

GE NEWS

Vol 9 Issue 45 2016

WOMEN TALK SCI FI



RETRO SCI-FI

tales

Special full comic book



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Women Talk Sci Fi: The Next Generation

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OZ COMIC
CON



I have a confession ~ I am a philologist!

RETRO SCI-FI *tales*

Here's a local Australian anthology for fans of old-school science fiction. If you love the romanticism of Jules Verne, HG Wells, Flash Gordon, Dan Dare, B-grade 50's movies, pulp novels, etc etc etc - you'll love these!

Every issue is a 52-page showcase of amazing stories & incredible art. These are comic books, not prose - a wondrous delight for your eyes.

Issue #1 is still available in first print (be quick though) and contains 7 complete short stories. Issues #2 & #3 each have six stories, 4 of which are self contained while two continue in the following issues - 'Captain Ice and the Space Pirates' and 'Penny Powers' (Australia's own 1950's super heroine battling Martians at Mount Lofty). There's also recurring characters in other stories, such as 50's bombshell 'Marilyn' in 'Marilyn on the Lost Planet' (in issue #2) and 'Marilyn and the Giant Brains' (in #3) - illustrated by Michal Dutkiewicz and written by Darren Koziol.

The one-off short stories cover topics like aliens, bug-eyed-monsters, UFO's, rockets & spaceships, dinosaurs, time-travel, dimension jumping, journeys to the depths of the oceans or the centre of the Earth, floating pleasure ships on gas giant planets, etc etc etc.

With only three issues out so far you can complete your collection for just \$30.00, plus postage. Pick them up the next convention or head to the DARK OZ website to find a shop, or order with PayPal, at www.darkoz.com.au



DARK OZ

www.darkoz.com.au



RETRO SCI-FI

Written by Darren Kodol

Art by Dave Dye

Lettering April Hammond

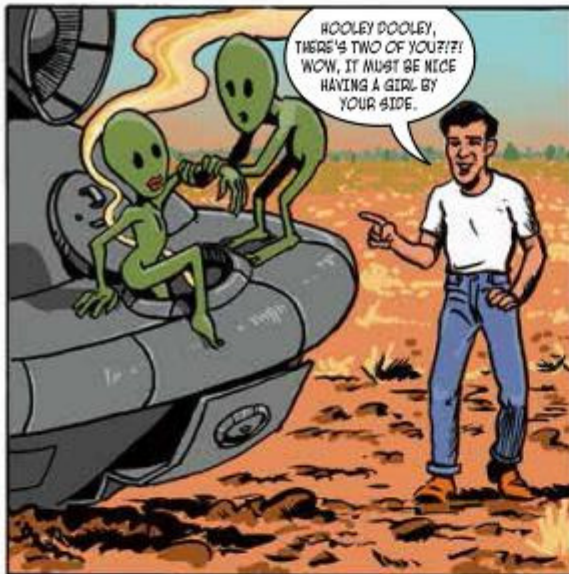


RETRO SCI-FI *tales*

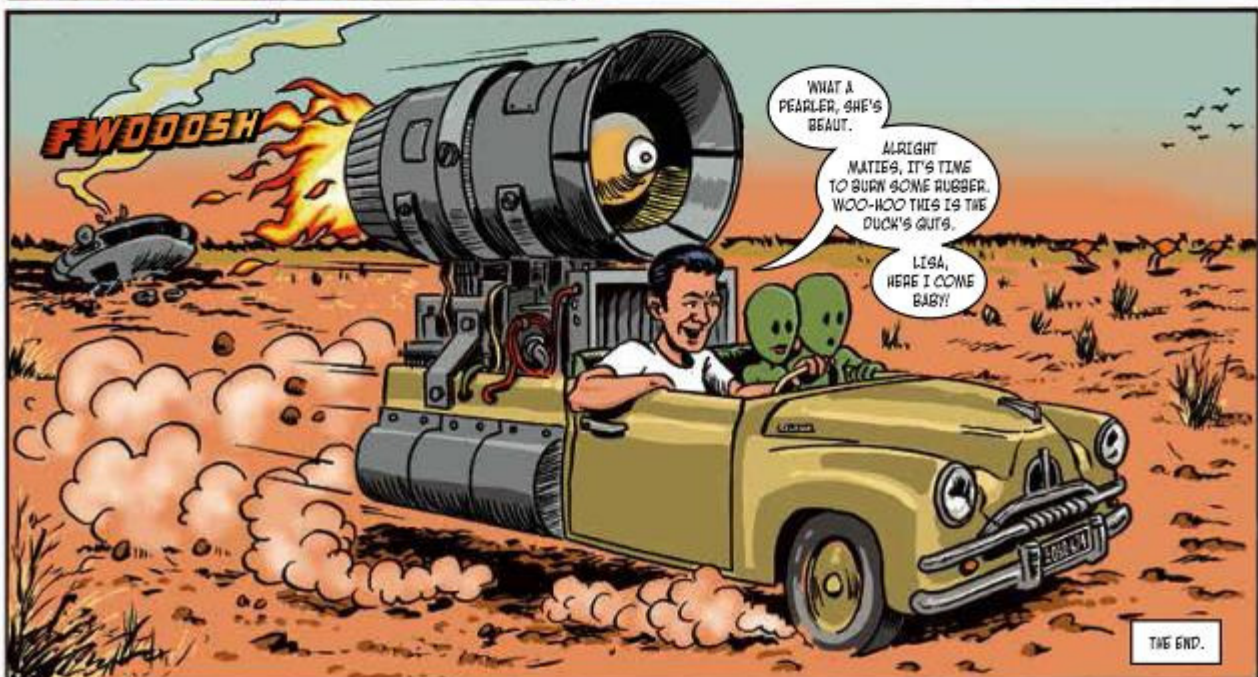
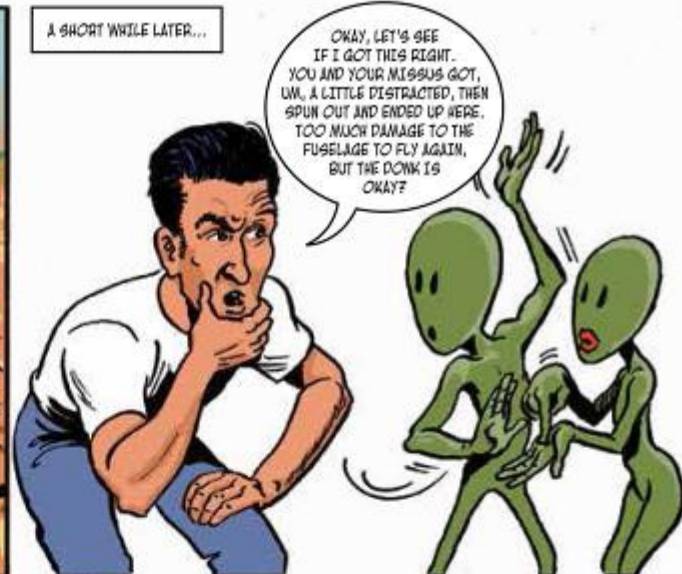
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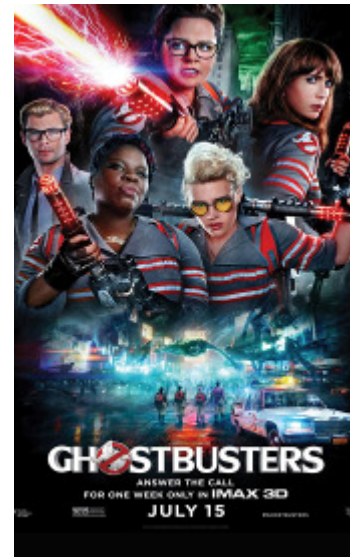
A SHORT WHILE LATER...



