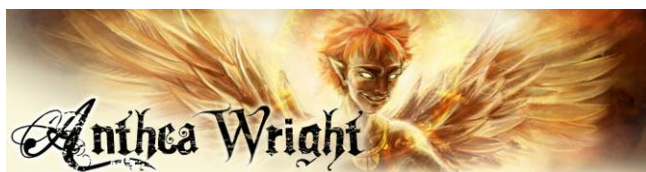
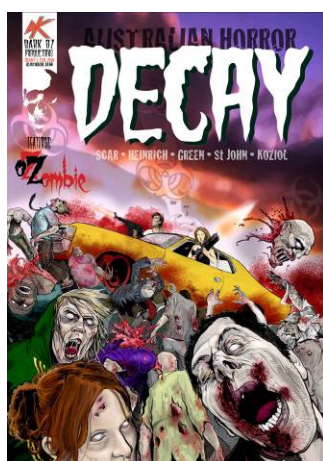


GE NEWS

WOMEN TALK SCI FI



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LOTS

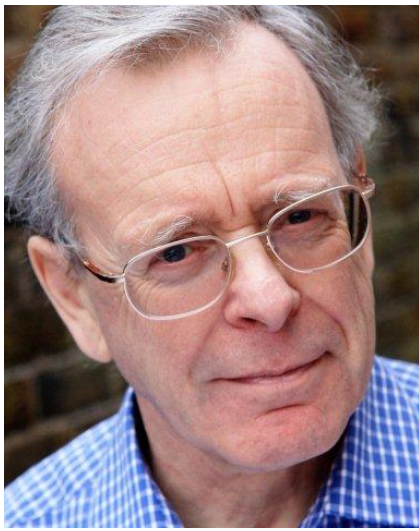
Interview with K9 Voice
Actor
John Leeson

Comic Artist
Darren Koziol

Artist
Anthea Wright

The Hub UK Convention
report by
Judith McGuinness

Star Trek Aurora



JOHN LEESON

THE VOICE OF K9

Recently we got to interview one of the iconic character actors from that long running UK TV show Dr Who. John Leeson the voice of K9, the much loved robot dog who now has his own television adventure series made in Australia. This is one of our favourite interviews to date.

GE News: Did you always want to be an actor and if so what training did you have?

John Leeson: I suppose I was always an actor in one sense – maybe the demands of growing up were such that I tended to ‘escape’ into my own fantasy world where I could safely do so. Needless to say, perhaps, the demands on self-discipline and heightened awareness required to be a professional actor had to be learned, and my time at RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) wasn’t wasted. Drama school was no soft option then...and I am sure it isn’t for anyone going to one now. I seem to have won an award of some kind when I was there, but it is suitability for a part rather than a ‘gong’ that is the first requirement for work.

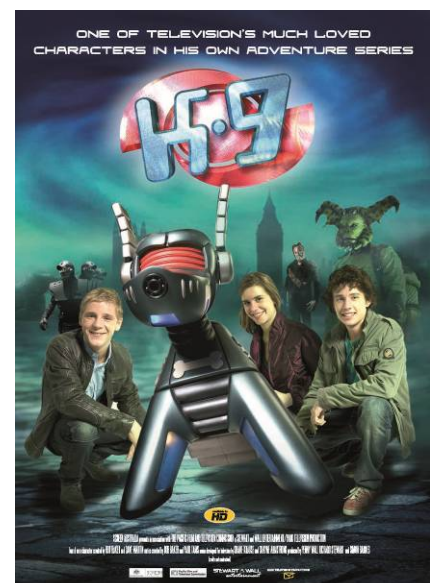
GE News: Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your career?

John Leeson: There was no history of acting in my family other than my father (and both grandfathers) were clergymen, and my Godfather was a bishop! - so I dare say they had to address an audience of some kind every Sunday. Perhaps I was the black sheep of the family! Anyhow, my parents were keen to see me positively engage in something after I left school, and they didn’t seem to mind my choice of career too much. Perhaps they even thought I’d grow out of it one day!

Drama School is all very well in teaching you to speak the Queen’s English, to avoid walking into the furniture when you go on stage, and to be able to interact with your fellow students... but it’s a bit like learning to drive a car: you can’t properly function on the open road by yourself unless you have set your instructor aside and you are ‘out there’ in the risky world. Scary! Hopefully one learns from one’s mistakes. The answer – for me at any rate – was the wonderful system of repertory theatre that flourished in those early days of my career. I joined various theatre companies during the first half dozen years as a professional actor and learned my craft the hard way, not that it was not also very enjoyable.

I was cast in all sorts of parts that “stretched” my skills and, I reckon, it was the best education any actor worth his or her salt could ever have. Sadly the repertory system has since largely broken down in the UK, which is a great shame.

