

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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Lloyd Penney writes:

Dear Jean, Chris and Jack

It's time for another SF/SF, issue 15, and while I am totally backed up with zines to work on, I am going to take this relatively new issue and do something with it. I'll see if I can work ahead a little bit.

Chris Garcia replies: Always good to hear from Toronto's Own SuperStar!

I have now seen *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, to use the full title. Some reviews said that it was dull, and the reviewers hated seeing the typical snotty and sarcastic English kids, but seeing the story was from a relatively small book, especially in comparison to *The Lord of the Rings*, the producers were relatively faithful to the story, and the quality of the movie is reflected in the fact that its box office has been larger than *King Kong's*. Quite enjoyed it, and now I am hoping to make time for the Harry Potter movie before it leaves the theatres.

I'd make time for Harry Potter since it's a really solid film. Everyone I've talked to says that Narnia is a fantastic story, which I've

never read, and that the movie is great, which I haven't seen. I liked Kong a lot, but it was hurt by a combination of run-time and mixed reviews.

You're right, Jean, running conventions is a lot of fun, and teaches a lot of valuable business skills, like teamwork, negotiation and project planning. Let me know if your staffer is coming to the Gathering of the Fellowship. I doubt I'll be able to afford to go, for it is quite expensive. I may check with the chairman to see if there are one-day memberships.

I'm just starting to work on cons (BayCon this year is my first with a real title) and even I have discovered that the negotiation part is very important. I'd love to go to The Gathering. Perhaps someday...

The Internet has made it easier for fans to connect, but I do feel it's made it easier for fans to stay isolated while getting all the SF they want. There are so many fans with LiveJournals, hiding behind online names...it facilitates communications, but hinders making social contacts. Do you really know who you're talking to?

I know exactly what you mean. I'm hidden away in a little corner of the internet, minding

my own and scoping all the SF and Fandom related stuff I can. It's interesting that a zine like SF/SF could possibly be made with three different editors who have never met. Now, I've met Jack and Jean, though I hadn't met Jean before we started editing the beast and I've laid eyes on Jack once!

Kevin Smith's been up here in Toronto a few times. He really seems to like it here, and there's a teens' show on the CTV network called *DeGrassi: The Next Generation* he likes so much, he wrote an episode, and appeared in another. Kelly Freas was the Torcon artist GoH, and he wasn't able to be there. I never did get my portrait done by Kelly, but he was always a presence at any convention he appeared at. For a while, I knew Polly Freas better than Kelly, and she was so approachable and pleasant. I still miss her. Ad Astra has its own LJ board for announcements and general conversation, but I find that it's little used. Blogging is getting bigger, but in some parts of fandom, I think it's becoming almost passé. I wonder what the next quantum communications leap will be.

I knew Kelly a little bit. I met him when I was tiny (there's supposed to be a photo of him holding me as a wee one) and I met him

again years later. His fondest wish towards the end of his life was to do a design for a bomber like he did during the war. I tried to hook him up with one of the various groups that restore the old planes, but I don't know if he ever managed to get a design done. And the next form of communication will be a return to carrier pigeon, but they'll be genetically-engineered to deliver the message and then bring back a response before dying.

I am hoping that this CD project

I worked on a few years ago now will finally see the light of day. At the big mediacon in Toronto this July, Toronto Trek XX, I have been promised that there will be a CD for sale to the public with the first six episodes of *Sectarian Wave*. There also might be the possibility of participation in a Star Trek fan film later in the year. The producer/director/writer of *Sectarian Wave* is producing this, and might get me involved, to what extent, I don't know.

Interesting. I really want to see Sectarian Wave a lot. There's also little I love more than a good fan film.

That's all folks...I am so far behind, I can't see the top of the stack. Take care, and see you next issue. Chris, I will be catching up with The Drink Tank now... Yours, Lloyd Penney.

I thank you and I hope that you'll get those LoCs to me!

Toronto Gathering of the Fellowship, July 1 - 4, 2006

By Diane B. Rooney
Staff Writer

Last issue Jean mentioned "one of our staff writers goes to LOTR events all over the world." Uh, that would be me. So why mention the Gathering in SF/SF? Well, SF and Toronto are kind of sister cities, really: both are hip, liberal, culturally and ethnically diverse, have great restaurants and active sci fi and fantasy communities. Plus Lloyd Penney's practically a regular here, and HE lives in Toronto.

Anyway, as the volunteer publicist for The Gathering, a nonprofit convention organized entirely by volunteers, with proceeds to benefit ProLiteracy, I'd just

like to invite SF/SF readers to check out our programming. Oh, and as an added incentive, if you do go to Toronto, stay on for Toronto Trek 20 the following weekend (July 7-9). Already going to the Trek? Come early for the Gathering.

The Gathering is the first fan-organized convention to focus on both Tolkien and C.S.Lewis in the context of both books and films. It offers the chance to see the new stage version of *The Lord of the Rings* with other fans, plus programming tracks on stage & screen adaptations, scholarship, The Inklings, language & writing, art, music, and costuming & armor. Film presentations and discussions include *The Lord of the Brush* (the new John Howe

documentary), material from *Ancanar*, and most likely *Ringers*. Other special events include a picnic on Toronto Island and a banquet and costume contest.

Confirmed speakers include Bruce Hopkins, John Howe, Ted Nasmith, Mike Foster, Amy Sturgis, Ancanar, Colin Duriez, Michael Drout, Alison Baird, Vernon Fliieger, Michael Martinez, Michael Coren, Laura Cooper and many more.

Please check out the Gathering at <http://www.gatheringofthefellowship.org/convention/index.html>

Toronto Trek features Amber Benson, Garrett Wang, Richard Hatch, and Michael Shanks. Info on TT20: <http://www.tcon.ca/tt20/>

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Well, we're one month into the New Year and I hope everyone is doing great so far. The Chinese New Year always starts later and wasn't until January 29 this year. So now it's the Year of the Dog, which according to the Chinese zodiac is a year of fire. Just like a dog always has burning enthusiasm, the year is supposed to be marked by getting a lot of good accomplished in the world. Well, that's something to look forward to! Dogs are also loyal, loving and playful. They create balance between working hard and resting. I guess that's a good reminder for me, and for most everyone I would assume, to take the time to rest and take care of ourselves in the midst of all our numerous activities.

Here I was actually worried at the end of last year that this year wouldn't be as exciting and productive. Several significant people in my life told me not to worry and it would probably be more of the same for me in 2006. Although January started out slow, things started rolling for me again pretty quickly and I'm already exhausted!

The Edwardian Ball was amazing, and I discovered a new party event organizer called Anon Salon that same evening that was quite possibly the best party I've ever been to. Full coverage on both events is in the pages of this issue. WonderCon is coming up and the same group that I performed with at Comic-Con will be reprising our *Firefly* entry. So I'll be playing Inara again and we'll be singing and dancing a parody of "Proud Mary." Hope you get to see us! Although the crowd will be smaller than Comic-Con (there were 5,000 people in the audience!), this is on my home turf, at the Moscone Center.

I'll probably be volunteering at the SF Browncoats fan table. I went to their January meeting and had a great time as usual. They're just such friendly folk, and we all love *Firefly* and *Serenity*. So anyway, if any of you do go to WonderCon, please feel free to say hello to me, Chris and Warren.

By the way, coming up for me this year as well is a trip to New Zealand! I finally committed to doing Red Carpet Tours' *Lord of the Rings* tour in March for my birthday. I'm so excited and of course, I'll

write a huge article on it and will be taking lots of photos to share.

Fanzine Report

Not a lot this week. The Drink Tank's 100 Word special came out on eFanzines.com and featured a number of BArea writers, like Kelly Green, Fred Moulton, Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Andy Trembley, Kevin Roche and Frank Wu, along with some folks you might recognize from the SF/SF letter columns like Peter Sullivan, Eric Mayer and John Purcell. It's all articles of 100 words exactly.

Emerald City released a new issue this last Sunday. Cheryl Morgan and her usual crowd have another great issue on their hands.

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.

The Edwardian Ball and Anon Salon: Vintage Ballroom Dance Meets Halloween and Burning Man in San Francisco One January Evening

By Jean Martin
Editor

How often have I said in the pages of this ezine that fandom seems to be all inter-related. The night of January 21st proved that point and expanded it to not just fandom! Different parts of my life, and even my past, all came together in something akin to a planetary alignment. It was surreal to say the least!

I originally just intended to check out the Sixth Annual Edwardian Ball at the Great American Music Hall in San Francisco. A dance friend of mine a while back told how much he enjoyed this event in 2005. I had never heard about it before then. I had no idea until recently that there were so many costumed events in the city all year round! I go to costumed events in the Peninsula and East Bay regularly but never in San Francisco except on Halloween.

Anyway, my friend raved about the acrobatic troupe Vau du Vire Society. I saw a promotional postcard about the Edwardian Ball at the last PEERS ball (the 12th Night

Ball where I performed during the Music Hall intermission) and it reminded me that it would be a good event for me to go to (seeing as I'm into dance and costuming) and something that I would like to cover for SF/SF.



Edward Gorey Creature and Characters

Photo by Jean Martin

I did wind up going to the ball with the same dance friend and a female friend of his. Due to unfortunate circumstances, however, we didn't get to the Great American Music Hall until 10 p.m. So we missed the burlesque/can can troupe Diamond Daggers (which I really wanted to see because that's the kind of performing I usually do for PEERS) and singer/pianist Jill Tracy. At least we got there just in time for the headliners Rosin Coven.

Their web site proclaims them as the "worlds premiere pagan lounge ensemble."



Rosin Coven Vocalist Midnight Rose
Photo by Jean Martin

That really intrigued me before I actually saw them but the phrase didn't really prepare me for what to expect. They are a totally unique band, and coming from someone who used to be a music journalist, that's quite a statement. The eight musicians wearing macabre Edwardian outfits and Addams family makeup combined rock, classical

music, ballroom dance music, goth, cabaret and musical theater to form something

that was haunting, moving and made you want to either watch them entranced or sing along and dance. The closest comparison I can make is to the music from *Mystere* by Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas.

