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The Daily Dragon

Dragon Con 2023

Actors from 'Lightning Bug' by Debbie Yutko

Well known by Dragon Con fans for their unforgettable roles in the shiny space western that never should have been cancelled, Gina Torres, Sean Maher, and Jewel Staite answered a variety of questions that were light years away from the standard topics at the 10AM Friday "Tony Lately" panel, led by moderator Tony Gowell, in Hyatt Centennial II-IV.

One of the earliest questions, for example, was tots or fries? Maher declared it a Sophie's choice, but Staite chose tots because she doesn't find French fries all that exciting. Torres turned to her in astonishment and declared that she didn't even know Staite at all. Torres added, "I love a good French fry, but tots have their place." When Gowell moved to the next question, Maher revealed his comedic side by answering the tots/FF debate by declaring with a grin, "Hash browns!"

From there, the conversation segued to their last Waffle House order. The audience was shocked that Maher had never been to one of Atlanta's staple restaurants, but Torres soothed their ruffled feelings by revealing that she'd been there twice in the last two days.

When asked to choose an eighth wonder of the world, Maher named Waffle House, Torres picked the cronut, and Staite smilingly said "Dragon Con!" When the audience cheered, Torres turned to her and murmured "Suck up,"

'Wagon Train to the Stars' Cast Tells All by Max Caraccapa

When Tony Gowell gets his friends together in a room, it's always a recipe for a good time and a good chat. Friday afternoon at 5:30PM in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom, "Tony Lately" sat down for a chat with Celia Rose Gooding, Christina Chong, Ethan Peck, and Anson Mount. Why those four people? Oh, no reason. Just because. You know. It turns out that Gowell also invited about 2,000 other people to sit in on this intimate chat, and his guests did not hold back.

One of the topics on everyone's mind is, of course, the WGA and SAG-AFTRA strikes, and Gowell gave the group a chance to say whatever they wanted to about it. Gooding, Chong, and Peck gave the floor to Mount to speak. Mount made it clear that we are all just at the beginning of this strike, suggesting that the AMPTP is a "clown car of divergent agendas" at war with each other. Further, what the AMPTP is selling as a tough stance is really an inability for them to come to the table with any kind of a coherent offer. He said, "This is the last point in time that we have to negotiate away from the robots taking over."

Mount also stressed that this strike isn't important just to his industry but to labor in general. He predicted that we are, at some point, going to see a bloodbath like never before as streaming price increases force consumers to choose one or two services to subscribe to. That, he said, will lead to all



and cheers morphed into laughter.

When asked what superpower they'd like the most, Staite said she'd like the power to heal people, but she wouldn't want to advertise her ability because of the inevitable line at her door. Torres would like to time travel. "I'm a bit of a history geek, and I'm nosy as [expletive deleted]." That wasn't the first time the PG guideline was accidentally broken. Staite joked that there ought to be a curse jar on the table, with the proceeds to benefit this year's Dragon Con charity cause, CURE Childhood Cancer.

Torres spoke about attending the recent royal wedding, calling the experience, "hectic—as hectic as Dragon Con." Maher said that Gina "looked so [expletive deleted] beautiful." (That jar would have been filling up, thanks to Maher, who grinned abashedly whenever he noticed one of his slips.)

The panelists also talked about mentors and people they admire. Torres named the amazing Diahann Carroll. "She

changed the game for black women," Torres said. She had the good fortune to meet Carroll and become friends. Torres called her "my glam mom. She had the most wicked, naughtiest sense of humor," she added. "Representation matters." Staite said she's more interested in chefs than actors, so she didn't really have an acting mentor. As for a person she admires, loves, and respects... "Nathan [Fillion]'s not here," but she's learned a lot from him.

They've also received some strange compliments. All three have heard the you-look-just-like comment, but that pales next to Staite's experience on an elevator at a previous Dragon Con. "Has anyone told you that you look like Jewel Staite?" a man allegedly told her. When everyone in the packed elevator laughed, he said, misunderstanding their glee, "No, no! It's a compliment!"