Review By Donna Reid

“ I ain’t afraid of no ghost”.

What I was afraid of is that this movie would be a case of taking the original Ghostbusters movie and switching the genders of the main characters. Fortunately it wasn't! I didn't really know what to expect of this movie and I wasn't planning on seeing it on the big screen. When my sister told me she had taken her children (8 and 10 years old) to see it and how much they all enjoyed it, I thought it would be worth giving it a go. It certainly didn't hurt that I knew that Chris Hemsworth had a role in the movie, so I figured as a worst case scenario I could spend some time watching him on the big screen and satisfy my curiosity about the movie. I have to say, I enjoyed it.



Firstly, I am not a huge Melissa McCarthy fan but I thought she did a great job with the role. She was the most down-to-earth, out-there scientist on the planet! I do, however, really like Kristin Wiig, and I loved her straight-girl role. She was the perfect foil for McCarthy's character. Her reactions to Chris Hemsworth's character were priceless! Kate McKinnon's character was completely loopy but by the end of the movie I really liked her. I read that she loved the role because it was some of the closest work she has done to her own personality! I am not sure what that means about her personality but I suppose that must make her a bit of a kick-butt, smart, lunatic, who likes to lick guns...

Leslie Jones, I thought, was under-utilised. In one way she was more of the straight-girl character than Kristin Wiig, but by the same token, she was so 'normal' in her own way that she was very believable. I really think there are people like her out in the world, particularly in New York.

Chris Hemsworth (aka Thor, George Kirk and The Huntsman) what more can I say? Well... I think the guy has to have an awesome sense of humour, he did a great job at taking the piss out of himself and parodied every stereotypical role of attractive women in an administrative role in movies! I think that was the point of his character being soooooo ridiculously dumb. I thought the plot was clever. Neil Casey as the "villain" championing all the downtrodden, put upon, unattractive, weird people was great.

Apparently there was a huge, expensive "dance sequence" that show-cased Chris' singing and dancing that was cut because it "threw test-audiences out of the flow of the movie". It cost low seven-figures and took two days to shoot but I can see where it was removed and understand why, still it may have been nice to see. The cameos from the remaining original cast were amusing and I like that they got an appearance, including Slimer getting a date and a car! All in all I would recommend giving this movie a go.



Haunted or Hoax

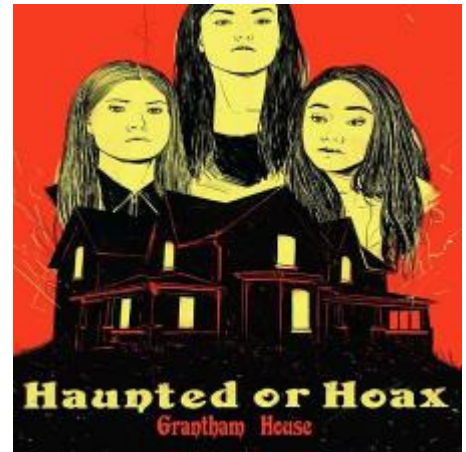
Grantham House

Casey and Jac are the creators of a new website called Haunted or Hoax. Together, they visit some of the most terrifying and creepy locations in an effort to determine if the paranormal stories they have heard are true. First on their list is the old, Victorian masterpiece known as Grantham House. What will they find? What is the mysterious, young owner hiding? Will the house reveal its secrets?

Haunted or Hoax is a new web series that is part comedy, part mystery, part supernatural and a whole lot of creepy. Join our three strong, female protagonists as they navigate the unknown during their time together at Grantham House. Filming in Toronto, we have assembled a team of hardworking directors, actors, writers and producers to bring to life a project we are very excited about. Not only are we proud to have fleshed out LGBTQ characters but we are also thrilled that women are well represented in our cast and crew.

Not only do we have our scripted episodes planned but also a good deal of behind the scenes content too. Haunted or Hoax will be its very own website, just like in the web series and our characters will have their own social media platforms too.