It was great to see a live band once again. The energy emanating



Rosin Coven Cellist Gingerbread Candy
Photo by Jean Martin

from the stage as I was taking pictures reminded me how much I love watching live music, and how much I've missed it. The best part was, being a rocker, I loved their more rock numbers, and also being a vintage ballroom dancer, I loved their songs where they invited people to dance. There was a waltz and a tango. I didn't get to dance as I ran into so many people I knew and I was taking photos and writing down impressions.

Yes, as I mentioned before, this is where the worlds began colliding. I ran into people from my vintage dance community, which I expected, but I also ran into a group of folks I camped with in the Black Rock Desert. They were surprised to see me there, and so was I. But it all made sense to us as we realized we were all into non-mainstream art and culture, performance art, dance and costuming! One of them offered me a name tag with a name from one



Edward Gorey Couple
Photo by Jean Martin



Dancers in the Ballroom

Photo by Jean Martin

of Edward Gorey's works, the *Gashlycrumb Tinies*. I chose "Maud" who was "swept out to sea." Their whole group was in costume representing some of the other unfortunate children from that alphabetical list of their fatal mishaps.

Which brings me to the whole point of the Edwardian Ball. It is to celebrate the genius of artist, writer and illustrator Edward Gorey. It was a little confusing to me at first because I thought the Edwardian Ball was about the Edwardian era (circa

early 1900s). But then after a little bit of research, I realized that some of Gorey's work did depict the Edwardian era as well as the Victorian age. I was only familiar with Gorey from his artwork that preceded and ended the *Mystery!* series on PBS, which I usually enjoy. But I didn't know that he was a writer as well.

One of the numbers that Rosin Coven did was a reading of the *Gilded Bat*, which was accompanied with a fantastic musical score, and depicted by the spectacular

Vau du Vire. The story was about a young woman who wanted to become a prima ballerina but after she achieved her dream, she soon passed away after she suffered at the hands of a controlling Baron, adoring fans and rabid paparazzi. The woman that played the main character, Maudie, looked like a marionette and did amazing acrobatic stunts including pulling her lower limbs around the back of her neck.

Anyway, as I looked around the crowd (it was a sold-out event), everyone was dressed elaborately for the occasion. Only in San Francisco can you see people dressed in Moulin Rouge-like attire but with a darker aspect. And, of course... sexier. It was a bit gothic, a bit bondage/fetish, with a dash of Tim Burton, and Jack the Ripper Victorian. It was also very unexpectedly Burning Man-like. As in the over-the-top, imaginative, free-to-express yourself manner that characterizes Burning Man. My dance friend ran into some of

his Burning Man friends. I found out later that Rosin Coven has performed at Burning Man in past years.

I also looked up to see people watching from the gilded and ornate balconies and I swear it felt like I was transported in time and space into an alternate universe where it was like the Barbary Coast days in San Francisco but raunchier and a little bit futuristic. Kind of like the "Mirror, Mirror" episode of the original *Star Trek*

where people looked familiar but slightly more sinister.

I enjoyed the Edwardian Ball immensely and will probably go back next year. We left after Rosin Coven was done and a DJ came on. The woman with us wanted to go to an Anon Salon party, which was at a club in SOMA that she's been to and really enjoys. It sounded appealing to me so I went along.

Interestingly enough, it also turned out to be the after-party for the Edwardian Ball and we got in at half-price because we came from that ball. I saw members of Vau du Vire in the crowd later on in the evening. What I didn't expect, though, was that it was a Burning Man party. Well, technically it isn't related to any camps but Burning man artists displayed their work there and the DJs perform at Burning Man.

There were several rooms on two floors. The first floor, which was actually on the second



Vau du Vire Acrobats

Photo by Jean Martin

floor and indoors, had rooms that were decorated in different themes and related artwork. One room was a lounge that had an East Indian flavor with throw pillows on the couches, carpets on the floor, beads hanging from the ceiling, and sarongs everywhere. There was a room full of stuffed animals (one was a pink bunny that was as tall as myself!), and flower and insect plush toys hanging from the ceiling. There was a room with a masseuse and a huge room for people to get their faces painted. And a huge dance floor with a stage, a pole and lots of good-looking and friendly people! The music was trance-like techno for a little while, which I really liked and got to dance to. There were four DJs that evening. Another room had four bands playing in succession. One was a rock/funk band that I enjoyed. There was even a karaoke room, a room with light toys (or “blinkies” as I call them) for sale and a pink room with a woman that sold handbags that she decorated herself (I bought a feather boa, a fluffy black hat for this year’s Burning Man, and a Playboy bunny Mardi Gras necklace from her).

For yet another cosmic convergence, in one of the rooms, I met the co-owner of Prairie Sun Recording Studio in Cotati. I went there once during my heavy metal journalist days, and he and I reminisced on

those days and all the people we knew in common.

The second floor was an open-air space with lots of sculptures and tables for people to sit around and chat and drink. We hung out there for a little bit when the downstairs area got too crowded and hot after dancing. That party was probably one

of the best parties I’ve ever been to in my life. We stayed there until 4:00 a.m.! Oh, and yes, Anon Salon was at Burning Man in past years as well. My life has come full circle.

For more information, visit: <http://www.edwardianball.com/> and <http://www.anonsalon.com/>



Open Air Lounge at the Anon Salon afterparty.
Photo by Jean Martin

Frank Wu: Multi-Media SuperStar!



**By Chris Garcia
Editor**

Frank Wu is one of my good friends, so I'm easy to impress with his good work, and when he comes up with a good idea, I'm all for it. Recently, he came up with the concept that may well change everything!

You see, Frank Wu wrote a story for the anthology *Daikaiju*. The Giant Monster anthology was great and Frank's story combined comedy and tragedy along with

a healthy dose of media commentary. The story, *The Tragical Historie of Guidolon: The Giant Space Chicken*, was one of the stand-out stories, and it was written in screenplay style, which made sense since it was the story of a Giant Monster who directs a Giant Monster movie starring humans and Giant Monsters. Weird? Yes. Wonderful? Yes.

Frank got a good idea. Because there was no way it could be made into an actual movie without tons and tons of money for props and sets, not to mention an Olde British Acre of rubber for suits, Frank decided to hold a reading at LosCon featuring some of his friends as the voices of Guidolon and pals. I played Guidolon and did the role as only a mad-eyed, crazy-haired Californian could. Turn-out was small, but it received rave reviews from the folks who were there. This planted a seed in Frank's mind that continued to grow. After we got back, plans were made to do it again at other cons (he and several others did a performance at Arisia where he was Artist Guest of Honor).

Then the thought of doing a version of *Guidolon* animated popped into Frank's mind. The idea grew and he found a group

that was willing to put out the effort to see about doing a trailer for the *Guidolon* cartoon.

The first step is, of course, to record the voices talking, and over the next three weeks we'll be doing just that. The original cast from LosCon, Jim Terman (narrator), Diana Sherman (the lovely Giant Hottie Trisauron), Frank (Various Voices, Jerora the Space Jelly Fish and Fribigus) and myself (Guidolon) will be recording it for the animators to work with over the coming months.

Frank has high hopes. He's hoping to distribute the *Guidolon* recording around to various folks and perhaps put on many more performances at cons. The cartoon will obviously be sent around to everyone he can think of and hopefully will be shown at various SF film festivals and the like. There's even hope that a line of toys could come out of this little project. Frank's got big ideas, and it'll be a blast seeing where this thing goes in the future.

Above and Background: Guidolon, along with Jerora and Octuron, by character designer Todd Tennant of <http://americankaijuphile.com>

Bay Area "Rings" Fans Head South for One Ring Celebration

By Diane B. Rooney
Staff Writer

San Francisco and the Greater Bay Area were well represented at Creation Entertainment's One Ring Celebration, held at the Pasadena Convention Center January 20-22, 2006. The convention

brought together several hundred *Lord of the Rings* fans, many from the West Coast but also from places further flung including Canada, Australia, and Argentina. The weekend was full of diverse activities and programs, so this convention report summarizes the highlights.

Costuming

Masquerades and costume contests are a high point of every *Lord of the Rings* gathering and ORC was no exception. Friday night's costume contest and masquerade drew about 40 entrants.

Bay Area folk took home a number of costume awards. In the novice category, Marie Alm of Santa Clara won the award for Best Re-creation for her presentation of The Shards of Narsil. Marie's costume, made in just eighteen days, featured a



Phil & Cathe Gust as Comrades in Arms, Best in Show - Adult Category.
Photo by Diane Rooney



Marie Alm as The Shards of Narsil, winner of Best Re-creation in the Novice Category.
Photo by Diane Rooney

dress made from six yards of grey polyester, lots of gray body paint, and a braided and styled wig. The shield on which the shards rest was made of layered cardboard covered with papier mache and Mod Podge, and the shards were made of Super Sculpey and then wired to the shield. Marie said the hardest parts of the project were wiring the shards to the shield and getting the dress to

drape properly.

Marie's costume generated a lot of buzz, as no one present had ever seen a costumer present the famous statue holding the remains of Elendil's sword seen in Rivendell in *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Nice work for a novice costumer.

In the journeyman category, Don Pong of Fremont won the award for Best Re-creation for his presentation of the Lord of the Nazgul. (Don won last year in the



Don Pong as Lord of the Nazgul, winner of best re-creation in the Journeyman category.
Photo by Diane Rooney

novice category for his Legolas costume, in his first costume competition.) The Lord of the Nazgul costume, which took two months to construct, consisted of five layers of fabric, a giant mace made of layered and painted cardboard with links of painted plastic, and six-inch platform boots. He also wore pauldrons made of painted foam and a customized helmet and gloves.

Phil and Cathe Gust won Best in Show (adult) for their presentation of Comrades in Arms (Theoden and Gamling), which many "Rings" fans had seen at the GBACG's Evening in Rivendell a few months ago.

The contest was judged by film mapmaker and calligrapher Daniel Reeve from New Zealand, Jeanne Kang, Tengwar and Runes expert Laura Cooper, and Laura Wilson. Tolkien artist Colleen Doran was Mistress of Ceremonies.

Winners received award certificates personalized for them by Daniel Reeve, and some received copies of *The Art of Lord of the Rings* and other volumes, some signed by artist Alan Lee.

