'd love it if some of those enthusiastic fans would contribute. A letter of comment would be fine. As far as I can tell, you and Lloyd Penney are the only two people reading this, and that's just not enough of an audience to keep doing it. I suppose I need to spend some time promoting it.

I read and enjoyed your hoax newsletters. I intended to comment, but by the time I got my act together, you'd pubbed the last issue. That reminds me, I owe you a LOC for Drink Tank. Maybe once I get this issue out.

See eLOC, Page 9

9th Annual Asian Film Festival

By Jack Avery

The 9th Asian Film Festival opens Thursday with a program that includes a number of promising genre films. This year's festival takes place at both the 4 Star Theater and the Presidio Theater, so check the schedule for location before heading out.

With the Korean film industry starting to take major strides into territory once

controlled by Hong Kong and Japan, three of the most promising films hail from there.

One major standout from Korea is the science fiction film *Natural City*, which although derivative, is worth watching. (See review page 6)

In the super power martial arts category is *Arahan*, also from Korea. This action/comedy from 2004 about a hopeless dork who learns mystical kung fu and must face an ancient evil is getting good buzz on the festival circuit for both the humor and the non-stop fighting scenes. This may very well be the standout film of the festival for Asian fantasy film fans.

The third major genre movie from Korea to show in the festival is *R-Point*. Taking a step into the horror genre that has been recently dominated by Japanese movies, this film about a Korean army



From *Arahan*



From *Arahan*

unit during the Vietnam War provides some good chills. The unit is sent to find out why mysterious radio transmissions are being received from a unit that went missing. What's creepier than sneaking through the jungles with Charlie waiting to ambush you? Having to hole up in a haunted French plantation with Charlie waiting to ambush you as ghosts take out your fellow soldiers one by one. This was a hit in its native land last summer and has also been popular at international film festivals.

Among the Japanese films of note is the anime film *The Place Promised in Our Early Days*. This is the new film by the director

of *Voices of a Distant Star*. With this film Makoto Shinkai adds to his reputation for groundbreaking digital animation. His films are known more for being lyrical and beautiful than for their action. *The Place Promised in Our Early Days* is a science fantasy set in a Japan that has been partitioned between the U.S. and “The Union” following WWII. A mysterious tower has appeared on the northern island of Hokkaido and three young friends make a pledge to discover the meaning behind the structure.

Of course Japanese horror is well represented, including *Marebito* by Takashi Shimizu, the director of *Gu-On* and *The Grudge*. Shot entirely in digital over an 8-day span, the film follows a photographer who comes to believe that at their moment of greatest fear, people see the supernatural. This starts his descent into a hellish version of Tokyo.

Pulse, a more standard Japanese ghostly horror movie, is also playing the festival.

A non-genre film from Japan that may still be of interest is *Kamakaze Girls*, which stars two J-pop idols, one of whom dresses in Lolita fashions. This might be the critical hit of the festival and has good buzz, but seemingly no speculative fiction content, although there is some animation.

A revival of the classic Hong Kong movie *A Chinese Ghost Story* leads off the

HK entries. While dated and with low budget special effects, this is a fun movie and should be seen, even if the demons are giant puppets and the ghosts fight with flying rolls of toilet paper.

While a HK movie, *Killer's Romance* is loosely based on the Japanese manga *Crying Freeman*. It has lots of gunfights and sword fights, but is not sf. Nonetheless, with Simon Yam and Joey Wang starring, this is worth a look. *Vendetta* is also a crime thriller



From *The Place Promised in Our Early Days*

from HK, but this one has a reincarnation plot that may tip it over the line into the horror category.

Another crime thriller that may be quite good from Hong Kong is *One Night in Mongkok*. Two revivals of lesser crime movies, *Requital* and *Satin Steel*, are also playing.

Deadly Dream Woman (released in the U.S. as *Lady Black Mask*) should probably be avoided however. While it has some interesting stunt work, the middle of the film bogs down with an attempt at comedy. Fans of super heroines or HK comedies might still find something of interest in this tale of avenger Nightingale Wong.

Despite its name, *Devil Hunters* is a triad film and not supernatural.

On the whole, the festival does provide a wide variety of good fantasy, science fiction and horror films, but there are a few notable absences: No *Godzilla Final Wars*, no *Princess Raccoon*, no *Ashura*, no *P*, no *White Dragon*, no *Legend of the Evil Lake* and no *Seven Swords*. Of course, if they programmed all these, they wouldn't have any room to show those non-genre art films. Wait, would that be a bad thing?

The festival begins Thursday at the Four Star and runs there through the 18th, before switching to the Presidio Theater for the last three days.

For schedule: www.sfaff.com.

Complete San Francisco Asian Film Festival Schedule:

Films mentioned in the preview article are underlined, including a couple that have no science fiction or fantasy content.

Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$8 in advance, \$9 general admission, \$5 HK/ Taiwan matinee series, \$10 for special programs

Thursday, August 11, Presidio Theater

8:00 Electric Shadows (drama, China)
Opening Night Film \$10.00

Friday, August 12, Four Star Theater

12:30 Killer's Romance (crime thriller, HK) \$5
2:45 Deadly Dream Woman (crime thriller, comedy, superhero, HK) \$5
5:00 2 Young (drama, HK)
7:20 One Night in Mongkok (crime thriller, HK)
9:30 Neighbor No. 13 (drama, thriller, Japan)

Saturday, August 13, Four Star Theater

12:30 Windstruck (drama, Korea)
2:45 Crying Out Love in the Center of the World (drama, Japan)
5:30 Samaritan Girl (drama, Korea)
7:40 Natural City (sf, Korea)
10:00 Marebito (Horror, Japan)

Sunday, August 14, Four Star Theater

12:30 A Placed Promise in Our Early Days (sf, anime, Japan)

2:30 Samaritan Girl (drama, Korea)
4:45 A Moment to Remember (drama, Korea)
7:15 Rice Rhapsody (drama, HK) (Q & A with Martin Yan)

9:30 Kamikaze Girls (drama, Japan)

Monday, August 15, Four Star Theater

1:00 Vendetta (crime, horror overtones HK) \$5
3:15 2 Young (drama, HK) \$5
6:00 Pulse (Horror, Japan)
8:30 Another Public Enemy (drama, Korea)

Tuesday, August 16, Four Star Theater

12:30 Lady Chatterley in Tokyo (drama, Japan) \$5
2:35 Another Public Enemy (drama, Korea)
5:30 Kamikaze Girls (drama, Japan)
7:45 R-Point (Horror, Korea)
9:50 A Snake of June (drama, Japan)

Wednesday, August 17, Four Star Theater

12:30 Devil Hunters (crime, HK) \$5
2:45 Crazy N' the City (drama, HK)
5:10 R-Point (Horror, Korea)
7:25 Arahan (comedy, martial arts, Korea)
9:45 R-Point (Horror, Korea)

Thursday, August 18, Four Star Theater

12:30 Satin Steel (action, HK) \$5
2:45 Requittal (action, HK) \$5
5:10 Crazy N' the City (drama, HK)
7:30 Marebito (Horror, Japan)
9:30 A Snake of June (drama, Japan)

Friday, August 19, Presidio Theater

12:30 Dragon Town Story (drama, action, China) \$5
2:45 A Chinese Ghost Story (fantasy, comedy, martial arts, HK) \$5
5:10 One Night in Mongkok (crime thriller, HK)
7:20 Arahan (comedy, martial arts, Korea)
9:45 Natural City (sf, Korea)

Saturday, August 20, Presidio Theater

12:15 Crying Out Love in the Center of the World (drama, Japan)
3:00 Windstruck (drama, Korea)
5:10 Women of Breakwater (Q & A with filmmakers) (drama, Philippines)
7:50 Mongolian Ping Pong (drama, Mongolia)
9:50 Pulse (Horror, Japan)

Sunday, August 21, Presidio Theater

12:45 Mongolian Ping Pong (drama, Mongolia)
3:00 Rice Rhapsody (drama, HK)
5:15 The Big Swindle (drama, Korea)
8:00 Mughal-E-Azam (period drama, India)
Closing Night Film \$10.00

The 4 Star Theater

2200 Clement Street at 23rd Ave.

(415) 666-3488

The Presidio Theater

2340 Chestnut Street

(415) 776-2988

Korean Science Fiction Comes of Age with *Natural City*

By Jack Avery

In terms of genre filmmaking, Korean cinema has started to come into its own in the past few years. While getting a late start, Korean films are now beginning to be able to compete on a more than even footing with those of long-time genre stalwarts Japan and Hong Kong.

Natural City, which plays the San Francisco Asian Film Festival, is certainly one of these new competently-made Korean efforts. The direction is solid, the camera work is well done, the acting is capable, the editing keeps the movie flowing along, the fight scenes rock and the special effects service the movie rather than act as a reason for the movie.

OK, I'll admit to a few minor plot holes. But we're talking Asian science fiction here. Compared with movies such as *The Westley's Mysterious Files*, the plot of *Natural City* is brilliant. Frankly, the plotting of a lot of American SF could stand to be this good.

So this is being billed as the Korean *Blade Runner*. It's a fair cop. The production

designers obviously watched the classic movie many, many times. And the plot which involves killer cyborgs who are programmed to die young and want to be immortal going up against a world-weary cop who is in love with doomed cyborg is familiar. So what? Lots of movies have ripped off the look of *Blade Runner* over the years. While the plot is superficially the same, *Natural City* does take it in a slightly different direction.

Is it as good as *Blade Runner*? Of course not. For one thing we don't have Rutger Hauer's great speech about seeing attack ships burning off the left shoulder of Orion. *Natural City* doesn't break any new ground. But it is a highly entertaining sf action movie with good fights, good visuals, and just enough real science fiction to give viewers something to think about.

This is a dark world where non-citizens are treated as disposable. Artificial humans do much of the grunt labor on behalf of their owners. While they have artificial intelligence, they are called dolls and treated as property. But treating those

who are indistinguishable from human as objects seems to dehumanize their owners.

This is the theme of *Natural City*: how technology dehumanizes man. It's an old theme, but it's handled well here.

The main protagonist's cyborg girlfriend at least has a full first name, Ria, but he is known only as R. R is an MP, one of the elite paramilitary police officers that hunt down rouge cyborgs. (I will note here that the movie incorrectly uses the term cyborg; these are not man/machine interfaced beings, but rather androids, artificial humans created out of whole cloth. Yeah, OK, there're Replicants.)