I gravitated to London and worked in fringe theatre for a while; I played the Open Air theatre in Regents Park for a Shakespeare season, and eventually found myself work in the West End, playing in “Plaza Suite” by Neil Simon; “Flint” by David Mercer, and the comedy “Don’t Start Without Me”. It was during “Plaza Suite” that I got married – and even had to work on my wedding day as my understudy (who was also assistant stage manager) couldn’t fit into the costume I wore! Mind you, the wedding guests came to see the evening show. Honeymoon? Well, a very short and concentrated one as I had to be back for the performance the following Monday night! In brief, various television roles then came my way, not only in costume dramas and commercials but also some of the TV sitcoms that livened up the ‘70s and ‘80s in Britain including “Dad’s Army”. I spent one of the hottest and furriest years of my life playing “Bungle Bear” in the Thames TV series for under-fives – a necessary money-spinner as it happened. My wife stopped working as she was expecting our son Guy at the time. Then, a few years later... DR WHO came onto the scene for me, not that my story finishes there.....



GE News: What is the difference between acting and voice acting?

John Leeson: None! or if there is any, then voice acting requires even greater mental concentration and clarity in getting the message across. You can't be seen, when you might otherwise be giving off visual signals, so everything has to be streamed into the vocal technique. They say 'the best pictures are always on radio' – and the actor's job is to paint a believable character using sound alone, to spark up the hearer's limitless imagination.

GE News: Why did you choose to go into voice acting?

John Leeson: This was not a conscious choice for me....even though I had freelanced extensively in voiceover presentation for the BBC and Channel 4 when not otherwise 'acting'. Voice work sort of coalesced around me naturally.

GE News: How did you get the role of K9?

John Leeson: Somewhat by accident! I was having a drink in my local pub when I ran into a director I'd worked with years ago who happened to be working on a TV 'soap' at the time. He told me he was going on to direct an episode of DR WHO and that he might possibly have something for me. He was a bit cagey about what it was, but told me to await a call from my agent. Some three weeks or so later I was offered not one but two parts in DR WHO... the voice of a Virus (I guessed that must be a microscopically tiny part) and the voice of a computerised robot dog! This was back in 1977 and, blow me down with a Dalek's sink-plunger, I am STILL playing K9 from time to time!

GE News: Is it true that it was originally electronically treated and you gradually moved over to doing the voice of K9 yourself and how did you first come up with the voice of K9?

John Leeson: To part I of your question K9 would answer "affirmative, Mistress" – but the original thought behind the sound of K9 belonged to the WHO producer of the day, Graham Williams who envisaged a high-pitched tinny voice such as might be heard out of a cheap transistor radio. I simply took my natural voice up a couple of notches, clipped all the dialogue as much as possible to make it sound computer-driven... and the rest is history! I'd remembered seeing a film called "Billion Dollar Brain" starring Michael Caine which featured a computer the size of a room spitting out sentences made up of detached words, a bit like cut-out words pasted onto a 'poison-pen' message...but I then thought that there'd be no modulation or 'ebb and flow' if I spoke that way – so the voice of K9 was born.

GE News: Is it true that you use to crawl around on all fours playing the part of K9 during rehearsals with Tom Baker? Is so why did you do that?

John Leeson: Perfectly true! When I first joined rehearsals for "The Invisible Enemy" the module that was to be K9 was still under construction and wouldn't be ready until the recordings, so my running round on all fours 'being' K9 was caused by necessity. This way, the other actors, Tom Baker included, were advantaged in seeing where K9 was going on the set... and I rather think that Tom would have preferred to see me in a dog costume rather than having 'the beast' trundling noisily round the studio floor when recordings were under way. It benefited me as an actor too, as I could interact with the other characters much more efficiently when in rehearsals and carry that advantage with me when (in recordings) I was stuck invisibly behind a piece of the set armed only with a microphone and a tiny monitor screen from which I could both watch the action and also 'voice' K9.

GE News: Tell us about Tom Baker's and your addiction to The Times Crossword?

John Leeson: I think The Times Crossword was simply part of an actor's armoury to stave off the inevitable boredom that rehearsals can often provide when waiting to work on your next scene. Neither Tom nor I were very clever at completing it, and we used to marvel at one of the production secretaries who invariably came to rehearsals having finished it! The crossword made its mark at one of the filming locations, though, when I was sitting half a mile away in a BBC recording van, and Tom was sitting 'off-duty' on the set. We communicated through open talk-back, trying to solve a clue or two...but the public who came to watch the filming had the unexpected sight of Tom, as the DOCTOR, sitting on a grass verge with K9 beside him, and the sound of me as K9 fed through to the set ... both characters, apparently doing the crossword together!



GE News: What was a typical day for you on the set of Dr Who?

