

# GE NEWS

WOMEN TALK SCI FI



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April 21st

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From  
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LESLIE HOFFMAN  
STAR TREK  
STUNT ACTOR

Tractor beam  
closer to reality





THOR is  
released  
in  
Cinemas  
April 21<sup>st</sup>



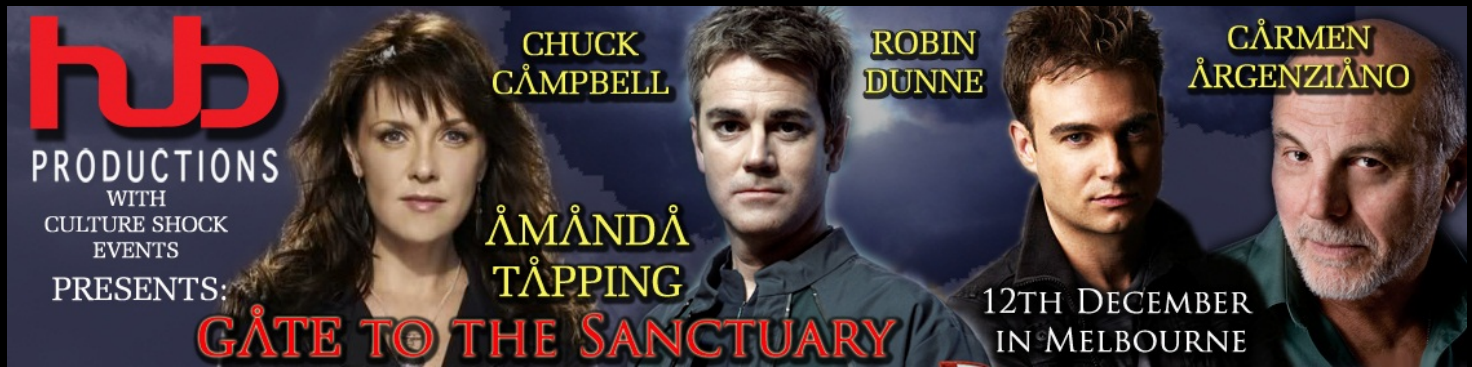
Starring Australia's  
Chris Hemsworth

[Preview Thor Click Here](#)

Paramount Pictures and Marvel Entertainment present the highly anticipated motion picture adaptation of "Thor," the latest from the Marvel pantheon of legendary super heroes who have inspired generations of readers.

The epic adventure "Thor" spans the Marvel Universe from present day Earth to the mystical realm of Asgard. At the center of the story is The Mighty Thor, a powerful but arrogant warrior whose reckless actions reignite an ancient war. As a result, Thor is banished to Earth, where he is forced to live among humans. When the most dangerous villain of his world sends its darkest forces to invade Earth, Thor learns what it takes to be a true hero.





## SANCTUARY

Recently we were lucky to attend the 'Gate to the Sanctuary' convention in Melbourne run by The Hub Productions [www.thehubproductions.com](http://www.thehubproductions.com). As always The Hub conventions has an amazing line up of guests and this time was no different. We started with Chuck Campbell (the Chucknician from Stargate Atlantis and Two Face from Sanctuary), Carmen Argenziano (who played Sam Carter's father in Stargate SG-1 plus just about every other TV show), Robin Dunne (Will in Sanctuary, Dead like Me and others) and of course the one, the only and the amazing Amanda Tapping (Samantha Carter, Stargate SG-1 and Helen Magnus, Sanctuary)



As each of the guests came to the stage not one person in the audience was left wanting. Chuck had everyone in the palm of his hand. This man is a stand-up comedian and by the time he had finished his set we were starting to have sore jaws from laughing. He is also Robin Dunne's stand-in and you will find out what that means in an upcoming podcast so look out for his interview on our Women Talk Sci Fi Podcast [www.womentalkscifi.com](http://www.womentalkscifi.com).



Next came Carmen, what an interesting actor, full of stories not only about his time with SG1 but from all the times that he has been in the business (check out his IMDB).

# SANCTUARY



Along comes Robin and guess what, Robin is just like Chris Judge (a shirt taker offerer LOL!!!) Seek out our old Issue 18 on our website to see Chris with his shirt off to! [www.genews-ezine.com](http://www.genews-ezine.com). Everyone, well maybe not everyone but most of the women just sighed and enjoyed the fun! Then just as he was about to finish along came Amanda and you can see that the pair really enjoys each other's company and showed it to us with abandon.

