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Dragon Con 2018

The Daily Dragon

“Do I Look Bovered?”: An Hour with Catherine Tate by Maggie Birge-Caracappa



Take the quick wit of Beatrice from *Much Ado About Nothing*, add it to the charisma of John Barrowman and the stage presence of your favorite actor, wrap it all up in one ginger package, and you’ve got

Catherine Tate. She started her panel on Friday afternoon in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom by immediately ditching the stage and heading into the audience to do a “who came the farthest” poll. “And it better not have been me!” she said. While the answers were shouted to her, and the rest of us

tested our knowledge of geography, there was little question that the attendee from Kazakhstan had definitely traveled the farthest to be in the room.

Tate returned to the stage but eschewed the traditional table and chairs setup for most Q&As at Dragon Con. She prefers to stand in front of the table so it is less like a press conference or “like I’ve been accused of something.” She also prefers to bring people who have questions up on stage, which was a delight for the audience but did cause a bit of a scramble to find stairs to set up at the front to provide access.

There was one disclaimer that Tate was compelled to provide before the Q&A started: “I don’t know whether you know—and I do apologize in advance—I don’t

know a lot about sci-fi. Don’t be a hater!”

The disclaimer was hardly necessary, though, because while there were certainly questions about *Doctor Who*, they also included her time on *The Office* and on-stage with David Tennant in *Much Ado About Nothing*, her voice acting on *Duck Tales*, her characters on *The Catherine Tate Show*, and her time as a comedian and improv performer, including her shorts for Red Nose Day.

It would be nearly impossible to document her answers to these questions because of the speed at which Tate thinks on her feet. Regardless, she was sincere, funny, and endlessly entertaining. If you didn’t love her at the start, you certainly ended the hour with a bit of a crush.

Being Bad and Good with the Cast of Black Lightning by Kelly McCorkendale

The cast of *Black Lightning*—Marvin Jones III, China McClain, Christine Adams, and Nafessa Williams—is bad, bad, bad. And by bad, I mean awesome. Thoughtful. Radiant and beautiful—like literally blinding to the naked eye. And full of joy, fierce pride, spirituality, and strength when talking about being at the vanguard of diversity in superheroes, specifically, and science fiction, generally—a fact acknowledged by an audience brimming with palpable gratitude on Friday in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom.

“It’s terrible,” McClain said as they entered. “We hate each other.”

Actually, as fans learned during the panel, the cast are a close-knit group that hopes the *Black Lightning* ride last for at least seven seasons, with their characters growing not just as metahumans but as a family learning to be a



team. They also reflected on their place in the larger Arrowverse, pop culture, and the fabric of Atlanta, where the show is filmed.

Williams discussed the responsibility—and honor—that comes with portraying the first black lesbian superhero, albeit one who is “exploring an adventurous love life” in the coming season. “It’s very rewarding to know I’ve become an advocate for the [LGBTQ] community,” she said, going on to

speak for everyone: “We all want to see characters like ourselves.”

As for the superhero they’d most like work with from that rival world—which they called “the M-word” (Marvel)—McClain loves Luke Cage, Williams said Jessica Jones, and Jones would want to work with Daredevil (and team with Damien Darhk in the Arrowverse).

Read the full article on the Daily Dragon website.

Can’t Take the Sky from Gina Torres by Amanda Faith

It was a packed house in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom Friday at 5:30PM as Gina Torres hosted her first panel, “*Firefly*: Operation Zoë Alayne Washburne.” This regal lady entertained all questions from the audience.



When asked about who her favorite fake-husband is, she said it

was Alan Tudyk, hands down. “We became great friends, so for us, it worked great. He is such a sweet and funny man. I loved working with him.” So how did Walsh win Zoe’s heart? “He made her laugh... and he was a great kisser.”

Torres has been in the business so long that, as she stated, “I am on the air somewhere all the time.” Not only is this true, but her portrayal of a strong, confident woman resonated with the audience. She is a cross of royalty and badass all at the same time. She is the protector. She has the need for fami-

ly more than anything else. She is also a role model for all women.

Does Torres still speak Mandarin? “Nope. My Mandarin sucks.” Laughter broke out.

When asked if *Firefly* would have been made today (16 years later), she thought that it would. “Although I may not have been on the winning side, I was on the right side. Complacency is a dangerous and toxic thing. Don’t be complacent.”

Read the full article on the Daily Dragon website.