John Leeson: In a word....long. There were so many technical issues to address with lighting rehearsals, special effects etc. that the actors may have felt a little superfluous. Back in the '70s and '80s the recording run in the evening was the highlight of the day.... though now, I dare say, the tendency is to rehearse-record in the studios – and quite often out of sequence according to what sets happen to be built in the studio that day. I dare say that recordings are even more complicated these days as CGI imagery is used very much more than it used to be... and that can take ages to set up. I remember thinking that the only time the actors ever heard the storyline through in sequence was at the first read-through at rehearsals and subsequently when they saw the finished programme on TV. Putting a WHO story together in production was always a jig-saw job.

GE News: You have also worked on some of the Big Finish productions can you tell us about your role in this and how it is different to TV?

John Leeson: BIG FINISH productions are great fun to work on, and I can only liken them to working on radio, when the words are everything. Radio acting, too, doesn't give you too much opportunity for dramatic pauses, and it is important to keep the flow of dialogue going so that the listener is kept bouncing on a metaphorical 'trampoline' of attention. It is amazing to hear the finished CDs after all the effects and music have been put on.

GE News: You have now worked with the Eighth Doctor (Paul McGann) (complete aside he is a great guy, we got to interview him recently) in audio productions what was it like not only to come back to the role of K9 but with a completely different "Doctor" who has a different approach.

John Leeson: Sadly the way I now work in DOCTOR WHO and the SARAH-JANE ADVENTURES means that K9's contributions are recorded after the event, and dubbed on to the sound-track in post-production. Yes, in one respect I have worked with the very talented Paul McGann, but alas I have never met him!

Nonetheless I am always impressed when a 'new' DOCTOR arrives on the scene – and it is a great tribute to the way the character was conceived as 'regenerating' all those years ago when the series first started. What a winner of an idea for a long-running series!

GE News: K9 comes into the Dr Who TV universe again in School Reunion did you ever think that you would reprise the role of K9 in a new hit series?

John Leeson: I must say that after the lengthy gap of time after the 'original' series closed I never imagined I'd be called back to the ranks. There had been rumours of K9's return, but..... Imagine my surprise when friends told me they'd read in their morning paper that he was coming back! I'd heard nothing officially, so I had to ring the BBC to make sure, and even they were a bit secretive and couldn't confirm the position. Maybe they thought I was a fan calling on the off-chance of a 'scoop' – but here we are!

GE News: Compared to the technology used in the 70s what is the difference in the way you record the voice of K9 today?

John Leeson: No difference... just me, a microphone, and a sound guy pressing the right buttons.

GE News: In the Sarah Jane Adventures we only saw K9 for a short time, why?

John Leeson: Ask the writer of the story! Mind you, there'll be other episodes where he is better utilised, I dare say. There's even a nice little rivalry between himself and Sarah-Jane's 'Mr Smith'. It is perhaps worth remembering that the copyright in K9 is not owned by the BBC but by Bob Baker and the estate of the late Dave Martin, who conjured him up in their scripts way back in the 'seventies. The BBC have to pay for the right to use him on any and every occasion.





GE News: John will we see K9 in series four of Sarah Jane Adventures and if so can you give us some gossip and we won't tell anyone really, promise?

John Leeson: Given the way that I'm now summoned to a little recording studio to voice K9 I don't get the chance to meet the cast very much these days, so I'm pretty hopeless on the gossip front – I can confirm, however, that you'll see K9 in action in series four.

GE News: Has Australian K9 series been picked up for another season?

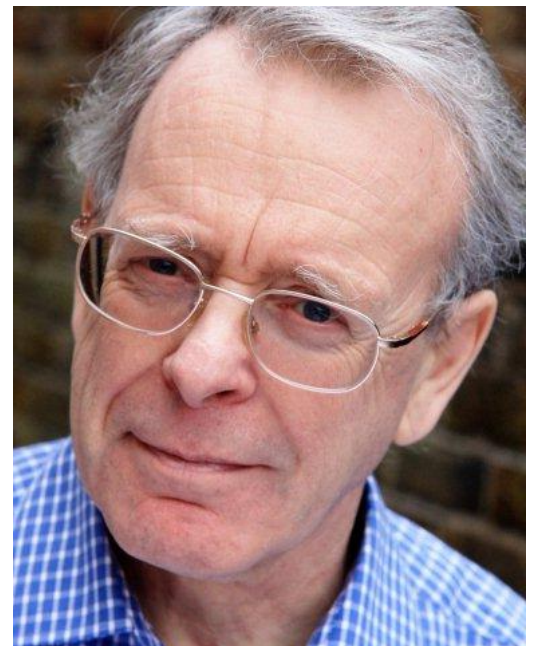
John Leeson: I recorded 24 episodes of the Australian K9 series, so I guess there is still some way to go in terms of transmissions. I have no idea how it has taken off – but I hope there'll be scope for more stories in due course. We'll both have to watch this space!

