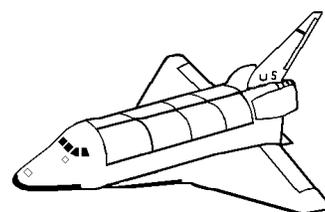


The



SHUTTLE
February 2006

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 18 February
2006 at the Regular Time and Location*

No Concom Meeting in February

There Probably Will be a Concom Meeting in March (stay tuned)

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

There will *not* be a **Con†Stellation concom meeting** in **February**. Very likely there will be a concom meeting in March, probably on Thursday the 16th (two days before the club meeting). Stay tuned for details.

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **Saturday 18 February 2006** at the **regular time** and **location**.

The **February program** is TBD at press time

The **February after-the-meeting meeting** will be at Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka's house.

NASFA Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Groundhog Day.
- 08 BD: Lin Cochran.
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
- 11 BD: Jeanna Woosley.
- 12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.

(continued on page 2)

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Deadline for the March 2006 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 3 March 2006.

Sam Smith coaxed some new hit counts for our web sites out of the server: the Con†Stellation site had 469 hits, the NASFA site had 99 hits, and the Deep South Con 40 site got 63 hits. Sam removed the ancient Deep South Con site on January 1st, but the statistics were compiled in December, so a few more hits came in. Maybe the hits to that site will end now, but I'm not holding my breath. This led to a discussion of why the DSC site still gets hits. The hits mostly came from search engine robots, but there were still a few people looking for the DSC Masquerade pages.

According to Mike Cothran, the Masquerade from a couple of years ago, with Anita and her bunnies, ranks highly in web searches for Con†Stellation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32:08 PM.

For the program, Doug carried out his threat to make the long, boring campaign speech he promised when we elected him Programming Director. It wasn't too bad, with some liberal borrowing from Monty Python sketches.

The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at Sam Smith's apartment. I'm pretty sure everybody attending read *Where's My Cow?*, the illustrated Discworld children's book by Terry Pratchett. I know I did.

SF Sags in SAGs

Genre works had been mostly overlooked in the 12th annual Screen Actors Guild Award nominations (see the January *Shuttle*) announced in early January, so their dismal total in the final awards presented 29 January 2006 came as no surprise. Arguable-genre TV show *Lost* did come away with a win in the Drama Ensemble category while more-tenuously-related *24* resulted in an Actor in a Drama Series win for Kiefer Sutherland.

Patricia Arquette (*Medium*) was shut out in the Actress in a Drama Series category, but at least that made three TV noms. No genre works were nominated for SAG Awards in any of the big-screen categories.

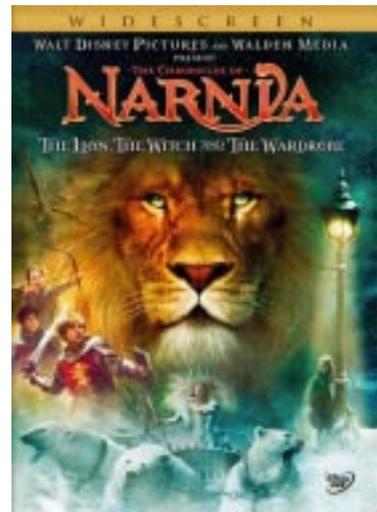
Oscar and BAFTA Noms

In this post-*LotR* era, major award nominations for genre films are relatively scarce. Nonetheless some attention was paid to sf/fantasy works in the recently announced 2005 nominations for the Academy Awards (Oscars) and the Orange British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs). As usual, genre films were very strong in some of the technical and animation



categories.

King Kong leads the pack with a total of 7 noms, including Oscar nods for Art Direction, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects plus BAFTA picks in Production Design, Sound, and Special Visual Effects. Close behind is *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* with 6 credits — Makeup, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects in the Oscars; Costume Design, Special Visual Effects, and Makeup & Hair in the BAFTAs. Then comes *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* with 5 noms. Those include 4 BAFTA noms (Production Design, Costume Design, Special Visual Effects, and Makeup & Hair) and one Oscar honor in Costume Design.