Then Amanda is on the stage on her own and no one is disappointed. This woman has become an icon in Sci Fi television. Which female and a few males did not want to be Samantha Carter, beautiful, intelligent, brave, caring and funny! Well we did anyway! She did not let us down, she is just what you would expect Sam to be and you can see that a lot of Sam is really Amanda.



She loves her work and she loves her life and she understands that she has the opportunity to give back. She founded along with Damian Kindler and Jill Bodie (who are also involved with Sanctuary) a charity called Sanctuary for Kids [www.sanctuaryforkids.org](http://www.sanctuaryforkids.org) who help children all over the world.



Have a look out for the amazing on-line auctions with everything a Sci Fi fan wants to own!

Meeting Amanda means that our Stargate (SG1) quest is now complete. The two of us have now met all of the actors who are part of the SG-1 team.



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Stargate Universe is coming to an end what do I really think? One of the most important things that a TV show must have is characters that you want to win, achieve, succeed, or get home! Stargate Universe seemed to tick the boxes when it first came to television as it came from the same production company as SG1 and SGA shows that I truly enjoyed. So I must surely enjoy this one too!

I want characters that I could imagine myself being, who are there for their team, doing it because it is the right thing to do regardless if they are right or not! Did the characters in SGU do that for me, no! I wanted to like them and I tried and tried. Most of the characters were just too unrealistic. Whilst I can believe secret agendas, super intelligence (Data, Samantha, and more), angry people, suspicion and self-absorption, there was just a little too much of it!

I did not find a one I liked! OK, Eli was not too bad but suddenly we have this "drop-out" and whilst an intelligent one he could amazingly understand alien technology!!! A US colonel that seems not to know anything about leadership and example! The daughter of a senator that really adds nothing to the team, only some of the scientists felt real!

Is this the reason the show ended, did it take itself too seriously? There is little or no humour and that was what made SG1 and SGA work no matter how serious life is sometimes we just need to laugh at situations but mostly just at ourselves!

Gerri

So why hasn't this incarnation of Stargate got me excited? I really don't care if I miss it or not. I love watching Stargate SG-1 and Stargate Atlantis and I was excited to hear that Stargate Universe was going to start. However from the first episode I thought 'It's okay.' Then when the second and third episode didn't get any better the warning lights went on!!

I think it boils down to the fact that I don't like any of the characters, (well I do like Eli a little bit but that is not enough to keep me watching). I miss the humour that Stargate and Atlantis had and I also miss the aliens.

The characters in Universe are too flawed. This does not necessarily make for better television and the fact that the show has been axed after Season 2 may be an indication that we sometimes need more fantasy and hope in our Sci Fi.

Universe tried to be more like Battlestar Galactica with its sexy scenes, music video clip endings and roving camera angles. Unlike Galactica it forgot to put in characters that you don't have to keep guessing whether they are the 'good guys' or the 'bad guys'.

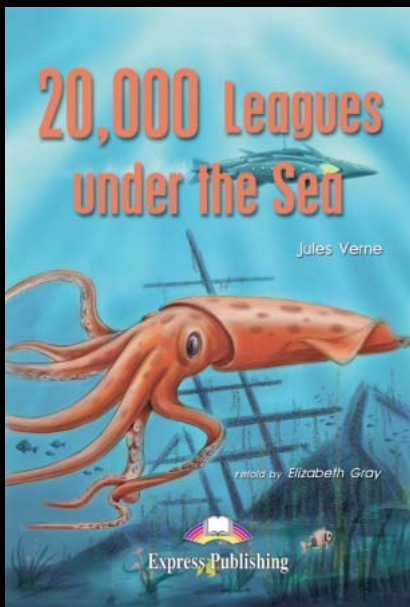
I'm sorry that there is no longer a Stargate to walk through. Over 15 years of travelling through the wormhole to undiscovered places on my TV screen will be missed. Looks like I will just have to take my DVDs off the shelf and relive the fun and romp of episodes from the past.

Eugenia

# From Science Fiction to Science Fact!

In this issue we start a new series called "From Science Fiction to Science Fact". We look at Sci Fi visionaries, authors, film makers and more.

Just think a whimsical idea can change the world as we know it and as some say if you can think of it then it can be!!!!



One of our earliest notable Science Fiction writers was Jules Verne. In 1873 he wrote *20 000 Leagues under the Sea*. It was in this book he introduced a number of ideas that are now a common part of our daily life. The things that Verne wrote about were beyond the imagination of his readers when his book was first published in the 19th century. Of course many of his ideas are now part of our everyday life.



