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# The Daily Dragon

Dragon Con 2019

## George Takei: An American Voice by Kevin Shirley

A grateful and passionate George Takei took the stage in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom Sunday morning to answer questions from fans of all ages about "all things Takei." He began with a boisterous "Oh Myyy," followed by a moment of reflection on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of Star Trek and just what that meant. A television series that struggled to stay on the air became a major entertainment franchise because of the loyalty and passion of its fans. Takei was very intentional and deliberate in saying "thank you" to all. He was not only amazed by *Star Trek's* longevity, the fact that "our children now play us," but that the incredible support of the fans has given him a platform to be heard. "I have access because of you," said Takei.

"I spent my childhood behind American barbed wire," he said, "because we looked like the people who

### Masquerade Winners

Best Toddler: Natasha and Cristian Kersh as Belle and Chip

Best Teen: Makayla Hulsey and Allysan Morris, Bast Egyptian Goddesses

Best Youth: Ianna and Adelin Gore, Queen Amidala and Padme

Best Animation: Lauren Stewart, Hawk-girl

Best DC: Genesis Crowder and Rebecca Kunimoto, Wonder Woman and Mother Hyppolita

Best Disney: Eric Engler, Klinger the M\*A\*S\*H 4077 Disney Princess

Best Fantasy: Katie Brubaker, Eowyn from *Lord of the Rings*

Best Marvel: Scott Goodwin, Thor

### Talking Games, the Dark Side: Eddie McClintock by Alicia Pack

There are certain Dragon Con guests who need no introduction, and Eddie McClintock is certainly one of those. At a press conference on Sunday afternoon, reporters sat down with the actor to talk games and playing darker characters.

On Saturday evening, *Warehouse 13* fans had the opportunity to play the show's new board game after bidding in an auction to benefit the American Heart Association, Dragon Con 2019's official charity. Of course, McClintock played where he discovered that Pete's

### Peter Mayhew: A Member of the Family by Kevin Shirley

Sunday afternoon in Marriott A601-602, friends, loved ones, and fans of Peter Mayhew gathered to share their memories and love for the man who created one of American film's iconic characters: Chewbacca the Wookiee from *Star Wars*. Bryan Young, Albin Johnson, Cheralyn Lambeth, and Ryan Ziegler guided the hour. This was not a Q&A. Rather, the session was an opportunity for people who knew, appreciated, and loved the man to come together to find solace in the company of one another.



bombed Pearl Harbor." Takei was referring, of course, to the years he and his family spent in a Japanese internment camp, located far from his Los Angeles home, in the swamps of Arkansas. American citizens all (except for his dad), his family was caught up in the anti-Japanese fervor that swept across this nation in the wake of Japan's attack.

It became his "mission in life" to raise awareness among his fellow Americans of this history in order to keep it from ever happening again. Then his voice lowered: "Sadly, it is happening again along the southern border."

Takei felt called to help the next generation of Americans understand the history of immigrants and the racism that has so often driven immigration policy at the national level. As a child he read comics, and those stories stayed with him. He concluded that he would share his story with the next generation of Americans through a comic; in this case a graphic memoir. Working with Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott, and illustrator Harmony Becker, Takei penned *They Called Us Enemy*, the story of the internment from the perspective of a 5-year-old child. His goal was to tell the truth of his experiences, as well as those of his parents.



Best Novice: Kimberly, William, Brandon and Matthew Oswald, the Guardians of the Galaxy

Best Journeyman: Jasper Norris, Jave the Space Raptor

Best Master: Devon Baker, Red Death

from *Phantom of the Opera*

Best in Show: Lynn and Bowie Sessions, Stacie and Jim Mossey, David Terres, Aaron Lilyerd, Grace Butkowski, Beth Thornton, and Eliot Thomas, Scooby-Doo Group

superpower in the game is intuition.

"Looking around [at the game], there's Darrin, Allison, Saul, Joanne, and Roger Rees as MacPherson, and you guys were having fun playing a game I was a part of. That made me feel good and nostalgic...It's a great way to keep the memory of the show alive and move it to another generation."

While we all love hero Pete Lattimer, recently McClintock has played characters who identify with the dark side.

"I do enjoy playing characters with

darkness because I think that's true of any person, myself included. Granted, my character Jack Payne that I played in *Shooter* was a little darker than most of us would have hoped. I tried to give him some humanity. What I wanted him to be was like a Pete character, when he wasn't murdering ruthlessly. I want the viewer to be conflicted. ... I can't necessarily say I like playing a dark character more than I like playing a character like Pete, but I find them both interesting in their own ways."

As each panelist introduced themselves, a recurring theme immediately appeared: Mayhew was always in the moment when working with the fans. He was kind and loved them, and no matter what his struggles may have been, he had the ability to turn "it" on, focus on those fans, and give them not only his full attention but his energy as well.