However, R is a rouge cop. Once one of the best, he's fallen in love with a cyborg dancer, a doll who is about to expire. In order to finance the research of mad scientist Dr. Croy, who claims he can transplant her consciousness into another body, he is black-marketing the AI chips of the combat cyborgs he's hunting down.

R is unable to connect with other human beings. While presented with an opportunity to connect to a real woman,

Cyon, he declines. Even though he loves Ria, and is willing to go so far as kill humans (and it turns out he needs to kill Cyon) to save her, he still treats her like an object and orders her around. As much as he claims to love Ria, he's a man who wants a doll to do his bidding, and not a real human relationship.

His former friend and fellow MP, Noma, is trying to bring R to his senses, trying to thwart his friends plans, while still giving him the out to remain a cop. This is the biggest plot hole. R is clearly dangerous and engaged in the sort of corrupt and illegal

behavior that should not be tolerated by a fellow cop. But in this dehumanized world, Noma leaves Cyon in his lair after arresting Dr. Croy. Later Noma issues a shoot to kill order for a rouge combat cyborg even though Cyon is his hostage. She's a non-citizen, so her life is less than meaningless to the authorities.

I'm not going to reveal more of the plot, as there are some nice plot twists about what Dr. Croy is really up to before we get to the action packed finale.

The special effects here are pretty good. They are in the service of the movie and

are well integrated. The CGI shots enhance rather than detract from the filmed elements and are smoothly integrated into the film.

Some GCI is used in the fight scenes but instead of the clichéd Matrix shot, the filmmakers use it to make the combat cyborgs look really fast and tough. The fight scenes are plentiful and well directed with lots of gunfire, explosions, martial arts and wire work.

While not a perfect movie, *Natural City* is certainly an entertaining action movie with a plot that depends on close to real science fiction to drive it.



From Natural City

BASFA Minutes: meeting 785

Meeting 785

Aug 8, 2005

Trey Haddad, President

Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began at 8:02 p.m., 8 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 784 were not in the room, so we deferred accepting them.

No Treasurer; no Treasurer's report.

VP reports: Pre-eminent VP Chris Garcia reported that he & Cheryl Morgan collaborated on joke Worldcon reports [see the Emerald City website] & that he got 10 votes as best fan-writer, plus there will be a Drink Tank by Friday; then Nathan reported that he was glad he didn't have to preside over the meeting this week. The President commented that Mike was not well & referred folks to Emerald City for Worldcon reports

We said 'hi' to Keith Toleman - a

guest visiting us 'cuz he saw our website. [yeah Art!]

Announcements:

Chris announced that he won't be here for the next 4 weeks & that hopefully his as-yet-untitled book will be out in October & that Jack Avery is offering to print the BASFA minutes in his ezine, SF/SF. [how nifty!]

Mike announced that the Los Altos library will have a Bay Area Games Day this Saturday & the Milpitas Cinema Saver closes Tuesday.

Julie announced that she purchased a new computer & saw Nathan at the same Fry's, as she did so.

Nathan then told us secret stuff. [Bet you wish you were at the meeting now, doesn't it?]

Reviews:

Julie finally saw the movie 'Sideways' & reviewed it as that it lived up to the hype, found it enjoyable, 'like '4 Weddings & a Funeral' without the British humor' - and she rates it as worth buying & worth seeing again.

Chris reviewed Yosemite as lovely and

he met visiting German SF fans there & enjoyed reading the German translation of 'Perdito Street Station'; he also reviewed the DVD of 'Shark's Tale' as a fun film, worth DVD rental.

Nathan reviewed 'Minding the Store' [reality TV] as '20 minutes of his life he will never get back' - as the worst reality show he's ever seen and he generally likes reality TV.

Keith reviewed 'Light' by Harrison as a great book, complete in & of itself with an extraordinary writing style & reviewed a movie out on DVD, 'Immortal' as very enjoyable.

Julie also reviewed the extra bio on 'The Ghost and Mrs. Muir' DVD as quite interesting.

Chris then also reviewed 'Demon Seed' as possibly the best movie ever made & well worth full price.

Trey reviewed 'Dead Beat' by Jim Butcher as very engaging, with very interesting characters & recommends it as worth trade paperback.

We auctioned off a book for \$1.00.

We adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was 'that all who did not attend the meeting are on the enemy's list.'

The Bay Area Fanish Calendar

Wednesday, August 10, August 17 Bay Area Role-Playing Society

www.BayRPS.com

Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard

Foster City

6pm to 10pm

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details send email to: GM@BayRPS.com. (Not confirmed, check before attending.)

August 11-14

Dark Shadows: Episodes 236 and 365

website

SFMOMA

151 Third Street

Koret Visitor Education Center

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free with Museum Admission (\$12.50)

Showing as part of the Jerrmy Blake exhibition.

From the SFMOMA website:

Heiress Sarah Winchester and her Winchester Mystery House — the bizarre gothic mansion she built to defend herself from the

ghosts of those killed by the rifles that made her family famous — are the inspiration for Jeremy Blake's suite of digital animations, the Winchester trilogy. Employing hand-painted imagery, film footage, vector graphics, and sound in a process the artist calls "time-based painting," Blake's visually opulent works offer an empathetic experience of Winchester's madness. Representational images morph into kinetic inkblots and back again. Traditional modes of storytelling are questioned, as are the relationships between reality and simulation. Shown together for the first time, Winchester (2002), 1906 (2003), and Century 21 (2004) are presented as a triptych in three adjacent projections.