Captain Nemo's vessel in this book was a self-propelled submarine named Nautilus. It was capable of diving underwater and moving at high speeds.



Even though plans for submarines had been around for a while, none of them were capable of the sophisticated features that were present on the Nautilus. In 1955 the very first Nuclear Submarine was named USS Nautilus in recognition of the influence Verne's visions had on the engineers and scientists who had worked to make the USS Nautilus a reality.



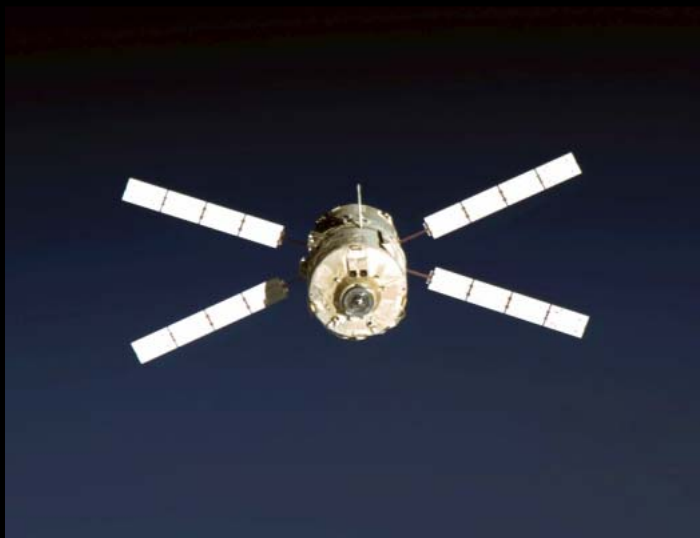
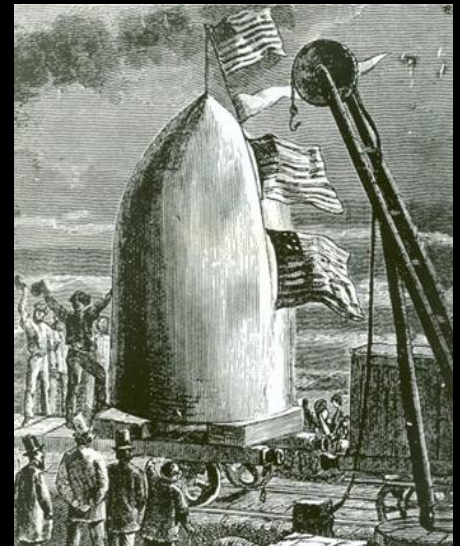


In 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea, Verne also described men using aqualungs to work at the bottom of the ocean. It would take another 70 years (1943) when Jacques Cousteau and Emile Gagnan further developed the aqualung which became the foundation of modern SCUBA gear and made extended underwater exploration possible.



Verne also invented the concept of the booster rocket, that would speed up the progress of a spacecraft to help it leave the atmosphere. ➡

⬅ Here we have a booster rocket helping a shuttle break through the atmosphere to space.



To further honour this science fiction writer, the first automated transfer Vehicle (ATV) that is used to re-supply the International Space Station was named Jules Verne.



# Therese Watts

On January 15, 2011 our good friend Therese Watts lost her battle with cancer. She was a dedicated Sci Fi watcher and an avid memorabilia collector. In the early 1990s Eugenia introduced Therese to the world of Star Trek: The Next Generation and what a can of worms she opened!!

Before Star Trek Therese had no real interest in Sci Fi as horror was her passion. This all changed as she and Eugenia swapped VHS video episodes (yes, it was that long ago) and dreamed about being part of the crew of the Enterprise.

Therese and Eugenia's Sci Fi life took a dramatic turn when a mutual friend made them aware that Marina Sirtis was coming to Adelaide and they would get the opportunity to experience their first Convention. There was now no turning back as they embraced with full gusto the life of a Convention attendee.

Convention life for Therese brought with it fun, friends and lots of Sci Fi collectable buying. It was through Therese having a Star Trek cup on her desk at work that Gerri was introduced to the Con going group, and this has led to all of them being involved in convention organisation and producing this e-zine and our podcast Women Talk Sci Fi.

Working in Canberra and making sure she attended every convention in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne meant Therese had an extensive group of people who knew her and if they didn't know her they knew the person who was walking around with the large backpack and blue hair.