Both *Batman Begins* and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* garnered 4 nominations. *Batman* grabbed a Cinematography pick in the Oscars plus BAFTA nods for Production Design, Sound, and Special Visual Effects. *Potter*'s noms were also split one-and-three, with an Oscar nod for Art Direction plus BAFTA nods for Production Design, Special Visual Effects, and Makeup & Hair.

War of the Worlds came away with 3 Oscar noms — for Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects. *The Mysterious Geographic Explorations of Jasper Morello* received both the Oscar and BAFTA nods for Animated Short. *Wallace & Grommit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit* was picked in the Oscar Animated Feature and BAFTA Outstanding British Film of the Year categories.

Six more genre films received one nomination: *9* (Oscar Animated Short), *Badgered* (Oscar Animated Short), *Howl's Moving Castle* (Oscar Animated Feature), *Rabbit* (BAFTA Short Animation), *Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith* (Oscar Makeup), and *Tim Burton's Corpse Bride* (Oscar Animated Feature).

The 2005 Orange British Academy Film Awards (sponsored by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts) will be presented Sunday 19 February 2006 at the Odeon Leicester Square in London. The 78th Academy Awards will be presented on Sunday 5 March 2006 at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood and televised live on ABC.

Razzie Nominations Announced

If you love movies, you have to love the Razzies, dedicated to "honoring" the *worst* in movies each year. Nominations for the 2005 Golden Raspberry Awards <www.razzies.com> (the 26th annual version) were recently announced. They will be awarded on Saturday 4 March 2006 (24 hours before "those other awards") at the Ivar Theater in Hollywood CA.



Genre (sf/fantasy/horror) films *always* do “well” in the Razzie noms, and this year was no exception. *Son of the Mask* pipped out non-genre *Dukes of Hazzard* for most nominations, garnering 8 nods — Worst Screenplay, Worst Director (Law-

rence Guterman). Worst Remake Or Sequel Couple (Jamie Kennedy and *anybody* Stuck Sharing the Screen with Him), Worst Supporting Actor (2 picks: Alan Cumming and Bob Hoskins), Worst Actor (Jamie Kennedy), and (last but not least) Worst Picture.

Meanwhile, *Bewitched* be-dazzled with 5 noms — Worst Screenplay, Worst Director (Nora Ephron), Worst Remake Or Sequel, Worst Screen Couple (Will Ferrell and Nicole Kidman), and Worst Actor (Will Ferrell). *House of Wax* was no slouch either, with picks in the Worst Remake Or Sequel, Worst Supporting Actress (Paris Hilton), and Worst Picture categories. With nods for Worst Director (Ewe Boll) and Worst Actress (Tara Reid) *Alone in the Dark* stood alone among genre films in the “got zapped twice” count.

Five more genre films received a single “honor”: *Batman Begins* (Worst Supporting Actress, Katie Holmes), *Doom* (Worst Actor, The Rock), *Fantastic Four* (Worst Actress, Jessica Alba), *Star Wars III: No Sith* (Worst Supporting Actor, Hayden Christensen), and *War of the Worlds* (Worst Actor, Tom Cruise).

Though no genre films (or indeed any films) are involved, one other category deserves mention. This year the Razzies are instituting a new category for Most Tiresome Tabloid Targets (subtitled “Saluting the Celebs We’re All Sick and Tired Of!”). The nominees this year are:

- Tom Cruise and His Anti-Psychiatry Rant
- Tom Cruise, Katie Holmes, Oprah Winfrey’s Couch, The

Eiffel Tower, and “Tom’s Baby”

- Paris Hilton and... Who-ever!
- Mr. & Mrs. Britney, Their Baby, and Their Camcorder
- The Simpsons: Ashlee, Jessica, and Nick

The Fellow’s Ship, and the Thing

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 2
by PieEyedDragon

I was a little nervous; meeting with my thesis committee. They came to the decision that I had gone as far in structured schooling as I could for the time being; and what I needed for now was experience. Travels in strange lands, facing for-real conflicts, would increase my confidence and prepare me for my appointed life’s work. To this end they declared my Apprenticeship complete and bestowed upon me the title of Journeyman Mage.