The discussion then turned to Peter's relationship with Dragon Con. When Young met with the *Star Wars* track director to prepare for this panel, the

word "family" continued to come up. Mayhew enjoyed not just his days at Dragon Con but his evenings as well. As Johnson declared, you may be holding a pint while Peter was holding a pitcher, but the warmth and the comfort of family and friends was always there.

In what is quite possibly a Dragon Con first, the session concluded with a Wookiee "salute" and a bagpipe tribute from a "pipe-trooper." As the song echoed through the room, those in attendance stood in silent homage to Mayhew, a member of the family.

# Schedule Changes

Hy = Hyatt  
M = Marriott  
Hil = Hilton  
AMI/2 = AmericasMart Bldg 1/2  
S = Sheraton  
W = Westin

The following previously confirmed presenters will not be able to attend Dragon Con 2019: Emily Andras, Asher Angel, Aaron-Michael Hall, Rachael Harris, Dirk Manning, Misty Massey, Jack McDevitt, Jorge Molina, Mark Pellegrino, Cherie Priest, Mercedes Lackey, Chris Schweizer.

## ADDITIONS

**\*NEW\* "The Hard Part: Asking for Financial (and other) Support for our Organizations"** Mon 10AM, 204-207 (Hil).

**Corinne O'Flynn** will be on "Visitors from Beyond: Ghosts and Spirits in UF" Mon 1PM, Chastain 1-2 (W).

## CANCELLATIONS

**\*NEW\* "News from the Atheism Front"** Mon 10AM, 204-207 (Hil).

**Scott Sutherland** will not be on "Space Weather" Mon 10AM, 212-213 (Hil).

**Zachary Levi** will not be on "Shazam Cast: Qualities of a Hero" Mon 10AM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

**Jon Boutelle** will not be on "'Make the Bad Men Stop, 2019 edition, v2" Mon 2:30PM, Athens (S).

## UPDATES

**"William Shatner Live!"** Mon 10AM, was Grand Salon (Hil), now Atrium Ballroom (M).

**"Google is Skynet"** (was "The Terminator, I Robot, Chappie, Wall-E") Mon 1PM, 204-207 (Hil).

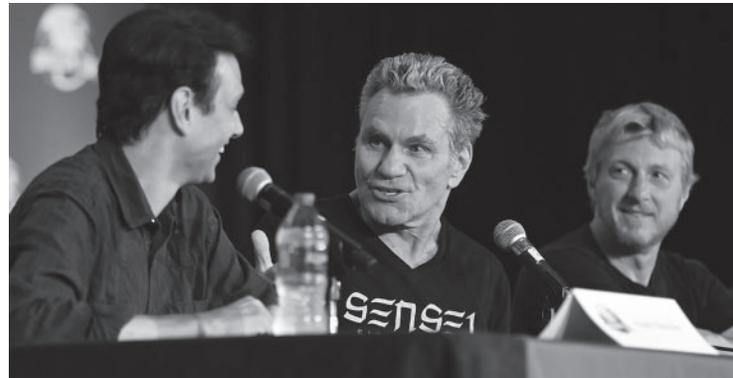
## Will the Real Karate Kid Please Stand Up? by Kelly McCorkendale

In 1984, Ralph Macchio, as Daniel LaRusso in *The Karate Kid*, lifted his arms sky-high, assuming "the crane" stance, and face-kicked his nemesis, the bully known as Johnny Lawrence, played by William Zabka. We all cheered. Our hero prevailed, getting the trophy and the girl. Good bested evil.

Or did it?

Fast forward thirty-some-odd years to a little show called *How I Met Your Mother*, where Barney Stinson began to chip away at our perception of *The Karate Kid*, singlehandedly forcing us all to question our allegiance to Daniel/Macchio. As our Karate Kid—as the Karate Kid. Macchio and Zabka, both charming, good-natured guys played along, guest-appearing on the show as a part of the "gag," but the wheels started to turn. What if we got it wrong, and Johnny was the hero all along?

And so, *Cobra Kai* was born. Streaming on YouTube Premium, Macchio and Zabka reprise their roles—and their infamous rivalry—picking up 34 years after the events of the film alongside Martin Kove, who returns as sensei John Kreese. *Cobra Kai* explores the



gray area around the characters, showing that Johnny was never 100% corrupt and Daniel never 100% faultless. The result is a deeply human look at a beloved story with a nostalgic overlay using humor and heart.

Macchio, Zabka, and Kove—who have undeniable chemistry and friendship—brought that same humanity, humor, and heart to the Sheraton Grand Ballroom A-F Sunday afternoon to dish on how they dusted off old characters with fresh perspectives, re-learned some old moves, and honored the memory

of the late Pat Morita, Mr. Miyagi.

When asked what they struggled with on the show and also what they want to maintain from the film, Macchio was quick to say, "I have to have Miyagi's essence peppered throughout the series somehow and keep that legacy." He then added, "And that's something they've done. And I think it's important to the show, certainly for the LaRusso character and the whole series because he's such a big part of that original film. I don't think we would be making *Cobra Kai* if not for Mr. Miyagi."