We will miss Therese racing over and showing off her new purchase from the Gifts for the Geek table. We have lost a great friend, but her memory will never fade especially when we look at any piece of Sci Fi memorabilia as Therese not only owned it, in some cases she had two of them!





# Sarah's Geek Out



**A Geekalicious picture!**

**Sarah (check out that smile) with Ryan Robbins, Rainbow Sun Francks, Christopher Heyerdahl, Rodney (oops) David Hewlett and Colin Cunningham.**

**A GEEK GIRL'S Dream Picture!**

Ticket in hand and money in purse, I waited eagerly at the doors to the *Goyder Pavilion* for the commencement of Armageddon, Adelaide 2011. Ever since the news arrived that it would be held in Adelaide this year I, and quite a few other geekalicious fans of my acquaintance, had been hard-pressed to contain our excitement.

The combined might of Armageddon, Hub Productions and Gifts for the Geek had secured the appearances of a glittering collection of television and movie actors, voice artists, graphic novelists, authors and reality-TV stars. All in all, it was ample cause for a GEEK OUT, which, if the number of fan girls was any indication, duly occurred. In truth, I may have participated more than a little in one.

Amid the organized chaos, people dutifully lined up for photos and autographs – the lines seeming fairly well run (I certainly have no complaints) but then Adelaideans know how to queue – an under-valued skill, in my opinion, and the volunteer staff were pleasant and helpful, even pointing out that I was crazy when I purchased a certain photograph token (see above). Thanks, Jess!

Of the guests, John Rhys Davies was a particular favourite for me, sharing, as he did, a few words with everyone he met and never being at a loss for something to say, from sharing a joke about Neath, Wales to speaking in depth on philosophical matters.

The Sunday morning Q & A session with David Hewlett turned into a real treat for Stargate fans when Rodney...uh...David didn't leave the stage when Rainbow Sun Francks and Colin Cunningham arrived, the three of them sharing the platform and the laughs for the next hour. Patricia Tallman wowed Babylon 5 fans by organizing a Skype call with John Michael S for her panel on Sunday afternoon.

All in all, there were far too many things going on at once to be mentioned in 1,000 words, let alone my 300-odd here. It was a great weekend and I, along with many others, sincerely hope that Adelaide will again hold many such conventions!

# LESLIE HOFFMAN STAR TREK STUNT ACTOR

I have always been a Trekkie ever since TOS. I even attended the second Star Trek Convention that was held in New York City. Imagine years later to walk onto Paramount Lot and walk into the imagination of Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek!!! I had been doing stunts on DS9 for Dennis Madalone, Stunt Coordinator for TNG, DS9 and Voyager. I could not stunt double for Dax or Kira on DS9 due to my height, for I was too short. Then Star Trek: Voyager started up and there was a Klingon-Human Hybrid named B'Elanna Torres. Torres would rather punch someone first and ask questions later. Dennis felt I would be a perfect Double for her. The most memorable stunts I have done for her were on "Blood Fever" where I did the repelling stunt fall with Neelix and the final Pon Farr fight with Vorik. In "Day of Honour" I did the whole fight for Roxann due to the fact that she was 10 weeks pregnant and the Producer's did not want to risk the health of Mother and unborn Child. If you watch the fight very carefully, you will see that there are no cuts throughout the whole fight but at the end the camera swings down to the Klingon that Torres had knocked down and then swings back up to..... Roxann!!!! So that she could say her final line. All we did was to switch places quickly but personally it is one of my all time favourite fights that I have done. Star Trek: Voyager was a major part of my Life for 7 wonderful years. There are so many wonderful memories on and off the set. The main Cast was always friendly and the crew especially Special Effects always took care of the Stunt People who worked on the set. In "Memorial" I had to be phasered in the back. The Head of the Special Effects Department, Dick Brownfield, was very upset because up until then no woman had been killed that way on any Star Trek Series. Dick was so concerned about my wellbeing that he personally rigged up the squib (explosive) on my back. That was above and beyond what Dick had to do and that is how I will always remember Star Trek: Voyager.