Field studies were more to my taste anyway. I always had trouble with books (because of my talons). The committee could not be specific about where I was to go. Angus said that it was the nature of such things that an opportunity would present itself; perhaps forcefully.

Professor Ravensclaw observed that there were many forms this could take, but the most likely one was “Hero’s Journey.”

— O — O — O —

The whole school turned-out to see the *thing* that was happening at the coast. For the first time in ages, a sky-ship was coming down out of the high air. Skimming the waves as it gently touched down, the sails dropped and ranks of oars propelled it toward the shore. We could not see too many details on the deck. Something moved there that carried a blazingly brilliant light.

— O — O — O —

The traveller moved the light source, so we could see him better. “Greetings! From Ilúvatar and the lands of Valinor and Elvenhome. I am Eärendil the Mariner, sent here on a quest to find Thunderbird; whoever or whatever that may be.”

Angus: Greetings, bright Eärendil! Welcome to Alfheim. Bring your crew ashore and partake of our hospitality.

Eärendil: I have no crew. It is my doom to sail the skies, setting foot on no land anymore but Valinor alone. Excuse me. Do you know that there is a baby dragon behind you?

Angus: Not quite a baby, but still less that a millennium of age. (laughs) This dragon has many names. Thunderbird being the newest!.

Professor Ravensclaw: Student (to Thunderbird); I believe your ride is here...

— O — O — O —

After a suitable rest period, I boarded *Vingilot* and prepared to set sail. My luggage was no problem since I carried none. The Captain seemed completely willing to carry me back with him; but I could tell that something about me bothered him. He seemed to be familiar with dragons, though.

We had been in space for a day or two when he altered course to see the comet. They had no such around Valinor, and it was pleasing to the eye. Quite a remarkable marvel in the darkness. I confessed that I would like a closer look, too. In hindsight this was a bad idea. We got really close and found out why. A brief shudder passed thru the ship and we looked to see



art by José Sánchez

the sail and most of the mast were just... gone. A small sand bar, moving with and near the comet, had crossed our path at several thousands of miles per hour. The magical sky-sails had been anchored to the physical mast and sail; and were our main propulsion since leaving atmosphere. Eärendil looked as stricken as anyone could who had failed in performing a Holy Mission.

— O — O — O —

Thunderbird: Captain, can you repair the ship, or are we dead in space?

Eärendil: I can invoke the sky-sails again, but they must have a basis, or framework, to connect to. I have one extra sail, not enough, and no extra mast.

Thunderbird: We are in this boat together. Can I be of assistance? Wings came before sails...

Eärendil: You are my passenger... my responsibility.

Thunderbird: So, I'm willing to become your crew for the duration.

— O — O — O —

We tried a few different configurations. Finally, I sat upon the deck, grasping the mast stump with my rear claws. I held up the extra sail between my forelegs, and the Captain tied the lower corners to the railing. This was not quite enough until I spread my wings as wide as possible.

Eärendil: Are you ready, First Mate?

Thunderbird: Ready, Captain.

Eärendil: In the name of Ilúvatar... *Wings over the worlds!*

(The cold flames that wreathed the ship gathered toward me. Magical force-fans spread outward from the sail and, after a brief hesitation, from my own wings as well. We began to perceive that we were once again in directed motion. I hoped this trip would not last too long. I was losing more than a little heat from all of my exposed areas. It is very cold in space...)

— O — O — O —

Thunderbird: Captain, we have a problem.

Eärendil: What is it?

Thunderbird: I've lost so much body heat; I will soon be shutting down into hibernation; until I absorb enough heat to be revived. I think we will lose all power when my wings drop.

