When Stargates Collide by Brandilyn Carpenter and Ralph Gallagher

On Saturday afternoon in the International Ballroom of the Marriott, there was a Stargate cast reunion of sorts. Ben Browder, star of seasons 9 and 10 of the flagship series, Stargate SG-1, was joined on stage by David Blue from the short-lived, but much-loved, Stargate Universe series, and Paul McGilllon, from the run of Stargate: Atlantis. Military SciFi track director Karen Hen- son moderated.

Before the panel even started, Ben Browder and David Blue set the tone with an informal Q&A with the audience while they waited for Paul McGillion to arrive. Once all panelists were present and accounted for, the not-so-serious business commenced. David Blue provided much-needed comedic relief for the hour. Though a star on probably the least known vehicle in the Stargate fran-

Playing Spock: Intense Emotions by Maggie Birge-Caracappa

Ethan Peck makes playing Spock on Star Trek: Discovery look easy, but he is very open about the terror he felt when taking the part. He hates to admit it, but he got past all the fear and negative self-feedback by practicing gratitude, self-love, and positivity. “I hate to say it, but it’s true. And it worked!”

Peck knew that if he worked from fear then he would “create something dis- torted and inauthentic.” But it wasn’t re- ally until filming the final episodes that he really felt it come alive, even though “every moment as Spock is super chal- lenging because he’s so complex. He’s got these warring factions within him- self… his logic and emotion, his Vulcan and human sides. So every moment on camera was a challenge.”

After being cast as Spock, Peck met with the Nimoy family, Adam and Julie and their partners, to get their blessing and feedback. It was a surreal moment for Peck because they met at a place in Studio City across from the place that Peck went to high school. “My head was just spinning, but they were so wonderful and so curious. I really credit them with getting to make me feel wor- thy of attempting to play the role.”

For Peck there was a great synergy between the growth that Spock went through during the second season of the show and the growth that Peck went through to be able to play the part. “It was almost serendipitous that I was put in position to play him. A lot of what you see is real for Ethan but worked so well for Spock. But I’m sitting in prosthetics for two-and-a-half hours every morning, so I would really start gearing up for the day and ‘thinking Spock thoughts’ was how I put it. It’s a very different pres- ence… something very observant and ferociously smart and sharp. It definitely takes some ramping up.”

Peck added that he is an intensely emo- tional person and he felt Spock is, too. Spock’s emotions inform his logic and strategy and problem-solving. While Peck had done a lot of work to break down the walls he had built to protect himself from his hypersensitivity, it was easy for him to put them back up in playing Spock, again because Spock’s intense emotions are always fighting against his Vulcan-ness.

Peck is intensely proud of having been a part of a series that celebrates diversity and inclusion, with the first African-American female lead of a science-fiction show (Sonequa Martin-Green) and the first queer relation- ship in Star Trek, as well as disabled characters and other characters of color. He hopes that it’s the start of a long con- tribution to the overall Trek universe.

The Messiness of Humanity by Debbie Yutko

Cast members Wes Chatham, François Chau, Chad Coleman, and Steven Strait from The Expanse captivated the audience with their insights about the show and their characters on Saturday in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom. Strait, who is also a producer on the show, really enjoys the open, communal culture of commitment and involvement, where everyone is trying to help the show reach its full potential. Chatham is thrilled to be back in his hometown of Atlanta. He loves Dragon Con be- cause it’s such a fan-oriented show, and he thanked the fans for saving The Expanse, which was picked up by Ama- zon for its fourth season.

The panelists discussed how they pre- pared to play their characters. After getting the part of Amos, Chatham sat down with a psychologist to discuss the character’s backstory from The Churn: An Expanse Novella. He wanted to bet- ter understand Amos’s motivations, a process Chatham has repeated at the beginning of filming for each season. Strait also worked with a psychologist and wanted to learn about what it was like for the survivors of the Rwandan genocide. He drew on these emotions when he had to make the decision to blow up the doctors’ ship, an awful but necessary choice.

Coleman spoke of drawing inspiration from Colin Powell and of his eventual surprise when he realized that Fred “is kind of a jerk.” He also has a recurring role on The Orville and said he doesn’t have trouble working on two projects at once. He focuses on the material in front of him, and since his roles are very different, he’s able to compartmental- ize. As for Chau, he told the audience that Mao isn’t really a bad guy, that he’s doing what he does to help mankind. He’s making the difficult decisions. When he has to deal with little Mei, it was the chance for him to show some humanity. He was almost there. It all comes down to character motivation.
Family Don’t End With Blood

by Amanda Faith

Saturday afternoon’s wonderful panel from Supernatural, moderated by Tony Gowell, filled 2,000 seats in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom. Samantha Smith, DJ Qualls, Kim Rhodes, and Sebastian Roche were listed for this panel. Guests were thrilled with a surprise—Ruth Connell. Everyone noticed right off the bat how close these cast members were.

One of the first questions asked was about Wayward Sisters. Rhodes addressed this question. She stated that a pilot was made all because of the fans, which was the first time that had ever happened. Although the pilot was made, it was not picked up and there will not be a revisit to it.

