

Real Life... The Next Best Thing

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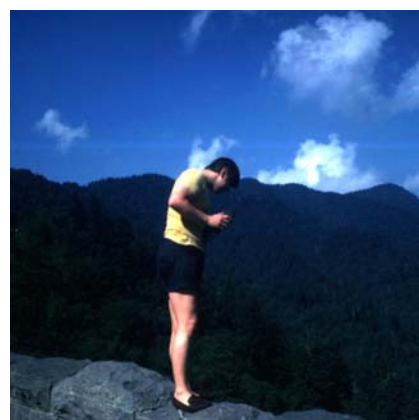
**Mostly Me - And Some Friends **

1 - Once and Future Hugo

I began to see possibilities early. At Torcon II in fact, while ogling Andy Porter's Hugo.

2 - Saara Statue

A foot tall sculpture of Saara Mar, made for me some years ago in exchange for artwork. It sits on my stereo turntable still, though pretty much everything around it has been moved around many times.



3 - Take a Close Look

A rare photograph of me with Victoria Vayne. Here I'm showing her some of the more scenic views of the Big Smokey Mountains, during our trip to Sun Con in '77.

4 - Take a Closer... Oops

Victoria has decided to take a still closer look at the sheer drop.

5 - Taral & Victoria Vayne (Torque 1)

A more straight faced photo of Victoria Vayne and me. The nametag I'm wearing appears to be the one I made for Torque 1 (perhaps Torque 2 or even 3), which would place this around 1982. There are damned few shots of Victoria, as she hated to be photographed.

6 - Taral Underwater

Behind me are two cross-stitch hangings made for me. The deal was the artist would auction one for her own benefit, and made me a second rather than share the proceeds. On the left is one of my fictional characters, Tangelwedsibel, and on the right is Beatrix. The flood is a Photoshop trick, thank gawd...

7 - Who Me?

Me, in some wretched Denny's, in Southern California, probably around 2000 or 2001. I was with a number of furry artists I knew, maybe including or maybe not including Marc Schirmeister. The pendant is actually a cheap digital watch.



8 - Xmas '06 (Bubbles)

Christmas 2006, at the home of Steven Baldassarra, who has become a very dear friend in recent years. This is not his family dining room. It's actually the furnished basement. His Italian family is very traditional, and several generations of Baldassarra's lived together in a home that was in some respects a small Italian village. There were *three* kitchens alone! (Steven and I are still working our way through the wine cellar.)



9 - Xmas '06 (Taral)

I found this stupid Powerpuff Girl pillow for a dollar at the Sally Ann, and had to bring it with me to stage these photos...



10 - Lamé Excuses

I debated whether or not I should burn this photo, let alone show it to anyone, but what the hell. If you can't laugh at yourself, you'd have to laugh at somebody likely to bust you in the teeth. I used to wear this thing to conventions, but fortunately I outgrew it... literally... outward. I probably would have given it up voluntarily anyway. And this pretty much wraps up all known photographs of Victoria.

11 - Revenge (Corflu 23)

The famous staged photo of Paul Wilson being devoured by a Gestetner 360, taken at Corflu 23 in Toronto. I always loved this gimmick.

12 - Taral & Shanda

Me and a friend at some ConfFurence or other, circa late '90's.

13 - Bob & Sharry on Laputa

My favourite photo of Bob and Sharry Wilson, taken at the Studio Ghibli grounds, sometime during or after the Japanese Worldcon. Bob is the fan of the 70's Toronto Derelict scene, but also Robert Charles Wilson.

14 - Grampa's Metropolitan

Me and my grandfather, 1957. The Nash Metropolitan steals the scene.

15 - Arrow in Back

Me a couple of years ago, at the opening day of Toronto's Air Museum. It was also the first day on which the full scale replica of the Avro Arrow was rolled out for the general public to view. I've sanding a little behind the port side inlet. Believe it or not, this behemoth was a *fighter plane*. Political axe-grinding and rising costs led to the cancellation of the program after only five flying examples were produced. Inexplicably, the five were broken up for scrap, laying a foundation for conspiracy theories and a national myth.



16 -- Graphitti

Taken on my first visit to LA, in 1984. I spent seven weeks in the area, staying with Marc Schirmeister. Among the many things I saw were the Huntington Gardens. Apparently it was a custom for people to carve their names on the trunks of this bamboo grove. So who am I to fight tradition? I carved my name (and the date) in an imaginary script I had invented, though. See if you can find it in this photo.

17 - NRA Pic

Circa 1990's I guess, since I didn't move into my present apartment until '91. There's the sculpture of Saara, too. The small arsenal on the wall isn't real. Some are only toys, and some are realistic plastic kits. I was fascinated with building them at one time.

18 - Sudbury Pan

I love this shot. I call it "Sudbury Pan" because it was taken in Sudbury, Ontario. Victoria took the shot. I don't know exactly what I was thinking, mind you.



19 - The One That Didn't Get Away

Victoria took this shot too. It was a trip south to some convention, possibly the '77 drive to Suncon in Miami. We stopped at a gas station, where I found this inflatable blimp hanging in the guy's office. He was willing to sell it for a couple of bucks, so here I am, proudly displaying my fresh "catch".

20 - Sandy Klaus

Early 90's, in my new apartment in Willowdale. I was holding a sign to welcome a visitor, but just what the gag was I no longer remember.

21 - Tough Shot

In a surprise arrangement I recently traded a few pencil sketches to a correspondent in the States for a real shoulder holster. You'd think it easy to put one, but no such thing. I found several incorrect ways of wearing it before I could finally figure out the instructions. This is the correct way. Wearing my "Tilly" bush hat and ancient mirror shades, I figure I set a new standard in unappealing sleaziness.

