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Dragon Con 2023

The Daily Dragon

All Hail the Puppet Nerd! by Amy Herring

Adam Kreutinger, AKA The Puppet Nerd, has come to Dragon Con to enlist us all in the greatest venture available to novice nerds. Want to make something? Put a puppet together for the first time. Want to achieve true artistry? Turn a ragbag into a hero. Want to impress your friends? Introduce them to the Puppet Nerd!

Daily Dragon (DD): What kick-started your interest in puppetry?

Adam Kreutinger (AK): My foray into puppetry began in an unexpected way. I was cast in a local theatre production of Little Shop of Horrors. Despite my background in magic, and no prior experience with puppetry, I found myself as an assistant puppeteer—a decision the director felt was fitting due to my magician skills.

It was during these rehearsals that I met Zach Haumesser, who would become a dear friend. One day, Zach introduced a puppet that was truly captivating. Crafted by an artisan from the Jim Henson company, it was a distinguished grey frog donning a smoking jacket, reminiscent of a Kermit-meets-Hugh Hefner vibe.

I was spellbound. Prior to this, I'd always seen characters from Sesame Street as real entities rather than puppets, such was the skill of their portrayal. But holding this puppet, feeling its artistry firsthand, I was hit with an epiphany: these weren't just toys or



tools—they were pieces of ART. From that moment, my fascination with puppetry grew, and I was irrevocably hooked.

DD: Are there any puppetry styles you prefer and why?

AK: My work unmistakably reflects the profound influence of Jim Henson on my puppetry journey. I believe this resonates with many puppeteers. The Henson-style puppetry often serves as a seminal introduction for many into the realm of puppet artistry.

As my dedication to puppetry deepened, I ventured into puppetry conferences and festivals. These experiences significantly broadened my horizons and introduced me to a myriad of puppetry styles.

While I predominantly practice the Henson style, I have a diverse range of interests within puppetry. I frequently employ marionettes for local performances and am increasingly captivated by tabletop puppetry. Moreover, the art of object manipulation holds a special place in my heart, seamlessly blending everyday items with the world of puppetry.

DD: Who is your favorite audience and why?

AK: A common misconception is that puppetry is reserved exclusively for children. This couldn't be further from the truth. Those who believe they don't like puppetry are wrong. They might have seen a show that wasn't to their liking, but puppetry is not a genre—it's a versatile storytelling tool.

My favorite audiences are those who approach puppetry with an open heart and a readiness for fun. This is one of the reasons I love creating puppetry videos for my YouTube channel, Puppet Nerd. The digital platform offers viewers flexibility—they can watch at their leisure, pause whenever necessary, and skip to videos that resonate with them. And, in the vast world of YouTube, they might stumble upon other talented puppeteers, expanding their appreciation for the art form. The world truly needs more puppetry.

Read the full interview on the Daily Dragon website!

2023 Dragon Con Parade

The 23rd annual Dragon Con parade steps off at 10AM Saturday! The parade runs south along Peachtree Street to the convention area, ending between the Hyatt and the Marriott.

The annual event draws in thousands from all around the Atlanta area to enjoy all the different costumes, groups, and guests. If you're headed out to watch, be sure to stake out your spot early! For those who can't be there in person (or don't want to fight the crowds), the parade is also broadcast live on Dragon ConTV.

Parade participants can still check in Friday: 9:30AM-8PM near convention registration in the Georgia Ballroom at the Courtland Grand hotel.

Visit the Headless Lounge

Dragon Con's Headless Lounge is a safe space away from the public eye! Monsters, muppets, mascots, and furrins can kick back, cool off, and relax while sitting in front of the fans and blowers, all without having to ruin the illusion of character! Only full-headed costumes will be permitted to enter. Open Friday-Sunday, 2:30-11PM, 308 (Hilton).



Schedule Changes

Hy = Hyatt Hil = Hilton
M = Marriott W = Westin
CG = Courtland Grand
AM2/3 = AmericasMart Bldg 2/3

The following previously confirmed guests are unfortunately not able to attend Dragon Con 2023: **Carlo Barberi, Bruce Boxleitner, Nathan Fillion, Rebecca Moesta, Larry Niven, Jodie Whittaker.**

UPDATES

British Cars, Friday 1PM, 315 (Hil), will be Sunday 11:30AM, Galleria 8 (Hil).