Please read about our fabulous cast and crew and take a look at our exciting perks. Grantham House will be waiting for you.



<http://hauntedorhoax.com/episodes/>



Natalie Forward | Exec Producer, Producer and Writer (Australian)



There Can Be Only One...

A Scots lad banished from his town
Stuff of witchcraft
Surviving his death by the Kurgan
On the battlefield accompanying the Frasers
Having strange feelings
Rushes to the skull
Not realising his potential immortality
Until Ramirez reveals the gist
Of why he survives these attempts
But avoid the severing of his head

The Quickening allows the reason for living
As another is defeated
A growth in strength overpowering one's enemy
Becoming aware but not complacent
about his own existence
Flashbacks from not one life but many
In the body of a single man
Drifting through generations
This Connor McLeod now Russel Nash

Harmony acknowledged with one remaining
Two become one with vows professed
The battle over between these men
Virility and tenderness in equal measure
Once the fight becomes futile
with the victor upon the Earth
Knowledge all-consuming in the aftermath
After all, who wants to live forever?



Alex Robertson



Supermarionation: Gerry and Sylvia Anderson's creation

A wealthy family on a remote island
Set to save the world one industrial event at a time
Jeff monitoring the airwaves for trouble signs
His sons responsible for saving the day
A story fit for the realm of Marvel and DC
Animatronics and puppetry combined
Played out on sets in Slough, Buckinghamshire

International Rescue
Founded in the 2060s
Seeing a need to show some engineering help
Five vehicles guarding land, sky, sea and space
Manned by the Tracys
From their hidden bunker
And with Lady Penelope's assistance
In a remote country English mansion
Or on the road in the modified limousine

Brains – the professor or scientist
Responsible for designing the craft and more
An Einstein or Tesla in his workshop
Finding solutions for 'impossible' situations
This inventor and creator responsible for the Tracy's fleet

Number 1 – A rocket from a home base
Piloted by Scott
First to the site a coordinator of the team
In touch with father for backup
Ready to bring in the necessary

Virgil – an aviator of Trojan horsepower
Two IC – Thunderbird 2
A modern cargo carrier like a Hercules plane
With a Land Rover colour scheme and solutions within



Alex Robertson



Space ventured by Alan in Three
Keeping in contact with John on Number 5
A craft needed for satellite contact
Far reaching for the I R crew
To traverse the atmosphere in ionising speed
Ready to get to the scene
A swift machine in its orbit
Capable of atmospheric travel right to its edge

A submersible as part of T2's cargo
Emerging from a pod into the deep
Underwater situations covered
From Gordon's perspective on the surface
or many leagues below

John gives remote assistance
Thunderbird 5 a spacecraft
in a geosynchronous orbit
Managing intel amongst the fair an foul
Monitoring the Earth's communications
For emergencies and complex situations
Engineering solutions to save souls

Jeff Tracy – the coordinator of it all
On a tropical island
Somewhere in the Pacific
Superstructures hidden from view
Away from prying eyes
In an idyllic setting
But always on the alert
When there is a need for calling in
International Rescue

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There's Something in the Water... Red Billabong Reveals its Creature ahead of national August release

While attendees of Oz Comic-Con and Supanova were treated to the big reveal of the creature in Red Billabong in June. The Australian public get their first glimpse of the terrifying creature in the national release on the 25th of August.

The highly anticipated thriller, starring DAN EWING (Home and Away) and TIM POCKOCK (Dance Academy) Red Billabong is the first Australian film to feature a CGI character in a leading role.

In the Australian Outback, two brothers discover old secrets and family lies. As their friends start to go missing they fear they are being stalked by someone, or something from their worst nightmares - But is it just - A story? A legend? A hoax? Or is it real?

Red Billabong stars Home & Away heart throb DAN EWING and Dance Academy favourite TIM POCKOCK. SOPHIE DON, JESSICA GREEN (Lightning Point), BEN CHISHOLM, JOHN REYNOLDS, EMILY JOY, JAMES STRAITON also star along with FELIX WILLIAMSON (Underbelly: Razor, The Great Gatsby) and GREGORY FRYER (The Sapphires).

"I can't recall a fully realized computer generated character as a 'lead' in an Australian film before. I don't think it's been attempted. Our VFX team will be working furiously all the way up to the cinema release. We also used so many practical effects, daring stunts and huge sets. There's so much in the film that isn't in the new trailer. There is still so much to reveal when you're watching it!" Says Writer/Director Luke Sparke.

The Queensland production company, SparkeFilms, has teamed up with distributor Pinnacle Films (Dallas Buyers Club, Predestination, Healing) and international sales agent, Arlight Films, who is handling sales on the project.

Watch the new trailer here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cA1UwRgAkrw>

www.redbillabongmovie.com

Red Billabong now in cinemas nationally from Thursday 25th August 2016



Check out our interview with the director & star of the movie at www.womentalkscifi.com Episode 117

I have a confession ~ I am a philographist!



To any die hard autograph collector the question sometimes arises, 'Do I start a Cast Shot to be signed or not?'. It is only when you have finally met the last cast member of a TV show that you either regret that you hadn't started one or celebrated that finally after years of storing the photo/poster away it is finally finished!!

I Eugenia, am a philographist, that is, a person who gains great delight in pieces of paper signed by famous people (well famous in my eyes, not necessarily others).

The fully signed Cast Shot can be the most frustrating and most fulfilling of the philographist's hunt.