Friday, August 12

SF Games

vax.hanford.org/dk/games

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street near 24th

San Francisco

7:00 p.m. to midnight

Free

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and

play board games and card games every week. Also has a cards night on Tuesdays at Café Macondo, 3159 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia.

August 12-13

Blood Bucket Ballyhoo

www.hypnodrome.com

At The Hypnodrome

575 10th Street, SF

"A Grand Guignol tripple terror stage show"

8 p.m., 10 p.m.

Tickets \$18-\$69

From their website:

"The world's only Grand Guignol triple terror stage show is back! Following the spectacular success of last fall's wildly popular Welcome to the Hypnodrome (a Halloween treat held over till Christmas!) Thrillpeddlers, veteran purveyors of perverse stage shenanigans, return with an even more elaborate evening of hospitable horror - Blood Bucket Ballyhoo!

Also returning are the Hypnodrome's no-

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torious “Shock Boxes” - devilishly renovated - in which audience members will actually feel the effects of bizarre mind control, rat catcher’s poisonous gas and Blood Bucket Ballyhoo’s electro-magnetic lights-out finale! (Patrons who book these private “Shock Box” seats for two are advised to bring someone they enjoy clutching in terror.)”

If anybody goes to see this, I’d love a review.

Saturday and Sunday August 13-14

Heart of the Forest Renaissance Faire

www.forestfaire.com

Stafford Lake

3549 Novato Blvd.

Novato

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

\$17-\$20

August 13

Bay Area Games Day XL

davekohr.best.vwh.net/gamesday/

Community Room

Los Altos Public Library

Los Altos

\$1

10 a.m. – 11 p.m.

August 13, 2005

The South Bay Game Club

www.armory.com/~sbgc/

Scenario Games and Hobbies

Fremont

10:30 a.m.

Meets on the second Saturday of each month.

August 14

Michael Blumlein signing

www.darkcarnival.com

Dark Carnival

3086 Claremont Ave.

Berkeley

2 p.m.

Free

The local author will appear to promote his new book *The Healer*.

Aug. 14

Gay Men's Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

5 p.m.

Free

This month’s book is *Alien Heat* by Michael Moorcock.

Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriguez, at cobalt555@earthlink.net, for more information.

Sunday, August 14

Speculative Fiction Book Group

Kepler’s Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

7 p.m.

Free

Reading: *A Scanner Darkly* by Philip K. Dick.

Sunday, August 14

Bad Movie Night: Labyrinth

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission St.

San Francisco

Between 19th and 18th streets, between the pawn shop and the laundromat

415-401-7987

www.darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

With hosts Sam Shaw, Bryce Byerly and Jim Fourniadis.

From their website:

We’ve taken all the guess work out of the age ole question, “Will this movie suck?”

It will suck.

And we’ll have a slew of hosts to point that out. Every Sunday for a measly 5\$

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you can put your feet up, enjoy a crummy movie, scarf down popcorn, listen to the hilarious ravings of our special guests and yes, you too can yell at the movie screen.

We will have rotating hosts chosen from the brilliant comedic flock of freaks circling our fair city. Guaranteed bad movies. Byob. Free popcorn. Feet on the furniture. What more could you ask for of a Sunday night. We promise to have you in bed by 11pm.

Monday Aug. 15

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free
www.basfa.org

August 17

David Drake appearance
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free

From the Borderlands newsletter:
Borderlands is incredibly excited to

host science fiction great David Drake! While he is best known for his military science fiction including the much-lauded *Hammer's Slammers* books, Mr. Drake has written everything from humor (*All the Way to the Gallows*) to space opera (*With the Lightnings*) to high fantasy (*Lord of the*

Isles), and those are just in the last several years! David hasn't been out to the Bay Area in about thirty years, so don't miss the rare opportunity to meet this talented and versatile author.

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The Zombie Mob started out in the downtown area, somewhere around the Powell St. BART station, I think. That's quite a ways away from the Sunset District. Everybody comments about that photo of the girl with the split tongue, but when I got the photos from Jake Appelbaum, I didn't notice. I was in too much of a hurry getting the issue out before Bill left for the Worldcon that I didn't look at it closely. I hear that's the new fashion in body modification. Too extreme for me. Of course, a tattoo or a pierced ear is too extreme for me.

The Midnight Mass is worth seeing, if only for the spectacle. This year was the first time I'd gone, but I'm looking forward to what Peaches Christ has in store for next year. If only it wasn't so late. I'm getting old enough that I don't really want to be stumbling in at 4 a.m. on a Sunday morning anymore.

I love San Francisco, I'd live there, except for the high cost of living. Santa Rosa was

about as close as I could get and find a place to live that is barely affordable. So I visit a couple of times a month if I can to remind myself of why I pay the high taxes and the high cost of living out here.

As for roller derby, the "referees" at the show were from a local group of roller derby queens, the Bay Area Derby (or B.A.D.) Girls. So there's some sort of live roller derby going on in the east bay. Check out www.bayareaderbygirls.com for the B.A.D. Girls or www.baycitybombers.com/turbos for the East Bay Lady Killers.

