



Events

ICFA 30 (professional conference)

March 19-23
 Orlando Airport Marriott, Orlando, Florida
 Guest of Honor: Robert Charles Wilson
 Guest of Honor: Guy Gavriel Kay
 Guest Scholar: Maria Nikolajeva
 Special Guest Emeritus : Brain Aldiss
www.iafa.org

Anime Express XI

March 13-15
 Willie Miller Instructional Center at
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University ,
 Daytona Beach, FL
 Cost: \$25 for weekend
clubs.db.erau.edu/dbanime/Conventionmain.html

Naruto Star Trek Con

March 27-29
 Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek Ft. Lauderdale
 555 N.W. 62nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
 \$15 for three day (\$25 at the door),
 \$10 for one day (\$15 at the door)
 Guests: Malie Flanagan (voice of Naruto)
 Kate Higgins (voice of Sakura)
 Yuri Lowenthal (voice of Sasuke)
www.narutotrek.com

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

March is opening like lion this year with Megacon. I hope to have a con report next month report. The Nebulas nominees should available online.

A sad note, SF Grandmaster Philip Jose Farmer has passed away. His story "The Lovers" was one of the first science fiction story to deal with sexual themes. Farmer's novel *To the Scattered Bodies Go* and his biographies of Tarzan and Doc Savage were great.

Award news

Academy Awards (aka Oscars)

Fantasy and Science Fiction Winners
 (source Internet Movie Database website, imdb.com)

Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role

Heath Ledger for *The Dark Knight*

Best Writing, Screenplay Based on Material

Previously Produced or Published

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Eric Roth, Robin Swicord

Best Achievement in Art Direction

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Donald Graham Burt, Victor J. Zolfo

Best Achievement in Makeup

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Greg Cannom

Best Achievement in Sound

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: David Parker, Michael Semanick, Ren Klyce, Mark Weingarten

(Continued on page 2)

March OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, March 8, 1:30 PM, Stardust Video 1842 Winter Park Road, Winter Park, FL 32801(407-623-3393). Come join us as we hear Chris Berman discuss his latest work

SciFi Light

Saturday March 21, 6 PM, Place and subject to be announced on the website. For more info contact Steve Grant

To contact for more info:
OASFiS Business Meeting 407-823-8715

Best Achievement in Sound Editing

The Dark Knight: Richard King

Best Achievement in Visual Effects

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Eric Barba, Steve Preeg, Burt Dalton, Craig Barron

Best Animated Feature Film of the Year

WALL-E: Andrew Stanton

Online Film Critic Society Awards

(source MT VOID 02/20/09 -- Vol. 27, No. 34, Whole Number 1533)

Fantasy and Science Fiction Winners

PICTURE: *WALL-E*

DIRECTOR: Christopher Nolan, *The Dark Knight*

SUPPORTING ACTOR: Heath Ledger, *The Dark Knight*

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY: *WALL-E*, Andrew Stanton & Jim Reardon

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY: *Let the Right One In*, John Ajvide Lindqvist

ANIMATED FEATURE: *WALL-E*

FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM: *Let the Right One In*(Sweden)

CINEMATOGRAPHY: *The Dark Knight*, Wally

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.

Pfister

ORIGINAL SCORE: *The Dark Knight*, James Newton Howard & Hans Zimmer

BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE: Lina Leandersson, *Let the Right One In*

BREAKTHROUGH FILMMAKER: Tomas Alfredson, *Let the Right One In*

Philip K. Dick Awards

(source philipkdickawards.org)

First prize and any special citations will be announced on Friday, April 10, 2009 at Norwescon 32 at the Doubletree Seattle Airport Hotel, SeaTac, Washington.

Emissaries From the Dead by Adam-Troy Castro (Eos Books) (OASIS guest)

Fast Forward 2 edited by Lou Anders (Pyr)

Judge by Karen Traviss (Eos Books)

Plague War by Jeff Carlson (Ace Books)

Terminal Mind by David Walton (Meadowhawk Press)

(Continued on page 3)

Time Machines Repaired While-U-Wait by K. A. Bedford (EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing)

Nebula Awards Nomniees

This will presented at Nebula Weekend April 24-26 in Los Angeles, CA.

