

# GE NEWS

Vol 5 Issue 29 2012

WOMEN TALK SCI FI



# STAN LEE



## *Special Issue*

# STAN LEE



Stan Lee was born Stanley Martin Lieber on December 28, 1922 in New York USA.

In collaboration with Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko he co-created Spider-Man, the Hulk, the X-Men, the Fantastic Four, Iron Man, Thor and many others.

In 1939 he became an assistant at the New Timely Comics which became in the 1960s Marvel Comics. In 1941 he made his debut as a comic book writer, as the text filler for a Captain America story. It was here that he used the pseudonym Stan Lee which he legally adopted some years later.

In the late 1950s DC Comics re-launched the superhero archetype with an updated version of The Flash which was met with such a significant response that the publisher of Marvel Comics, Martin Goodman assigned Stan Lee to create a new superhero team.

Stan gave his characters flawed personalities that was different to the way superheroes previously had been portrayed. With artist Jack Kirby, Stan Lee's first creation was the Fantastic Four. The success of the stories led to Stan and Kirby creating the Hulk, Iron Man, Thor and the X-Men. With Bill Everett it was Daredevil. Of course with Steve Ditko it was Doctor Strange and Marvel's most successful character, Spiderman. Stan Lee led the expansion of Marvel Comics into a multimedia corporation.

In the 2000s he worked for DC Comics, launching the "Just Imagine..." series in which he reimagined the DC superheroes of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern and The Flash.

In 2006, Marvel celebrated Stan Lee's 65 years with the company by publishing a series of one off issues starring Stan Lee meeting and interacting with his co-creations, including of course Spider-Man, Doctor Strange, Silver Surfer and Doctor Doom.

When most people retire in their 60s, Stan Lee who will be 90 years old this year doesn't look like he is going to slow down working in the industry. Last year, 2011, he was writing a live-action musical, The Yin and Yang Battle of Tao. He also partnered with 1821 Comics to work towards developing comics more geared for children as he felt there was a lack of child targeted stories.

## Other achievements of Stan Lee:



He introduced the practice of including a credit panel on the splash page of each story, naming the writer, penciller, inker and letterer.



He supported using comic books to provide social commentary, often dealing with racism and bigotry.



His column 'Stan's Soapbox', also addressed issues of discrimination and intolerance.



In 2010 he founded the Stan Lee Foundation to focus on promoting literacy, education and the arts.

# STAN LEE

We've been very lucky in the last 3 or so years to meet a number of iconic stars of screen and stage at Conventions run all over the country! However, when someone is nearly 90 years old and lives in the U.S.A. the possibilities of meeting them on Australian soil seemed slim. We are now at the stage of saying 'never say never' as convention promoters have managed to bring to our shores people like Richard Dean Anderson, Patrick Stewart, Christopher Lloyd, John Rhys-Davies and now Stan Lee!!

Oz Comic Con [www.ozcomiccon.com](http://www.ozcomiccon.com) in Melbourne was an amazing weekend!! I (Eugenia) was not going to miss out on getting my photo and signature from Stan Lee knowing how popular he



was going to be so I bought an Excelsior pass for the day which gave me the added security that I would obtain both of these items. As a comic reader when I was a kid I read, mainly DC Comics like Superman and Batman but over the past 10 years I have begun to appreciate the significant contribution Stan Lee has made to the comic industry. Helped by the transition of print to screen of a number of Stan Lee's superhero creations and of course his cameos!! I remember both of us (that is Gerri and I) doing a little dance when we saw his image come up on the Oz Comic Con's site the year before advertising that he was coming to Melbourne and straight away working out whether it was possible for us to attend.





There were so many people at Oz Comic Con! Not surprising as the guest list was impressive and anyone who reads comics would want to set eyes on Stan Lee. Waiting at the photo booth I was so looking forward to meeting him in the flesh, I knew it would be a brief encounter but it was something I could now brag about to teenagers and they would think I was 'awesome'!! LOL!

Walking into the booth I did not expect what happened next and that was the biggest smile from Stan Lee and the best hug!!

My memories for life had now been set! We were lucky because when we saw later photos it looked like the hugging was over so how lucky were the both of us?

Later in the day we lined up to get "the" autograph. This was a little more rushed as Stan did not have time to say more than a few words as the line-up for his signature was massive. We went away happy that we were able to see him and get that autograph.



The day did not finish there as a Con talk was still to come. The 'talks' area for his Q&A was huge. It's hard to say how many people were in there as the seats were filled and with standing room available lots of the attendees got to be part of the session.



As an Excelsior ticket holder (Eugenia) also had a special panel the following day, and that session was fantastic. It was hard to believe that this man was nearly 90 years old, had just flown over from America, signed and had photos with thousands of people. He looked and acted as if he had been in Australia for weeks. His stamina is incredible!



Stan Lee is an entertaining speaker and a great storyteller. He had everyone eating out of the palm of his hand! There was an unexpected presentation at the end of his Q&A as more than 30 Star Wars costumed cosplayers from the 501<sup>st</sup> paraded in to the tune of the 'Darth Vader March'. A spectacular sight as Storm Troopers, Imperial Officers, Royal Guards, Boba Fett

and Darth Vader lined up in front of Stan Lee to make him an honorary member of the 501<sup>st</sup>. It was a great ending to meeting an icon!