Leah Jakusovsky taught several of the costuming panels including "Elves and Hobbits," "All About Armor," and "Taking That First Stitch: Getting Started in Lord of the Rings Costuming." That's Leah behind the orc helmet and mail.



Leah Jakusovsky as Sam disguised as an orc.
Photo by Diane Rooney

Art

Ashley Taylor of Santa Cruz participated in the Iron Artist Challenge. In this contest, three amateurs and three professional artists had one hour to create an original work in front of the audience. The theme, announced at the start of the competition, was the Entwives, who are unseen in the books and films. Taylor won in the Children's Illustration category for her pencil sketch. All works were auctioned on



Ashley Taylor, winner of the Best Children's Illustration in the Iron Artist Competition.

Photo by Diane Rooney

Sunday to raise funds for VSA arts, which enables people with disabilities to learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts.

Celebrities – Daniel Reeve

Celebrity guests included hobbits Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, and Billy Boyd, Miranda Otto (Eowyn), and John Noble (Denethor), along with mapmaker/calligrapher Daniel Reeve. The actors mostly just took questions, which varied widely in quality, but Daniel Reeve presented a slide show with dozens of images of items he created

for *The Lord of the Rings*: countless books, invitations, scrolls, labels, maps, and even props like the telescope in the library at Rivendell.

The actual film props turned out to be only part of his work. He went on to work with dozens of merchandising licensees, preparing a massive style guide for them, and then also created the titles and graphics for the DVD releases in dozens of languages.

After *The Lord of the Rings*, Daniel continued to work with WETA, creating maps and calligraphy for *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and *King Kong*. If you saw these films, you saw his handiwork in Mr. Tumnus' arrest warrant and in the map of Skull Island and the New York newspapers, posters and menus in *King Kong*, among other pieces. He's also created game cards for Hasbro's upcoming game based on *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Daniel's story is an interesting and inspiring one. He had studied and

practiced calligraphy and watercolor for many years but made his living working in the IT department of a bank. When production of *The Lord of the Rings* was announced, he sent a sample book to Peter Jackson. The studio contacted him almost immediately, and his life began to move in a different direction. He now works full time as an artist. To learn more about his work visit <http://www.danielreeve.co.nz/>

Celebrities – John Noble

Most interesting (to me) of the actors was John Noble, because he talked at length about the craft of acting, preparation for a role, and working on set. John is a classically trained actor who believes in



Calligrapher Daniel Reeve and Fans.

Photo by Diane Rooney



John Noble
Photo by Diane Rooney

thorough preparation, a slow infiltration into his role, taking on voice, gesture, and working with props, so that when he goes before the camera it's not really acting – he IS the character. During the wardrobe and makeup process each day he became Denethor. In John's view, "the craft is about getting inside a character and playing that truth," regardless of medium.

John has a long and distinguished career as a stage actor and director in Australia and as a TV and film actor. He's also directed in London. John has three films coming out in 2006: *Running Scared*, *Voodoo Lagoon*, and the historical epic *One*

Night with the King. His parts are all villains and he has "some great death scenes." This year he's headed for Serbia to appear in *Conflict*, a thriller directed by John Ireland, where he once again plays the father of two sons, and to England, for a film in which he plays the Devil. You can learn more about this interesting actor at <http://www.johnnoble.net/>

Films

A super-secret seven-minute blooper reel with outtakes from *The Lord of the Rings* generated the most buzz. The reel was shown in multiple screenings all three nights with really tight security: no cameras, cell phone, video or audio equipment, and bags were wanded. The outtake everyone talked about was the poor Witch King struggling to draw his sword, which had gotten stuck in the scabbard. "This is my

hour...." Well, maybe not.

The makers of *Ringers: Lord of the Fans*, Cliff Broadway, Jeff Marchetta and others, did a panel on the making of that film and later showed the entire documentary. Released in November, *Ringers* is a sweet and light-hearted look at *Lord of the Rings* fandom from the 1950s to the present day. Much of it was filmed at fan conventions, notably Comic-Con. What's scary is just



Elijah Wood and Sean Astin.
Photo by Diane Rooney



Billy Boyd.
Photo by Diane Rooney

how many people in the film I knew, like Phil and Cathe Gust, to name a few.

Another film panel featured the director, cast, and crew of *Dork of the Rings*,

due for release this summer. Director Jack Peterson, a.k.a. Tim Richardson, showed clips from his self-described “epic parody.” Their making-of documentary, *Dorks Gone Wild*, is already on sale at their website (just search for *Dork of the Rings*).

Photo and Autograph Lines

Photo ops were priced separately from convention ticket packages: \$60 each for the hobbits and Miranda Otto, \$20 less for other celebrities. Autographs were included in the top-priced weekend package, but for fans who didn't have them, each autograph added \$30 to \$50. The photo op lines moved quickly, just 30 seconds or so to say hello, shake hands, pose, and snap. The autograph lines were another story, since this is where fans get their moment, or two, or three, to chat. Saturday's autograph session with Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, John Noble and Daniel Reeve started around 7pm and was still going after 11pm. The One Ring Awards

Show, dessert party and fan entertainment were mostly over, but the guys were still backstage at the tables signing away. Eventually Elijah and Sean came onstage to join the entertainers. They all were certainly troopers for hanging in to make sure everybody got to speak to them.

Scholars Panels

ORC drew a good selection of scholars, writers and artists for a full program of panels covering themes in *The Lord of the Rings* and also *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Speakers included Mike Foster, Amy



U.K. first editions of *The Lord of the Rings*, 1954-55.
Photo by Diane Rooney

Sturgis, Alison Baird, Peter S. Beagle, Anne Petty, and Lynette Porter, and artists Colleen Doran and Tim Kirk. One challenge at ORC, as at many conventions, was juggling between programming tracks. Start times were not uniform with activities on the main stage, so visitors always seemed to be walking out on somebody.

Other Programming

There really was something for everyone



Phil Gust as Faramir.
Photo by Diane Rooney

at ORC including three workshops on Tolkien's writing (Tengwar and Runes), the wonderful Michael Bilach as the Singing Gandalf, programs for kids and adults by Debbie Hayes on elf ears and foot hair, and an art showroom.

Odds and Ends

A first United Kingdom edition (1954/1955) of the three volumes of *The Lord of the Rings* signed by J.R.R. Tolkien (the signature is tipped in front of the title page) was on display Sunday at the Red Carpet Tours booth. The Los Angeles area-based owner has had them for about fifteen years and is now offering the set for \$22,500. A chance to come in contact with something held and signed by the Professor.

Your reporter opened the show on Friday afternoon with a main stage slide show and commentary on her tour of *Lord of the Rings* New Zealand film locations in June of last year, which hopefully helped people get in the spirit for the convention.

There were a lot fewer vendors than in 2005 and the three vendor areas seemed quieter in terms of traffic (not in terms of noise, thanks to the friendly folks at Games Workshop). To me it seemed like the poster, photo, and t-shirt sellers did the best business.

I'm glad I went, since I think *Lord of the*



Jack Peterson, director of *Dork of the Rings*.
Photo by Diane Rooney

Rings is a great fandom and it's fun to put on my elf princess dress and immerse in the con for three days, seeing friends, taking pictures, checking out the programs, and even being part of it with the slide show. But it's an expensive weekend, even without photo ops. Next year ORC is moving to the Burbank Airport Hilton. The dates are March 9-11, 2007. Yeah, I did buy my ticket for next year before I left Pasadena.

Fabulandia: Fauna

By Jack Avery
Editor

In the second half of San Francisco art gallery The LAB's two-part exhibit, five



artists interpret the creatures that might inhabit a future Earth. As I did in my review of the first part, I'm approaching the review from the perspective of a science fiction reviewer rather than an art critic.

Located at the front of the exhibit space, Tara Tucker's "The Salties," consisting of both pencil drawings and multi-media sculptures, best addresses the science fiction theme of the exhibit. Her creations, mutated dolphin-like creatures that are in the midst of evolving between sea and land, are the only part of the exhibit that overtly looks at the science fictional premise of the show.

Tucker describes her work as "this strange vision of whale-like creatures inheriting the remnants of a recently extinct human race."

Intelligent cetaceans are a long staple of science fiction, usually portrayed in a sympathetic

light. However, Tucker's creations are more ambiguous. These are not cute and cuddly dolphins, but instead are strange-looking creatures with an inhuman, perhaps even cruel, intelligence. The creatures are often engaged in activities with recognizable animals, such as a cat, dogs, and an elephant. Whether these activities are benign or exploitive is left to the viewer. Tucker's work asks questions about the nature of higher intelligence: Does such intelligence require a domination of the natural world?

In one smaller sculpture right at the entranceway, a Salty plays with a kitten, but the kitten is on a leash. In many of the





images and sculptures, the Salties are clearly in control. In one drawing a pair of Salties supervises two thoroughbred dogs in the act of breeding. In another a Salty menaces a bear with a whip. Are the Salties harsh masters? We're not given enough context to make that determination, but the overall effect is one of menace and callousness.

Tucker's design of the Salties is a reasonable extrapolation of evolutionary principles. Retaining a blowhole on the

top of their heads and vestigial tails, the Salties' flippers have morphed into arms and stubby legs. The overall effect is both a combination of familiar dolphin and human anatomy, and a disquieting alien effect.

In drawings and paintings with and without the Salties, Tucker creates images of animals joined with plants growing from them. There is also a drawing of several other strange animals, including a multi-





armed monkey.

Unlike Tucker's work, two installation pieces from Tim Jag's Industry Code Series



don't seem to ask any science fictional questions. One piece consists of a grouping of three "animals" each with a metal tripod for legs, a faux fur covered cylinder for a body, pipes for a neck and fake plant leaves for a head. Since these are manifestly human-created inanimate objects made out of artificial materials, I can't see what they say about a post-human future. It doesn't even seem to be saying that our junk will outlast us.

Another Jag piece, "Reception Machine," is even less of an attempt to create futuristic fauna. All together, his work is less about the future, than about post-modern conceptual art.



Jag also has a series of paintings, of creatures that blend pipes, gauges and tripods with organic components. In some, it's not clear if Jag views these as living creatures or as objects.