Frustrating:

- You start a cast shot with the expectation it will be easy to complete as there are only four cast members and the last actor to sign will be at the next Con, only to have the actor cancel his/her appearance (For me it was Ryan Robbins to complete a Sanctuary Season 3 Cast shot, and Amanda Tapping for Stargate. (You ask how can I have Amanda's signature on the Sanctuary shot and not Stargate! This happens when you decide to start a cast shot after many of the actors have been to Australia) .
- You forget to pack the poster that needs a signature from an actor that may not come back to Australia. It is now the last signature missing on a poster that could be completed.
- You will never have a completed set of signatures as one or more of the actors has died. No getting around this one just accept it.
- You will never have a completed set of signatures as one or more of the actors are either too old to travel to Australia, don't attend conventions, or are in jail! Just face it you will have to have it framed without that last signature. However, make sure that it can be removed out of the frame, just in case!
- The actor signs over the picture of another actor in the shot. This is just frustrating from an aesthetics point of view.
- There is a change of cast members. (I have to feel sorry for anyone that started a Walking Dead original cast shot.)

Fulfilling:

- That moment when the last actor signs the cast shot and your quest is finally finished! You run round the convention like a winner holding a trophy.
- When you have your picture/poster framed and you hang it on your wall for all to see.

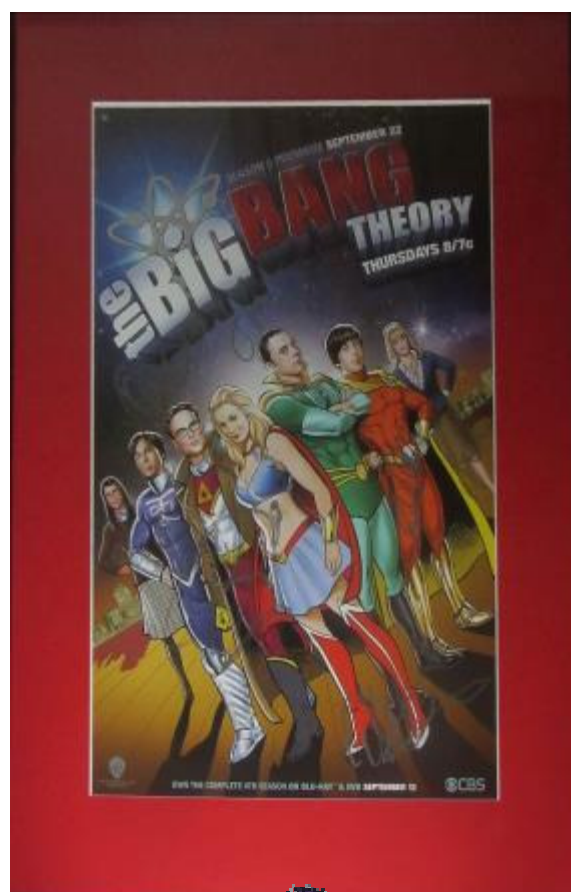


Some hints for the budding philographist on collecting cast shots:

- Pick a generic picture/poster of the TV show, try not to have pictures of cast members on it, have just a symbol, logo or other relevant image. This way you can collect signatures of any actors who have been in the show. It will be complete when you say it is complete! Or you run out of space. Whichever comes first.
- Get the actors to write their character name under their signature. (I have found that after a while you do forget whose signature is whose.) The picture/poster is also more impressive to the person who knows character names not actor names.
- Choose a colour scheme for your autographs e.g. black, silver, gold or blue. Make sure if you start autographs in a colour different to black or silver carry your own set of pens to use.
- Buy a fully signed cast shot. The Gifts for the Geeks stall at Oz Comic Cons are a good place to start. You don't have the satisfaction that you collected it yourself, but it's a fully signed cast shot!! (I was lucky to be able to buy a Big Bang Theory cast poster, as I don't think that I would ever see the whole cast in Australia!)
- Pick a poster/object that is easy to carry interstate or overseas and store it in a travel tube, ease of transport will certainly increase the possibility of it being signed.
- Keep a record of who has signed your picture/poster. You will forget.
- Make sure you have wall space to display your cast shots. They deserve to be seen!
- Have your picture/poster framed by a professional with reflective glass. It is expensive but there is nothing worse than seeing your years of collecting fade away.

My final piece of advice. Never say never till they die!
Always be forever hopeful that one day you will get to see the actor that will complete that last space on your poster.
Ten years ago I never thought I would ever meet, William Shatner, Richard Dean Anderson or John Barrowman.

I have a confession ~ I am a philographist!



OZ COMIC CON

The pace of a convention is always slower when it is in your home town, no waking up at 4 am to catch a plane, no wondering whether there will be enough time to get breakfast, no sleeping on the plane trying to catch up on the sleep you didn't have, and no lining up for a taxi to take you to the venue. Instead you wake up around 8am, cook a nice breakfast, and drive to the venue to arrive refreshed around 10 am, ready to start the day.



Maid Marion V Storm Troopers

When a convention is in your own home town you also meet up with a lot more people you know, not only your "con" friends you see once in a while, but friends, family, acquaintances, work colleagues and people you can't remember their name or where you know them from. You spend a lot more of the day talking to people you know and having to apologise that you need to be at a panel or in an autograph line. Yes we are pleased that Oz Comic Con comes to Adelaide!!



Rachel Luttrell and Rainbow Sun Francks

The con was well spaced out spreading out over the two large halls with the actor panels in separate areas so that there isn't any competing noise. Adelaide Oz Comic Con is always a very relaxed affair as there is always plenty of seating out in the food court area to regenerate the energy level.



Joe Flanagan

This year there were multiple actors from many popular shows (check out our article regarding collecting cast autographs) entertaining the crowds. Stargate Atlantis fans had Rachel Luttrell (Teyla Emmagan), Rainbow Sun Francks (Lt. Aiden Ford) and Joe Flanagan (Lt Colonel John Sheppard. Supernatural watchers had Jim Beaver (Bobby Singer) and Rachel Miner (Meg Masters.) Whilst those in love with Teen Wolf had the joy of meeting Max Carver (Aiden). Charlie Carver (Ethan) and Cody Christian (Theo Raeken) . For those that enjoy a little bit of fantasy and Greek gods we had Lucy Lawless (Xena) and Hudson Leick (Calisto) from Xena, Warrior Princess. Another show that is shot in New Zealand, The Shannara Chronicles brought us John Rhys Davis (Eventine Elesedil and countless other shows) and Aaron Jakubenko (Ander Elesedil). For those that like a little bit of fairy tale in their fantasy they had Eion Bailey (August) and Christie Laing (Marian) from Once Upon a Time.



