



Volume 29 Number 9 Issue 350

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

If you have not renewed your membership and wish to do so, please contact us.

Checkout the *Locus* website for their recommended reading list. It is a good guide if you are an award voter or just looking for something new to read.

Arrival tied for second place (with *Moonlight*) in Academy Awards nominations this year. This includes a Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Adapted screenplay. See the Awards listing for other speculative fiction nominees.

Next month I hope to do a review and the Nebula final ballot should be out.

Events

Toracon

February 4
Sarasota School Art & Sciences
717 Central Ave
Sarasota, FL 34236
\$7 at the door, \$5 for students
Anime and gaming con
www.ssastoracon.net

Rapier

February 10-12
Doubletree by Hilton at the Jacksonville Airport
2101 Dixie Clipper Drive,
Jacksonville, Florida, 32218, USA
Gaming convention
\$40 for the weekend at the door
\$20 for Friday and Saturday, \$10 for Sunday
www.rapiercon.com

Pulp Adventure Con

February 11
Universal Palms Hotel
4900 Powerline Road
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Guests: Allen Bellman (Golden Age comic artist)
No price listed on website
www.boldventurepress.com

Pensacon

February 17-19
Pensacola Bay Center
201 E Gregory Street
Pensacola, FL, 32502
Guests: Henry Winkler (actor)
Bob Camp (comic artist)
Mike Grell (comic writer and artist)
Tony Isabella (comic writer)
Kevin J. Anderson (comic writer)
And many others see website
Weekend pass \$80
<http://www.pensacon.com>

SyFy Bartow

February 18
Main Street
Bartow, FL
A SF themed street fair
Free
Search on Facebook for more info

Time Lord Fest

February 19
The Event Factory
7565 Hillsborough Avenue
Tampa, FL 33615
\$25 admission
Search for Facebook for more info

Birthdays

Pat Sims February 9



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February OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, February 12, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd, Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7325). Come join us as we discuss *Skinwalker* by Faith Hunter

Sci Fi Light TBD

To contact for more info:

OASFiS Business Meeting 407-823-8715

OASFiS Meeting 1/8/2017

Officers: Juan Sanmiguel

Members: Arthur Dykeman, Hector Hoghlin, Ken Knokol

Guests: Twelve non-members, including Ed Meskys (1967 Hugo Winner for Best Fanzine)

Juan discussed the Best Books of 2016. During the talk Juan paused for questions. The books discussed were.

- *All The Birds in the Sky* by Charlie Jan Anders
- *Borderline* by Mishell Baker
- *Company Town* by Madeline Ashby
- *Gentleman Jole and the Red Queen* by Lois McMaster Bujold
- *A Closed and Common Orbit* by Becky Chambers
- *Babylon's Ashes* by James S.A. Corey
- *The Fireman* by Joe Hill
- *The Obelisk Gate* by N. K. Jemisin
- *Ninefox Gambit* by Yoon Ha Lee
- *The Wall of Storms* by Ken Liu
- *Death's End* Liu Cixin (translated by Ken Liu)
- *Every Heart a Doorway* by Seanan McGuire
- *I am Providence* by Nick Mamatas
- *After Atlas* by Emma Newman
- *Infomocracy* by Malka Older
- *Too Much Like Lightning* by Ada Palmer
- *Everfair* by Nisi Shawl
- *The last Mortal Bond* by Brian Staveley
- *Arkwright* by Allen Steele
- *The Legend of the Galactic Heroes* by Yoshi Tanaka
- *Central Station* Lavie Tidhar
- *United States of Japan* by Peter Tieryas
- *Underground Airlines* Ben H. Winters
- *The Big Book of Science Fiction* by Ann and Jeff VanderMeer
- *Crosstalk* by Connie Willis

OASFiS People

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Any of these people can give readers information about the club and its functions. To be included in the list call Juan.

Sources

Amazon - Best SF/Fantasy List 2016
Book Scrolling – The Best Science Fiction and Fantasy Books of 2016
Kirkus - The Best of the Best! The Definitive List of 2016's Best Science Fiction and Fantasy Books!
The Verge – Best Science Fiction/Fantasy 2016 Books by Andrew Liptak

Culture Consumed

Arthur talked about the *Doctor Who* Christmas Special and the DVD for "Power of the Daleks."

Juan discussed some anime he saw during the holidays including *Yuri on Ice*. That show has reached crossover appeal evident by mention on NPR.

Convention

Juan discussed some things that needed to get done like inviting the panel participants.

Some panel ideas were suggested. Juan was not comfortable because of their controversial and/or confrontational nature.

Juan will be going to Swampcon to hand out flyers and newsletters to promote the con.

Meeting adjourned at 3PM.