Schedule Changes

Hy = Hyatt S = Sheraton
 M = Marriott W = Westin
 Hil = Hilton
 AM1/2 = AmericasMart Bldg 1/2

The following previously confirmed presenters will not be able to attend Dragon Con 2018: **Alfie Allen, Cheree Alsop, Stephen L. Antczak, Pilou Asbaek, Alexandra Breckenridge, Mary Kate Butler, Gerald L. Coleman, Nesta Cooper, Michael-Scott Earle, Eric Renderking Fisk, Jaym Gates, Patrick Gilmore, Christopher Golden, Kevin Grazier, Doc Hammer, Kathryn Hudson, Jinglebooboo, John W. Loftus, Heidi McDonald, Dean Motter, Sho Murase, Joseph Nassise, Allison Scagliotti, Kal Spriggs, George Taylor, Janet Varney, Titus Welliver.**

CORRECTION

Autograph Sessions (all) are in International South 1-3 (M).

ADDITIONS

Mari Mancusi will be on "Meet & Greet: Middle-Grade Authors" Sun 11:30 AM, Roswell (Hy); "Halloween 40th Anniversary Panel" Sun 7 PM, Peachtree 1-2 (W).
"Anime 201 For Parents" Sun 1 PM, Galleria 1 (Hil).

"HamilTunes: An American Singalong at Dragon Con" Sun 1 PM, Crystal Ballroom (Hil).

Mark W. Gura will be on "Meditation: What It Is and Isn't" Sun 2:30 PM, Galleria 7 (Hil).

Constance Wagner will be on "Religion in High Fantasy" Sun 2:30 PM, L401-L403 (M).

Billy Tucci will be on "Dynamite Entertainment Comics" Sun 4 PM, 204I (AM2).

Robert Duncan McNeill will be on "Star Miss Star Trek Universe Pageant" Sun 5:30 PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

Gigi Edgely will be on "Gonzo Quiz Show: No Regrets?" Sun 10 PM, Regency VI-VII (Hy).

Grant Baciocco will be on "The Late-Night Puppet Slam" Mon 12 AM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

Bill Mulligan will be on "Keep on Rotting in the Free World" Mon 11:30 AM, Peachtree 1-2 (W).

NEW **The Taj Motel Trio**, Mon 2:30 PM, Concourse II (AM2).

CANCELLATIONS

Janet Varney will not be on "Two Misfits Who Dream: Women Who Create Fantasy Worlds" Sun 10 AM, Grand East (Hil).

Kevin Grazier will not be on "Military Science Summit: The Science behind the Sci-Fi" Sun 11:30 AM, Chastain DE (W); "Which Ship Do You 'Ship?: Spacecraft in MSFM" Mon 10 AM, Chastain DE (W); "Juno: Stunning Pictures, but What Have We Learned?" Mon 1 PM, 212-213 (Hil).

Joseph Nassise will not be on "Social Media Marketing for Authors & Creators" Sun 1 PM, 208-209 (Hil).

Mike McKone will not be on "Dynamite Entertainment Comics" Sun 4 PM, 204I (AM2).

Eric Renderking Fisk will not be on "AHMC Adept: Early 20th-Century Period Costume & Props from Ragtime to WWII" Sun 2:30 pm, Athens (S); "AHMC Novice: Everyday Steampunk Fashion Show & Tell Wrap-up" Mon 1 PM, Athens (S).

Qualen Bradley will not be on "Black Panther: A New Hero for a New World" Sun 10 AM, M301-M303 (M); "Diversity in Genre Media 2018" Sun 11:30 AM, M301-M303 (M); "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" Mon 11:30 AM, M301-M303 (M).

"eSports 101" Sun 10 AM, Augusta E-H (W).

NEW **Kevin McNally** will not be on "Meet the Cast: Assassin's Creed" Sun 11:30 AM, August E-H (W).

Richard Garriott will not be on "Third Annual Dragon Awards Presentation"

Sun 1 PM, Centennial I (Hy).

"I Was an Extra in the MCU" Sun 1 PM, The Learning Center (Hy).

NEW **William B. Davis** will not be on "Stargate: Operation Wormhole" Sun 2:30, Centennial II-III (Hy).

"FX Makeup for Cosplay" Sun 2:30 PM, 302-305 (Hil).

"Tai Chi Workshop with Erin Gray" Sun 2:30 PM, Mon 10 AM, 313-314 (Hil).

Jinglebooboo will not be on "Foams & Plastics, pt 3: Rigid Foam" Sun 4 PM, 302-305 (Hil).

Tara Strong will not be on "Ask a Character!" Sun 5:30 PM, Grand East (Hil); "Dragon Con Presents (again): Masterpiece Theater" Sun 7 PM, Augusta E-H (W).

Jeremy Scott Whitley will not be on "Girl Power: Strong Women in YA" Sun 5:30 PM, A707 (M).

Larry Niven will not be on "Where Do I Begin?" Sun 7 PM, Embassy CD (Hy); "When the Words Stop Coming" Sun 8:30 PM, Embassy CD (Hy).

