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The Daily Dragon

Dragon Con 2023

Cheese and Bolognese Man, Paul Bettany by Max Caraccappa

The excitement in the Hyatt Centennial Ballroom II-IV Saturday at 4PM was palpable as Paul Bettany was introduced. None of us knew exactly how much of the conversation would be about cheese when moderator Tony P. Henderson started the questions.

There was quite a lot of discussion about food, including what Bettany's favorite meals are. He said that he had recently returned from a trip to Italy where he'd spent about 2 weeks eating Mediterranean food but he really enjoys Indian food in general. However—and here's where the cheese conversation starts—Bettany confessed that he really loves a cheese and pickle sandwich: "Cheese is my gateway drug." He did clarify that when he says "pickle" he means what we call relish in the United States.

Later on, Bettany talked about how he and his wife, Jennifer Connelly, have people up to their house in Vermont after Christmas each year where they do midnight drunk sledding and Connelly does a lot of cooking. He made sure to mention that she's a very accomplished chef, while he is a "spaghetti Bolognese man." He does one thing and does it well. His more controversial food opinions came later where he gave a thumbs up to pineapple on a pizza but was ad-

amant that peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are just wrong. While he had this particular platform, he urged us Americans to "just stop it" when it comes to that particular sandwich.

When we weren't talking about food, we got to find out a lot more about Bettany as a person, including his pets (a Russian Blue cat and a very dumb golden retriever named Wallis), his hobbies (he plays guitar and is a huge Radiohead, Blur, Arctic Monkeys, and Strokes fan), and how he met and fell in love with Connelly ("I fell in love and married an American by mistake"). He also talked about his 1968 Series 2 Land Rover called Martha that he likes to tinker with, though he confessed he really has no idea what he's doing.

The conversation would occasionally turn to acting. Bettany got into acting largely because his father was offered a second-hand car in exchange for him being in a production of *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Up until then, Bettany had wanted to be a guitar player. When



asked if he still gets nervous, Bettany noted that he doesn't get nervous on film sets anymore, but that he did get jittery being on stage again after 25 years. He was Andy Warhol in the play *The Collaboration* recently, and he said that he spent a lot of time trying to figure Warhol out starting by trying to imagine what Warhol might have been afraid of while growing up in Pittsburgh in the '40s and '50s. "Somehow, he changed the world to see him as a superstar, and that is magical," Bettany added.

Just before the panel, Bettany was kind enough to take a couple of moments to talk with the *Daily Dragon*.

Daily Dragon (DD): Welcome to Dragon Con! Have you had a chance to see any of the convention yet?

Paul Bettany (PB): I have been moved from one hermetically sealed room to another and I got in last night. I've just been here but I've met lots of fans. And that's been lovely.

DD: Had you heard much about Dragon Con before you signed on to come?

PB: Only that it was an incredibly serious cosplay convention, and that it was the real, serious, dedicated fans. And I was like '... I kind of want to see what that looks like.' And it is, it's different.

Adam 'Gentle Encouragement' Savage by Max Caraccappa

It was no surprise that the Marriott Imperial Ballroom was packed Saturday at 11:30AM to hear Adam Savage answer audience questions. He bounded onto the stage with characteristic enthusiasm, taking a moment to make sure to wave to all parts of the room before taking his seat. The questions ranged all over the place from mythbusting to Tested.com to tips on parenting.

It's also no surprise that Savage talks passionately and reverently and excitedly about science and scientists. He said that he's come to learn that being a scientist and engineer is more about a way of thinking than education. One of the myths that he worked on was about whether tossing a penny off the Empire State Building could kill a person. They ultimately busted that myth, but during that process, he built a wind tunnel that



had two different wind speeds because, it turns out, pennies have two different terminal velocities depending on whether they fall flat or edge side down.

His theory was that putting a penny in this tunnel he'd built would just oscillate up and down, and when he tested it, it did exactly what he expected it to! It was then that he had a moment of "Oh! Science!" He said he still gets goosebumps talking about it, and it was the moment he realized he had a point of view that he could bring to the show.

After the panel, Savage took a couple of minutes to chat with the *Daily Dragon*.

Daily Dragon (DD): Tell me what you love about Dragon Con.

Adam Savage (AS): At Dragon Con, which I consider the cosplayer's con, there's a commitment to the depth of cosplay. And that doesn't mean that every costume you see is of the highest quality because that's not really what's important. What's important here is that the costume represents what you wanted it to represent. And that's what gets celebrated here. That's what I love.

DD: Is there something that you learn when you come to cons?

AS: I like to think of the panels as a sort of open discussion that I'm having over a period of a couple of decades with a certain part of our culture. I love the questions from the audience, which are always surprising. Every panel for me is like that. It's like a brand new interview.

2023 Dragon Con Parade Highlights



See more pictures on our website!

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, Scott Grimes, 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

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

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).

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

Sunday Parties & Events

Splendid Teapot Racing

Bring your own teapot racer or just come and enjoy this kid-friendly action as steampunk builders race remote-control cars carrying teapots around an obstacle course for fun and prizes. Rules can be found at dragoncon-splendid-teapot-race.mailchimp-sites.com. Sunday 10AM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand).



Family-Friendly Dance

Kids Track's dance is back! We provide the all-ages music and you bring your best dance moves. All ages welcome. Kids under 16 must be with a parent/guardian, children 7+ must have badges. Adults without kids may be turned away. Sunday 4-6:30PM, A601-A602 (Marriott).



Miss [REDACTED] Universe Pageant

Green aliens, ridgy-forehead aliens, and cybernetic drone aliens, oh my! Judged by a panel of celebrities. Sunday 5:30-8PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand).