Novels

Little Brother - Cory Doctorow, (Tor, Apr08)
Powers - Ursula K. Le Guin, (Harcourt, Sep07)
Cauldron - Jack McDevitt, (Ace, Nov07)
Brasyl - Ian McDonald (Pyr, May07)
Making Money - Terry Pratchett, (Harper, Sep07)
Superpowers - David J. Schwartz (Three Rivers Press, Jun08)

Novellas

“The Spacetime Pool” - Catherine Asaro, (*Analog*, Mar08)
 “Dark Heaven” - Gregory Benford (*Alien Crimes*, ed. Mike Resnick, SFBC, Jan07)
 “Dangerous Space” - Kelley Eskridge, (*Dangerous Space*, Aqueduct Press, Jun07)
 “The Political Prisoner” - Charles Coleman Finlay, (*F&SF*, Aug08)
 “The Duke in His Castle” - Vera Nazarian, (Norilana Books, Jun08)

Novelettes

“If Angels Fight” - Richard Bowes, (*F&SF*, Feb08)
 “The Ray-Gun: A Love Story”, James Alan Gardner (*Asimov's* 2/08)
 “Dark Rooms” - Goldstein, Lisa (*Asimov's*, Oct/Nov 07)
 “Pride and Prometheus” - John Kessel, (*F&SF*, Jan08)
 “Night Wind” - Mary Rosenblum, Mary (*Lace and Blade*, ed. Deborah J. Ross, Norilana Books, Feb08)
 “Baby Doll” - Johanna Sinisalo, Johanna (*The SFWA European Hall of Fame*, ed. James Morrow & Kathryn Morrow, Tor, Jun07)
 “Kaleidoscope” - K.D. Wentworth, (*F&SF*, May07)

Short Stories

“The Button Bin” - Mike Allen, (*Helix: A Speculative Fiction Quarterly*, Oct07)
 “The Dreaming Wind” - Jeffrey Ford, (*The Coyote Road: Trickster Tales*, ed. Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, Viking, Jul07)
 “Trophy Wives” - Nina Kiriki Hoffman, (*Fellowship Fantastic*, ed. Greenberg and Hughes, DAW Books, Jan08)
 “26 Monkeys, Also the Abyss” - Kij Johnson, (*Asimov's*, Jul08)
 “The Tomb Wife” - Gwyneth Jones, (*F&SF*, Aug07)
 “Don't Stop” - James Patrick Kelly, (*Asimov's*, Jun07)
 "Mars: A Traveler's Guide", Ruth Nestvold (*F&SF* 1/08)

Scripts

The Dark Knight - Johnathan Nolan, Christopher Nolan, David S. Goyer, (Warner Bros., Jul08)
WALL-E Screenplay - Andrew Stanton, Jim Reardon, Original story by Andrew Stanton, Pete Docter (Walt Disney June 2008)
The Shrine - Wright, Brad (Stargate Atlantis, Aug08)

Norton (YA works)

Graceling - Kristin Cashore, (Harcourt, Oct08)
Lamplighter - D.M. Cornish, (*Monster Blood Tattoo, Book 2*, Putnam Juvenile, May08))
Savvy - Ingrid Law, (Dial, May08)
The Adoration of Jenna Fox - Mary E Pearson, (Henry Holt and Company, Apr08)
Flora's Dare: How a Girl of Spirit Gambles All to Expand Her Vocabulary, Confront a Bouncing Boy Terror, and Try to Save Califa from a Shaky Doom (Despite Being Confined to Her Room) - Ysabeau S. Wilce, (Harcourt, Sep08)

Bradbury Award:
 Joss Whedon

Solsitice Awards:
 Algis Budrys, Martin H. Greenberg, and Kate Wilhem

Author Emerita
 M.J. Engh

Damon Knight Grandmaster Award
 Harry Harrison



The Graveyard Book

by

Neil Gaiman

Neil Gaiman's latest book is illustrated by his longtime collaborator Dave McKean. It is a twist on Kipling's ***The Jungle Book***, where a young boy is raised by the inhabitants of a graveyard rather than the animals of the Indian Jungle.

The story opens up with the murder of a family. The baby of the family had climbed out of his crib, thus avoiding being killed. The baby find his way to a nearby graveyard on hill in an English city. The ghosts in the graveyard decide to raise the boy. One resident of the graveyard, Silas, lives in between the world of the living and the dead. Silas acts as the boy's guardian. The boy is given the name Nobody Owens (aka Bod Owens). All the graveyard's ghosts help Silas raise Bod. Bod learns about life and death at the graveyard. What Bod learns there will prepare him to face his family's killers.

Bod is a good natured boy. He does go through the stages of rebellion all young boys do. Bod's interactions with normal humans sometimes go awry. This mainly from being raised by the dead who don not react as the living do. Bod's adopted family is a bit protective, since his family's killer is still at large. Still they him teach everything there is to know about life and the afterlife.

The book is a series of short stories. Each chapter can stand on its own. Each chapter Bod has an adventure where he learns something about the spiritual and mortal world. He also acquires a skill, gains an ally or learns something that will help him when he finally faces those responsible for his family's death.

