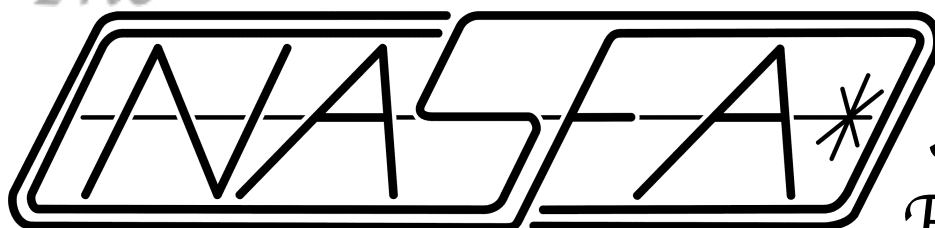


The



Shuttle

February 2009

The Next NASFA Meeting is 28 February 2009, at the Regular Time and Location

Note that this is one week later than usual  
ATMM at Mike Kennedy's house following

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Con†Stellation XXVIII Concom Meeting Sunday 15  
February 2009, 2P, Mike Kennedy's House  
(past by the time you see this, but see full list in calendar)

### ¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** is Saturday **28 February 2009** — one week later than the usual date. Other than that delay, it'll be at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Meetings are currently at BookMark, 11220-J South Memorial Parkway — at the corner of the Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive.

#### PROGRAM

The February program will be a presentation and showing of Fan Films by local fan (and member of the SF Writers Group and Cake Appreciation Society) Dan Thompson — who says that he's been a science fiction fan from the age six and that he enjoys many sub-genres but is currently fascinated by alternate history. Dan has assembled an extensive collection of SF fan films and will be sharing some of his favorites with us.

#### ATMMs

The February After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at Mike Kennedy's house — 7907 Charlotte Drive SW in Huntsville.

Directions will be available at the meeting. This is a change from the previously-announced location.

The March ATMM is scheduled for Doug and Mary Lampert's house in Meridianville — in the far north part of the metro area. We need ATMM volunteers for April and forward.

#### CONCOM MEETINGS

The second Concom Meeting for Con†Stellation XXVIII will be Sunday 15 February at 2P (past by the time this sees print) at Mike Kennedy's house — 7907 Charlotte Drive SW in Huntsville. Many Concom Meetings this year will be at Mike's house the Sunday six days before the monthly NASFA Meeting, but check the calendar elsewhere in this issue because there are several exceptions.

Remember that Con†Stellation will be about a month earlier than in the recent past so we really need to push along faster than usual this year.

#### NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties may check the calendar online but you can also subscribe to

#### Inside this issue...

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**Deadline for the March issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 6 March 2009**

that calendar and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f events) are added or changed. Contact Bill S. for details.

#### **PED ON HIATUS; PAGING SUE & STEVE**

PieEyedDragon's latest tale is on a ~4-month hiatus. The original plan was to run, in this issue, the first of three installments of Steve and Sue Francis' multi-con, multi-family-visit, multi-multi-state cross country trip report for (among many other things) last year's Worldcon. However, space problems pushed that first installment out of this issue.

The plan now is to run the travelogue in the March, April, and May issues. PED's tale should resume in the June issue, subject to exigent circumstances.

## **News and Info**

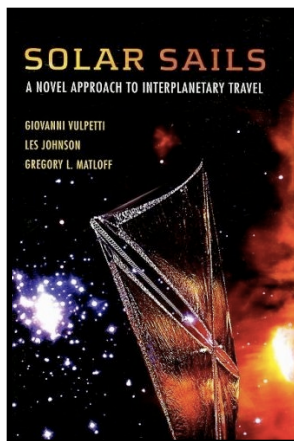
#### **HUGO NOM PROCESS ONLINE**

Anticipation, the 2009 Worldcon, had announced earlier that they would be adding the ability to make Hugo nominations online — that is now operational. Members of both Anticipation (who joined by the end of January) and last year's Worldcon (Denvercon 3) may nominate for the Hugo and Campbell Awards by mail or at <[www.anticipationsf.ca/pub/hugos/nominations.php](http://www.anticipationsf.ca/pub/hugos/nominations.php)> (or en Français at <[www.anticipationsf.ca/pub/hugos/nominations\\_fr.php](http://www.anticipationsf.ca/pub/hugos/nominations_fr.php)>).