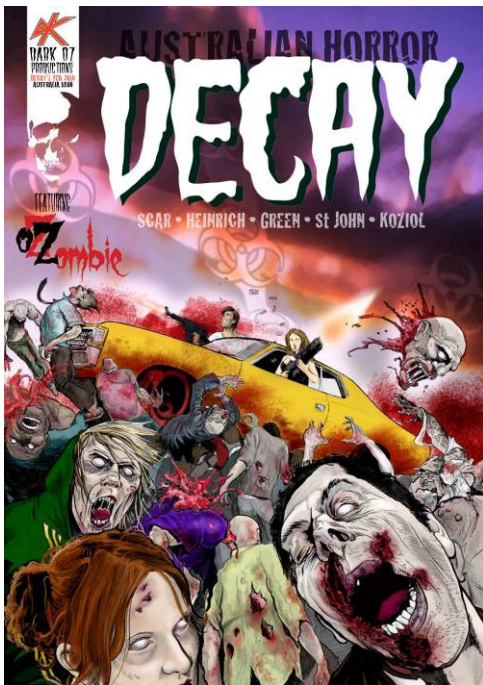


GE News: John what do you do "in-between" acting roles?

John Leeson: I am a busy bunny! My secondary profession nowadays is as an accredited wine educator. I teach courses and wine events in London and I belong both to the Association of Wine Educators and the Circle of Wine Writers. I have been teaching wine for around 25 years. (Hey, let's hear it for Polish Hill Riesling and Grange Hermitage!) Other than that I sit in court as a Justice of the Peace, and am Deputy Chairman of my local Magistrates' bench ... I've only been a JP for 22 years, so I've still a lot to learn! Passions? Cooking and classical music. I won a choral scholarship to Winchester Cathedral when I was 9. Far too young! I hated being away from home!

**Look out for John Leeson
Autograph Competition in the
next issue of GE News ~ Women
Talk Sci Fi**



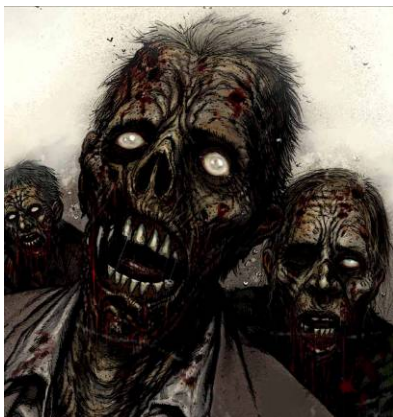


DECAF is a new ongoing Australian comic book project aiming to compete with the quality of U.S. and English comic books. The first issue was only released early this year, with a launch party at Pulp Fiction Comics on the 22nd of March 2010. With a bi-monthly schedule, issue 2 was released in May, issue 3 in July, and issue 4 will be released in September.

The first issue of DECAF was 48 pages long, but issues 2, 3 and 4 all contain 52 pages. DECAF is A4 (magazine) sized, has colour covers with an all Black & White interior and is printed on high quality thick glossy paper throughout.

DECAF is a horror and science-fiction anthology containing around five short comic book stories per issue. This new independent publication is comparable to the old Warren comics such as CREEPY, EERIE and VAMPIRELLA, or to the more recent IDW publication DOOMED.

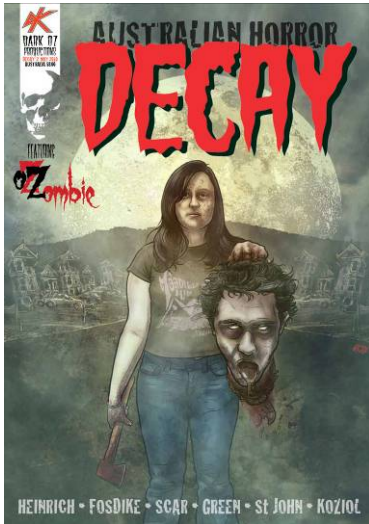
Most stories are self contained short stories. "OZ ZOMBIE" is the lead story and the only ongoing series in DECAF. Set during a worldwide zombie outbreak, OZ ZOMBIE follows two survivors in a tough old Aussie muscle car in the streets in and around Adelaide. However, since the zombie outbreak is worldwide, there will be other stories of other survivors in different locations. The current popularity of zombies is a strong selling point of DECAF, especially with the fantastic first issue cover by Dave Heinrich and second issue cover by James Fosdike, and great art on the strip by artists Tom Green and Stewart Cook. DECAF is also working , through cross promotion, in conjunction with other zombie related projects around Adelaide, such as the Adelaide Zombie Walk (of which there was a photo collage article in issue 1 of DECAF) and an upcoming new Zombie play in the 2011 Adelaide Fringe.