Smith commented on how the writers did a fantastic job of introducing new characters. It was never dull or boring. The new characters were brought on board with finesse and a bang. They were full of life and blended well with the storyline. One of the secrets the audience learned was about the jackets. Every time Sam or Dean (or anyone else) pulled something out from inside of their jacket, there was actually a hole all the way through. The bottom of the jacket was never shown on screen. Why? It was because there was a stiffer down pop passing the item up through the hole for them to “pull out of their pocket.” This way, the jacket was never bonged with props. Now you can go back and notice this on the episodes.

Another question asked was about how they felt when they saw their character cosplayed. All of them loved it. In fact, at a con, Connell was mistaken for someone cosplaying Rowena. She said she was really flattered since she didn’t even have to try.

Living on Borrowed Time

by Colleen Callahan

Fans of Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. had the opportunity to discuss season six and beyond. The show has been on since 2013 and it is one of the longest-running shows on television. The panel was led by moderator Nathan Laws and included Jess Combs, Page Branson, Ryan Guthrie, and Kristin Jackson.

Each panelist weighed in regarding whether or not the most recent season related to the most recent Avengers movie, Avengers: Endgame. The general consensus was—it didn’t. Speculation about why the “blip” or the “snap” didn’t affect the plucky agents gravitated toward whether they were in the same time period, or even the same universe for that matter.

Moving on to personal preferences, the panel was asked what they thought of the season overall. Again, consensus was positive. Everyone was happy that we got two more seasons. Because the subject was so different, the panelists did mention that it was a little harder to get into until the pace was stepped up halfway into the season.

The introduction of Clark Gregg playing a different character, Sarge, was a slightly more difficult concept to grasp. However, seeing the other characters struggle with it made the viewers feel more comfortable about it.

One of the funniest episodes the panel enjoyed was when Gemma and Daisy accidentally took hallucinogens and were feeling the effects. Another favorite episode was “Inescapable,” when we had a look inside FitzSimmons’ minds. Talking about secondary characters on the show brought out much love for Deke, Enoch, Piper, and Davis. Everyone was in agreement that they are ready to see Deke become a more serious personality rather than the comedic relief he has mostly been. They all felt there was much to discover about the “man out of time” aspect. For Enoch, watching his character and relationship grow was enjoyable, though it would have been nice if Fitz had not been so “jelly.” Finally, seeing Piper have more responsibility was great, while losing Davis was extremely heartbreaking.

5th Annual Doctor Who Ball

The best party this side of Raxaconificallapartus! We’ll rock on like an Axon late into the night. Dance to our returning DJ Black Sunshine’s tunes and stay for our Pageant of Rassilon Winner Announcements at midnight. Allons-y! Mature Audiences Only. Sun 10PM, Grand Salon (Hil).

C $5

Mechanical Masquerade: Revolution!

The 8th annual Alternate & Historic Fiction Track party theme this year is “The Story of Tonight,” honoring revolutions through time: French, American, Industrial, or otherwise. Featuring DJs, costumed dancers, and overthrowing the aristocracy. Costumes and masks are encouraged (but not required). Sun 10PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

Don’t miss the Main Charity Auction!

Sunday, 10AM–2PM
Hyatt Hanover C-E

Daily Dragon Tweets

Don’t miss the latest Dragon Con news and announcements. Follow @daily_dragon on Twitter!

Family-Friendly Dance

Luau-themed dance featuring Disney-pop and pops. G-rated, alcohol-free event for kids 13 or younger. Running not allowed inside the ballroom. Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Adults without children may not be admitted (first 2 hours only). Kid Friendly. Sun 5:30PM, International North (Hy).

Miss Star Trek Universe Pageant

Orions, Klingons, and Borg, oh my! Hosted by Star Trek: Voyager’s Garrett Wang and judged by a panel of celebrities. Sun 5:30PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

Dragon Con Masquerade

The most spectacular masquerade contest in the known universe! Sun 8:30PM, Centennial II–III (Hy).

Yule Ball

Our annual Harry Potter-themed party! Dance the night away while DJ spins your top pop hits from the 80s, 90s, and up to today. Join us for a YA Lit costume showcase at 9:30PM. Adults only after 10PM. Sun 8:30PM, Imperial Ballroom (M).

Heroes, Villains, & Humanity

Phase 4 of our uniquely over-the-top game based on Cards against Humanity. Be a Hero or a Villain and face off in a battle royale with your team for the ultimate bragging rights. Adult language and topics will happen, and you’ll probably laugh a lot. Remember, it’s all for a good cause! Mature Audiences Only. Proceeds benefit the American Heart Association. Sun 10PM, M302–M303 (M).

Costuming Track’s 15th Anniversary Birthday Party

Costuming Track is celebrating its birthday bash where YOU are the guest of honor! Great music and door prizes. Must be 21+ to purchase alcohol. Sun 10PM, Regency VI–VII (Hy).

Betzad Karaoke

Karaoke sung in the traditional Betzadoid fashion, whatever that means. Note: This is not a wedding—clothing IS required. Sun 10PM, Gala- lera 2–3 (Hil).

Check the mobile app or the Daily Dragon website for more information on events and parties!