Jim Beaver



Eion Bailey and Christie Laing



Hudson Leick

Also from The Flash was Rick Cosnett (Eddie Thawne). A lot of people may not know that Rick Cosnett is an Australian citizen, born in Zimbabwe, he spent his youth life in Australia and studied acting in Queensland at QUT, he has what you might call an “international” accent as on occasion he would pronounce words with an Aussie, US or Zimbabwe accent!

The con favourite was Karl Urban, Dr McCoy from the new Star Trek movies. With the new movie coming out everyone was hopeful that Karl would give a few spoilers but sadly his panel was spoiler free!

Another wonderful con weekend and no racing to the airport or flying back late at night, we love Adelaide Cons!



Rick Cosnett



OZ COMIC CON



OZ COMIC CON





<http://www.smileygidget.com/>

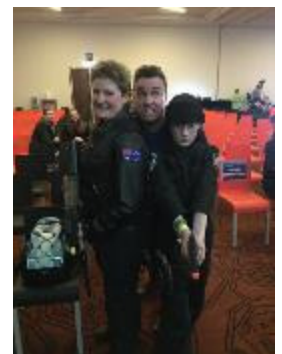
Women Talk Sci Fi: The Next Generation

Over the weekend I attended Oz Comic Con Melbourne another yearly event that hits our city, this year the show was held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre again. This particular show has been running for the least amount of time out of the Expo's run in Melbourne and I have attended the events each year and can say that over the years they have improved in most aspects some are still a little disorganised but for the majority it seems to run quite smoothly. I attended both days of the show, my main reason for going to catch up with friends and to just enjoy myself. The show had a good guest line up with John Barrowman, Robert Patrick and Eliza Taylor as some of the bigger names, although being the Stargate fan that I am, I was more interested in seeing Rachel Luttrell and Paul McGillion again, it being ten years since I last saw Rachel.

On the Saturday a friend asked me to be her wingman, she says wingman I call myself 'bag bitch'... anyway it's always more fun to do these things with friends and this friend and I we have a great dynamic when it comes to guest interactions plus we have a great time too. I also decided to wear my Stargate: Atlantis costume, I also brought along another friend for her second event experience, and introduce her more into our crazy fandom family. The event itself was very busy, the aisles were continuously packed with people walking around and most of the exhibitor stalls were busy with costumers, in fact the few exhibitors I spoke to said it was a very successful day for them. I managed to avoid buying anything from the exhibitors for almost the entire day, until right before I was leaving and an Agents of SHIELD poster caught my attention... so that came home with me!

I only attended one panel for the weekend and even that we only saw half of, it was the Stargate Atlantis panel with Rachel and Paul. At the end of the panel though Paul auctioned off some of his scripts from the show and my friend actually got one, she jumped in with a bid at the last minute and snatched it up! After the panel we walked to the stage so she could organise payment for the item and got to have a bit of a chat with them both too. In seeing Rachel she had a look on her face that she remembered me so I said "Nice to see you again Rachel, I can't believe it's been ten years since last time" she then came over and gave me a big hug and we continued to chat for a bit. A fellow fan and costumer asked me for a photo with them and when posing Paul decided to sneak into the back of the photo so that was a bit of fun. I decided as it was my first time meeting him and I was in costume that I would get a photo with Robert Patrick.

Overall Saturday was a great day, it was awesome catching up and seeing friends it was just so much fun. I also have to comment on just how much I love being a part of this amazing community that is fandom and convention attending... As my friend and I sat down having some food we were watching the people around us and I loved seeing how diverse it was, there were people from all ages and races, it was especially beautiful to see a couple in their 70s walking around together in costume, this community has just such an amazing impact on people from all walks of life and I am so extremely proud to be a part of it, it is truly amazing!



Then it was time for the Sunday, I always prefer to attend events on the Sunday because it is always the quieter of the two days and as the show winds down in the afternoon there's more chance of getting to talk to the actors when there's no queues. The plan for the day was just to hang around with other friends and catch up so that is what I did, although after a conversation with Paul the previous day I did decide that I needed to get a photo with him, and then decided to get a ten years on photo with Rachel too.

When getting my photo with Paul I walked in and asked him if he was going to do what he promised the day before which was to give me a piggy back and he was like "Yes yes definitely" and then started stretching, but it was amazing... I have given actors piggybacks before but never had one myself so this was a pretty awesome opportunity and thanks so much to Paul he was amazing... we threw up peace signs and the photo was over. Then it was time for Rachel's, she gave me a hug as I entered and then I asked her to pull a funny face with me!

I also decided to get an autograph from both Paul and Robert, so I waited until later in the afternoon as things quietened down and then got them. When lining up for Robert I got to reconnect with someone I had met at a convention years before, and it was a lot of fun to have a good chat and catch up. I had Robert autograph my Stargate shirt, my shirt that has been going 11 years strong thankfully Robert was able to find some room and signed a pocket he then asked where some other actor's autos were on it and I pointed them out. The person getting an autograph after me had a car bonnet with an absolutely amazing airbrush painting of Robert on it, it was really interesting to see the reactions from the actors upon seeing this impression piece of art that Robert then autographed.