## Cluster Chat: Freema Agyeman by Maggie Birge-Caracappa

When Freema Agyeman walks into a room with her big, bright smile, you can't help but light up in response. Her energy and warmth comes across instantly, and she draws you closer to her with every word. *Sense8* holds a special place in the hearts of fans, so getting to talk with about her role as Amanita Caplan Sunday afternoon in the Hilton Grand Salon was a particular treat.

Moderator Tony Gowell kicked off the panel by asking how Agyeman initially got the part, to which Agyeman gave one of the best and most complex answers that we'd ever heard. I wish I could transcribe every word and somehow translate the experience of hearing her speak to you. To merely summarize it, Agyeman was working on *The Carrie Diaries* and when they weren't sure if they were going to get another season, Agyeman started looking for other work. The script for *Sense8* came her way, and after reading it, she told her mother that she was beyond excited and nervous for the role. When

her mother asked why, Agyeman said, "This woman is an alter ego of whatever I could hope to be in terms of such a celebrator of her flesh and so confident and so full of joie de vivre and fight and so strong. I don't know where I'm going to pull all that from."

Agyeman went on to say how important it was to her that she play Amanita authentically because the LGBTQ community is so under-represented on screen. "As a black woman, I always go into things thinking, 'How is diversity addressed here?' I'm not interested in tokenism, I'm not interested in clichés... how are you portraying this woman? How are we going to portray this queer, cis-gendered, hippie who is doing her thing? I want to do all of it authentically."

For Agyeman, being part of *Sense8* felt like some kind of a utopia that she never wanted to leave, and she hopes we can bring a little bit more of that kind of world into the real world. The way that the fans were able to get the finale of

*Sense8* accomplished gives her hope and inspires her "because there are a lot of intelligent, open, woke-minded people out there."

"The more of us that move out to spread our stories, spread our love, hopefully we can start to have an impact. I feel like with art, certainly, the more stories that are being told, that are being reflected back to us, if you can have equality and diversity behind the scenes, then how that's reflected in front of the camera is much more authentic."

Agyeman also expressed her passion for being able to help other people through charity and was recently part of Sleep Out, an annual fundraiser for Covenant House, a privately funded organization that helps homeless youth get back on their feet and be able to return to society with independence and dignity. She spoke movingly about how much these services are needed and how participating in the event profoundly affected her.

"We're all in this soup together," she said. "Can we just help?"

## 2019 Dragon Awards

by Debbie Yutko

Charles Gannon hosted the fourth annual Dragon Awards on Sunday evening, assisted by attending luminaries David Blue, Mike Capps, Peter David, Katherine Kurtz, Larry Niven, George Pérez, Tim Powers, Cat Rambo, Brandon Sanderson, and Chelsea Quinn Yarbro.

Gannon noted that the theme of this year's Dragon Con is the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing. He asked the crowd to consider Michael Collins, who didn't get to walk on the moon, and stayed up in the command module, more alone than any man had even been before. Gannon asked all the nominees, those who won and those who didn't, to stand up and be recognized for their marvelous efforts and achievements.

And the winners are:

Hank Reinhardt Fandom Award: Edward DeGruy

Best Science Fiction or Fantasy Miniatures/Collectible Card/Role-Playing Game: *Call of Cthulhu: Masks of Nyarlathotep Slipcase Set* by Chaosium Inc.

Best Science Fiction or Fantasy Board Game: *Betrayal Legacy* by Avalon Hill Games

Best Science Fiction or Fantasy Mobile Game: Harry Potter: *Wizards Unite* by Niantic, WB Games San Francisco

Best Science Fiction or Fantasy PC/Console Game: *Red Dead Redemption 2* by Rockstar Games

Best Graphic Novel: *X-Men: Grand Design—Second Genesis* by Ed Piskor

Best Comic Book: *Saga* by Brian K. Vaughan and Fiona Staples

The Eugie Foster Memorial Award: "When We Were Starless" by Simone Heller

Best Science Fiction or Fantasy TV Series: *Good Omens*, Amazon Prime

Best Science Fiction or Fantasy Movie: *Avengers: Endgame* by Anthony Russo and Joe Russo

Best Alternate History Novel: *Black Chamber* by S.M. Stirling

Best Horror Novel: *Little Darlings* by Melanie Golding

Best Media Tie-In Novel: *Thrawn: Alliances* by Timothy Zahn

Best Military Science Fiction or Fantasy Novel: *Uncompromising Honor* by David Weber

Best Young Adult/Middle Grade Novel: *Bloodwitch* by Susan Dennard

The Julie Award: George Pérez

Best Fantasy Novel (Including Paranormal): *House of Assassins* by Larry Correia

Best Science Fiction Novel: *A Star-Wheeled Sky* by Brad R. Torgersen