Eärendil: Can you keep awake for two or three days?

Thunderbird: Perhaps, if you could tell me a story.

Eärendil: Well, ah; "In a hole in the ground lived a hobbit..."

— O — O — O —

(Much too soon...) Thunderbird: Sorry, Captain. I'm unable to continue.

Eärendil: We are only two days away!

(The wings begin retracting, as the dragon starts to fold inward. Eärendil shoves the tiller hard over to shift course slightly before all impetus is lost.)

Eärendil: Heat you need; heat you shall have! Ilúvatar grant that we both survive the passage of Vasa: the Heart of Fire that awakes and consumes. Arien will surely see us; but she must guide the sun in it's regular course or many will suffer.

— O — O — O —

Elwing flew fearfully up the mountain to the great Hall... hoping that her summons did not portend disaster for her husband, Eärendil. Upon arrival, she was cautiously reassured.

Eönwë: Peace, Lady. I must tell you that we have observed a glimmer of light from the returning Silmaril. Someone is making it blink seven times, at intervals; and it is moving very, very slowly.

Elwing: Then Eärendil must have had difficulty, but is telling us he is safe and not to worry.

Eönwë: There is cause for concern. He is off course and will pass very, very close to the sun!

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J. R. R. Tolkien. (But you already knew that, didn't you?)]

Letters of Comment

LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC

Gene Wolfe
P. O. Box 69
Barrington IL 60011

20 December 2005

The postmark reads September 13th, and the first page says it the September issue; but I've just gotten around to reading it. Your NASFiC report held my interest to the end and taught me just how little I've seen and done on my several trips to Seattle, and I felt I ought to write and tell you so.

Besides, you reminded me of the time when our kids were small. When we had pizza they would, every one of them, pick off *all* the toppings and push them to one side to be scrapped off for the dogs. If I ordered anchovies or Rosemary ordered pineapple, their grim fate was the same. Olives, green peppers, onions, Italian sausage, pepperoni — it didn't matter. They refused it all.

I always thought they were nuts, and now I have a granddaughter who won't eat nuts. Serves me right.

You're going to another con pretty soon, aren't you?

[I read your letter when it arrived, but misplaced it before putting the January *Shuttle* together. Fortunately it turned up again in time to make this issue. Thanks so much for the kind words about my NASFiC article. I do put a lot of effort into the Worldcon and (when appropriate) NASFiC issues each year so it's nice when they are appreciated. The Seattle area is one of my favorite parts of the US and I suspect that showed through. My schedule of cons for 2006 is not firmly set, but likely ones include MidSouthCon (Memphis) in late March, DeepSouthCon/Trinoc*coN (Raleigh NC) in mid July, LibertyCon (Chattanooga) in late July, and Con†Stellation (right here in Huntsville) in mid October. Sadly, I won't make Worldcon either this year (LA) or next year (Yokohama) — though I do expect to go to the NASFiC (St. Louis) in 2007. -ED]

GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC

Sheryl Birkhead
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Gaithersburg MD 20882

27 January 2006

Okay... so it's almost 1/12 gone...

Yeah — postal rates went up, I know that... sorta. Now, I wait for my *postcards* to all be returned for insufficient postage — somehow I didn't hear that part.

Just watched *The Worst Witch* — supposed to be an influence on J. K. Rowling. Okay... but I can't see either Tim Curry or Charlotte Rae as a precursor to Dumbledore! Did manage to watch *War of the Worlds* — but not much else of sf import.

I'd never heard of the Wooden Rocket Awards... I would think Electronic Rocket Awards would have been more appro-

priate nomenclature. Regarding the name [of the award, that is], I've not visited any of the sites.

PED seems to have had a wonderful time just cruising.

Hmmm — now where *did* I put that envelope from the Worldcon with the numbers I need. Well, I'll find it around here somewhere. I really need to do my first run through of nominations. I can't come up with the game possibilities — but I *will* read about all those that make the ballot.

