

An Interview with David Farland: Author, Mentor, Editor

by Debbie Yutko



www.dailydragon.dragoncon.org

Dragon Con 2014

The Daily Dragon

Fans of *The Runelords* will be excited to hear that **David Farland** is working on the final book in the bestselling series, *A Tale of Tales*. Writing fantasy is only one facet of this versatile author's repertoire. David Farland is the pen name chosen by Dave Wolverton to separate his fantasy from his award-winning science fiction. Farland graciously agreed to take time from his busy schedule to answer a few questions for the *Daily Dragon*.

Daily Dragon (DD): I've read that you're an artist as well as a writer. How does your experience as an artist influence your writing?

David Farland (DF): I don't know if I would say that I'm an artist. I studied oil painting and did a bit of sculpting as a teen, but I decided in college to really focus my efforts in writing. I see all arts as one art. Whether I'm composing a novel or a painting or writing a song, I go through the same process of

deciding upon a structure, roughing it out, and then refining the piece by making multiple passes at it.

DD: As coordinating judge for the *Writers of the Future Contest*, you must read reams of submissions. What are some of the things you look for in a winning story?

DF: I look for an intriguing new concept, followed by a gripping plot, beautifully told, which ultimately has a powerful intellectual and emotional payoff. That sums up quite quickly something that is really very, very complex.

DD: What is the most rewarding part of mentoring new writers?

DF: To be honest, when I spot talent, it's great to see that I got it right. Years ago, I was asked by the chief editor of Scholastic to help choose a



book to push big for the coming year. I looked at their offerings and decided on a virtually unknown novel, *Harry Potter*. I had a talk with the editor, explaining why I thought it would be a hit, but I worried that all of the major publishers had seen it and declined it, and I kept wondering, "Is it just me, or is this really a hit?" So I was gratified when they began pushing the book, and a year later it hit #1 on the bestseller list, then became the bestseller of all time.

In the same way, when I was grading Stephenie Meyer's papers in college, I recall thinking, "This young lady really has a wonderful voice. If she ever falls in love with a story idea, she's going to be dangerous!" So it was fun to watch her take off. The same happened with Brandon Sanderson and various others. I sort of feel like a proud papa.

Read the complete interview on the *Daily Dragon* website.

2014 Parade Route

The parade route we introduced in 2013 was so well received, we're using it again this year! Lots of excellent viewing spots and photo op locations!

For those new to the parade, the 3/4-mile route winds through downtown Atlanta:

- The parade launches at Spring Street and West Peachtree Place, heading to Ivan Allen Boulevard, where things really start to rock and roll.
- The parade heads east on Ivan Allen for a few blocks and turns onto Peachtree Street, moving south for approximately six blocks.
- When we get to Andrew Young international Boulevard, just past the America's Mart, we turn east and march down the hill to Peachtree Center Avenue.
- Our last turn is north onto Peachtree Center, continuing to the Marriott Marquis, where the parade ends.

Behind the Scenes at the Con Suite

by Nancy Northcott

In the rush of trying to see and do as much as possible, congoers sometimes feel overworked and underfed. Dragon Con offers help with those problems in its con suite. Director **Joe Campbell** has a finely tailored system for keeping the food and drink flowing during the con.

Daily Dragon (DD): For those who may be attending their first convention here, could you describe what the con suite is?

Joe Campbell (JC): It's an oasis from the convention, a place where they can go, sit down, grab a bite to eat, meet up with friends, or just de-stress. We usually are showing something on the screen or doing something silly. We try to make it a place to relax.

We're not really lost and found for objects, but we are for humans. If you lose someone, you can come and meet them at the

con suite. It's a fixed point.

DD: Can you estimate how many sandwiches you and your volunteers served last year?

JC: Subway donates six 6-foot-long subs every day of the con. We go through 36 feet of subs every day, and we do that for four days. That comes out to 144 feet of subs. Within the four-day period, we go through 250 loaves of bread, and we hand out 480 hotdogs.