Remember, you never know who might share an elevator with you, so keep your eyes open and your wits about you.



kinds of mergers and conglomerations, which will eventually force Washington to step in and break them apart.

The rules surrounding the strikes meant that the questions from the audience had to get creative, and we all got a chance to get to know the guests a little more as people. For instance, we learned that Mount doesn't really cook much for himself except to roast some ducks over a campfire with his buddies and that Gooding is a "GrubHub girlie." Chong, however, has a lovely recipe for a baked salmon that she serves with stir-fried vegetables or brown rice.

This is the first Dragon Con for Chong and Gooding, so one of the questions was regarding anything that might be on con bucket lists. Chong said that her bucket list item had already been ticked when she saw someone cosplaying in a Princess Thalia dress. Peck laughed and said that his bucket list item is to NOT get drunk at Dragon Con, while Gooding said that she would like to do the opposite. All that Mount wants is a fully staged production of "Subspace Rhapsody"

(a recent musical episode of the "Wagon Train to the Stars"). Gowell extracted a pinky promise that if we managed to pull that off, Mount and friends would come back to Dragon Con.

Gooding had a particularly fun response to a question about being a fly on any wall at any time. She said that she would want to be a fly on the wall when Jay-Z heard Beyoncé's song "Don't Hurt Yourself" for the first time. Or, if not that, then the moment that Nichelle Nichols met Martin Luther King, Jr., and he convinced her to stay on her classic sci-fi show. She joked that they were two moments that had equal impact on her.

When asked about what they think fandom means, Chong and Gooding said that fandom means love and also accountability. Mount took a typically more philosophical direction with his answer, talking about fandom really illustrating how important storytelling is to us as a species. He said, "I feel so privileged to be a storyteller when I'm at these conventions."

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).



RHPS with LDOD

Give yourself over to the absolute pleasure with Lips Down on Dixie, Atlanta's premier shadowcast of RHPS, as we take in the #1 midnight movie of all time! This time-warping treat's just a jump to the left! Sunday 12:30-3AM, Centennial II-IV (Hyatt).

ADDITIONS

JM Paquette will be on "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 Punny: 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

Valerie Willis will not be on "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).

"Spawn: Dark Anti Hero of Image Comics" Saturday 2:30PM, 204I (AmericasMart 2).

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

Dragon Con Night at the Georgia Aquarium

It's baaacccccck! Channel your inner fantasy and join us for exclusive after-hours views of the Aquarium galleries, with ambient music and food and drinks available for purchase. Don't miss this mystical and magical experience as you journey through 11 million gallons of wondrous water. Extra fee event; buy tickets on the Aquarium website (VIP is sold out). Saturday 7-11PM, Georgia Aquarium, 225 Baker St NW.

And while you're at the Aquarium... did you know that Final Fantasy XIV is home to over 160 species of fish that can be



displayed in aquariums in-game? Did you also know that many of those fish are based on real fish that you can see in the Georgia Aquarium? Join the Final Fantasy Fish-Finding Scavenger Hunt, sponsored by the Video Gaming Track!

Saturday Parties & Events

Group Sing—D&D!

TWO-HOUR BLOCK! YOU got to help us choose on social media what the theme would be for this year's Themed Tribute Show. Join an all-star group of our performers for a two-hour block of fun-filled songs and sing-alongs. Saturday 5:30-7:30PM, Hanover C-E (Hyatt).



The Cults of Dragon Con Costume Contest

Marriott carpet attire! Dancing T-Rexes! Googly eyes! Paying tribute and adulation to the Dragon Con cults in this one wacky evening of clever costuming. Hosted by Crispy & friends. Saturday 7:30-10PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand). Contest registration 5:30-6:30PM, Valdosta (Courtland Grand).



Classic Sci-Fi Charity Lock-In Movie: Krull

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of Krull the best way possible: By watching it with a room full of Krull-ologists. Celebration is BYOG: Bring Your Own Glaive. Saturday 8:30-11PM, M103-105 (Marriott).