It will be interesting to see Mardi Gras celebrations this year — as people revisit the fallout from Katrina. I know it is a big celebration in areas other than New Orleans, but NO is *still* the one place we all think of, connected to Mardi Gras.

I did see *Serenity* as one of the websites mentioned for the Wooden Rocket — that's one of the movies I keep forgetting to add to my Netflix list... and the *Star Wars* movie.

Howard DeVore — RIP.

[I hadn't heard of *The Worst Witch* and still know almost nothing about it. I see on IMDB that the version you're referring to is a 1986 made-for-British-TV movie. It looks like there was also a 5-series British TV show (1998–2002) from the same source material and a revival of the same (titled *The New Worst Witch*) that started on TV there in 2005. If I understand the current plan, the official start of Mardi Gras is less than a week after this issue goes to bed and will be somewhat abbreviated from that of previous years; fewer parades over shorter routes and fewer days. Plus, at least a couple of unofficial pre-MG parades have already happened. And, the city has not yet received the significant corporate donations (can you say *naming rights*?) they had hoped for. As you say, it will be an *interesting* year. Yes, by all means add *Serenity* to your Netflix list. A perfect movie it's not, but it is interesting and quite worth watching. -ED]

EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC

Lloyd Penney
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9 February 2006

Help! I'm late! I'm late! No time to rush about like the White Rabbit, I've got to get this loc ready! Here's a late loc on the January *Shuttle*.

Congratulations to all the new (and old) officers of the Association, and serves you right. Thanks for caring enough to work hard to make the good times roll. With luck, in future years, others will be willing to step up to allow you to relax and benefit from that work.

Another great list of award nominees and winners. For

Canadians, the Aurora Awards will be handed out in July at TT20, the local media convention. Nomination ballots should be available soon, probably at Ad Astra, our local literary SF con. As soon as there is a final ballot available, I'll send you the nominee lists.

Greetings to Pie-Eyed... from what I see on television, fortunately for you, unfortunately for those who live there, there are great supplies of flames in the bush areas of California. I imagine that's the area you refer to... eat all the flames you wish! Who knows how many new planets or planetesimals we may find in our solar system... hey, scientists, just make sure they're not named after television show characters, okay?

We never did get to see the *Harry Potter* movie, and now, it's left the local theatres. I'll have to check to see when it hits the second-run and repertory theatres; we've got lots of them. Never enough time to get everything done...

As you say, Mike, Worldcon bidders always crop up in sufficient numbers. Perhaps it's just me not looking carefully enough. I still think through that in future years, we may not have any competition to bid for a year, and I am certain we will have a year with no bidders at some time. We are saving to go the LA Worldcon this year; and I think that'll be it for us. We had thought to go to the 2008 Worldcon (I expect it'll be Chicago again), but that will be our 25th anniversary year, so we are already planning a trip to Florida to visit the Space Centre.

Time to fire this off in hopes that even if it is late, it'll get into the *Shuttle*. Maybe see you then.

[Well, you just snuck into this issue, Lloyd. Please *do* keep our readers informed of the Aurora Awards nominations when they come out. As for Worldcon bidders, I hope you're a bit on the pessimistic side, at least in terms of predicting a year of no bidders. It'll happen eventually of course — nothing lasts forever — but I don't foresee it any time *too* soon. For one thing, I think there are a number of second-tier (or third- or fourth-tier) cities who either haven't bid or who lost bids in the past that would step in as a "last resort" if there were a year that threatened to have no bids at all. People would grumble loudly that Podunk (or wherever) can't possibly pull off a good Worldcon, and they might even be right. But Worldcon has survived bad cons before and I suspect it would take more than one Podunk bid-and-win to kill it off. -ED]

WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF

We received a short note from David K. Robinson saying how much he enjoys the *Shuttle* but also correcting his birthday listing in the NASFA Calendar to September 3rd. [He also indirectly notes that 2007 will see "the big 4-Oh" for him. Thank you for all your contributions to our little zine over the years, David! -ED]



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