DD: Where is the con suite, and what are the hours?

JC: We're on the second floor of the Hyatt in rooms 223 and 226, right above the Hyatt bar. We open 10 minutes after registration opens on Friday and we shut down about 20 minutes after closing ceremonies. In between, we're open 24 hours a day.

Read the complete interview on the *Daily Dragon* website.

Schedule Changes

Hy = Hyatt
M = Marriott
Hil = Hilton
S = Sheraton
W = Westin

The following previously confirmed presenters will not be able to attend Dragon Con 2014: **Jennifer Kalamanson, Candy Keane, Dean O'Gorman, Anthony Spay, Chris Vickers**

Additions

"Star Citizen Tournament" Dragon Con will host a tournament of Cloud Imperium's upcoming release, *Star Citizen*. Fri 11:30AM, Room 212-214 (Hil). The cost is \$5; entrance fee payment/registration available in the LAN Gaming area on Fri.

"Michael Cook Talks Leather and Costumes" Learn from a master on using leather to add authenticity and detail into your cosplay experience! Fri 1PM, L401-L403 (M).

Alan Siler will be on "An Hour with the 6th Doctor: Colin Baker" Fri 4PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

Kimberly Brooks will be on "Voice Acting from the Pros" Fri 4PM, Grand East (Hil).

"Tolkien Costuming Q&A" Come join us for an open floor discussion on the costumes seen in LotR and The Hobbit. Beginning with patterning and working our way through prop building, armor leather working, wig ventilating, and much more! Fri 4PM, L401-L403 (M).

David Farland will be on "Magical Tactics" Fri 4PM, Embassy C (Hil).

Lev Grossman will be reading Fri 5:30PM, Roswell (Hy).

"Dad's Garage Radio LIVE" Join Lucky Yates, Amber Nash, and Mike Schatz for a live recording of Dad's Garage Radio! News from the improv world and unexpected personal revelations. Fri 8:30PM, 203 (Hil).

Alex Hughes will be doing a reading Sat 11:30AM, Edgewood (Hy).

M.B. Weston will be on "Hobbit Book to Film: Genius or Shark-Jumping?" Sat 1PM, L401-L403 (M).

Monte James Cook will be signing autographs. Sat 1PM, Int'l South (M).

Shanna Germain will be signing autographs. Sat 1PM, Int'l South (M).

Christie Golden will be signing autographs Sat 4PM, Int'l South (M).

Alex Murawski will be on "Jack Davis Foundation: An Artist Retrospective" Sat 5:30PM, Hanover F (Hy).

"The Mike McFarland 1-Hour Question and Answer Extravaganza!" Spend some time with Mike as he flies solo to answer your questions about his work on *Dragon Ball Z*, *Fullmetal Alchemist*, *Attack On Titan*, and more! Sat 5:30PM, Courtland (Hy).

Chuck Campbell will emcee "Dragon Con Guest of Honor Awards Banquet" Sat 7PM, Regency VI-VII (Hy).

Alex Hughes will be signing autographs Sun 10AM, Int'l Hall South (M).

Jack H. Walsh will be doing a reading Sun 10AM, Marietta (Hy).

NEW **Trace Beaulieu** will be on "Joseph Scrimshaw and The Comedy of Doom" Sun 5:30PM, Grand Ballroom West (W).

Aaron J. Sagers will be on "The Last Ship" Sun 7PM, Augusta Ballroom (W).

NEW **Anthony Taylor** will be on

"Cary Elwes' Walk on the Dark Side" Sun 7PM, Int'l South (Hy).

Sci-Fried will be playing on Sun 7PM, Concourse (Hil).

NEW **Delilah S. Dawson** will be on "Light in the Darkness: Humor in UF" Sun 10PM, Chastain ED (W).

