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# The Daily Dragon

Dragon Con 2019

## 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 McGillion, from the run of *Stargate: Atlantis*. Military SciFi track director Karen Henson 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 of the comic relief for the hour. Though a star on probably the least known vehicle in the *Stargate* fran-



chise, his respect for those who came before and his love of the SciFi genre in general came through with his stories and his infectious smile. Browder was certainly the most serious, regaling us with stories of his now-grown children and displaying his respect for the US Air Force. McGillion told the audience of pranks played on set and some of the more awkward filming experiences.

Each of the cast members spoke about their favorite arcs or episodes from

*Stargate*, with more hilarious antics from behind the scenes. The actors went on to discuss their favorite actors and panels, showing that they're just as big of fans and geeks as the audience.

The panelists thoroughly proved their need for moderation as they strayed into naughty territory with their stories and random comments, making the audience laugh voraciously. They compared the antics between Christopher Judge and Jason Momoa.

## Playing Spock: Intense Emotions by Maggie Birge-Caraccappa

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 distorted and inauthentic." But it wasn't really until filming the final episodes that he really felt it come alive, even though "every moment as Spock is super challenging because he's so complex. He's got these warring factions within himself... 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 worthy 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 presence... something very observant and ferociously smart and sharp. It definitely takes some ramping up."

Peck added that he is an intensely emotional 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 relationship in *Star Trek*, as well as disabled characters and other characters of color. He hopes that it's the start of a long contribution 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 because it's such a fan-oriented show, and he thanked the fans for saving *The Expanse*, which was picked up by Amazon for its fourth season.

The panelists discussed how they prepared 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 better 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 compartmentalize. 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.

# 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

**Kenneth Hite** will be on "The Dark Magic of Folk Horror" Sun 2:30PM, Peachtree 1-2 (W).

**Jeanne Adams** will be on "The Dating Game, Fantasy Style" Sun 10PM, Embassy EF (Hy).

"**What We Do in the Shadows**" Sun 11:30PM, Peachtree (W).

\*NEW\* "**A Special Hour with Aly and AJ!**" Sun 1PM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

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

## CANCELLATIONS

"**The Magicians Cast**" Sun 1PM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

**Asher Angel** will not be on "Andi Mack Panel" Sun 1PM, Regency VI-VII (Hy).

**Ben Davis** will not be on "Chernobyl" Sat 1PM, 210-211 (Hil).

**Jason Stiff** will not be on "Cartoons that Curse" Sun 10PM, Galleria 4 (Hil).

**Emily Andras** will not be on "Wynonna Earp Cast" Sun 4PM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

**Michelle Schusterman** will not be on "Tweens Read, Too: Middle Grade Books" Sun 10AM, A707 (M); "Fannish YA" Sun 4 PM, A707 (M); "Writing YA: Crafting Characters" Sun 5:30PM, A707 (M).

**Paige Gardner** will not be on "LGBTQ Relationships in Entertainment & Popular Culture" Sun 4PM, Inman (Hy).

**Valentine Wolfe/Sarah Black** will not be

on "Slayer Support: A Buffy Fan Panel" Sun 5:30PM, Chastain 1-2 (W).

**Jon Boutele** will not be on "Solve This!" Sun 7PM, Regency V (Hy); "Make the Bad Men Stop, 2019 edition, v2" Mon 2:30PM, Athens (S).

\*NEW\* **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).

## UPDATES

\*NEW\* "**Operation Orville: What Lies Ahead**" Sun 1PM, was Peachtree Ballroom (W), now Regency VI-VII (Hy).

"**Zachary Levi, Live!**" Sun 1PM, Imperial Ballroom (M).

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

## 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 the 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 staffer down low passing the item up through the hole for them to "pull out of their pocket." This way, the jacket was never bogged down 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 how it related to, or didn't relate to, the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) in general at "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.: It's All Connected" The panel met Friday afternoon in Sheraton Athens. It 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 in the "man out of time" aspect. As for Enoch, watching his character and relationship grow was enjoyable, though it would have been nice if Fitz had not been so "yelly." 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 Raxacoricofallapatorius! 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).



## 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

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## Family-Friendly Dance

Luau-themed dance featuring Disney and pop songs. 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 now! 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 a 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).



## Betazed Karaoke

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



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