Award News

Philip K. Dick Award Nominees

(source *Locus* website)

- **Consider**, Kristy Acevedo (Jolly Fish)
- **Hwarhath Stories: Trangressive Tales by Aliens**, Eleanor Arnason (Aqueduct)
- **The Mercy Journals**, Claudia Casper (Arsenal Pulp)
- **Unpronounceable**, Susan diRende (Aqueduct)
- **Graft**, Matt Hill (Angry Robot)
- **Super Extra Grande** Yoss (Restless)

The award is presented annually to a distinguished work of science fiction originally published in paperback form in the United States.

The winner and any special citations will be announced on Friday, April 14, 2017 at Norwescon 40 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport, SeaTac, Washington.

Academy Awards Speculative Fiction finalists
(source *Wikipedia* entry)

Best Picture

Arrival – Shawn Levy, Dan Levine, Aaron Ryder, and David Lindle

Best Director

Dennis Villeneuve – **Arrival**

Best Original Screenplay

- **The Lobster**– Yorgos Lanthimos and Efthimis Filippou

Best Adapted Screenplay

Arrival – Eric Heisserer from “Story of Your Life” by Ted Chiang

Best Animated Feature Film

- **Kubo and the Two Strings** – Travis Knight and Arianne Sutner
- **Moana** – John Husker, Ron Clements, and Osnat Shurer
- **My Life as a Zucchini**– Claude Barras and Max Karli
- **The Red Turtle** – Michael Dudok de Wit and Toshio Suzuki
- **Zootopia** – Byron Howard , Rich Moore, and Clarke Spencer

Best Animated Short Film

- **Blind Vaysha** – Theodore Ushev
- **Borrowed Time** – Andrew Coates and Lou Hamou-Lhadj
- **Pear Cider amd Cigarettes**– Robert Valley and Cara Speller
- **Pearl** – Patrick Osborne
- **Piper** – Alan Barillaro and Marc Sondheimer

Best Original Song

“How Far I’ll Go” from **Moana** – Music and Lyric by Lin-Manuel Mirander

Best Sound Editing

- **Arrival** – Sylvian

Best Sound Mixing

- **Arrival** – Bernard Gariépy Strobl and Claude La Haye
- **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** – David Parker, Christopher Mackenzie, and Peter Grace

Best Production Design

- **Arrival** – Patrice Vermette and Paul Hotte
- **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** – Stuart Craig and Anna Pinnock
- **Passengers**—Guy Hemdrix Dyas and Gene Serdena

Best Cinematography

Arrival – Bradford Young

Best Makeup and Hairstyling

- **Star Trek Beyond** – Joel Harlow and Richard Alonzo
- **Suicide Squad**—Alessandro Bertolazzi, Giorgio Gregorini, and Christopher Nelson

Best Costume Design

- **Fantastic Beast and Where to Find Them** – Joanna Johnston

Best Film Editing

- **Arrival** – Joe Walker

Best Visual Effects

- **Doctor Strange** – Stephane Caretti, Richard Bluff, Vincent Cirelli, and Paul Corbould
- **The Jungle Book** – Robert Legato, Adam Valdez, Andrew R. Jones, and Dan Lemmon
- **Kubo and the Two Strings** – Steve Emerson, Oliver Jones, Brian McLean, and Brad Schiff
- **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** – John Knoll, Mohen Leo, Hal Hickel, and Nick Corbould



Arrival

POSSIBLE SPOILERS

In old television shows and films Science Fiction ignored language. Everyone spoke English on *Star Trek*, *Lost in Space*, and *Doctor Who*. It did not seem strange to the Apes and Taylor that they understood each other in *Planet of the Apes*. Later films and shows addressed the language barrier. In Dennis Villeneuve's *Arrival*, based on the Nebula winning novelette "Story of Your Life" by Ted Chiang, language is the central issue.

Dr. Louise Banks (Amy Adams) is a linguist who is dealing with a serious loss. Twelve spaceships come to Earth. Banks is recruited by the U.S. Army to be part of a science team to try establish communication with the aliens. She is joined by Dr. Ian Donnelly (Jeremy Renner) a theoretical physicist who believes math and science are the keys to connecting with the aliens. The aliens have a complicated written language. The presence of the alien ships is causing international tension. Can Banks and her team decipher the alien language before someone or some government takes drastic action?

The major change in the film is the addition of the global apprehension toward the aliens. In the novelette, the main focus was Banks interpreting the alien language and her relationship with her daughter. Unfortunately, big studio films need to ramp up the conflict with action and a villain. Fear mongers on American radio and a Chinese general fill this role. The Chinese general is given a little depth at the end. The task of interpreting of the language and figuring out the aliens' intent

would have been enough of a challenge for a film.

The weird disorientation in the spaceship is superfluous. It does look interesting, but why does it happen. You have huge ships that transverse interstellar distances, why do you need the ability to change orientation of the meeting room?

Arrival does use the scientific investigation and the ideas from the original Ted Chiang story. A significant amount of time is given to the process of the humans and the aliens each giving the basic concepts of their language. The film implies this takes time and there are no magical shortcuts to the solution.