"Roundtable on Race, Gender, & Sexuality in Comics & Fandom" Open forum for discussing issues of race, gender, and sexuality that arise in the comics industry and fandom with Matthew J. Brown, Kari Storla, Daniel Amrhein, Vickie Willis, and John Flowers. Sun 10PM, Hanover F (Hy).

"Scott Sigler—One for the Junkies" *New York Times* best-selling novelist and podcaster Scott Sigler and A Kovacs bring tentacles and mayhem to this panel. Sun 10PM, 203 (Hil).

NEW **Cherie Priest** will be on "Urban Fantasy or Horror? What's the Difference?" Mon 10AM, Chastain ED (W).

Tracy Hickman will be on "All-Star '80s Reunion." Mon 1PM, Imperial Ballroom (M).

Cancellations

Dean O'Gorman will not be on "Guests from Middle Earth!" Fri 11:30AM, Atrium Ballroom (M); "Tolkien Guests" Sat 11:30AM, Atrium Ballroom (M); "Hobbit and LOTR Guests" Sun 11:30AM, Atrium Ballroom (M); and "Hobbit and LOTR Guests" Mon 11:30AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

Georgia McBride will not be on "What's Next in Urban Fantasy?" Fri 1PM, Chastain ED (W); and "The Undeadz" Fri 2:30PM, A708 (M).

Chris Vickers will not be on "Para 101: Truths and Misconceptions" Fri 2:30PM, Valdosta (S); "The Exorcism of Emily Rose" Sat 5:30PM, Augusta (S); "The Exorcism of Emily Rose" Sun 11:30AM, Valdosta (S); and "Para 101: Truths and Misconceptions" Sun 4PM, Augusta (S).

Joe Flanigan will not be on "Super-gate: Apophis & Son & Co." Fri 2:30PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

Tracy Hickman will not be on "Cult Classics of the '80s." Fri 2:30PM, Imperial Ballroom (M); and "Shroud of the Avatar: Roundtable." Sun 4PM, Grand Salon D (Hil).

Rob Levy will not be on "An Hour with the 6th Doctor: Colin Baker" Fri 4PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

Anthony Spay will not be on "Zene-scope" Fri 5:30PM, Hanover F (Hy).

"BritTrack Book Swap" Sat 10AM, Macon (S).

Christie Golden will not be signing autographs Sat 1PM, Int'l South (M).

Katie Cassidy will not be on "Arrow: It's Complicated!" Sat 2:30PM, Cent'l II-III (Hy).

Tom Heintjes will not be on "Jack Davis Foundation: An Artist Retrospective" Sat 5:30PM, Hanover F (Hy).

Spencer Perry will not be on "You've Seen the Movie, Now What?" Sat 8:30PM, Hanover F (Hy).

Erin Leigh Bushko will not be on "Costuming: Dieselpunk & The Great Wars" Sun 4PM, Augusta I & III (W).

Travis Scott Merrill will not be on "Costuming: Dieselpunk & The Great Wars" Sun 4PM, Augusta I & III (W).

James Urbaniak will not be on "Joseph Scrimshaw and The Comedy of Doom" Sun 5:30PM, Grand Ballroom West (Hil).

Brobdignagian Bards will not be playing on Sun 7PM, Concourse (Hil).

Yale Stewart will not be on "Webcomics" Sun 7PM, 201 (Hil).

Aaron Fever will not be on "From Fiction to Film" Sun 10PM, Embassy D-F (Hy).

"Shadows of the Paranormal: Searching for the Truth" Mon 10AM, Augusta (S).

J. August Richards will not be on "Guests of the Whedon Universe" Mon 11:30AM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

"New Developments in Antiviral Therapy: A Case for Hepatitis C" Mon 11:30AM, 207/206/205/204 (Hil).

Updates

"Welcome to Middle-earth" moved from Fri 11:30AM to Fri 10AM, L401-L403 (M).

"Reading: Professor Satyre" moved from Fri 2:30PM to Sat 5:30PM, University (Hy).

"Tolkien Costuming By the Book" moved from Fri 4PM to Sat 2:30PM, L401-L403 (M).