Mandy Greer's "Jude 2000" was not created specifically for the exhibit, but is certainly an interesting work. The life-size bear is a deliberately soiled stuffed animal with matted fur and glittered claws. Posed as a stuffed grizzly would be, the animal is dressed in a decorative collar. I'm not certain what Greer is intending with this,

and a related series of the mounted heads of stuffed animals. She seems to be making life-size toy animals, then presenting them as if they were hunting trophies. Instead of trying to replicate the appearance of real animals, she uses bright colored fabrics to emphasize the human-created nature of these artificial animals.

She also has a piece that looks similar to the body of a flamingo, but in place of a head, it has two feelers that attach to a nearby wall, supporting the figure as it hovers above the floor.

And as for donelle estey's Coral Deer paintings, I'm not sure just what it is



that she's trying to accomplish.

"I am now layering notions and dimensions as co-existent equals in personal tales without obvious beginnings, middle or end, but rather revealed moments of comprehension within storyline," she writes.

Apparently, in the future, English will no longer be used to communicate coherent thought.

estey's work consists of watercolors of deer but with elaborate coral structures instead of normal antlers.

The final artist in the show, Berkeley artist Daniel Ross, laminates his images of animals and landscapes onto huge wooden frameworks. This work appears to be a commentary on the attempt by artists to reproduce the natural world. Whether his art is also science fiction would depend on the viewer, although one of the images does include a pig whose snout devolves into the front half of a second piglet, giving it a mutant appearance.

Overall, this is an interesting exhibit that is worth the free admission price, although



perhaps with the exception of Tucker's work, not worth a special trip to the city to see it. The two parts of the exhibit worked well in sequence; it's a shame that both couldn't be exhibited at the same time.

Part one of this exhibition, Fabulandia Terra, was reviewed in issue 10.

Event details:

Fabulandia: Fauna

The LAB

2948 16th Street

San Francisco

www.thelab.org

Wednesdays-Saturdays, 1-6 PM

Free

Through February 11

The New Year – Decatur Style

By Celeste Miller
Captain, USS Decatur

Greetings and salutations from the Decatur's haggard "commander." Now that I am no longer in the throes of jetlag, here's a long overdue update on the events that we

were involved in over the last month and a half.

December 17th, 2005 – Starship Decatur Blood Drive

My thanks go to Jason Cherry, Alex Stewart, and Jack Twilly for joining me

Again, thank you for those who participated in this endeavor! It was a great send-off before the holiday.

January 7th, 2006 – January Meet & NYE Shindig

With one of the best turnouts to our January BBQ meet, we grilled the day away watching episodes of *Firefly* and the Easter egg in the *Serenity* DVD. Our Q Master, John Harding, experimented with the potency of Kingsford Matchlight charcoal, and Glenn Martin and Jason Cherry discovered they were fellow Reflex scooter riders. Both of them looked like superheroes in their motorcycle gear... a picture is forthcoming so you will understand my meaning. The topic of the meeting was WonderCon. It is the place where the majority of the crew will be on February 11th, and most of us will be in some kind of *Firefly*/*Serenity* costuming. I will be in Federation gear with the Klingons from the IKV Black Dragon and the IKV Bloodlust later in the evening.

January 19th – Ethics and Culture of Star Trek Presentation

Pete Briggs and I were invited to



Pete Briggs and Celeste Miller with Star Trek Ethics students at St. Mary's College

Photo courtesy of IKV Black Dragon

in giving the gift of life at the Pleasanton Red Cross Donation Center. We had our share of moral support too – Pete Briggs and Kierin Bushore gave words of encouragement and fed us juice and snacks after we donated our red blood-celled fluid. We enjoyed a Togo's lunch of sandwiches and soup together before parting ways in the torrential rain.

be guest speakers at a “Star Trek Ethics” class at St. Mary’s College in Moraga. We presented the cultural differences between the Klingons and the Federation, and we represented fandom as well. Many thanks to Professor Kathy Fowler for the opportunity to express ourselves and the class for the gracious and warm reception we received. You can view the photos on [IKV Black Dragon’s website](http://www.ikvblackdragon.com) at <http://www.ikvblackdragon.com> under Pictures.

Where’s the meet?

Well, it is official. Bill and I have started the process of packing up the apartment so the Decatur’s 10-Forward is officially trashed. The meets have traditionally been held the first weekend of the month, but I have a different idea for February’s gathering. Many of us will be at WonderCon already, so how about we make some hubbub about it and get together in San Francisco? The Metreon is right across the street from the Moscone Center, with a Starbucks Coffee on the first level (not the cart). The closest BART stations are Montgomery (3rd Street) and Powell, in that order.

So here’s the plan:

Sony Metreon

101 4th Street 151, San Francisco,

California 94103

1st Level, Starbucks Coffee 415-369-6284

Saturday, February 11th @ 2pm

We’ll gather at the evil Starshbucks and choose a place to eat lunch in the Metreon. Even if you do not plan to attend WonderCon, this is a chance to see your fellow crewmen dressed in

complete silliness. Consider it an enormous opportunity for blackmail material. If you would like to check us out if you haven’t met us yet, feel free to join us as well. Please drop me an email or a voice message and let me know you are coming. I will make sure everyone is accounted for (eyeofcanaan *at* gmail *dot* com or 925/570-9103). I look forward to chillin’ with my best (that means you) at the Metreon!



Pete Briggs faces off against Star Trek Ethics students at St. Mary’s College
Photo courtesy of IKV Black Dragon

BASFA Minutes: meeting 806

January 2, 2006

Trey Haddad, President

Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sargent at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:04 p.m.

18 people attended

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 804 were accepted as 'fantabulously saturated' & the minutes of meeting 805 were accepted as 'in memory of Casey Forrest Wahi'

Treasurer report was that we took in \$11.08 in the regular jar [& there was no party jar].

VP reports = no Nathan [week 10] & VP Chris reported 'O so many things' - there's a new 'Drink Tank' out, that Howard Devore died on New Year's Eve & discussed a future 'Drink Tank' that will

deal with reassigning history.

We established a party jar.

The President reported that our mailing list has shown a sudden surge of activity.

No Committee reports.

No Announcements.

Reviews:

Ken reviewed 'The Producers' as he was disappointed by it & he felt it was trying to hard to be the original film & failed, but that the musical numbers were great. He thought it was worth matinee & said to stay for the credits to see the cookie.

'Monkey' = Chris likes monkeys.

It was mentioned that Kevin R.'s sister once led an exciting life. Kevin R. reviewed a DVD of the '50's TV 'Flash Gordon' as it was difficult to sit through & will end up in a BASFA auction soon.

Ed reviewed 'How to Lie With Statistics' as a nice, useful book [& then there were some neeps about statistics].

Harold reviewed 'King Kong' as possibly

the worst monstrosity in film - as a very long 3 hours - & overblown.

I reviewed 'Memoirs of a Geisha' as disappointing, lovely but hollow & worth going to go see on a gift certificate.

Chris reviewed 'Costumers Quarterly' as a fine read & reviewed 'Brokeback Mountain' [that gay cowboy movie] as there's a lot of angry love in that movie, but it's too long - is worth full price anyway.

Andy reviewed 'Touch of Pink' as chaos & hilarity ensue - charming - and worth buying at Dave's dealer table at a convention.

Ed also reviewed a 'Settlers of Catan' expansion called 'Cities & Knights' as worth full price.

Then we auctioned off stuff = comics for \$0.45; a bag for \$1.20 & books for \$1.65, \$1.00, \$0.75, \$3.50 & \$5.00.

We adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was: 'You Klingon bastard - you killed my rumor!'

BASFA Minutes: meeting 807

January 9, 2006

Trey Haddad, President

Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sargent at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:03 p.m.

22 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 806 were accepted as 'you Klingon

son - you killed my bastard'.

Treasurer report was that last week we took in \$31.34 in the regular jar & \$36.20 in the party jar.

VP reports = no Nathan [week 11] & VP Chris reported 'O so many things' - there's a new 'Drink Tank' out, & he has another film in this year's Cinequest = 'Last Woman on Earth' which may be shown on March 8th.

We established a party jar.

The President said 'hi' to 'Bob' [no last name given] - who has followed our exploits for months but was here in RL for the 1st time.

We applauded Art, as webmaster, for having helped clear up the mailing list problems [along with Michael Wallis].

No Committee reports.

Announcements:

Adrienne announced that she is on the LACon4 con committee for Writer's Workshop.

Julie announced that a new group formed, 'SOOT' [Students Of Old Technology] & is meeting at Ardenwood Forge; best contact point is through the

Airtight Garage.

Kevin S announced there are no print copies of 'Emerald City' this week.

Cheryl announced that the latest 'Emerald City' is online & she will be lurking in Europe for the next few months in the bitter cold [so think warm thoughts about her].

Ed announced the BASFA FurCon party will be on Friday night.

Kevin R announced the FurCon League of Evil Genius party will also be on Friday night [next to the Suburban Jungle party].

Frank Wu announced it is now Hugo nomination time for LACon4 [until March 10] & it was suggested we do nominations on the first 3 Mondays in February.

Reviews:

Joanie reviewed 'Passage' by Connie Willis as it is not a fast-paced, plot-driven novel, but she recommends buying it in paperback & she reviewed the spiral jetty as a harrowing ride to get there - use a sturdy vehicle - & it's worth visiting.

I reviewed 'Dhampir', 'Thief of Souls' & 'Sister of the Dead' by the Hendees as I wanted to damage the protagonists as their stupidity grew worse throughout the books; to save your money & not buy these books, even for kindling. Then we neeped about vampires a little.

Cheryl reviewed her MP3 player as she loves it & it's still only half full & reviewed Boston as very like London & the weather there is disgusting.

Art reviewed 'Pride & Prejudice' - seen at the Century 25 as the film's sound went out half-way through the film - but what he saw was pretty good

Julie reviewed the lemonade as pretty good.

Chris reviewed 'Fantastic 4' on DVD as not a bad film & worth DVD rental if only for the mini-documentary extra & he reviewed 'Roller Girls' as the single greatest show on TV [this month', added Kevin R].

Kevin S. reviewed his train trip as excessively long [rail neeps followed].

Kevin R. reviewed Sushi to Die For as anime played on the walls [without sound], but the service was extremely slow, the food was okay & the muzak was not very good.