The main scientific idea, the alien's view of time, is presented subtly. To those who have not read the story the open montage looks like a flashback. As Banks starts to learn the alien language slowly her own time sense starts to change. That helps Banks solve the problem over the possible war caused by the aliens.

It is great to see non-bipedal aliens on the screen. They delivery of their writing adds to their alien nature. The effects for the aliens are seamless. The heptapods, as they are called in the film, look and feel real.

It a complex Science Fiction story made into a major Hollywood film. To many, Science Fiction is just space ships, super heroes, battles, and action. There is action in this film, but the heart of story is the scientific problem of the alien language and impact it has on Banks' life.

The film has been successful critically and financially. It is in second place for the most Academy Award nominations for 2017. Hopefully *Arrival* will start a trend of more ambitious Science Fiction films.



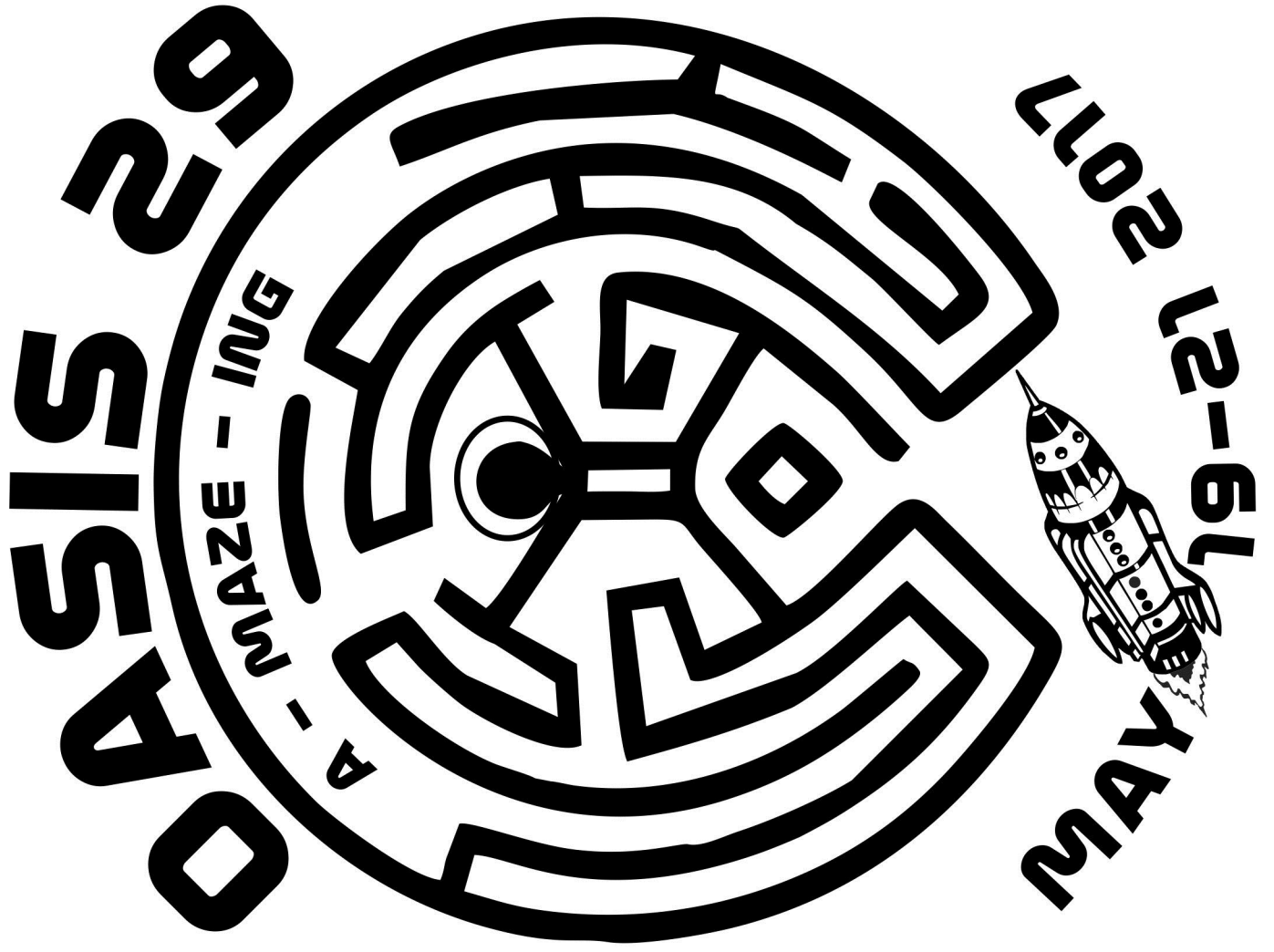
Swampcon



Top row: Writer's panel (left to right) - Bill Hatfield, Armand Rosamilia, and Richard Lee Byers

Bottom Row: Yuri Katsuki from the anime *Yuri on Ice*, Catwoman from DC Comics, Sasha from the anime *Attack on Titan*





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