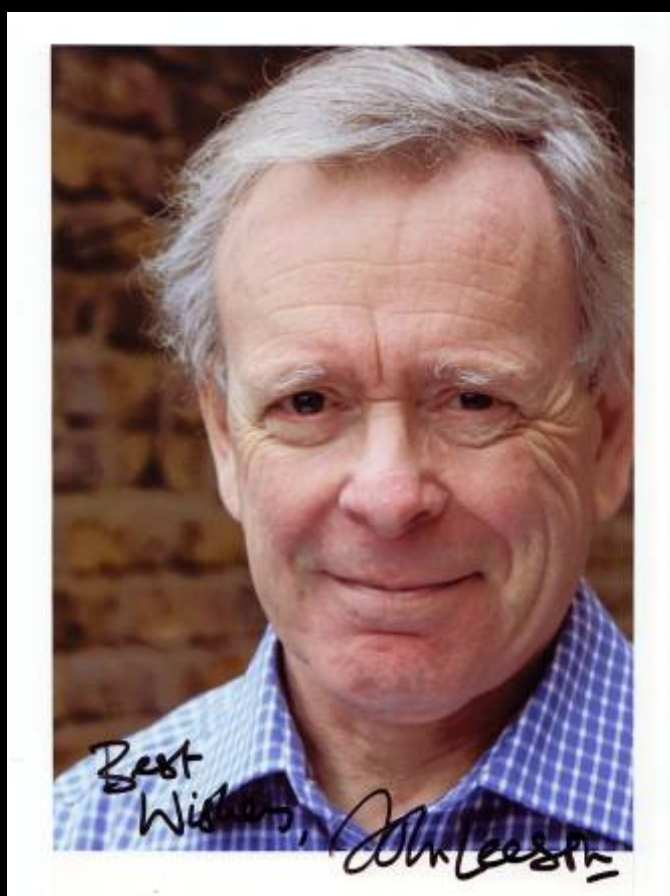
**We are also Head Writers for [Trekkie Central Magazine](#) and you can catch our work at Trekkie Central as well as some wonderful interviews from both corporate and fan-based film makers. Thanks to Richard for allowing us to publish his interview with Leslie.**

[Website www.genews-ezine.com](http://www.genews-ezine.com)

**GE News 4th year in publication**



# John Leeson Autograph Competition



And the WINNER is:

**CONNIE**

(You know who you are!)

We will be in contact soon!

Gerri & Eugenia

# Tractor beam closer to reality



Australian National University researchers have developed the ability to move particles over large distances, using a specially designed laser beam.

The team lead by Professor Andrei Rode of the Laser Physics Centre has developed a laser beam that can move very small particles up to distances of a metre and a half using only the power of light.

Now the laser beam won't work in the vacuum of space, but it has many amazing uses on Earth, such as in developing micro machines and electronic components.

Professor Rode and his team used the hollow laser beam to trap light-absorbing particles in a 'dark core'. "When small particles get trapped in this dark core interesting things happen," said Dr Rode.

"Gravity, air currents and random motions of air molecules around the particle push it out of centre, as one side becomes illuminated by the laser the other lies in darkness.

"Creating a tiny thrust, known as a photophoretic force it pushes the particle back into the darkened core. "In addition to the trapping effect, a portion of the energy from the beam and the resulting force pushes the particle along the hollow laser pipeline."

There are a number of applications including directing and clustering nano-particles in air, the micro-manipulation of objects, sampling of atmospheric aerosols, and low contamination, non-touch handling of sampling materials.

As reported at <http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/09/08/tractor-beams-real/>



# Women Scientists that you might not have heard about!

## Aglaonike

(c. 2700 BCE)

**Ἀγλαονίκη**, is also known as Aganice of Thessaly and has been recognised as the first female astronomer in ancient Greece. She has been mentioned in the writings of Plutarch and Apollonius of Rhodes. She was the daughter of Hegetor of Thessaly. She was regarded as a sorceress during this times because of her ability to make the moon disappear from the sky. This has been taken to mean she could predict the time and general area where a [Lunar eclipse](#) would occur.

## Agnodice

(c. 3rd or 4th BCE)

The earliest midwife among the ancient Greeks was forbidden to study medicine. She disguised herself in men's clothing, and attended lectures studying midwifery and gynaecology.

Women refused her service until she confessed she was a woman. With her practice now successful, and the jealousy of her peers, she was accused of corrupting her patients. Refuting this charge by admitting her sex, she was then accused of practicing medicine. With the help of the leading wives of Athens, coming forward in her behalf, she succeeded in getting this law abolished. Women were then allowed to practice medicine and to be paid for the service.

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**Interviews with your actors from Buffy, Babylon 5, Vampire Knight, Harry Potter, and the Incredible Hulk himself Lou Ferrigno Click on the link above.**

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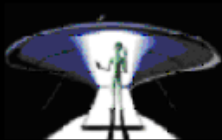
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