DECAF creator/editor and writer Darren Koziol has been taking DECAF to conventions around Australia to promote sales and find new creators to work on the comic. There was Supanova at Sydney in June, then AvCon in Adelaide in July, and coming in October is Armageddon in Melbourne.

DECAF is also now on Facebook. The exact link is:

<http://www.Facebook.com/photo.php?pid=5888981&id=742034767&view=user&subj=120827151290765&aid=-1&oid=120827151290765&saved#!/group.php?gid=120827151290765>



DECAF is quickly attracting a line up of top quality artists and writers from all around Australia. Past, current and future contributors include: Dave Heinrich, James Fosdike, SCAR (Steve Carter & Antoinette Rydyr), Chris Bolton, Alister Lockhart, Glenn Lumsden, Michal Dutkiewicz, Chris Wahl, Greg Holfeld, Lee Smith, Dave de Vries, Shane Jiraiya Cummings, Shane Ryan, Paul Abstruse, Steve Collof, Mark Hobby, Tanya Nicholls, Matthew Ryan Sweet, Datsun Tran, Kamal Koker and more.

But DECAF has a strong ethos of incorporating a mixture of professional talent and new underground creators. This will always be the format going forward, giving new writers and artists a chance to have their work published. We are always looking for more creators to contribute to DECAF, with a wide variety of things that creators can work on: comic book stories ranging from 4 to 12 pages in length, "hosts" which are essentially Black & White splash pages, and coloured covers. Some of the independent creators attracted so far include: Tom Green, Stewart Cook, Courtney Egan, Adam "Ambo" StJohn, Renee Marsland, Xavier Thomas, Casey Farrell and more.

DECAF has a format somewhere in between a comic book and a magazine, with its contents of comic stories, articles and adverts. Articles include features on other local Adelaide events and also "how to" articles showing behind the scenes of how some artists create their works. DECAF is an ongoing project continually seeking to attract the best artists and writers in Australia today. Comic book specialty shops all around Australia are carrying DECAF and supporting local talent. We don't want people to buy DECAF just because it is Australian, but because of the quality of the stories (the writing and the art) and the quality of the production itself.

DECAF retails for \$8.00 per issue, which is a bargain for such a large and high quality production containing such great talent.

You can expect to see DECAF at this year's Adelaide Zombie Walk in October, and at some of the events (such as an art exhibition) leading up to the Walk. Possibly on the last Saturday of this year's Royal Adelaide Show, and in next year's Fringe.

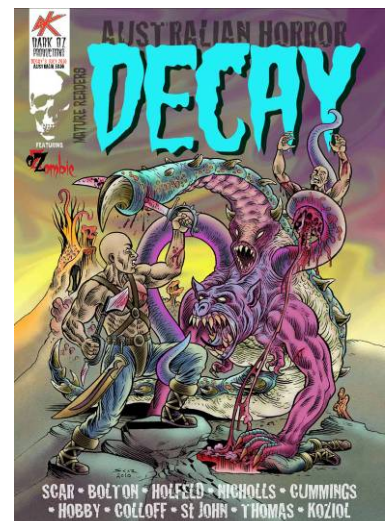
DECAF is published by DARK OZ Productions (currently self published by its creator and founder Darren Koziol). But DECAF is just the start of what DARK OZ Productions has to offer. With such a wealth of contacts and creators already, DARK OZ Productions hopes to expand to multiple publications aimed at every part of the market, all ages and all genres. The amount of creative talent in Australia is phenomenal and its potential is unlimited. DARK OZ Productions hopes, in time, to bring that all together and make DARK OZ as big in Australia as Image and DC are in America.

Contact DECAF, DARK OZ Productions and Darren Koziol at:

darkoz.decay@bigpond.com.au

PO Box 811, Salisbury, S.A. 5108

Darren Koziol



Recently GE News spoke to artist Anthea Wright. If you know our podcast Women Talk Sci Fi you can see that we are big fans of her work as she is the one that drew our wonderful avatars.



Tell us about yourself?

Well, I'm 21, living with my partner John who treks to conventions with me to help me with sales. I'm currently at university for the second time round. I also work at Spotlight so sewing is a new hobby. I do freelance art when I have the time around playing video games. I spend a ridiculous amount of time on trains and I also have an awesome kitten called Raiden.

What studies have you undertaken to develop your skills?

I started out learning for myself during high school, where I found out about digital art through a TAFE course on Printing and Graphic Art. After school I went to UniSA to do a Bachelor in Visual Art specialising in Digital media. This really gave me strong foundations for my drawing and just a taste what computers can do. So now I'm at Flinders Uni doing a Bachelor of Creative Arts in Digital Media so I can delve more into that world.

What inspires your work?