Bill Mulligan will not be on "Let the Right One In 10th Anniversary Panel" Sun 8:30 PM, Peachtree 1-2 (W).

"The Generic Live Show, LIVE!" Sun 11:30 PM, Galleria 7 (Hil).

Spat Oktan will not be on "Zombie Makeup Trio Demo" Mon 10AM, 302-305 (Hil).

"Change Your World" Mon 10 AM, 204-207 (Hil).

UPDATES

"Living to 100 & Other Party Tricks" Sat 10 AM, now Mon 10 AM, 204-207 (Hil).

"Farscape & Beyond!" now Sun 10 AM, A601-602 (M).

"Brent Dalton—Agent of Shield or is it Hydra today?" Mon 11:30 AM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

Black Nerdiness on Display

by Maggie Birge-Caracappa

The Learning Center in the Hyatt was full to capacity Saturday at 11:30AM for a discussion on new genre black film led by moderator Andrew Shephard, a PhD student at Stanford with a particular focus on Afro-futurism. On the panel were Karen Ceesay (*The Walking Dead*, *Black Lightning*, *Stranger Things*), Quatoyiah Murry (Editorial Manager at TCM and Film-Struck), and Davierr Snipes (voice actor and professional actor with Alliance Theater Atlanta).

The discussion was framed around the success of *Black Panther* and *Get Out* along with other

successful films featuring people of color and what it may all mean. One of the first questions that Shephard asked was about why it seems like the sea-change in black participation in genre film is happening now. Murry responded that it is something that audiences have been craving for some time and the conversation about the need for that kind of participation has been happening for a couple of years. She also noted that there has historically been an ebb-and-flow to black genre films, where there are several produced in a period of time but then it falls

off, so she hopes that this time it continues. Snipes and Ceesay agreed, noting that social media and the internet have allowed a collective voice and shared experiences worldwide.

Ceesay went on to say that she felt like it would stay when it was no longer a big deal that people of color are represented on film. "When everything is not weighted on this one thing, that this has to be awesome or we'll never see it again. We're pushing for mediocrity."

Read the full article on the Daily Dragon website.

Family-Friendly Dance

Dance featuring Disney and pop songs. This is a G-rated event designed for families with kids 12 or younger. Children over 6 must have their OWN badge. All children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by parent or guardian. No alcohol allowed in the room. Kid Friendly. Sun 5:30PM, Hanover C-E (Hyatt).

Game Night Mixer

Board games, video games, and yard games! Mature Audiences Only. Sun 10PM, Inman (Hyatt).

NeedCoffee Fun Fest

NeedCoffee blows your mind (as always) with games, skits, & prizes. Sun 10PM, Regency V (Hyatt).

BritTrack After Dark—Team Trivia!

Form a team, study up, and come to the most tea-driven team-trivia contest at the Con! Categories will include *Doctor Who*, *Sherlock*, *Orphan Black*, British royalty, geography, *Doctor Who* extended universe, James Bond, British music, and oh so much more. Sun 11:30PM, Galleria 5 (Hilton).

Daily Dragon Tweets

Don't miss the latest Dragon Con news. Follow @daily_dragon on Twitter!



Black Geeks of Dragon Con 2018 Photo Shoot

The Black Geeks of DragonCon (BGD) will be holding its third annual photo shoot. BGD began as a way to increase awareness of geek diversity because of a lack of African American interest in science fiction and the associated multigenre conventions. While BGD honors the growing African American community at Dragon Con, it is in no way exclusionary and welcomes all who want to celebrate the diversity of convention. Sun 2:20-3:30PM, back steps (Hilton).



An Evening at Vic's—Holo-Karaoke

Recently seen the horrors of war? Looking for a place to recover from a long day at the con? You're in luck! Vic's Lounge has recently been approved for rest & rehabilitation by the Ensign Dax! Learn the Great American Songbook classics—or sing whatever you want, it's your rehab. Sun 10PM, Galleria 2-3 (Hilton).



Yule Ball

Our annual Harry Potter-themed party! Come 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 10 PM. Sun 8:30PM, Imperial Ballroom (Marriott).



4th Annual Doctor Who Ball

The best party this side of Raxacoricofallapatorius! We'll rock on like an Axon late into the night. Dance to DJ Black Sunshine's tunes & stay for our Pageant of Rassilon Winner Announcements at midnight! Allons-y! Sun 10PM, Grand Salon (Hilton).



Mechanical Masquerade: Frontier

The Alt History track party is back for our 7th installment. This year is "A Fantastic Voyage" as we take our guests on a wild romp through time featuring DJs, costumed dancers, and high adventure. It is THE party to see on the final night of Con! Costumes and masks are encouraged but not required. Sun 10PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Sheraton).



Check the mobile app, the Quick Start Guide, or the Daily Dragon website for more information!