If you are a Bay Area fan who has a blog or website, send us the information at: SFinSF@gmail.com. for inclusion in our Blogwatch next issue.

Thursday, August 18

Lord of the Rings:

The Fellowship of the Ring

The Two Towers

The Return of the King

Presidio Theater

2340 Chestnut Street

San Francisco

415.776.2388

www.sftrilogy.org

11 a.m.-Midnight

\$50 for general seating or \$100 for VIP seating.

All three films back to back to back as a benefit for the non-profit organization Cure Autism Now (C.A.N.).

Raffles, costume contests and door prizes during the event. Costume contest. Costumes encouraged.

The VIP tickets come with an Alan Lee T-shirt designed for this event.

Prizes include Sideshow/WETA donated Shelob, Elrond and Orcs sculptures, a Master Replicas donated Saurons Gold "One Ring" and Creation Entertainment donated plaques and LOTR ceramic tiles. Other prizes include an autographed copy of Sean Astin's (Sam) book There and Back Again, autographed event T-shirts and photographs from John Rhys Davis (Gimli), a portfolio of photographs of New

Zealand film locations, action figures, key rings.

The costume contest will occur between the showings of the second and third movies. There will be four classes in the costume contest: Child ages 0 to 8 years old; Youth ages 9 to 16 years old; Adult Novice 17+ years; Adult Experienced 17+ years. Costumes must relate to the world of The Lord of the Rings.

Thursday, August 18

Tribute to Scotty (James Doohan)

Edinburgh Castle Pub

950 Geary St.

San Francisco

<http://www.castlenews.com/>

8 p.m.

415.885.4074

Open 5pm - 2am, daily

A musical, visual, verbal and whisky soaked tribute to the greatest Scotsman ever.

Space wear costume encouraged. Scotty impersonators contest. Phasers on Stun. Prizes. Romulan Ale on Tap. Fish and chips served 'til 11 p.m.

Friday, August 19

Futurist Salon Book Group

Barnes & Noble

Hillsdale Shopping Center

11 West Hillsdale Blvd.

San Mateo

650-341-5560

7:30 p.m.

Free

Saturday, August 20

No-Name Anime Showing

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga

www.nnanime.com

Free

12:30 ish -5:30 ish

No schedule available yet, but they usually show Ghost in the Shell:SAC, R.O.D., Giant Robo, Mermaid Forest among other titles.

One of the larger and better organized anime showings in the Bay Area.

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Saturday, August 20

SCA Event: The Pitchfork War
www.phmoms.com/pitchforkwar
Camp Herms Boyscout Camp
El Cerito
9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
\$10.00

Full day of fighting, including missile combat. Scenarios include bridge and castle battles, target archery with prize shoots, A&S classes, family-style BBQ.

Hosted by the Shire of Teufelberg and the Free Company of Gryphons Guard.

Saturday Aug. 20

Satan's Three-Ring Circus of Hell Signing
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
3 p.m.
Free

From the Borderlands newsletter:

Satan's Three-Ring Circus of Hell (Asylum Press) signing with Robert Steven Rhine (*Satan Gone Wild, Chicken Soup for Satan, Selected Readings From Satan's Powder Room, My Brain Escapes Me*), Frank Forte (*Vampire Verses, Hex of the Wicked Witch, Billy Boy*), Tim Vigil (*Gothic Nights, Faust, Heavy Metal Magazine, Dark Utopia*), Spain Rodriguez (*Zap Comix,*

Trashman, and Tales of the Leather Nun), Jim Smith (Co-Creator "Ren & Stimpy," co-founder Spumco, Ripping Friends, The X's), Alex Pardee (*Bunny With, Eyesuck*), Joe Vigil (*Gunfighters in Hell*) and Feo Amante - "It's dark, horrific, freaky and very funny." *The Grin Creeper*, writer Robert Steven Rhine's 270 page, glossy, color, graphic novel, featuring 43 of the top comic book illustrators in the world, is setting up tent! For more information see (<http://3ring.feoamante.net>)

Saturday August 20

PenSFA Meeting/Party
Redwood City
6:30 p.m. - midnight
Free

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association will hold a backyard BBQ part/meeting. For location and details, contact PenSFA Commander Rich McAllister at commander@pensfa.org.

August 20, 2005

Manga Otaku Book Group (Graphic novels)
Barnes & Noble
Weberstown Mall
4950 Pacific Avenue, Space 319
Stockton
209-472-1885
6:00 p.m.
Free

August 20

Further Confusion Annual Summer Picnic/Campout
Lake Chabot
Willow Picnic Area
www.furtherconfusion.org
Free
11 a.m. -4 p.m.

Furry fandom. Overnight camping available Friday and Saturday night. BBQ. Tent for changing into costumes.