Star Wars Costume Contest

Come witness the power of these amazing costumers ready to take on the galaxy far, far away in amazing Star Wars cosplays, ranging from new movies to the OT, to the cartoons and Legends... maybe even the Holiday Special. Sunday 5:30PM, Imperial Ballroom (Marriott).



Badge Beard Competition and Awards

You have been collecting, you have been adding your ribbons to your badge... Now what??? Bring your Badge Beard and challenge others with the length! Come watch or join the fun with your Badge Beard! Sunday 5:30-8PM, Regency V (Hyatt).



Loyal Order of the Ribbon—Crowning Finale and Processional!

Find out who has collected the most ribbons this year. Cheer them on in the procession to the Hyatt Lobby, where the strongest of the realm will pose for quick photos and bragging rights! Sunday 7PM, Regency V (Hyatt).

Buffy Horror Picture Show

"Once More, with Feeling," the beloved Buffy musical episode, gets enacted once again on the stage while the episode plays on the screen. Sunday 7PM, Peachtree Ballroom (Westin).



Star Wars Trivia Contest Finals

Come watch the highest scorers on the written exam battle it out in the finals! Who will reign supreme in 2023? Qualifying test Saturday 8:30PM, with the top scores posted Sunday so finalists can study a little more before the showdown. Sunday 7PM, A706 (Marriott).



Captain's Log: Star Trek Improv Show

Space: the final frontier. Improv: a frontier before that. Captain's Log: somewhere in the middle. Join the crew of Captain's Log as they take you on a completely improvised trek through our universe, inspired by your suggestions. Sunday 8:30PM, Grand West (Hilton).



Classic Sci-Fi Charity Lock-in: Mac and Me (We're Lovin' It)

Celebrate the 35th anniversary of the child-plunging epic Mac and Me by inflicting it on your unsuspecting friends and family. This year: We're watching the Japanese release. Longer! More of everything! Sunday 8:30-11PM, M103-M105 (Marriott).



Son Of Greatest Hits

Son Of returns this year with some old favorites from the past events. We've pulled out some stuff from the vaults for the special event this year. As always there will be prizes, surprises, and more. Sunday 8:30PM-12:30AM, A601-A602 (Marriott).



Heroes, Villians and Humanity Charity Game Show!

It's our own unique team version of Cards against Humanity. Dress up if you want—be a Hero or a Villain and have the ultimate face-off, for at least this night. Bragging rights for the ultimate win. Charity is a great way to sway the judges! Prepare for rude but funny! Mature Audiences. Sunday 10PM-12:30AM, M302-303 (Marriott).

Klingon Karaoke (Glory)

You won't need to speak Klingon (or Klingonese) to board our vessel for this musical journey. Sing like the warrior you are, and fill both your throats for the glory of Kahless! Sunday 10PM-12:30AM, Galleria 2-3 (Hilton).



Venture Bros. Game Night

Test your knowledge of Venture Bros. trivia with other fans! Go Team Venture! Mature Audiences. Sunday 10PM-12:30AM, Galleria 1 (Hilton).



Dance Magic Dance

The High Fantasy track invites you to dance like an elf, boogie like a dwarf, and party until the dragons come home. Sunday 10PM-12:30AM, Grand East (Hilton).



Yule Ball

Our annual Harry Potter-themed party! Come dance the night away while Darkshift & DJ spin your top pop hits from the 80s, 90s, and now! Join us for a YA Lit costume showcase at 9:30PM. Adults only after 10PM. Sunday 8:30PM-2AM, Imperial Ballroom (Marriott).



Doctor Who Ball

It's a Mauve Alert! Be prepared to shake your bootie like a Slitheen (hopefully not) to the tunes of DJ BLACK SUNSHINE at our annual Doctor Who Ball! Music, Mayhem, and our annual Pageant of Rassilon live judging during the ball! Come dressed up, sign up at our table, winners announced at 11:30PM! Sunday 10PM-2AM, Grand Salon (Hilton).



The Temporal Formal: Studio Era

Step back in time to the glamorous era of Hollywood's golden age. Show off your finest Retro Hollywood attire and dance the night away to classic ballroom numbers. This year, the party won't stop swinging as we shift from a ballroom dance into a West Coast swing party and dance through the night. Sunday 10PM-2AM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand). Come early (8:30-9:30) to learn the basics of ballroom dance!



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

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).



Main Charity Auction

It's the Annual Dragon Con Charity Auction! For 2023, we've partnered with CURE Childhood Cancer as our official charity. Benefit this worthy cause and get some treasures in the process! Remember, Dragon Con matches up to the first \$125K, so make those dollars count! Sunday 10AM-2PM, Hanover C-E (Hyatt).



Annual Don S. Davis Memorial Charity Auction

The 15th Annual Don S. Davis Memorial Charity Auction returns to "do it for Don" and raise money for CURE Childhood Cancer! Bid on hard-to-find items from all your favorite Military Sci-Fi Media franchises. You never know who'll show up or what will happen, but we'll have a frakking good time! So Say We All! Sunday 4-6:30 PM, Hanover C-E (Hyatt).



Dragon Awards Ceremony

Presentation of the 2023 Dragon Awards in 11 categories! Who will you choose as the fan favorites this year? Come & find out the results! Sunday 5:30PM, Centennial I (Hyatt).



Dragon Con Masquerade: With Eddie McClintock and Tony Gowell

Presenting the most spectacular masquerade contest in the known universe! Hosted by Eddie McClintock and Tony Gowell, with an expert panel of judges! Sunday 8:30-11PM, Centennial II-IV (Hyatt). Overflow viewing: Atrium Ballroom (Marriott).



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).