So many things! Where to start! Well, all the interesting people in my life and the experiences we have. Also books, games, other artists. Mythology and spirituality are pretty big players. And Star Wars...as well as lots of other movies. Storytelling is just amazing in any form and its hard not to be inspired by that.

What is your preferred medium?

Digital Painting. Mainly using Photoshop. I love how flexible it is. Pencils and markers are a close second. I crack out the traditional paints when I want a holiday from myself.

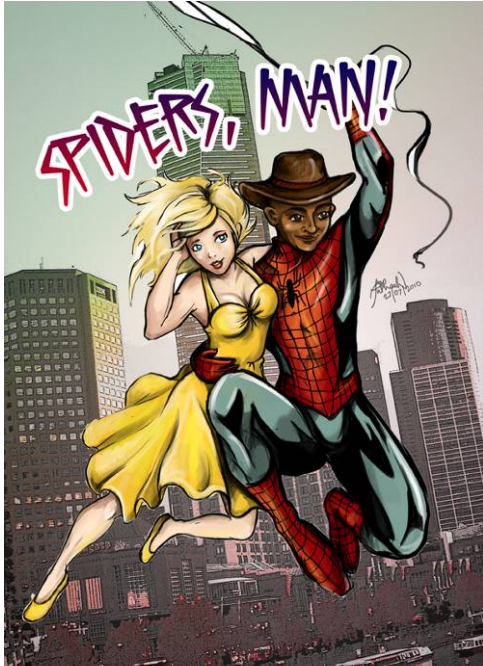
We see you are now studying for a Bachelor of Creative Arts Digital Media and Screen, where will this take your work?

This has to be the most exciting course! Currently I'm working on matte painting for film backgrounds for various student films, and we've also created a fantasy game (its in beta still) where my role was character and background conceptual art. These are all the things I'd like to do on a professional level. I'm also learning other special effects and film skills that should serve me well in the future. So where will it take me? I hope to either be in game development or work in a film studio, anywhere in the world.

What aspects of your personality are in your work?

A lot. Because often pieces come from a personal place, often my work has female characters (even with my hairstyle sometimes) so I'm usually exploring characters in my self or ideas that are close to my heart. People tell me I have such a range of style in my work – this is because I can map my life through my pictures, my dark moods, my happy moods, or places I've been. Currently I'm painting a Chinese goddess because I visited my parent on Christmas Island where I got to visit a Chinese temple.





Tell us about some of your commissions and other projects?

Well, a commission I've just finished was for a friend, her partner really loves spiderman and his birthday is coming up so I did up a mock comic book cover drawing her as Mary Jane and him as Spidey :D Great Fun. Other projects I have on the go, are a few DnD character portraits and I just got approached to work on the backgrounds for a HP Lovecraft student documentary and a Steam punk short film. All my commissions are very unique and I've very happy to accommodate different ideas.

Do you enjoy Sci Fi? If so which shows do you enjoy and why.

I love sci fi! I still remember the first time I was introduced to Star Wars (episode 1 when I was 10) and it was like an avalanche. My mum made it a mission to track down every action figure for episode one for me :P These days, I can count every series Joss Whedon has made in my favourites list. And Stargate of course, though I'm yet to make it to Atlantis. Farscape I came across recently and fell in love, I even met Gigi Edgley last year and she took home one of my paintings of Chiana.

We hear that you are also a bit of a gamer, which genres do you play and why?

Video games! Primarily I like RPGS but recently I've been developing more of a liking for first person shooters – I think it comes with practice. I love games for the 'interactive story', you get immersed into a world and just get taken away with it. Much like art and what I want to convey with my art, that and some games have gorgeous concept art. I play Xbox, and my DS for the train. Though I still love PC games, and hide a PS2 somewhere. I've also got an extensive Magic the Gathering and World of Warcraft card collection (more art yay!) and I play Warhammer 40k. Again, I like the character designs and the magic that comes from a really exciting battle.

Rumour also has it that you are now getting into costuming tell us a little about this?

He he, yeah after I got a job at Spotlight it was hard not to finally give in and get a sewing machine. That and if you've gone to so many conventions you always come out wishing you'd dressed up like the amazing costumes you always see. I finally put together my first costume for AVCON2010 and was Amy Sorel from the fighting game Soul Calibur 4. My next thought is trying to make my boyfriend a Malcom Reynolds outfit :P And maybe Phoenix for me.

Do you have a website where people can view your art and how can they contact you?

I do! www.antheawright.com Nice and easy to remember. You can check out my finished stuff, work in progress and character portraits I've done for people in my commissions page. Anyone after prints of my work, or commission for themselves, can email me at Anthea@anthewright.com with an outline, any photos relevant (eg a fantasy sci-fi portrait I'd need a photo of you and possibly your costume) and I can give you a quote.