Afterwards I got Paul to autograph the photo I had with him, which turned out fantastic! After that done I managed to catch Rachel before she left chat with her as well as getting to chat to some of the other guests. Before the event finished I decided to make one final purchase and paid the amazing Jason Palmer's stall another visit and brought myself an Agent May and Agent Carter print! I was able to catch John Barrowman on stage after his panel where I managed to take a few photos and see just how impressive John's Tim Tam Jenga tower was and although I personally didn't actually get to meet John this weekend he is definitely a crowd pleaser and adores his fans.

Overall, the weekend was a really good experience and I'm glad I went, I have some more photos to remind me of the awesomeness and it's always so great to hang with mates and other like-minded people, as I said I am so proud to be involved in such a beautiful, friendly and diverse community.



The many sides of John Barrowman





Variety was the key to this year's Supanova in Melbourne, over 18 actors covering 12 past and present TV series. There was a little something for everyone from the young to the young at heart.

The world of Doctor Whoniverse had a strong representation with three actors from Torchwood, Gareth David-Lloyd (Ianto Jones) and first timers to an Australian Con Naoko Mori (Toshiko Sato), and Burn Gorman (Owen Harper). 'Yay finally the Torchwood poster is finished.' I hear people cry. From Doctor Who itself was John Leeson the voice of K9, companion to the Fourth Doctor and Sarah Jane Smith.

For those who like watching re-run comedies from the 60s Dawn Wells, one of the last surviving members of the ill-fated 3 hour tour 'Gilligan's Island' was a real delight recalling many a story about life on the set.

No matter how many times Christopher Judge, Manu Bennett or Sean Maher visit our shores as guests they are always fan favourites. There is always a new story to hear along with a few old ones. Their lines never seem to get any less!



New to the Convention line up was Allison Mack (Chloe Sullivan) from Smallville. Even though this show finished in 2011, its popularity is still strong and Adrianne Palicki (Bobbi Morse) from Marvel's Agents of SHIELD, nice to meet the actors who play intelligent, competent, kick-ass women on the small screen.

'The 100' TV series also had a strong representation with Sachin Sahel who plays Jackson and Richard Harmon (John Murphy) endearing themselves to their fans talking with enthusiasm about the show. This is one to watch as there are a few Aussies in the show as well.



Autograph tokens were easy to purchase at the venue as a lot of people had already bought their tokens online. The collection of photos has also been fine-tuned. Now you collect a QR code after your photo session. By the time your code is scanned and you walk through the labyrinth of bunting your photo is printed and ready to take. No more waiting an hour or so for your photo to be printed and put on a table to find.





Sydney Supanova is always a hit with the fans. Despite the predicted storms and constant rain on Sunday, The Dome was filled with people in costumes, families, groups of friends and those who meet up with 'Con' friends from year to year (or Con to Con) to catch up find out news and reignite their enthusiasm for all things "geek".

As always the line-up was a Pop-culture delight. Sean Astin was a fan favourite who has a beautiful way of making each of his fans feel special and appreciated. From the movie Deadpool (a movie that has wowed the comic community) were two of its stars Stefan Kapicic ,who played Colossus and Brianna Hildebrand ,who was Negasonic Teenage Warhead.

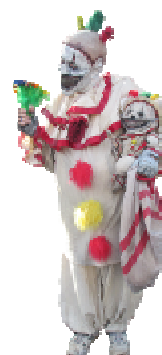
TV shows from the past were pleasingly represented with actors from Buffy The Vampire Slayer, with vampire lovers Spike (James Marsters) and Drusilla (Juliet Landau). Juliet was also promoting her documentary 'A Place Among the Dead' co-directed and produced with her husband Deverill Weekes. This documentary, about vampires in cinema, literature, and pop culture and features interviews with Tim Burton, Gary Oldman and Willem Dafoe to name few. Keep your eye out for that one. Actors from Charmed, including Shannen Doherty, Holly Marie Combs and Brian Krause were constantly signing autographs for the many fans who still enjoy the series.



There also was a fair share of Aussie talent, with actors who have travelled across the pond and have made a name for themselves in the US (even with their Aussie accents)! Victorian born Travis Fimmel, who plays Ragnar Lothbrok in Vikings and Anduin Lothar, appearing in the newly released Warcraft movie, Adelaide born Benedict Samuel, who plays Alpha Wolf, in The Walking Dead and our favourite Port Pirie born, John Noble, who played Walter Bishop in Fringe and also appeared in Sleepy Hollow as Henry Parrish) and as Sherlock's father Morland in Elementary never mind the many Aussie shows that you will have seen him in!



As always Sydney delivers a full on "geek" experience!



VALE



ANTON YELCHIN
11 March 1989 – 19 June 2016

It was hard watching the new Star Trek Beyond Movie knowing that Anton who played Pavel Chekov due to a freak accident was no longer with us. Even though it wasn't originally meant this way in the movie, Bones pinching whiskey from Chekov's locker and drinking a toast with Kirk with a symbolic third glass on the bench seemed a fitting tribute to Anton.

KENNY BAKER
24 August, 1934 – 13 August, 2016

VALE



Kenny Baker brought to life R2D2, the beloved rubbish bin shaped robot from Star Wars. He appears as R2D2 in six of the Star Wars movies and played Paploo an Ewok who steals an Imperial speeder bike in "Return of the Jedi". During "The Force Awakens", he was too ill to play R2D2, but served as a consultant during filming. 20th Century Fox posted a photograph of C-3PO standing next to Baker's Star Wars character, and wrote: "Rest in peace, Kenny Baker, the heart and soul of R2D2."