Garrett Wang will moderate "Garrett with Friends: with A. Mount, E. Peck, C. Rose Gooding, & C. Chong" Sunday 2:30PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

ADDITIONS

Jeanne C. Stein will be on "15 Minute Mentor Session" Friday 2:30PM, Embassy G (Hy); "Signing Showcase Urban Fantasy Track" Friday 4PM, Overlook (W).

Eranga-D will be on "Cover Art: Creating

The Best First Impression" Friday 5:30PM, 204J (AM2).

Robert Ross will be on "Not Always What They Seem: Demons in UF" Friday 10PM, Chastain I-J (W).

JM Paquette will be on "Not Always What They Seem: Demons in UF" Friday 10PM, Chastain I-J (W); "Vampire Variety in UF" Saturday 11:30AM, Chastain 1-2 (W).

Tamsin Silver will be on "On the Head of a Pin: Angels in UF" Sunday 10AM, Chastain 1-2 (W).

B.L. Blanchard will be on "Take Thee to the Punnery: Exploration of Puns and Humor" Sunday 11AM, Embassy CD (Hy).

Jason Dorough will be on "The Intersection of Magic and Politics: How the Sparks Can Fly" Sunday 5:30PM, Embassy CD (Hy).

CANCELLATIONS

Jeanne C. Stein will not be on "15 Minute Mentor Session" Friday 11:30AM, Embassy G (Hy); "I Didn't Ask for This: Reluctant Heroes & Heroines in UF" Friday 2:30PM, Chastain 1-2 (W).

"The Mandalorian Recap" Friday 2:30PM, A706 (M).

Valerie Willis will not be on "Not Always What They Seem: Demons in UF" Friday 10PM, Chastain I-J (W); "On the Head of a Pin: Angels in UF" Sunday 10AM, Chastain 1-2 (W); "The Intersection of Magic and Politics: How the Sparks Can Fly" Sunday 5:30PM, Embassy CD (Hy).

Chesya Burke will not be on "Babel 17: the Works of Samuel Delany" Monday 11:30AM, Embassy AB (Hy).

A Cornucopia of Spirits by Amy Herring

Leanna Renee Hieber had published a treasure of fiction suitable for any Dragon Con reader's hoard. So what does Hieber do next? Enter *A Haunted History of Invisible Women: True Stories of America's Ghosts* by Leanna Renee Hieber and Andrea Janes (Citadel Press 2022). A finalist in the 2022 Bram Stoker Awards for Superior Achievement in Non-Fiction, *A Haunted History of Invisible Women* is a trove of incredible stories that prompts favorable comparison with the best of paranormal fiction.

We asked Hieber about writing nonfiction after her successes with penning novels and fiction stories.

Daily Dragon: *What was it like, venturing into nonfiction after your fiction-writing career was well underway?*

Leanna Renee Hieber: I'm so lucky to have the opportunity to further explore the endlessly mysterious topic that remains the through line of all my fiction: ghosts. My fiction and nonfiction are functioning beautifully hand-in-hand. I base my ghostly fiction on a set of historical truths from which I can extrapolate. In my nonfiction, I just avoid that second step and try to tell a good story with truth as my guide.

I stick to history that can be tracked and pinpointed and I try to avoid too much supposition. It's critical to present the timeline of a historical building and the details of the people who lived and died there as neutrally as we can. Of course, every writer writes with a viewpoint and structural choices in presenting the in-

formation. But these are real people and histories we are examining; being salacious or trumping up details for shock value or titillation is irresponsible. Just because it's "haunted history" doesn't mean respect goes out the window.

Andrea and I try to focus on sites that have a wealth of uncanny, unusual, or ghostly reports written about them through time, to be able to better convince the reader that something out of the ordinary, whether you believe in ghosts or not, is occurring at that site. Ghost stories have a power and importance that we're interested in unpacking, because they say so much about the living and how we grapple with the past.

Read the full interview on the Daily Dragon website!

Friday Parties & Events

Video Game Costume Contest

Hosted by Courtenay Taylor! Judges will be looking at the costume itself, the workmanship, design, and inspiration. This will be open to individuals, experts and novices. Part of the judging process includes a description of the game and character being portrayed. All judges are costuming professionals with extreme knowledge! Friday 7PM, Peachtree Ballroom (Westin).