Adrienne reviewed the 'Lestat' musical ['did it suck?' Chris asked] - as she left early for medical reasons but what she saw was enjoyable to that point.

Then we auctioned off stuff = books for \$0.25; \$0.75 & \$1.00; a hat for \$1.50 & a video for \$1.25.

We adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was = 'BASFA will unleash the beavers'.

BASFA Minutes: meeting 808

January 16, 2006

Trey Haddad, President

Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:00 p.m. 20 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 807 were accepted as 'dammed.'

Treasurer report was that last week we took in \$?? [no Treasurer].

VP reports = no Nathan [week 12] - Nathan is now free! & VP Chris reported 'O so many things' - there will be a new 'Drink Tank' out tomorrow, & an 'SFSF' out on Wednesday or Thursday.

We established a party jar.

The President reported that Further Confusion is this week - be there and have fun; come to the BASFA party on Friday at 8pm - and help out there, too. There was then a furry of bad jokes.

Kevin S suggested that we start Hugo nominations on Jan 30th.

Announcements Andy announced that the FurCon League of Evil Genius party will be on Friday night [next to the Suburban Jungle party] - & to come there and be a lab rat.

Ken announced the SciFi channel has

finally got *Dr. Who* and will start showing the new show in March.

Reviews: Harold reviewed the SJ Coin Show as an insidious plot to get people to transform their money into currencies that no longer exist; thought they had a nice selection and he wasn't able to afford much of anything.

Joanie reviewed the general tenor of reviews for *Brokeback Mountain* as rather insulting; Dave C asked for detail & Andy said 'just the verbs!' [and various neeps followed].

Andy did part 2 of his pancake review, saying the Dutch Baby - a baked custard pancake that is almost a pancake soufflé - served with drizzled lemon juice and powdered sugar - was very good, worth full price - but it takes 20 minutes to prepare.

Chris reviewed a white chocolate ice-blended mocha from the SF Coffee Bean [at Market & 2nd] as possibly the best thing humanity has ever invented - absolutely fantastic & worth selling your soul for & he reviewed a DVD of '*Mister Show*, seasons 1 & 2' as very funny, worth whatever he paid for it & reviewed the SF silk pie as also very nice.

Art reviewed the 2nd half of *Pride & Prejudice* as it was equally good as the 1st half; Elizabeth follow-on'd as she enjoyed the movie but that the A&E mini-series

is better and she recommends buying the new hardback that Barnes and Noble has put out on it.

Dave C reviewed Bullwinkles restaurant in Wilsonville, OR as they have very limited audio-animatronics & is a family fun center with a restaurant attached & he recommends it; Chris stated that this restores his faith in humanity.

Frank Wu reviewed Arisia [where he was the artist GoH] as it had its highest attendance ever & he got to do dueling easels with Bob Eggelton & it was really fun - reviewed the whole convention as fun, even when he pulled his shoulder.

Elizabeth reviewed *Neverwhere* as she likes it and can't wait to see episode #6 & highly recommends it.

Then we auctioned off stuff: books for \$2.50; \$10.00, \$0.50; \$1.50, \$0.75; \$2.00, \$0.25; Star Trek blueprints for \$10.00; Thumb Wars [for Frank] for \$1.25; the Enterprise on a stick for \$1.50; MST shorts for \$4.50; an audio book \$1.00; an uncorrected proof [for Ken] for \$6.12; more books for \$0.25 & an action figure for \$2.50.

We adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was: 'Barbara hates us all with a vehement passion that is unequalled in the universe, period.'

BASFA Minutes: meeting 810

January 30, 2006.

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sargent at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary.

Began 8:01 p.m. [with pie].

22 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 809 were accepted as '100.'

Treasurer report was last week we took in \$36.49 in the regular jar [our total \$8,212.44] & there was no party jar [current party total = \$180.96].

VP report = he has a new 'Drink Tank' out & there's been a lot of internet chatter about this issue & there'll be a new SF/SF out this week - and he had a brilliant idea. This idea led, eventually, to Kevin S. suggesting that Chris chair the 'Prairie Home Convention.'

The President reported a horrible pun [involving a female gaming con called EstroGenCon].

Reminder that next week is week #2 of Hugo nominations.

The party committee reported that he's

awake now & that the party was held, he got a new club member, that the Stokke family donated \$50.00 to food & he needs a check for \$82 [and change] for party expenses, letting the rest roll over to the next party. We then discussed this year's Worldcon, including that it will be 1 week -before- Labor Day weekend this year.

We established a party jar.

Dave G proposed charging for puns in this issue of 'Drink Tank' and the motion failed.

Announcements:

Kevin S. announced that there are new 'Emerald Cities' in the room [yay!] & there will be the 1st of 3 weeks of Hugo nominations after the meeting tonight.

Reviews:

Anime LA was multiply reviewed. Andy reviewed it as he & Kevin ran the Masquerade, so he didn't see much of the con, but that they stopped selling memberships at around 1350 [when they ran out of badges], that the Pirate Rum party was pretty cool but there weren't enough anime-themed pirates & it seemed

to be popular, that the Masquerade ran smoothly - if a bit delayed - and the awards included Pocky, that the drive back along the 101 was okay & that he might be crazy enough to do this again. Kevin R reviewed it as that the Masquerade lateness was not his fault; Kevin S commented that the fan base for anime fandom seems to be where fandom's youth & energy is now.

Kevin S. reviewed 'Last Guest Con' as the SeaTac Radisson's last con, a relaxicon & low-keyed reminiscence event, that the Saturday night casino was just for funzies [no cash] & that Kevin noted that more than just sf con attendees do sf con-type things at their conventions & he had a nice weekend - and he brought Chris his room's 'do not disturb/service request' door sign.

Ed reviewed Ringo's 'Watch on the Rhine' as 'they all die, so why bother with characterization' & worth full price.

Then we auctioned off pop rocks for \$1.00.

We adjourned at 9 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was: 'thank you, Kevin, for agreeing to Chair WoeBeCon.'

Bay Area Science Fiction Calendar

While some effort (OK, OK, damn little effort) is made to verify event listings, please check before attending as events are sometimes cancelled or times and locations changed.

New listings are in red.

Through February 11

The Mystery Plays

SF Playhouse

536 Sutter Street (between Powell & Mason)

San Francisco

8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday

3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday

\$36

West Coast Premiere from the writer of the *Fantastic Four* comic book, Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa borrows from Alfred Hitchcock and H.P. Lovecraft, *The Mystery Plays* intertwines two seemingly random events—a Northeast train wreck and a terrifying expedition to solve an Oregon crime—sending two friends on different paths of self-discovery to find the power of forgiveness.

Through February 11

Fabulandia: Fauna Art Exhibit

The LAB

2948 16th Street

San Francisco

www.thelab.org

Wednesdays-Saturdays, 1-6 PM

Free

Featuring artwork by Donelle Estey, Mandy Greer, Tim Jag, Daniel Ross and Tara Tucker.

From their website:

“Fabulandia is The Lab’s two-part exploration into the world of the future, the domain of the impossible and the fantastical. Fauna features the work of five artists envisioning the drastically altered creatures that will populate the terrain of Fabulandia. Fauna fast-forwards viewers into a shadow land where endangered wildlife has been conveniently removed and replaced by new and improved versions. Extravagantly fabricated trophies will be the only surviving memory of the natural world and its wildlife as it once existed. Just think of it - new strains of hybrid mutations

will exist simply for human convenience. Plants and animals will be co-joined as tiny deer sprout massive antlers made from brightly colored coral and double-headed sheep graze contentedly in bucolic fields of endlessly blooming daisies. Envision a hyper-efficient future when industry will have finally created a seamless biotech blend of animals, machinery and furniture. Covered in your choice of synthetic faux fur... naturally.”

Part one of this show, *Fabulandia: Terra*, was reviewed in issue 10 of *Science Fiction/ San Francisco*.

More Events Next Page

Ongoing through March 12, 2006

Gross, Gruesome and Gothic

Cartoon Art Museum

655 Mission Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: 415/CAR-TOON,

415/227-8666

Hours: Daily 11:00 - 5:00, Closed

Monday

Admission Prices:

\$6.00 - Adults

\$4.00 - Students & Seniors

\$2.00 - Children (ages 6 - 12)

FREE - Children (age 5 & below)

The first Tuesday of every calendar month is "Pay What You Wish Day."

From their website:

"From the darkest depths of the cartoon vaults comes the Cartoon Art Museum's latest exhibition, *Gross, Gruesome and Gothic*. This horrifying display features over 50 original cartoons from a wide array of artists and comics, from spine-tinglers to rib-tickers and everything in between.

"Exhibition highlights include:

"Masters of the Macabre: Edward Gorey, Charles Addams and Basil Wolverton. Three of the most influential humorists of all time present their unique views of the world around us in a selection of comics and illustrations dating back to the 1920s.

"Spotlight on Gahan Wilson: This

creator spotlight focuses on Gahan Wilson, one of the most celebrated and respected cartoonists of our time. In the past half-century, Wilson's distinctive cartoons and illustrations have graced the pages of *The New Yorker*, *Nickelodeon*, *Playboy* and *National Lampoon*. In 2005, Wilson received the coveted Milton Caniff Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Cartoonists Society, one of the highest honors that a cartoonist can achieve.

"The Vault of Horror: Graham "Ghastly" Ingels. From the pages of EC Comics' seminal comic book *The Vault of Horror* comes "Shoe-Button Eyes," a complete seven-page story illustrated by Graham Ingels.

"The Stuff That Dreams Are Made Of: Neil Gaiman's *Sandman*. One of the most popular and acclaimed comic book series of the past 20 years, Neil Gaiman's *Sandman* tales from DC Comics set new standards in excellence for fantasy and horror. Featured artists include Chris Bachalo, Duncan Eagleson, Marc Hempel, Kent Williams and series cover artist Dave McKean.

"Scared Silly! Scary comics don't always take themselves seriously. Bongo Comics' annual *Treehouse of Horror* special features *The Simpsons* as you've never seen them before, as illustrated by Sergio Aragonés, Peter Kuper, Bill Morrison, Scott Shaw and

Jill Thompson; *Batton Lash's Supernatural Law* warns us to beware the creatures of the night...and their lawyers; and Charles Schulz's classic comic *Peanuts* asks the burning question, "When will the Great Pumpkin arrive?"