# Where can you see Stan Lee?



The Trial of the Incredible Hulk  
TV Movie (1989)



Jim Henson's Muppet babies  
'Comic Capers' (1989)



Mallrats 1995



X-Men (2000)



Spider-Man  
(2002)



The Simpsons  
'I Am Furious Yellow' (2002)



Daredevil (2003)



Hulk (2003)



**Spider-Man 2  
(2004)**



**The Princess Diaries 2:  
Royal Engagement  
(2004)**



**Who Wants to be a Superhero  
(2004)**



**Fantastic Four  
(2005)**



**X-Men: The Last Stand  
(2006)**



**Heroes  
(2006)**



**Spider-Man 3  
(2007)**



**Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver  
Surfer (2007)**

*Where can you see  
Stan Lee?*

*Where can you see  
Stan Lee?*





Robot Chicken 'Tapping a Hero'  
(2007)



Iron Man  
(2008)

Where can you see  
Stan Lee?



The Incredible Hulk  
(2008)



Iron Man 2  
(2010)

Where can you see  
Stan Lee?



The Big Bang Theory  
(2010)



Nikita 'The Guardian'  
(2010)

Where can you see  
Stan Lee?



Thor  
(2011)



Captain America: The First Avenger  
(2011)





Entourage 'Bottom's Up'  
(2011)



Eureka 'Glimpse'  
(2011)

Where can you see  
Stan Lee?



The Guild Season 5 Episode 11  
(2011)



The Avengers  
(2012)



Chuck Season 5  
(2012)



The Amazing Spider-Man  
(2012)

Where can you see  
Stan Lee?

# Doctor Who Companion Frazer Hines 18th August 2012

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FRAZER HINES



# In Memoriam



## Caroline John & Mary Tamm



It is always sad to hear the passing of actors who were part of our favourite shows and as Doctor Who is coming up to its 50 year anniversary in 2013 you would expect to hear about the deaths of some of the actors and those associated with the show. It is a little over a year since Doctor Who lost Nicholas Courtney and Elisabeth Sladen, now two more companions Caroline John and Mary Tamm will not be around for the 2013 celebrations.

# Caroline John

## Caroline John

(19 September 1940 – 5 June 2012)

Caroline played intelligent, no nonsense Dr Liz Shaw who I enjoyed watching for two reasons. Firstly, she was the first companion of the Doctor that I loved to watch, Jon Pertwee, and secondly, she was a woman scientist, a rarity in the 70s TV shows. Her character was fantastic, because she was able to measure up to the intelligence of the Doctor. Caroline followed Wendy Padbury who played Zoe another scientist but Zoe was from the future and Liz Shaw was from my present. Liz Shaw showed that a female could gain her PhD and mix it with the best!

We had the pleasure of being in contact with Caroline John in 2011 where she wrote answers to our interview questions. Here is an extract from the interview that you will find in Issue 24 at [www.genews-ezine.com](http://www.genews-ezine.com).

What do you remember about the audition process you went through for the role of Liz Shaw?

*I had been working with Sir Laurence Olivier's Company at the N.T. – so I just had a nice interview with Derrick Sherwin and Peter Poryaut.*

What words come to mind to describe working with Jon Pertwee and Nicholas Courtney?

*Good working actors – Jon very mindful of being a father figure to us all.*

Were you able to make suggestions of how you felt the Liz Shaw character should develop?

*I wanted her to be more the scientist – but short skirts were order of the day.*

Why do you think that the Doctor Who story still continues to excite people today?

*A good escape and rollicking brilliant stories and acting.*





# Mary Tamm

## Mary Tamm

(22 March 1950 – 26 July 2012)

Mary Tamm played Romana, short for Romanadvoratrelundar and she was a Time Lord or is that Time Lady? Even though Mary Tamm only played one season with fourth doctor Tom Baker, for classic who watchers she is well remembered.

Romana 1 had style; her outfits were stunning and would not have looked out of place on the runways of Paris fashion houses. She was extremely intelligent; in fact classed the Doctor as her inferior having graduated higher from Time Lord Academy on Gallifrey. She first appeared in the story The Ribos Operation which was part of the Key to Time arc and regenerated into Romana II at the beginning of The Armageddon Factor.

Mary Tamm was born in Bradford, West Riding. Yorkshire to Estonian immigrant parents. She began her acting on the stage with the Birmingham Repertory Company in 1971. Mary didn't want to be a companion of the Doctor but changed her mind when the producers told her she would be part of the Doctor's race and equal in intelligence in fact even smarter. She only stayed for a year as she felt the character had reverted to the 'Damsel in Distress' syndrome.

Mary Tamm left the show and went on to play roles in 'The Hello, Goodbye Men', the quiz show Crosswits and soap opera Brookside.

However her life with "Who", did not finish joining Big Finish productions and recording a number of audio stories reprising her role as Romana I.

Caroline John and Mary Tamm are two actors who portrayed on our TV screens women who were smart, knew their mind and could handle themselves in any situation. For Classic Who fans they always shine as the Tardis goes on to its next adventure.



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GE News 5th year in publication