August 21

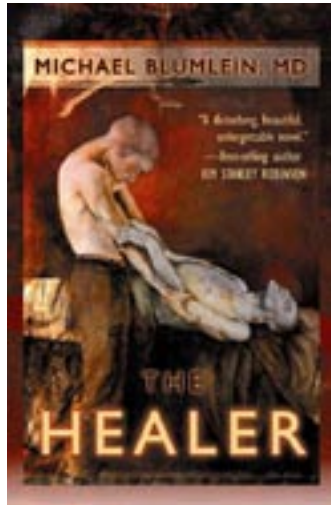
Michael Blumlein signing
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
2 p.m.
Free

From the Borderlands newsletter:

Borderlands is pleased to welcome Michael Blumlein, the author of *The Movement of Mountains*, and *X, Y*, as well as the award-winning story collection *The Brain of Rats*. He has been nominated twice for the World Fantasy Award and twice for the Bram Stoker Award. In addition to writing, Dr. Blumlein practices and teaches medicine at the University of California at San Francisco. Now Blumlein brings his experience as a practic-

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ing physician to bear in his novel *The Healer*, which subtly and beautifully examines the ways in which society both reveres and fears members of the medical profession. *The Healer* is a story of human life and death, human rites and rituals, seen through the eyes of an outsider, one who knows humans better, perhaps, than they know themselves. Join us to meet this fascinating author!



August 21
Science Fiction Book Club
 Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
 866 Valencia St.
 San Francisco
 6 p.m.
 Free

This month's book is *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Sunday, August 21
Bad Movie Night:
Killer Clowns From Outer Space
 The Dark Room Theatre
 2263 Mission St.
 San Francisco
 Between 19th and 18th streets, between the pawn shop and the laundromat
 415-401-7987
www.darkroomsf.com
 8 p.m.
 \$5

With hosts Hal Robbins, Geekboy and Jim Fourniadis.

From their website:

We've taken all the guess work out of the age ole question, "Will this movie suck?"

It will suck.

And we'll have a slew of hosts to point that out. Every Sunday for a measly 5\$ you can put your feet up, enjoy a crummy movie, scarf down popcorn, listen to the hilarious ravings of our special guests and yes, you too can yell at the movie screen.

We will have rotating hosts chosen from the brilliant comedic flock of freaks circling our fair city. Guaranteed bad movies. Byob. Free popcorn. Feet on the furniture. What more could you ask for of a Sunday night. We promise to have you in bed by 11pm.

August 23, 2005
Japanimation Book Group (Graphic novels)
 Barnes & Noble
 6111 Sunrise Blvd.
 Citrus Heights
 916-853-1511
 7:00 p.m.
 Free

August 26-27
Ultraman Festival
 Castro Theater
www.bayareafilmevents.com

Put on by the folks who did the Godzilla Festival earlier this year. There will be dealers upstairs, a live Ultraman Stunt Show on Saturday, prize drawings, and lots of Ultraman on the screen.

August 26, 2005
Sci-Fi / Fantasy Book Group
 Barnes & Noble
 Weberstown Mall
 4950 Pacific Avenue, Space 319
 Stockton
 209-472-1885
 6:30 p.m.
 Free

More Events Next Page

August 27

Beefbowl Anime Showing

Albany Library Community Center

1247 Marin Ave.

Albany

www.beefbowl.org

Free

12:15 ish -4:15 ish

Scheduled shows:

Rurouni Kenshin : TV # 46

R.O.D : TV # 22

One Piece : TV # 31

Naruto : TV # 32

Prince Of Tennis : TV # 32

Hikaru No Go : TV # 32

Yakitate Japan : TV # 7

Project D : TV # 9

Fafner In The Azure : TV # 4

While this group revels in a bad-boy reputation, the showings I've attended have been much the same as those of any other group. The only downside is the regulars sometimes talk about computers in the back while the anime is being shown.

September 2-5

ConquestSF

SF Airport Marriott

1800 Old Bayshore Hwy.

Burlingame

www.conquestsf.com

\$40 before Aug. 20

Gaming convention. ConQuest features many different kinds of games, including miniatures games, role playing games (RPGs), board games, collectible card games (CCGs), and live action role playing games (LARPs).

September 4

Sacramento Comic Book Show

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H. Street

Sacramento

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$5 (\$4 with coupon from website)

Comic book convention with anime viewing room, dealers, cosplay contest at 2 p.m. For a report on the February show, see Don't Shake Me at www.efanzines.com.

September 10

Sonoma County Book Festival

[/www.sonomacountybookfair.org/index.html](http://www.sonomacountybookfair.org/index.html)

Courthouse Square (Mendocino Ave.

between Third and Fourth Streets. Take the downtown exit off of 101 and go under the mall.)

Santa Rosa

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free

Join Borderlands Books and dozens of other vendors in Santa Rosa's Courthouse

Square for this sixth annual celebration of the literary arts. There will be author appearances, panels, readings, special events for kids, and much, much more! (Note: this is a general book festival, not genre specific)

Saturday, September 10

No Name Anime Showing

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga

12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. or so

Free

Schedule:

Master Keaton #18 "Faker's Miscalculation."

Mermaid's Forest #8* "The Final Face, part 1"

R.O.D. TV #14* "Paper Leaf Wood"

Mermaid's Forest #9* "The Final Face, part 2"

Giant Robo #6* "Crime and Punishment: Everything for Big Fire"

Ghost in the Shell: SAC #11* "Pontraitz."

Chrno Crusade #14*"Prayer"

Dokkoida! #2*

*May not be suitable for children.