MSFM Charity Crafts and Games Night

We'll have card games, board games, and activity stations perfect for a chill, relaxing evening of crafting and gaming fun for all ages—while supporting CURE Childhood Cancer! Saturday 8:30PM, Chastain DE (Westin).

Name That Tune! Geek Theme Songs

Remember that earworm SF theme song that got stuck in your brain? We challenge you to remember some of these themes. We'll see who can triumph knowing which songs came from which show! Saturday 8:30PM, M302-M303 (Marriott).



Cartoon Bebop Lounge

Dance, mingle, or simply relax and chill to the jazzy tunes of DJ Scooby Snax. Characters from all channels are invited to this intergalactic waystation. Saturday 8:30PM, Grand West (Hilton).



Shore Leave on the Citadel

Join host Jack Rozsa for this intimate cocktail social. Saturday 8:30PM, Augusta A-B (Westin).



MSFM Charity Team Trivia

When the kids are away, the adults will—TRIVIA! Charity donations suggested for teams entering the contest as we raise money for CURE Childhood Cancer! Saturday 10PM, Chastain DE (Westin).



Karaoke—Digital Media Style

This modern experience does away with three-ring binders and slips of paper and puts the power of karaoke on your phone. Mature Audiences.

Saturday 10PM-12:30AM, Galleria 7 (Hilton).



Spectrum: The Rainbow Flag Party

DJ Neon the Glowgobear returns for his 11th year helping to create a safe party space for everyone to enjoy. Our go-go grltz 'n' boyz dance for you in "We Can Be Heroes," celebrating the hero in us all. Saturday 10PM-2AM, Regency VI-VII (Hyatt).



Ten Forward Party—Welcome to Starbase 80

DJ THX is your helmsman for a musical journey through time in a dance party that brings you the best from the classics to today and beyond. Saturday 10PM-2AM, Imperial Ballroom (Marriott).



The Heroes and Villains Ball

Enjoy the musical stylings of DJ Limit Break while you dance the night away under our mind controlling dance lights of doom. You won't even need your super suit. Saturday 10PM-2AM, Peachtree Ballroom (Westin).



The Last Party on Alderaan

Dragon Con's premiere house, EDM, pop, anything music dance party. You can bet the party will be jumping for hours. Tonight we're going to party like it's the end of the world as we know it... Saturday 10PM-2AM, Salon (Hilton).

Daily Dragon Tweets

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



Coffee & Coloring

Take a break from the Georgia heat and relax while we color, converse, and drink enormous amounts of coffee. Saturday/Sunday 8:30-11AM, Augusta E-H (Westin).



Costuming Exhibit

We play host to the most fascinating costumes from the brilliant makers at Dragon Con. Marvel at the spectacle and the ingenuity. Saturday 1-7PM, 301 (Hilton).



Dragon's Cup: Knightly Massed Combat

Group battles of 5 vs 5 knights from around the country and (hopefully the world) will be duking it out for the one who will go home with the Dragon's Cup in men's and women's categories. Saturday 1:30-4PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand).



Headless Lounge

A safe space away from the public eye! Monsters, muppets, mascots, and furries 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. Through Sunday, 2:30-11PM, 308 (Hilton).



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. Through Sunday, 7PM-12AM, The Learning Center (Hyatt).



Big Damn Game Show!

Bizarre geeky games! Weird geeky prizes! Gaze into the abyss of the Big Damn Game Show! Saturday 10PM, Crystal Ballroom (Hilton).



Adult Origami

Get a little naughty with your paper folding. Materials provided. Not responsible for paper cuts. Mature Audiences. Saturday 11:30PM-2AM, 309-312 (Hilton).



Dragon Con Burlesque: A Glamour Geek Revue

You'll thrill to the finest performing artists this country can offer—AND the most glamorous geeks imaginable! Sunday 12-2:30AM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand).



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