Match Game in the 25th Century

Once again, Gil Gerard is presenting his unique and original Match Game In The 25th Century!! Featuring star celebrity panelists, as well as an entire galaxy of great prizes for the participants and many select members of the general audience. Friday 7:30-9PM, International North (Hyatt).



The Gather: Welcome Home

The best Gathering of Fantasy Literature authors and fans around! Who knows what surprises and treasures

are to be found? We have more authors than the app will allow us to list, so you will be sure to find some great books to take home with your amazing Con stories. Friday 8PM-12AM, International South (Hyatt).



Are You a Death Eater?

A Harry Potter-themed Mafia-style game! Check out the instructions ahead of time at <https://tinyurl.com/YAdeathater> with audience participation. Friday 8:30PM and 10PM (two games), Hanover C-E (Hyatt).



Friday Night Costuming Contest

Entrants compete in Youth, Novice, Journeyman, & Professional categories in this workmanship costume contest. Cheer on your favorites & vote for the Social Media Fan Favorite on Facebook. Friday 8:30-11PM, Atrium Ballroom (Marriott).



The Artistic Soirée: An After-Hours Painting Party

Let your creativity soar at an exclusive

paint party! Join seasoned artists in a live group-painting session, where you'll unleash your artistic prowess and create stunning masterpieces. This 18+ event is limited to the first 40 lucky participants who register. Mature Audiences. Friday 10PM, Hanover AB (Hyatt).



Sea Shanty Sing-Along with the Nocturnal Pirates of Atlanta

We've called a parley with the Nocturnal Pirates of Atlanta for the evening so we can enjoy a little bit of the pirate life. We don't know what we'll get up to, but we're excited to sing songs of the briny deep, gush romantically about our love of the sea, and swap tall tales. Bring your own grog! Mature Audiences. Friday 10PM, Macon (Courtland Grand).



Klingon Karaoke (Honor)

You won't need to speak Klingon (or Klingonese) to board our vessel for this musical journey. Sing with honor, and don't behave like a filthy targ! Friday 10PM-12:30AM, Galleria 2-3 (Hilton).

Daily Dragon Tweets

Don't miss the latest Dragon Con news and announcements. Follow @daily_dragon on Twitter... er, X!



Coloring for Charity

Chill out while you color to the lo-fi nerdy beats, and raise money for this year's charity, CURE Childhood Cancer. Thursday-Sunday, 7PM-12AM, The Learning Center (Hyatt).



Improvised Dungeons & Dragons LIVE!

Dungeon Master Mark Meer, celebrity guests, and members of Atlanta's own Dad's Garage Theatre Company act as improvisers attempting to survive with only their wits, character sheets, and high charisma stats. No board, no script, yes costumes. Friday 7PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand).



Dragon Award Nominee Meet & Greet and Signings

Join our attending Dragon Award Nominees for an informal meet and greet. Authors will be available to sign books if desired. Friday 7-9:30PM, Overlook (Westin).



Dragon Con's Pin-ups by the Pool

Don your best poolside pin-up attire... there's gonna be a pin-up competition! Register for the competition poolside 30 minutes before the party begins. Judges will be mixing and mingling in the fray, so don't be a wallflower. Remember the judges love a nerdy twist to your pin-up creation! Friday 8:30-11PM, Pool and Courtyard (Courtland Grand).



A Timely Escape: An Escape Room Event for AHFT & DC Charity

An escape room inspired by Victorian mystery & the beloved board game Clue, full of secret passages & murder weapons. This activity is for 6-8 players to solve a whodunit in 15 minutes. Donations to play go to CURE, a charity working to end childhood cancer. Sign up with the head of staff to play! Friday 10AM-2PM, Valdosta (Courtland Grand).



Furry Meetup and Q&A

A meetup for the anthropomorphic fan in all of us. Panelists from the Georgia Furs and Furry Weekend Atlanta discuss the joy of furrydom while everyone that wishes can meet-n-greet and strut their furry best fursuits. Friday 10PM-12:30AM, A601-602 (Marriott).



Check out the Parties and Events pages on the *Daily Dragon* website!