"It came from the Seventies! As the Silver Age of comics came to an end, the Marvel, DC and Warren publishing companies unleashed a wave of horror comics that pushed the boundaries of comic book art. Alfredo Alcala, Jim Aparo, Frank Brunner, Gene Colan and Dick Giordano, among others, bring new life to classic characters from *Dracula* and *Frankenstein's monster* to anti-heroes including *The Spectre*, *Vampirella* and *Morbius*, *The Living Vampire*.

"Nothin' But Misery: *The Goon* by Eric Powell. Powell is the Eisner Award-winning creator of *Dark Horse Comic* series *The Goon*, a horror comedy that pits the title character and his pal Frankie against killer robots, zombies, Spanish-speaking lizards and other supernatural menaces."

Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to:

SFinSF@gmail.com

February 2

Blood Tea and Red String

Castro Theater
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
5 p.m.

Part of the SF Indie Film Festival. I don't know if this film really is a fantasy, but it sounds so weird that, what the heck, I'll include it.

From the website:

"*Blood Tea and Red String* is a stop-motion animated feature that tells the charming story of love and greed, creation and loss, life and death and (of course), evil card-playing mice and birds and snakes that tear their way out of passive doll figures.

"Christiane Cegavske is the director, producer, writer, set and costume designer and animator of this dialogue-free epic about the struggle between the aristocratic White Mice and the rustic 'Creatures Who Dwell Under the Oak'.

"The Mice commission the Oak Dwellers to create a beautiful doll for them. When she is complete, the Creatures fall in love with her and refuse to give her up. Resorting to thievery the Mice abscond with her in the middle of the night. The 'Creatures Who Dwell Under the Oak' must journey through this mystical land to reclaim the love they created."

Thursday, February 2

Cal Animage Alpha Ice Skating

Berkeley Iceland
Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/family.php

UC Berkeley's anime club hold a "family night" of ice skating. See their website for details.

February 3

Initial D

Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
2:15 p.m.

While it doesn't have any science fiction elements, this Hong Kong movie is based on a popular Japanese manga series that is also spawned a fan favorite anime series.

February 3

Pirates of the Great Salt Lake

Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.

Yet another movie at the SF Indie Film Festival that I can't tell whether it's speculative fiction or not. Supposed to be a comedy, Definitely going to be strange. Will contain pirates wearing eyeliner.

February 3

Razor Blade Smile

Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
11:45 p.m.

Part of the SF indie film festival. A slinky vampire hit woman goes up against the Bavarian Illuminati.

February 3, 4 and 5

Back to the Future

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center Street
Berkeley

Friday at midnight, Saturday at noon and midnight, Sunday at noon.

Midnight movies return to the Act 1 and 2 theater with this Michael J. Fox time travel movie.

Saturday, February 4

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Saturday, February 4

Blood Tea and Red String

Roxie Cinema

3117 16th Street

San Francisco

Noon

See February 2 for details.

Saturday, February 4

Richard Paul Russo

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3:00 p.m.

Free

Borderlands welcomes Philip K. Dick Award Winner Richard Paul Russo, author of *Ship of Fools* and the *Carlucci* books. Russo will be reading from his brand-new space opera, *The Rosetta Codex*.

Sunday, February 5

Pirates of the Great Salt Lake

Women's Building

3543 18th Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Yet another movie at the SF Indie Film Festival that I can't tell whether it's speculative fiction or not. Supposed to be a comedy, it's definitely going to be strange. Will contain pirates in eyeliner.

Sunday, February 5

Foothills Anime Showing

Building 1500

Foothills College

Los Altos Hills

Noon

Free

Their website says the date for this is February 6, but their showings are usually on Sunday, please check before attending.

Monday, February 6

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org

Monday, February 6

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

145 Dwinelle

UC Berkeley Campus

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

The oldest of the Bay Area's university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of

Paradise Kiss and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show: *Maze*.

Monday, February 6

Naisu no Mori: The First Contact

Roxie Cinema

3117 16th Street

San Francisco

9:30 p.m.

All I can do here is quote from the SF Indie Film Festival website description:

"If you are searching for the weirdest movie in the 2006 IndieFest program - look no further. Naisu no Mori: The First Contact is the only film that features an ejaculating Ass-Television that plugs into a schoolgirl's navel to save an alien planet and give birth to a tiny sushi chef.

"Co-director and co-writer Katsuho Ishii (Sharkskin Man and Peach Hip Girl, Party 7) won our Audience Award for Best Film last year with Taste of Tea. His latest film (made with two friends) is a seriously bizarre series of short films, animation, dance numbers, weird comedy, musical interludes and unclassifiable science-fiction moments loosely revolving around cult icon Tadanobu Asano (Ichi the Killer, Gohatto, Zatoichi) as Guitar Brother (one of the three "Unpopular with Women Brothers"), his horny older sibling, and their little Caucasian brother.

“This film is highly recommended for people who want to see tiny little insect spaceships, aliens, dance numbers, random jump cuts, animation, intertitle credits, fades to black, pillowfights, ping pong, stand-up comedy routines, a tribute to David Cronenberg’s Naked Lunch in a school classroom, and a generous three-minute intermission so you can go to the snack bar or restroom. If that sounds interesting, you’re in for a treat. Watch for Ryo Kase (Bright Future, Antenna, Taste of Tea) dancing on a beach with aliens and a giant animated Tango Amazon with dangerous pasties.”

Tuesday, February 7

Initial D

Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.

While it doesn’t have any science fiction elements, this Hong Kong movie is based on a popular Japanese manga series that is also spawned a fan favorite anime series.

Tuesday, February 7

Stanford NewType Anime Club Showing

Room 60-61H
Building 60
Stanford Campus
Palo Alto
8-10:30 p.m.
Free

Thursday, February 9 and

Saturday February 11

Sidekick

Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
4:30 p.m.

From the SF Indie Film Festival website:

“Comic geek Norman spends his nights dreaming of fighting crime and imagining what it would be like to have a girlfriend, until one fateful day.. Norman sees something astounding that changes his life forever.

“He becomes convinced that Victor Ventura - his swaggering, pretty-boy co-worker, has telekinetic abilities. Norman is quickly obsessed with the hunky telepath and comes to the outlandish conclusion that he should train him to become a real-life superhero. His plan of action involves developing exercises to strengthen and

refine Victor’s extraordinary ability -and making him a really cool costume. Norman envisions an exciting (and ambiguously gay) new life as Victor’s faithful sidekick. But all is not well in Superhero-land. Before long Norman realizes that he may have made a terrible mistake.”

Thursday, February 9

Cal Animage Alpha “Family Night”

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/family.php

UC Berkeley’s anime club family nights are gatherings of interest groups within the club held every Thursday. See their website for details.

Thursday, February 9

Thrillville's Sexy Sci-Fi Valentine's Show

Dr. Goldfoot and the Bikini Machine

www.thrillville.net

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

www.picturepubpizza.com

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

It's a sexy science fiction spy Valentine's show featuring Vincent Price, Frankie Avalon, a crazy car chase thru San Francisco and an army of alluring androids in *Dr. Goldfoot and the Bikini Machine*. With a live burlesque act.

February 10-12 2006

Wondercon

The Moscone Center

San Francisco

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

Friday, February 10

Comics 4 Comix

Cartoon Art Museum

655 Mission Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

415/227-8666

www.cartoonart.org

8:00 p.m. - 11 p.m.

\$15 - \$35 (sliding scale)

Comics and comix collide as the funnies meet the funny in a fundraiser/silent art auction for the Cartoon Art Museum. Join the Bay Area's funniest folk for a night of laffs, food, drink and fun, and bid on original art by some of the brightest stars in comics today.

In addition to its usual fare of original cartoon and comic art, the Cartoon Art Museum plays host to an all-star collection of stand-up COMICS for this fundraiser, with many of the Bay Area's top comedic talents performing throughout the evening. Michael Capozzola hosts a variety of comedic talent, including Tony Dijamco, Brian Malow, Will Franken, and headliner Johnny Steele, with additional special guests to be announced.

As for COMIX, partygoers will have the opportunity to purchase original comic strip art from popular local and national cartoonists, including Dan Piraro (Bizarro), Paul Madonna (All Over Coffee),

Patrick McDonnell (Mutts), and many more. Some of today's most popular comic book writers and artists - including Gahan Wilson, Batton Lash, Bill Morrison and Eric Powell - will also be in attendance.

Friday-Saturday, February 10 and 11

Highlander

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center Street

Berkeley

Midnight

Saturday, February 11

No Name Anime

www.nnanime.com

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga

12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. or so

Free

Saturday, February 11

Fantastic Frontiers Meeting

Sacramento County

Email frellingbored@yahoo.com for directions

groups.yahoo.com/groups/fantasticfrontiers

Free

The group will celebrate its third anniversary with a glow bowling outing.

Saturday, February 11

Guy Gavriel Kay
Barnes and Noble
Jack London Square
98 Broadway
Oakland
7 p.m.
Free

Saturday, February 11

Rocky Horror Picture Show
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Saturday, February 11

Two Masters of Horror
Jennifer by Dario Argento
Incident On and Off a Mountain Road by Don Coscarelli
Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
9:30 p.m.

Two short horror films originally made for Showtime. Part of the SF Indie Film Festival.

Saturday, February 11

House of Fury
Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
11:45 p.m.

Part of the SF Indie Film Festival. Martial arts comedy with lots of wire-fu and digital effects. A brother and sister don't believe their father's story about being a secret agent until his is kidnapped by an old enemy. Produced by Jackie Chan and has martial arts choreography by Yuen Wo Ping. Fair warning: this stars the infamous Twins.

Sunday, February 12

Initial D
Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
4:30 p.m.

While it doesn't have any science fiction elements, this Hong Kong movie is based on a popular Japanese manga series that is also spawned a fan favorite anime series. Part of the SF Indie Film Festival.

Sunday, February 12

Gay Men's Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
5 p.m.
Free

The book for this month is *Declare* by Tim Powers. Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriquez, at cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.

Sunday, February 12

Speculative Fiction Book Club
Kepler's
1010 El Camino Real
Menlo Park
7 p.m.
Free

This month the group will discuss Ken MacLeod's *Newton's Wake*.