BARRY JENNER
14 January, 1941 – 9 August 2016

VALE



A wave of sadness hit a number of people in Adelaide and around the world at the news of Barry Jenner's death. Barry who played Admiral William Ross in Star Trek: Deep Space Nine came to Adelaide in 2007 to be a guest at a Terra Nova Convention along with Avery Brooks. Barry was so pleased that he had equal billing with Avery and loved the fact that we called him 'Bazza'. Due to a pair of sunglasses he bought that had flames on the side he earned the nickname 'Flamin Bazza' coined by our friend Jo Shrapnel. Throughout the convention Bazza made sure that everyone had a chance to spend time with him at that time we weren't use to actors just walking around the place talking to people. He was extremely generous with his time even when suffering from jet lag. A genuinely, lovely man, a good friend to all.



Who would have thought that a 1960s TV show that ran for 3 seasons would still be at the forefront of Sci Fi viewing 50 years later!!

In 1969 it could have easily warped into subspace never seen or mentioned again, yet it survived! The reason, the passion of the fans. The show went into syndication as viewers around the US banded together to watch the re-runs of the show. On TV at the height of the Space Race and the landing of a spaceship on the moon, fans saw in Star Trek a possibility! This was a world where you were equal no matter your ethnicity or gender, famine did not exist, there were no more human wars, (except for the odd battle against aliens from another planet and the mission of the human race was; *"To explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no one has gone before"*. (Captain Jean-Luc Picard)

Gene Roddenberry's vision of the future gave people hope that the world will be a better place. Just as the civil rights and gender equality movements that arose in the sixties also gave hope to minority groups.

Apart from gadgets that inspired inventors for items such as mobile phones and tablets we have to thank Star Trek fans for being part of the reason why we have Sci Fi conventions today. The first major Star Trek convention, "Star Trek Lives!", run by fans, was held in New York in 1972 and drew 3,000 people. The 1973 convention drew 6,000, and in 1974, 15,000 people attended with 6,000 more were turned away at the door with each of the conventions vying to have the largest number of guests from the show to appear. Most of the Original cast attended as did Gene Roddenberry, Majel Barrett and Isaac Asimov. Conventions were then organised across the US and the world changing fandom forever. Allowing fans to not only watch their favourite show, but to meet the actors who played their favourite characters.

The obsession of fans did not die out and in 1978 because of the success of "Star Wars" a Star Trek movie came to us on the big screen and the love of Star Trek again swept the world. We also had the original crew voice an animated series of the show.

With the success of the movies and the fan base now consolidated along came Star Trek: The Next Generation. A new crew, a new century, and a space ship called the Enterprise, with the baton passed new fans came to the Star Trek Universe.

The story continued with other spin offs including, Deep Space Nine, Voyager and Enterprise, each adding to the rich tapestry of the Star Trek Universe. Each series broke new ground, introduced new aliens, again stimulating the imagination.

In this 50 year the 3rd of the Alternate Universe Star Trek movies has aired, a new series will be launched in 2017 cementing the view of Gene Roddenberry's vision of a future that is genuine and inclusive.

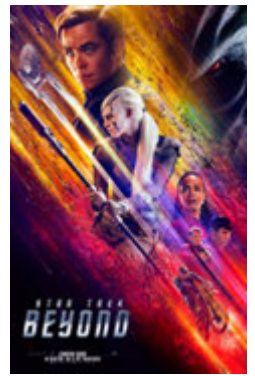
Star Trek has changed the lives of people not only through the inspiration and invention of devices seen only as ideas on the show, but the inspiration to astronauts to leave this planet and go into space. Conventions and their many forms has allowed many friendships and for some lifelong partnerships that would never have happened if it wasn't for a mutual love of the show. It has also inspired many to also take this universe and make it their own by the development of many projects that honour Roddenberry and includes, fan-fiction, live action movies and series as well as animations even music and song! Who would have thought that a show once produced by Lucille Ball's company Desilu Productions could change the world?

Star Trek may you continue to Live Long and Prosper...



Review

By Donna Reid



Let me start by saying that of the three movies in the rebooted franchise this movie was my favourite. It reminded me the most of the Star Trek original series cast movies that were made between Star Trek the Motion Picture to Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country. While I do not plan to give any spoilers, anyone who has watched the trailer knows that the Enterprise crashes on a planet and the crew are taken by the enemy, so now I can continue. There were many things that I really liked in this movie. The humour, the interactions between the characters and the fact that there was a particularly nasty antagonist grounded in Starfleet's history (yes I know Khan was, but I preferred the baddie in this movie). I liked the portrayal of Kirk as a man who was unsure of his place in life, coming to terms with the fact that he had now grown older than his father had had the chance to, but also assessing and considering his place in Starfleet and The Federation.

I enjoyed the idea of Spock trying to decide where he, too, could make the best use of his life, pursuing his Starfleet career or helping his race rebuild (well his Vulcan half anyway), and the implications this had. Trying not to give anything away, when Spock goes through Spock Prime's belongings and finds the photograph of the Original series crew I found it one of the most emotional scenes I have witnessed in Star Trek. It made me consider how many of our beloved crews we have already lost and how sad I found it. I thought that McCoy was given the vehicle to show his empathy, and also his respect for and camaraderie with his two closest friends, while still being allowed to carry on about having his atoms scrambled and berating his green blooded, pointy eared friend! But not only did the three male leads get great air time. Something that I feel is often overlooked in Star Trek is the pivotal role the women characters can play, particularly in the movies. Uhura got to show love, loyalty, sacrifice, service and even got to kick arse while contending with one of the most evil 'men' she would ever had to face.