"Growing Up Potter" moved from the Grand East Ballroom (Hil) to the Grand Ballroom A-F (S), Fri 7PM.

NEW **"Medieval Boogaloo: Return of the MST3K Night: Part II—The Sequel Continues"** moved from Fri 10PM to Fri 10:30PM, Grand Ballroom East (Hil).

"The Worlds of Terry Pratchett" moved from Sun 7PM to Sat 10AM, Macon (S).

"Orphan Black" moved from Sat 7PM to Sun 7PM, Macon (S).

"Portalium Games Presents Shroud of the Avatar" moved from Sun 11:30AM, Grand Ballroom East (Hil) to Mon 1PM, Grand Salon E (Hil).

"The Musketeers" moved from Sun 1PM to Sun 2:30PM, Macon (S).

"Costuming: Dieselpunk & The Great Wars" moved from Sun 2:30PM to Sun 4PM, Augusta I & III (W).

"Open Museum Hours" moved from Sun 4PM to Sun 2:30PM, Augusta I & III (W).

NEW **"The Puppet Match Game"** moved from Sun 5:30PM to Sun 8:30PM, A704 (M). (18+ only)

NEW **"A Ventriloquist Interviews His Dummy, and Vice Versa"** moved from Sun 7PM to Sun 10PM, A704 (M). (18+ only)

"So You Want to Make a Fan Film?" moved from Mon 11:30AM to Sun 8:30PM, L401-L403 (M).

"Arrow: When the Shadows Fall Away" moved from Mon 1PM, Centennial II-III (Hy), to Atrium Ballroom (M).

"Arrow: Vertigo with a Mirakuru Chaser" moved from Mon 1PM to Mon 2:30PM, M301-302 (M).

"Linear vs Non-Linear Narrative in Shroud of the Avatar" moved from

Dragon Con TV

Set your dials to DCTV when you check in to the host hotels!

Hyatt: 55 Marriott: 74

Hilton: 65 Sheraton: 68 or 72

Westin: 81

Be sure to catch *The Late Show*, a daily morning show so early it's late, full of news and updates. It airs on DCTV at 9:00AM every day of the convention!. Brought to you by the *Daily Dragon* and DCTV.



1st Dragon Con Intergalactic Military Ball

If it's some kind of military, it's in. Who will have the best and most creative costume? Friday 8PM, Regency VII Ballroom (Hyatt).



Charity Night and Pub Trivia

Next door to the Intergalactic Military Ball, and in conjunction with that event, Stargate Multiverse will host an evening of games, green-screen photography, and pub trivia for teams! Donations to the Dragon Con charity accepted as payment for registering teams for trivia and photo sessions. Fri 8PM, Regency V Ballroom (Hyatt).



Arthur Dent's HGTTG Anniversary Pajama Party

Presented by the BritTrack and featuring DJ Jon-Ari. Bring. Your. Towel. Costume contest: wear your best Arthur Dent-inspired pajama pants, t-shirt, slippers, and robe! (Dress for this event must be appropriate and follow Dragon Con policy.) Music. Dancing. Fun. Towel folding race. Remember: BRING. YOUR. TOWEL! Fri 10PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Sheraton).



Suits, Sinatra, & Star Wars

Wear your finest to mix & mingle at a new *Star Wars* cocktail party. Listen to the classics and big band, maybe even dance. Fly me to the moon...THAT'S NO MOON! Fri 10PM, A601-602 (Marriott).



CHECK OUT THE PARTIES PAGE ON THE *DAILY DRAGON* WEBSITE!

Mon 1PM, Grand Salon E (Hil) to Sun 11:30AM, Grand Ballroom East (Hil).

"Game of Thrones: The Bestiary" moved from Mon 2:30PM to Mon 1PM, M301-302 (M).

See the complete list of schedule changes on the *Daily Dragon* website, or download the latest changes in the *Dragon Con* app.