Website www.genews-ezine.com

GE News 3rd year in publication



WruFkz rrg#
 Frqyhqwrq#
 Elp hjkdp ##
 XN#
 #
 E|#
 Mxg lk#P fJlqghvv##

I went to Belfast, Ireland in October '09 for a few weeks to visit the family. Between the first and second week, there was a Torchwood convention, THE HUB 3, just a short flight away in Birmingham. The proposed line-up was impressive John Barrowman, Gareth David-Lloyd, James Marsters, and about 10 guests from both series and Children of Earth. I had not yet seen C of E, but I have a habit of meeting cast members at conventions nowadays, and watching their performances later on the DVDs, carefully avoiding spoilers during their guest talks. John Barrowman was doing "La Cage aux Folles" at the time, was feeling a bit over-committed and reluctantly cancelled. James Marsters had hit his head while filming the day before, and his doctor had forbidden him to travel. So by default, Gareth David-Lloyd became GoH.



Over the three days, Friday to Sunday, there were approximately 1,000 attendees, predominantly British 20-something girls. I met three other Australians, from Queensland, Templestowe and Camperdown. The con was held at the Hilton Metropole, which is perfect with its rabbit warren of ballrooms and other facilities, and its location just next to the airport. Cost wise it was a very good deal £78, which is just under \$160, and it included all entertainment, a goody bag (they'd even gone to the trouble of including a postcard from Splott), and one free autograph from all guests (with the exception of James Marsters) and they even provided all the photos at no extra charge. I arrived there early Saturday and did all the usual things, starting as I do with the merchandise room. There two things I would change, no photography allowed in the autograph room, and secondly, there were only four merchandise dealers. But every convention has its unique regulations, and that's how it is.

I quickly snapped up a must-have item...a beautiful framed mount. It was long and thin, had the word TORCHWOOD in laser-cut letters, and each letter contained a still from each series. The dealer had made only 25 to see how they'd go, and I got the last one, determined to get all the autographs on the one item. As each person signed it over the two days, they marvelled at how impressive it was looking. (Getting it back to Belfast and home in one piece was another story). As there were only four merchandise dealers, I didn't do the usual amount of looting in fact even the supermarkets and toy mega-stores had almost completely run out of Dr Who merchandise, pending the new Doctor and new range of toys. So all I bought was a Torchwood pen, a Dr Who sleeping bag, an Adipose necklace, a little Tardis tin and a Tardis that lights up and makes a range of noises (As if I don't have enough Tardis'). It came with figures of the Doctor, Martha and Captain Jack. I also bought numerous autographed photos. There was a raffle with a difference the prize an "Intimate Encounter". The 12 winners had the opportunity to mingle with some of the guests for a while in a private room.





Gareth David-Lloyd gave a good talk, and in response to my question, indicated that he may be visiting Australia (ed note "he did"). I have to say that I've never met an actor who is so unlike his character. Every guest was extremely pleasant and informal in the autograph room, and was happy to have a brief conversation. I particularly liked Nikki Amuka-Bird (Beth), Nicholas Farrell (Brian Green) and Lara Phillipart who played Jasmine, the little girl who was abducted by the fairies. She is a delightful little girl, very polite and businesslike, and all of 12 years old, Rik Makarem who played Dr. Rupesh. I hadn't yet seen him on Torchwood, but recognized him a few nights later when watching Emmerdale, where he apparently is a new regular.

Over the three days, there were a lot of fans in costume, especially in grey RAF coats. (Surprise, not one of them looked like Captain Jack!) There were also a great many teddy bears in costume. But it was at the Saturday night party that the fans out did themselves in dedication. The variety of costumes was amazing. Someone had gone to the trouble of replicating the Doctor's

hand in a glass tank. It could have been the real prop, it was so good. The party was awesome they even had a jumping castle and great music, everyone danced to the Time Warp as well as all the old daggy dances. At one point, a collective squeal of delight went up with the opening bars of a song I didn't recognize, whereupon every female in the ballroom sang every word with religious fervour. I turned around to someone and said "that bloke's got a great voice, who is it?" It was John Barrowman himself, singing "I Am What I Am". It was a great night, and there were a few bad hangovers at brekky the next morning.

There was great excitement on Sunday, with the surprise announcement that James Marsters was being replaced by Kai Owen. Having received this information late, I raced out to get an autograph token, only to find that he'd already been and the table was deserted. He was just heading out the door when a sympathetic security guy called him back and asked if he'd sign one more. Kai Owen is one of the friendliest guests I've ever met. He signed my collector's piece as if I was doing him a favour, and handed me a promotional postcard with his official website. He did photo ops in the afternoon. I went up to him and said "It's the Harwood's Lorry Man!" and we simultaneously looked at each other and burst into "you won't be sorry with a Harwood's Lorry" and had a good laugh, then he wrapped his arms around me and the photo's a beauty. He is JUST like Rhys- a very approachable bloke off the street, I would have taken him home.