More Events Next Page

Saturday, September 10

Michael Blumlein appearance

Cover to Cover

307 Castro Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Signing by local author Michael Blumlein (*The Healer*).

September 11

Robin Hobb appearance

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

From the Borderlands newsletter:

Borderlands is delighted to welcome the prolific and talented Robin Hobb, author of the beloved *Farseer* books. *Shaman's Crossing* is the first in a brand-new series, The Soldier Son Trilogy. *Shaman's Crossing* is dedicated "To Caffeine and Sugar - my companions through many a long night of writing." We know you're going to love Robin Hobb! Check out her thoroughly entertaining website here: (<http://www.robinhobb.com/>)

September 11

Gay Men's Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

5 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Inversions* by Ian M. Banks.

Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriguez, at cobalt555@earthlink.net, for more information.

September 13, 2005

Sci-Fi Book Club Book Group

Barnes & Noble

3501 McHenry Avenue, Suite E

Modesto

209-521-1118

7:00 p.m.

Free

Wednesday, September 14

Michael Blumlein appearance

UC Bookstore

500 Parnassus

San Francisco

Noon

Free

Local author Michael Blumlein (*The Healer*) signing.

September 15, 2005

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Group

Barnes & Noble

Creekside Town Center

1256 Galleria Boulevard

Roseville

916-788-4320

7:00 p.m.

Free

September 17

Brian Keene appearance

Phil Nutman appearance

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

4 p.m.

Free

From the Borderlands newsletter:

We're pleased to welcome Brian and Phil for a zombie double-header! Brian Keene (*City of the Dead, Terminal*) is the charismatic author of THE RISING, and many, many forthcoming books. Philip Nutman (*Wet Work*) is a novelist, short story writer, comic book scriptwriter, and screenwriter. Join us for a whole afternoon of the living dead!

More Events Next Page

September 17

David Morell appearance

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Signing in support of his new novel *Creepers*.

September 18

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Red Shift* edited by Al Sarantonio. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

September 18

Bad Movie Night: Battlefield Earth

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission St.

San Francisco

Between 19th and 18th streets, between the pawn shop and the laundromat

415-401-7987

www.darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

With Patrick Simms, Stoo Odom and Jim Fourniadis. Pirate cat radio night.

From their website:

We've taken all the guess work out of the age ole question, "Will this movie suck?" It will suck.

And we'll have a slew of hosts to point that out. Every Sunday for a measly 5\$ you can put your feet up, enjoy a crummy movie, scarf down popcorn, listen to the hilarious ravings of our special guests and yes, you too can yell at the movie screen.

We will have rotating hosts chosen from the brilliant comedic flock of freaks circling our fair city. Guaranteed bad movies. Byob. Free popcorn. Feet on the furniture. What more could you ask for of a Sunday night. We promise to have you in bed by 11pm.

Wednesday, September 21

Terry Pratchett appearance

Cody's

2454 Telegraph Avenue

Berkeley CA, US,

7:30 p.m.

Free

Diskworld creator Terry Pratchett (*Thud*) signing.

Wednesday, September 28

Neil Gaiman appearance

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

7:30 p.m.

Free

Thursday, September 29

Michael Chabon and Neil Gaiman in Conversation

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista Blvd.

Corte Madera

7 p.m.

Free

More Events Next Page

Send your reviews, reports and notes about Bay Area fans and fan activities to: SFinSF@gmail.com.

Friday, September 30

Neil Gaiman appearance
First Congregational Church
Berkeley
7 p.m.

(hosted by Cody's Books; ticketed event)
Neil Gaiman (*Anansi Boys*) reads and signs.

From the Cody's Books website:

Tickets are required; they'll be available beginning September 20 with the purchase of *Anansi Boys* at any Cody's location (Berkeley and San Francisco).

September 30-October 5

Mirrormask
www.calfilm.org
Rafael Film Center
1118 Fourth Street
San Rafael
415-454-1222
\$9.25

Limited engagement run of the new movie by Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean.

Saturday, October 1

Terry Pratchett appearance
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free

Terry Pratchett (*Thud*) reads and signs.

October 7-9

Silicon 2005
www.siliconconventions.com
Doubletree Hotel
San Jose

A small general science fiction convention. Anime track, dealers room, programming track.

October 8

5th Annual Metreon Festival of Anime
Metreon
101 4th Street
San Francisco
11 a.m. -
Free or ?

This is usually a small, but nice event. The price is free since most of it is held in the public areas of the Metreon, but if you want to watch the anime being shown or be eligible for a prize in the costume contest, you have to buy a membership.

October 16

Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free

This month's book is *Bloodsucking Fiends* by Christopher Moore.

Wednesday, October 19

Gregory Maguire appearance
Books Inc.
2275 Market Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
Free

Gregory Maguire, the best selling author of *Wicked*, will introduce his new book, *Son of a Witch*.

October 26, 2005

Robert Jordan appearance
Cody's Stockton Street
2 Stockton Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
Free

October 27, 2005

R. A. Salvatore appearance
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
3600 Stevens Creek Blvd
San Jose
408-984-3495
7:00 p.m.
Free

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October 27, 2005

Robert Jordan appearance

Bay Book Co.
Strawflower Shopping Center
80 F. Cabrillo Hwy.
Half Moon Bay
7:00 p.m.
Free

October 28-30

Yaoicon 5

www.yaoicon.com
The Westin San Francisco Airport
1 Old Bayshore Highway
Millbrae

A celebration of male beauty and passion in anime and manga. Dealers room, programming, cosplay contest, bishi auction. Must be 18 years of age or older to attend.