Sunday, February 12

The Great Yokai War

Roxie Theater

3117 16th Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Showing as part of the SF indie film festival. I can't believe somebody thought it was a good idea to let Takashi Miike made a children's movie. The last movie of his I saw that had kids in it featured a hermaphradic high school student/assassin that could shoot deadly darts from her vagina. I suspect he's toned down his legendary excesses for this one, but don't go to this one expecting to see a Japanese version of the *Care Bears* movie. This has Chiaki Kuriyama (Gogo Yubari from *Kill Bill Vol. 1*) in a supporting role. In Japanese with English subtitles.

Sunday, February 12

Bad Movie Night

Goonies

The Dark Room Theater

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

Sunday, February 12

Naisu no Mori: The First Contact

Roxie Cinema

3117 16th Street

San Francisco

9:30 p.m.

See February 6 for details.

Monday, February 6

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

145 Dwinelle

UC Berkeley Campus

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

The oldest of the Bay Area's university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of *Paradise Kiss* and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show: *Jigouku Shoujo*.

Monday, February 13

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, February 14

Sci-Fi Book Club

Barnes & Noble

3501 McHenry Ave., Suite E

Modesto

Free

Tuesday, February 14

Stanford NewType Anime Club Showing

Room 60-61H

Building 60

Stanford Campus

Palo Alto

8-10:30 p.m.

Free

Wednesday, February 15

Ask a Scientist - topic: Synthetic Sight

Bazaar Café

5927 California St. (21st Ave)

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com/

7 - 9 p.m.

Free

Last year Dirk Trauner and colleagues at Berkeley did something really interesting: they reengineered a non-photosensitive nerve cell so that it could be turned on or off in response to light. Come find out how they did it and how their technique could eventually become the basis of a gene therapy for certain kinds of blindness.

About the Series: Ask a Scientist is a new and different kind of lecture series. If you love watching Nova and reading Scientific American at the doctor's office, then this event is for you. Enjoy food, drinks, socializing, and conversation about the universe's most fascinating mysteries!

Thursday, February 16

Cal Animage Alpha "Family Night"

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/family.php

UC Berkeley's anime club family nights are gatherings of interest groups within the club held every Thursday. See their website for details.

Thursday, February 16

Sci-Fi Book Club

Barnes & Noble

Creekside Town Center

1265 Galeria Blvd.

(916) 788-4320

Roseville

Free

Friday, February 17

Scott Sigler

Spellbinding Tales

1910A Encinal Avenue

Alameda

7 p.m.

Free

Appearance by San Francisco science fiction author Scott Sigler.

Friday, February 17

Futurist Salon Book Group

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

Hillsdale Shopping Center

11 West Hillsdale Blvd.

San Mateo

650-341-5560

7:30 p.m.

Free

Friday, February 17

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Avenue

Sacramento

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Free

Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18

Raiders of the Lost Ark

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center Street

Berkeley

Midnight

February 17-20

Dundracon

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Drive

San Ramon

www.dundracon.com

Gaming convention.

February 17-20

PantheaCon

San Jose Doubletree

www.ancientways.com/pantheacon

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

Saturday, February 18

Donald Sidney-Fryer

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

4 pm:

Donald Sidney-Fryer, presenting Clark Ashton Smith's *The Last Oblivion*, will share his insights on, and his performance of, the poetry of Clark Ashton Smith.

Saturday, February 18

Manga Otaku

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

Weberstown Mall

4950 Pacific Avenue, Space 319

Stockton, CA 95207

209-472-1885

6 p.m.

Free

Graphic novel book group.

Saturday, February 18

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, February 19

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.

Monday, February 20

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org

Tuesday, February 21

Rudy Rucker

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

www.booksmith.com

7 p.m.

Free

Novelist and scientist Rudy Rucker will read and sign from his new non-fiction book *The Lifebox, the Seashell, and the Soul*.

Tuesday, February 21

Stanford NewType Anime Club Showing

Room 60-61H

Building 60

Stanford Campus

Palo Alto

8-10:30 p.m.

Free

Thursday, February 23

Cal Animage Alpha "Family Night"

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/family.php

UC Berkeley's anime club family nights are gatherings of interest groups within the club held every Thursday. See their website for details.

Friday, February 24

Sci-Fi / Fantasy Book Group
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Weberstown Mall
4950 Pacific Avenue, Space 319
Stockton, CA 95207
209-472-1885
6:30 p.m.
Free

Saturday, February 25

*Twenty Years Behind the Scenes at
Pixar Animation Studios*
Pixar Animation Studios
1200 Park Avenue
Emeryville
415-CARTOON, ext. 300
<http://www.cartoonart.org>
6 p.m. (Gates open at 5:30 p.m.)
\$175 (\$125 for Cartoon Art Museum
members)

The Cartoon Art Museum hosts its third annual benefit at Pixar Animation Studios on Saturday, February 25, 2006. From Pixar's inception in 1986 with the premiere of its iconic short film, *Luxo Jr.*, to the studio's latest full-length feature, *Cars*, attendees will get an insiders' perspective on these computer animated creations.

The evening starts with a reception at Pixar's Emeryville campus. Over wine and hors d'oeuvres guests will gain access to a

stunning gallery exhibition featuring the pre-production artwork of *The Incredibles*, as well as other fine artwork by Pixar employees. Guests will then be escorted into Pixar's state-of-the-art 240-seat theater to hear stories from artists, gain insight into Pixar's unique movie-making process and catch a glimpse behind the scenes at the productions of *Toy Story*, *Finding Nemo*, and *The Incredibles*.

After the presentation, guests will have an opportunity to converse with the speakers and other Pixar employees. There will also be a glimpse into Pixar's future, as some of the creative team of Pixar's next short film, *One Man Band*, screen and talk about their film.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served during the art exhibition viewing from 6-7 p.m.. The presentation will begin promptly at 7 p.m.. and will be hosted by Dr. Michael B. Johnson, lead, Moving Pictures Group at Pixar, and will include other Pixar employees, including director Mark Andrews and animator Angus MacLane. The presentation will be followed by dessert and coffee, plus the opportunity to mix and mingle with artists in Pixar's atrium from 8:30-9:30 p.m.

This event is expected to sell out quickly and there are only a limited number of seats available. Cartoon Art Museum members

can purchase tickets for the reduced rate of \$125, while the non-member rate is \$175. Call 415-227-8666, ext. 300 to purchase tickets. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Saturday, February 25

Rocky Horror Picture Show
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
\$6
Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Saturday, February 25

Pee-wee's Big Adventure

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center Street

Berkeley

Midnight

No, I'm not sure if this counts as a science fiction movie. But what the heck, this one night only event is hosted by Peaches Christ, so it should at least be an out of this world show.

Sunday, February 26

Bad Movie Night

Astro Zombies

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

Changed from *The Mysterians*.

Monday, February 27

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

Location TBA

UC Berkeley Campus

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

The oldest of the Bay Area's university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of *Paradise Kiss* and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show: *Ginban Kaieidoscope*.

Monday, February 27

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, February 28

Stanford NewType Anime Club Showing

Room 60-61H

Building 60

Stanford Campus

Palo Alto

8-10:30 p.m.

Free

Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4

Tron

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center Street

Berkeley

Midnight

Exactly how did this movie become a "sci-fi classic"? Inquiring minds want to know.

March 3-5

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.

Saturday, March 4

Warp 11

The Blue Lamp

1400 Alhambra Ave.

Sacramento

10 p.m.

The Star Trek-theme band plays a hometown venue. With songs titled "Rage Against the Federation" and "Set Your Phaser for F***" resistance is futile.

Saturday, March 4, 2006

The Phantom of the Opera Ball
PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by February 28)

At the door: \$20.00

Don't let those wild rumors of an Opera Ghost keep you from attending the social event of the season, the Opera Ball of the Paris Opera Populaire. This is destined to be the most spectacular of all our masquerade balls and Management assures you that "Everything is under control."

Our special guests - Monsieur Frank Beau Davis, that American trumpet virtuoso and his brilliant Brassworks Band from San Francisco, will play an evening of opera and ballet tunes arranged for ballroom dancing and brilliant Viennese Waltzes, polkas, mazurkas, schottisches, reels, and quadrilles. All set dances will be taught or called and there will a pre-ball dance class to help you brush up on your mid-Victorian dance skills. And, of course, they will play those perennial favorites, "The Congress of Vienna Waltz" and "Sir Roger de Coverley" (with a distinctly Wagnerian edge).

Suggested costume for this gala event is

Victorian evening or ball dress (circa 1860's-80's), period fancy dress, or modern evening dress. Masks are strongly suggested.

The fashionable young gentlemen of the Jockey Club will be pleased to know that evening's entertainment includes operatic and ballet excerpts by the company, including the premiere of the ballet from the controversial new opera "Sappho," choreographed by the celebrated Mme. Giry for the Peerless Ballet. Refreshments will be served throughout the evening (Since we lack the catering budget of the Paris Opera Populaire, your potluck contributions will be deeply appreciated).

Saturday, March 4

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Monday, March 6

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing
Location TBA

UC Berkeley Campus

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

The oldest of the Bay Area's university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of *Paradise Kiss* and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show: *Shakuyan no Shana*.

Monday, March 6

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, March 7

Justine Larbalestier and Scott Westerfeld

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Justine Larbalestier is the author of the nonfiction *The Battle of the Sexes in Science Fiction*, the two novels *Magic or Madness* and *Magic Lessons*, and the forthcoming *Daughters of Earth*. Scott Westerfeld is the prolific author of *The Risen Empire* and *The Killing of Worlds*, the awesome *Midnighters* series, *Evolution's Darling*, *Pretties*, *Uglies*, and several more.

Tuesday, March 7

Stanford NewType Anime Club Showing

Room 60-61H

Building 60

Stanford Campus

Palo Alto

8-10:30 p.m.

Free

Thursday, March 9

Thrillville's Hipster Holocaust Blow-Out

Panic in the Year Zero

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

It's a hipster holocaust blow-out featuring Ray Milland and Frankie Avalon in a torrid tale of post-nuked LA survival, *Panic in the Year Zero*. With explosive cocktail swingers Johnny and Gin of *The Atomic Lounge Show* live on stage!