Then there was Jaylah, another intelligent, resourceful and compassionate woman, who also got to kick arse. These are the sorts of female characters that I love to see in Star Trek. Balanced. Not just the green women, or women with tails who Kirk has to leave in bed to take an important call from Starfleet! I felt the way the screen time was shared was particularly reminiscent of The Voyage Home. I found it pleasing that Chekov had some time with Kirk and I felt that Chekov had the opportunity to 'look up' to Kirk and learn from him. Every scene with Anton was poignant though, knowing this would be the last time I saw him as Chekov on screen. Scotty was the fall guy and the saviour in equal turns. It was easy to see Simon Pegg's humour in this Montgomery Scott and although I can never quite understand the Scotty-Keenser relationship, it gets a laugh nonetheless. Last but not least, Sulu. It was a lovely idea to give Sulu a family, and to make it a same-sex relationship made it even more inclusive. The buzz was that George Takei was not big on the idea, I believe, stating that it went against Gene Roddenberry's original idea for the character, but other people have said that Gene always really wanted Sulu to be a gay character. The antagonist, Krall. His swarm was an interesting idea, (it did remind me a little of Guardians of the Galaxy) but I enjoyed watching them blow up against Yorktown's bubble after the damage they did to the Enterprise! Idris Elba was gripping. If I said too much more it would give away the motive, but I felt that his story was better than Nero and Khan in the movies.

I read the entire Memory Alpha wiki for Star Trek Beyond which is very informative if you are interested. It does mention that Simon Pegg and Doug Jung basically binge watched Star Trek original series episodes while writing the script and I think that's reflected in Beyond. The 'nods' given to the original series added to my enjoyment of this movie.

For opening night I took my family to see this movie. My husband has always been a fan but he leaves the serious fandom stuff to me. My children really enjoyed the movie and my 16 year old daughter actually came home and watched the reboot and Into Darkness to get a better background for Beyond, and then we went to see Beyond at the movies again. I enjoyed the movie just as much the second time as the first time, but for different reasons, which I think will give this movie 'legs'. In my opinion it has done a better job of appealing to a broader range of movie goers than Into Darkness, and I will definitely be seeing it on the big screen again.



Kunal Roy

Featured Author

Kunal Roy is a 22 year old from India, currently in his 4th year of his undergraduate degree in Computer Science Engineering. Having developed various interests, he draws, plays the guitar, and sings. Kunal has a keen interest in Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence (he has two research internships and two IEEE research papers in the field). He considers himself a bedroom philosopher and thinks about what he can do to make the world a happier place and works towards getting closer to being able to execute his ideas. He recently delivered his first TEDx talk, called Childish Fantasies and the video will be out soon. Lastly, he is a budding author and builds an elaborate science fiction story around a lot of his ideas and wants it to reach as many Sci Fi fans as possible!



The Plot

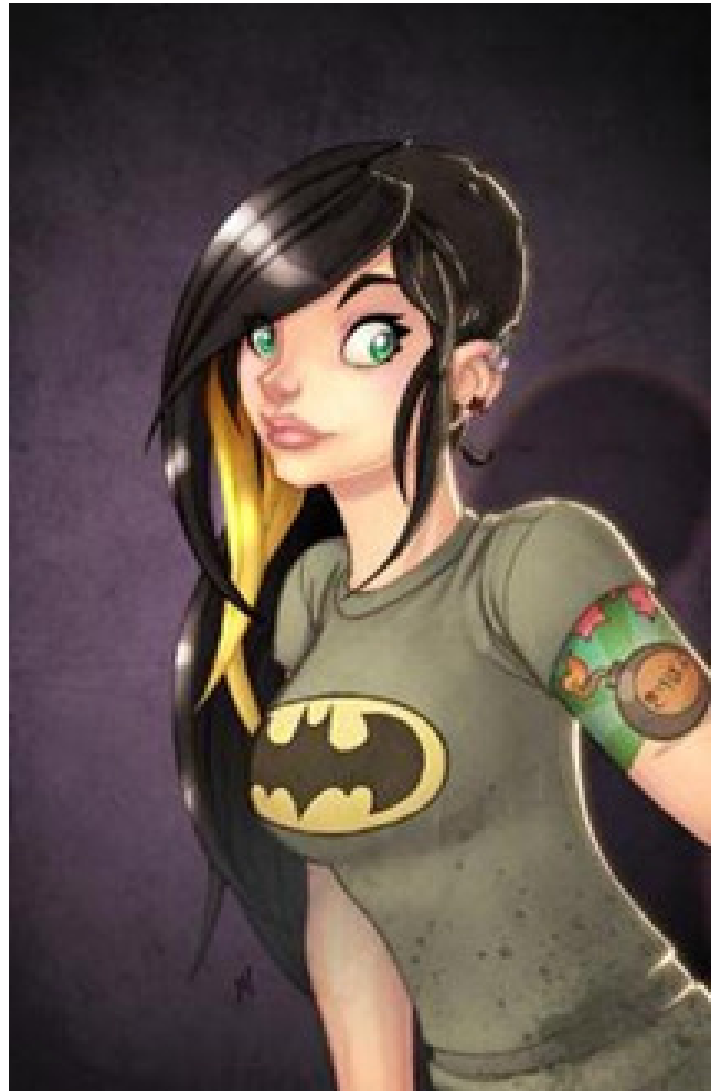
Four Weeks – The Beginning, the first book of the series has suspense, comedy, aliens, superpowers, adventure, love, friendship and some insight into human behaviour.

This sci-fi story tells us of a man who suddenly discovers that it is entirely up to him to save the Earth from the wrath of a certain alien race, though not quite ready for it as he is suddenly left without his love or his family. When his journey leads him to an alien planet, he learns about their not so perfect society, about the troublemakers and the peacekeepers, the wildlife, the traditions and the games. Though not conscious of it, he slowly becomes too involved. He mingles, makes a friend, and discovers that watching the aliens lets him imagine society back on Earth, differently. But as the threat of Earth's destruction looms, he has to filter through his many thoughts to stay focused on the enemy — thoughts about the culture of the aliens, about the overwhelming odds he faces and painful recollections of his love and family. When he gets to the end of his journey, he finds out that he has set the stage for an epic series of events.

Geek Girl Problem

#11

People not
understanding
your obsession
with Science
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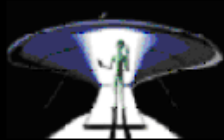


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