October 28, 2005

Robert Jordan appearance

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
3600 Stevens Creek Blvd
San Jose
408-984-3495
7:00 p.m.
Free

October 29, 2005

Robert Jordan appearance

Borders Books & Music
1200 Pacific Ave., Suite 100
Santa Cruz
4:00 p.m.
Free

November 4-6

Bascon

Embassy Suites
250 Gateway Boulevard
South San Francisco
Memberships: \$70 to 10/31/05 or until sold out
Information: BASCon, P.O. Box 282197, San Francisco, CA 94128-2197
Email: info@BASCon.org

The fifth Bay Area Slash Convention. Open to those 18 years or older.

Dealers' room, art show, panels, video show, con suite.

November 5

AnimeDestiny 2005

www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~animage/animed/
University of California Berkeley
Berkeley
\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door
Members of Cal-Animage Alpha get in free.
9 a.m. – 11 p.m.

The second year for this very fun one-day convention sponsored by one of the oldest anime clubs in the U.S.

Anime track, programming, concert by j-rock group Beautiful Losers, cosplay contest, dealers, swap meet.

Friday and Saturday, November 11-12

Mermaid Meat

Eugene & Elinor Friend Center for the Arts
Kanbar Hall
Jewish Community Center of San Francisco

3200 California Street

San Francisco

Tickets: (415) 29201233, www.jccsf.org/arts

Group Discounts: (415) 346-7805
\$25

Brenda Wong Aoki and Mark Izu present Mermaid Meat: The Secret to Immortality and other Japanese ghost stories.

I can't recommend this highly enough. See my review in issue two of the performance of Black Hair at the SF Theater Festival. In addition to the title story and Black Hair, they will also be performing The Bell of Dojoji, Dancing in California and a new work.

Aoki is a wonderful performer, using

More Events Next Page

her voice and acting skills to bring to life traditional Japanese ghost stories with Izu providing musical accompaniment.

I suspect that Mermaid Meat is based on the same traditional story that Rumiko Takahashi used as the basis for her *Mermaid Forest* manga so anime fans might be particularly interested in this show.

November 12-13

Creation's Salute to Sci-Fi TV

Wyndham San Jose
1350 N. First Street
San Jose

November 20

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free

This month's book is *Tamsin* by Peter Beagle. The author will visit. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

December 10

Wintershoppingland

Hayward Centennial Hall
22292 Foothill Blvd.

Hayward

www.wintershoppingland.com

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

\$2 (Free 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

This is an anime event organized by the group that puts on Yaoi Con and Tales of Anime. Costume contest, dealers room, programming to be announced.

December 17-18

Japantown Anime Faire 3

Japantown
San Francisco
www.jtaf.com
6 p.m.

Fun local anime convention with anime showings, dealer's room, costume contest, panels.

December 18

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free

This month's book is *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

January 15, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free

This month's book is *The Stars My Destination* by Alfred Bester. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

January 19-23, 2006

Further Confusion

San Jose Doubletree
www.furtherconfusion.org
\$40

Furry convention.

February 10-12 2006

Wondercon

The Moscone Center
San Francisco

Comic book convention with anime, summer movie previews, panels, dealers, costume contest, more.

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February 17-20, 2006

Dundracon

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Drive

San Ramon

www.dundracon.com

\$?

Gaming convention.

February 17-20, 2006

PantheaCon

San Jose Doubletree

Pagan convention. Workshops, lectures, performances, rituals, vendors, drumming, dancing, costume contest.

February 19, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Wonderland* by Joyce Carol Oates. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

March 3-5 2006

Consonance 2006

www.consonance.org/

Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley

777 Bellew Drive

Milpitas

Memberships: \$35 to 10/31/05, \$40 to 2/18/06, \$45 at door

Filk convention. Guests: Bill & Gretchen Roper, Marty Coady Fabish, Puzzlebox, Chris Conway

March 19, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Declare* by Tim Powers. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

April 16, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Dark Beyond The Stars* by local author Frank Robinson. Author will visit. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Sunday, April 24, 2006

3DB Con

www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon

Three Dollar Bill Cafe 1800 Market Street

San Francisco

10:00 AM-10:00 PM

\$10

Game Convention.

May 11-14, 2006

World Horror Con 2006

Gateway Holiday Inn

www.whc2006.org

The world horror con comes to the bay area.

More Events Next Page

May 21, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is the graphic novel *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

May 26-29

Fanime Con

San Jose Convention Center

San Jose

www.fanime.com

Price

The largest annual anime convention in the Bay Area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, multiple tracks of anime, Asian films, J-pop concert, much more.

May 26-29

Baycon

San Jose Doubletree Inn

San Jose

www.baycon.org

\$45 until August 31

The largest annual general SF convention in the Bay area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, anime room, much more.

August 4-6 2006

Anime Overdose 2006

www.animeod.com

San Francisco

\$30 to ?, \$45 at door

Anime convention.

Ongoing:

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

Mondays at 8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

SF Games

vax.hanford.org/dk/games

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street near 24th

San Francisco

7:00 p.m. to midnight

Free

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a cards night on Tuesdays at Café Macondo, 3159 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia.

Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to:
SFinSF@gmail.com