Saturday, March 11

Beefbowl Anime Showing

Albany Library

1247 Marin Ave.

Albany

www.beefbowl.org

12:15- 4:15 p.m.

Free

Saturday, March 11

No Name Anime

www.nnanime.com

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga

12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. or so

Free

Saturday, March 11

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, March 12

Sac Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10-4 p.m.

\$5

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

Sunday, March 12

Speculative Fiction Book Club

Kepler's
1010 El Camino Real
Menlo Park

7:30 p.m.

Free

This month the group will discuss Lian Hearn's *Across the Nightingale Floor*.

Sunday, March 12

Bad Movie Night

20 Million Miles To Earth

The Dark Room Theater
2263 Mission Street
San Francisco

darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

Monday, March 13

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

Location TBA

UC Berkeley Campus

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

The oldest of the Bay Area's university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of

Paradise Kiss and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show: *Ichigo Mashimaro* and *Animal Yokochoa*.

Monday, March 13

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, March 14

Sci-Fi Book Club

Barnes & Noble

3501 McHenry Ave., Suite E

Modesto

Free

Thursday, March 16

Sci-Fi Book Club

Barnes & Noble

Creekside Town Center

1265 Galeria Blvd.

(916) 788-4320

Roseville

Free

Friday, March 17

Futurist Salon Book Group

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

Hillsdale Shopping Center

11 West Hillsdale Blvd.

San Mateo

650-341-5560

7:30 p.m.

Free

March 17–April 16

Zorro

Berkeley Repertory Theater

written and performed by Culture Clash

The Roda Theatre

2025 Addison Street

Berkeley

Saturday, March 18

Otaku Bowl 2006

info@project760.com

Classic Bowling Center

900 King Drive

Daly City

1 p.m. -9 p.m

Registration \$20 until February 28, \$25 at door.

Fee includes food, beverages and unlimited bowling. Bowling for prizes, hall cosplay, anime video room, artist alley, exhibitors, game tournament.

Saturday, March 18

Manga Otaku

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Weberstown Mall
4950 Pacific Avenue, Space 319
Stockton, CA 95207
209-472-1885
6 p.m.
Free

Graphic novel book group.

Saturday, March 18

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
\$6
Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, March 19

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.

Monday, March 20

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

Location TBA
UC Berkeley Campus
Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/
7:30 p.m.
Free

The oldest of the Bay Area's university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of *Paradise Kiss* and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show: *Mushishi*.

Monday, March 20

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free
www.basfa.org.

Wednesday, March 22

Christopher Moore

Copperfield's Montgomery Village
2316 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa
7 p.m.
Free

Monday, March 27

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free
www.basfa.org.

Friday-Saturday, March 31 and April 1

A Clockwork Orange

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center Street

Berkeley

Midnight

Local band The Holy Kiss will perform before the Stanley Kubrick classic.

Saturday, April 1, 2006

The Toon Town Hop

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 7 p.m.

Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by March 25)

At the door: \$20.00

From their website:

“As any cartoon aficionado can tell you, some of the best film music actually appears in cartoons. In celebration of the classic age of cartoons, we invite you to the Toon Town Hop, a vintage dance ball inspired by the best cartoon music of the 20th century.

“Suggested costume is vintage or modern evening dress (Mouse ears optional!). Guests may also attend as their favorite cartoon character (vintage or modern!).

“The dazzlingly versatile Divertimento Dance Orchestra will play a multi-period

program of beautiful and energetic dance music from both classic and modern cartoons. Dance classic waltzes and polkas, ragtime teens and 20’s dances, 30’s and 40’s Swing and fox trot, stirring marches, and a variety of other ballroom and set dances at this wildly varied event. For us diehard dancers, there will be DJ dance music of some truly off-the-wall but extremely danceable cartoon music during the intermissions.

“There will be a light buffet of T.V. snacks – everything your mother said was bad for you (and she was probably right) and complimentary non-alcoholic drinks. Contributions to the buffet are, as always, very welcome. Intermission entertainment includes vintage dance performances by the Peers Flying CirCUS and a cartoon music sing-along.”

Saturday, April 1

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, April 2

Bad Movie Night

Mesa of Lost Women

The Dark Room Theater

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

Monday, April 3

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

Location TBA

UC Berkeley Campus

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

The oldest of the Bay Area’s university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of *Paradise Kiss* and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week’s featured show: *Noein*.

Monday, April 3

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick’ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

April 6-9

ConQuest Sac

Avalonconventions.com/conquestsac/

Red Lion Hotel

Sacramento

\$35-\$45

Gaming and sf convention.

Saturday-Sunday, April 8-9

Alternative Press Expo

www.comic-con.org/apel/

Concourse Exhibition Center

620 7th Street

San Francisco

Admission fee to be announced

Exposition for alternative and self-published comics.

Monday, April 10

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

Location TBA

UC Berkeley Campus

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

The oldest of the Bay Area's university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of *Paradise Kiss* and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show: *Akazukin Cha Cha*.

Monday, April 10

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, April 11

Stanford NewType Anime Club Showing

Room 60-61H

Building 60

Stanford Campus

Palo Alto

8-10:30 p.m.

Free

Thursday, April 13

Thrillville's Ninth Anniversary Show

Forbidden Planet

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

It's Thrillville's ninth anniversary show featuring the all-time science fiction favorite *Forbidden Planet* and spaced out therein lounge band Project Pimento live on stage.

April 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 *Dark Beyond The Stars* by local author Frank Robinson. Author will visit. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Monday, April 17

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

Location TBA

UC Berkeley Campus

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

The oldest of the Bay Area's university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of *Paradise Kiss* and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show: *Magikano*.

Monday, April 17

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Friday, April 21

Middle Earth Festival

Forum on the Themes of Tolkien

Downtown Vacaville

www.middleearthfestival.com

Free (or at least they don't have an admission fee listed)

The second annual Middle Earth Festival opens in Vacaville with a symposium.

For more events, see April 22-23 listing.

Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23

Middle Earth Festival

Downtown Vacaville

www.middleearthfestival.com

Free

Second annual festival to celebrate Tolkien's work, both the books and the movies adapted from them. Vendors, food booths, staged and walkabout entertainment, games for kids, trivia contest, Gollum Impersonation Contest.

On Saturday will be a Long Expected Party and on Sunday there will be a fun run.

Sunday, April 23

Cherry Blossom Festival

8th Annual Anime Costume Parade

Sponsored by Japan Video

1737 Post Street

San Francisco

Noon check in for participants

1 p.m. parade starts in front of City Hall

Pre-registration deadline April 17

Free

Costume contest with prizes, contestants and other cosplayers will march in the annual parade ending at San Francisco's Japantown. The Cherry Blossom Festival, which runs this weekend and the previous weekend in San Francisco's Japantown, also hosts many other Japanese cultural events, usually including an anime room.

Costume contest participants need to register in advance at Japan Video, limited slots are available so sign up soon.

Monday, April 24

Cal Animage Alpha Meeting and Showing

Location TBA

UC Berkeley Campus

Berkeley

www.ocf.Berkeley.edu/~animage/

7:30 p.m.

Free

The oldest of the Bay Area's university anime clubs hosts a showing every Monday night when school is in session. Every week this semester they are showing episodes of *Paradise Kiss* and *2x2 Shinobuden*, plus this week's featured show which will be announced later.

Monday, April 24

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Saturday, May 6

The Fairy Tale Masquerade Ball

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by April 29, 2006)

At the door: \$20.00

Sunday, May 7

Bad Movie Night

Battlefield Earth

The Dark Room Theater

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

May 11-14

World Horror Con 2006

Gateway Holiday Inn

www.whc2006.org

The world horror con comes to the bay area.

Thursday, May 11

Thrillville's Mad Mexican Monster Mash

Night of the Bloody Apes

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

It's a mad Mexican Monster Mash featuring the lurid South of the Border clas-sick *Night of the Bloody Apes*, with masked female wrestlers vs a rampaging rapist apeman and his evil mad scientist creator. Live opening act.

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, 2006

Fanime Con

San Jose Convention Center

San Jose

www.fanime.com

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, 2006

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.

May 26-29 2006

Kublacon

Burlingame Hyatt Regency

1333 Bayshore Highway

Burlingame

Guests: TBA.

Memberships: TBA.

Gaming convention.

Sunday, June 11

Sac Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10-4 p.m.

\$5

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

Saturday, July 15

Sac-Anime

Sacramento area

Details to be announced, the previous July shows have been held at the Sunrise Mall.

August 4-6 2006

Anime Overdose 2006

www.animeod.com

San Francisco

\$30 to ?, \$45 at door

Anime convention.

Saturday, September 2

Captain Morgan's Privateers (We Ain't Pirates No More) Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Dance Lesson: 7:15 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by August 26, 2006)

Tickets: \$20.00 at the door

Sunday, September 3

Sac Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10-4 p.m.

\$5

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

September 8-10

Creation Salutes Star Trek:

The 40th Anniversary Celebration

Doubletree Hotel

Sacramento

2001 Point West Way

Sacramento

Memberships: Gold Weekend Package: \$399.

Creation brings William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy to Sacramento. And no, that's not a typo on the price. Cheaper packages will be announced later.

October 6-8

SiliCon

www.siliconventions.com

Doubletree Hotel

San Jose

\$35 until August 31

November 4

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS

Venue: TBD

No information as yet for this vampire-theme ball event.

Sunday, December 10

Sac Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10-4 p.m.

\$5

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

July 6-9, 2007

Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound

DoubleTree Hotel

San Jose

Ongoing:

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt

Walking Tour

www.sfgghosthunt.com

Begins: Queen Ann Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20

Ongoing Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

www.hauntedhaight.com

Meets at PlanetWeavers Treasure Store

1573 Haight Street (at Clayton)

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Reservations required

\$20

Ongoing Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

www.sfvampiretour.com

Meets corner of California and Taylor

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$20

Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there is heavy rain.

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

Mondays at 8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org

Legion of Rassilon

Doctor Who fan group

www.legionofrassilon.org/

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

Meets every fourth Friday at 7:30 p.m.

(No December meeting)

Free

Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who series, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

www.BayRPS.com

Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard

Foster City

Wednesdays from 6pm to 10pm

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details send email to: GM@BayRPS.com.

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.