Gaiman is good at explaining how this universe works. There is no tedious exposition. Most of it we find out through Bod's eyes. One learns what the creatures of this world can and cannot do. The explanations come out naturally in the story.

Gaiman does a good job of making the scary bits really scary. When Bod's family is murdered, Gaiman does not go into gory detail. The reader simply knows the murderer used a knife and is capable of killing small children without hesitation. This is a nice contrast to a lot of movie horror which feels the need to show all the gory details. Leaving it up to one's own imagination is far more effective.

The story ends with all the loose ends tied up but one years for more. One wants more stories about this world and about Bod. Gaiman hints that there could be more, but the reader is also satisfied if this the only story told in that world.

Fanboys

It is Halloween 1998 in Ohio. Four friends reunite for the first time since high school. Eric (Sam Huntington) has drifted apart from the rest of the group. Eric gave up his dreams of being a comic book artist with his friend Linus (Chris Marquette) to work at his father's car dealership. Hutch (Dan Folger), the wild man of the group, dreams of starting an auto detailing shop and lives in his mom's carriage house (garage). Windows (Jay Baruchel) runs a comic shop with his friend, the media-knowledgeable and beautiful Zoe (Kristen Bell). Hutch and Windows tells Eric that Linus has cancer and will be dead in a few months. Eric, for Linus' sake, decides to break into the Skywalker Ranch and watch ***Star Wars- Episode One: The Phantom Menace***. They will take Hutch's ***Star Wars*** custom van, complete with R2 unit on the roof. On the way to Skywalker Ranch, they encounter hostile Trek fans, bikers, a shaman, Harry Knowles (founder of the Aint It Cool News film website) and others.

This film was surrounded in controversy. It was originally scheduled to be released in the summer of 2007. The studio then gave director Kyle Newman more money to film additional scenes. Newman could not get the cast to film the additional scenes until the fall of 2007 so the release was pushed to 2008. Then a version of the film was made without the cancer plot. The fan communities ran an internet campaign demanding that the cancer aspect of the plot remain. Steven Brill, a director who did some of the reshoots, then got into an online feud with fan groups over the film reediting. This caused further delays. The film is slowly being released nationwide, but as of February 27, only 21 cities are showing the film.

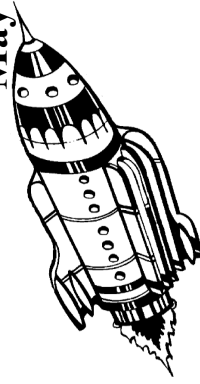
Was it worth it? If one likes Kevin Smith films and ***The Big Bang Theory***, then this film is likeable. There are a lot of good ***Star Wars***/Lucasfilm inside jokes. The cameos by Carrie Fisher, Billy Dee Williams, Kevin Smith, and William Shatner are hysterical. The main characters are trying to figure out what to do with their lives. The trip and Linus' mortality help them face their future.

As usual, Hollywood's interpretation of fandom is a bit off. They go for the stereotypes. The stereotypes do exist in real life, but it would be nice not to use them. I never have met the people like those shown in the movie at cons or at other fan gatherings. ***Deep Secret*** (Diana Wyss Jones), ***Fallen Angels*** (Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Michael Flynn), ***Fans!*** (T Campbell, www.faans.com) and most of Kevin Smith's works (comics and film) show a more realistic picture of fandom. The ***Star Trek*** vs. ***Star Wars*** fan feud is a bit much. It would have been more funny and true-to-life to have that conflict be mundane (non-fans) vs. fans.

Still, it's a fun film. It is about a bunch of friends going on one last trip together. It was a good idea to keep the cancer plot in. Without that, the film would have been senseless. The fans are enjoying themselves and being enthusiastic about something: that is always fan-like.

SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
IN ORLANDO
OASIS 22

May 22-24, 2009



Guest of Honor
Peter David

Sir Apropos of Nothing,
Woad to Wuin,,

Tong Lashing, Darkness of the Light,
Tigerheart, Star Trek:New Frontiers,
The Incredible Hulk

Hotel Information

\$109/night, single-quad
through 4/30/09
Mention OASIS for rate

Sheraton Orlando
Downtown
60 South Ivanhoe Blvd
Orlando, FL 32804
407-425-4455

Weekend Memberships:
\$30 until 1/1/09,
\$35 until 4/30/09,
\$40 at the door.

Joe Fan
123 Sesame Street
Orlando, FL 32805

Special Guest Writer

John Ringo

Posleen Series, Cally's War,
Empire of Man, The Council Wars,
Paladin of Shadows,
Voyage of the Space Bubble

Editor Guest of Honor

Toni Weiskopf

Baen Books

Artist Guest of Honor

Johnny Atomic

Diamond Castle, Stop the Chandelier ,
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