On Sunday, I spotted Gareth David-Lloyd several times hovering around reception looking like a sad puppy. Eventually he went up to a girl with long black hair (who from the back I could have sworn was Eve Myles -hopefully another surprise guest) but no the girlfriend had arrived and he was happy at last. I saw a lot of them in the evening, as they were at the next table at the hotel restaurant with a few mates.



There's an awful anti-climactic atmosphere on a post-convention Monday morning. The autograph and dealer's room with no life signs, fans checking out and reluctantly returning to the real world, wondering how they're going to get all their new collectibles home, last minutes of quality time grabbed in the brekky room with new friends that you know you'll never see again and swapping of email addresses that will likely never see your outbox even though it's all so meaningful at the time. And worst of all, your heroes have gone. You listen to the lucky locals conspiring over which convention they're going to next week or the week after and you wish you didn't live so far away.

Women Scientists that you might not have heard about!

Tapputi

In the history of chemistry Tapputi is considered to be the world's first chemist.

She was a perfume-maker who lived in the second millennium BC (that's 2,000 years BC). She was an overseer at a palace and is mentioned in tablets found from this era. She used oils, myrrh, flowers and then added water and distilled and filtered it several times to make the perfume. By the way this is the first mention of a still in history as well!!!

Maria Prophetissima

Maria is considered to be the first non fictitious alchemist in the Western World. She invented the water-bath or *bain-marie*, used in chemical processes where gentle heat is necessary, and from whom it got its name. She is also said to have discovered hydrochloric acid and perfected the 3-armed *distillation chamber (still)*. Also attributed to her are the invention of the alchemical apparatuses known as the [kerotakis](#) and the [tribikos](#). She was alive in the first or second century CE. Maria is mentioned with utmost respect by early alchemist.



Star Trek Aurora Part 4 out now !

Download it at

[http://
www.auroratrek.com/
episodes.html](http://www.auroratrek.com/episodes.html)

**Our Favourite Fan
made Star Trek Movie!**

Don't miss it!



Women Talk Sci Fi Podcasts

Podcast 25 Interview with Dichen Lachman from Dollhouse

Podcast 26 Interview with Jake Lloyd and Sean Williams

Podcast 27 Con Talk with David Hewlett



Look who's coming to

Adelaide and Perth

The Hub Productions Presents

Christopher Judge

Corin Nemec

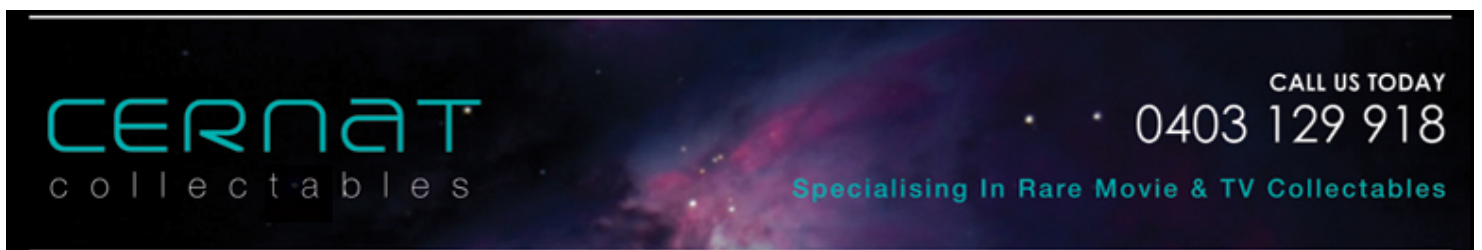
Corin's appearance is sponsored by our friends at Gifts for the Geek.

www.giftsforthegeek.com.au

Saturday the 28th August in Adelaide

Sunday the 29th August in Perth

[Click here to go to The Hub Productions website for ticketing information](#)



Keep your eye out for Flaming Star Collectables for rare autographs
Keep checking ebay to see what you may be missing in your
collection!

[Click here for ebay store](#)

GE News and Women Talk Sci Fi ~ Podcast
Proudly Supported during publication
By

www.hoyts.com.au



www.inconmovies.com.au



Click on the banner below to find out what is happening at a convention near you!

h**b**
PRODUCTIONS

...presents
the biggest
in fan experiences...

2010

supanova
pop culture expo

ARMAGEDDON
EXPO

 **FIRST CONTACT CONVENTIONS**
SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTIONS
ABN - 57 86065 4501

 **GIFTS FOR THE GEEK**

© 2008 – 2010 by GE News. All rights reserved
Images are from the private collections of GE or contributors who hold all ©

Stargate, Dr Who, Star Trek and any other shows mentioned here are registered trademarks and GE News does not intend to infringe on the legal copy right or