To nominate online you'll need your membership number (technically optional, but encouraged), your full name and address as known to Anticipation, and a PIN issued by Anticipation. PINs were emailed to members whose email address was available to Anticipation in late January. If you didn't receive said email (or acquire the PIN in some other way) you can contact Anticipation at <[hugopins@anticipationsf.ca](mailto:hugopins@anticipationsf.ca)>.

#### **LOCAL AUTHOR ACHIEVEMENT**

Huntsville scientist and author Les Johnson <[www.lesjohnsonauthor.com](http://www.lesjohnsonauthor.com)> received an Honorable Mention (First Runner Up) in the Cosmology and Astronomy category of the 2008 PROSE Awards <[www.proseawards.com](http://www.proseawards.com)>, given by the Association of American Publishers honoring professional and scholarly publishing. The book, *Solar Sails: A Novel Approach to Interplanetary Travel*, was written with Giovanni Vulpetti and Gregory Matloff; and is available from many bookstores and online at such places as Amazon.com and The Missing Volume <[tinyurl.com/bhl7z2](http://tinyurl.com/bhl7z2)>.



#### **SEATTLE DROPS WORLDCON BID**

The Seattle 2011 Worldcon bid committee has announced that they are withdrawing from the race. This leaves Reno as the only bid to file the paperwork required to be on the printed ballot and thus the almost-certain winner. Write-in votes are allowed, but a write-in bid would face heavy odds against an existing and well-regarded bid.

For Seattle it came down to difficulties getting a signed, contingent contract for their preferred facilities. Various other groups (who did not have to wait for a site selection to make a final commitment) had stepped on not only Seattle's preferred

dates but "all of the reasonable dates (early August through early September)." Reading between the lines of the official announcement it sounds like there were possible alternate facilities but none that met criteria that the committee felt would work well for a Worldcon. Bid chair Bobbie DuFault closed the announcement by saying that Seattle "will be reviewing future opportunities with our potential facilities with an eye toward bidding for a subsequent year."

Seattle is hardly the first Worldcon bid to lose their facilities late in the bidding game and likely won't be the last.

#### **RODDENBERRYS TO BE SPACED**

Per Majel Barret Roddenberry's (1932-2008) expressed wishes, plans have been announced to launch ashes of both her



and husband Gene Roddenberry (1921-1991) on a rocket designed to escape Earth's gravity. *Shuttle* readers may recall that some of the ashes of Star Trek creator Roddenberry (along with those of Timothy Leary and 22 other people) were put in orbit back in 1997. That crypt-o-llite eventually

reentered and burned up in the atmosphere (as designed) once the orbit decayed sufficiently.

This new venture — like the '97 flight, a service of Texas-based Celestis Inc. — will be launched in about a year and a half, if all goes according to plan. In the meanwhile Celestis <[www.memorialspaceflights.com](http://www.memorialspaceflights.com)> is accepting tribute messages for the Roddenberrys online <[www.nameastarlive.com/roddenberry\\_message.asp](http://www.nameastarlive.com/roddenberry_message.asp)> and will include them in a digital file along with the ashes.

#### **MORE SF IN NATIONAL REGISTRY**

The Library of Congress recently added three genre films to its National Film Registry. These, and the other films in 2008's batch of 25, are thus chosen for the Library's state-of-the-art film preservation program. This group brings the Registry to a round 500 titles.

The selected genre films were *The Invisible Man* (1933), *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* (1958), and *The Terminator* (1984).

#### **NEBULA RULES CHANGE PENDING**

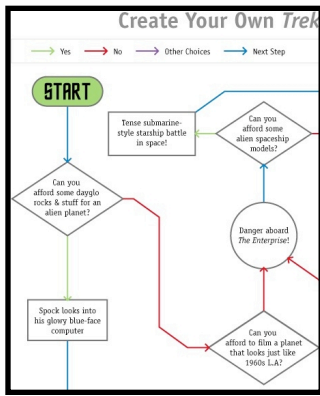
The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <[www.sfwaworld.org](http://www.sfwaworld.org)> has announced a number of rules changes <[www.sfwaworld.org/awards/rules2009.htm](http://www.sfwaworld.org/awards/rules2009.htm)> in both the nominating and final balloting rounds of the Nebula Awards. While this won't directly affect many *Shuttle* readers, the changes are nonetheless interesting. These rule changes will not affect the process currently underway for this year's awards but will take effect for all works published in 2009 and forward and thus affect the awards given in 2010 and forward.

The *Shuttle* has not undertaken a review of the changes; if you're interested in the full details check out the official SFWA site or check Cheryl Morgan's analysis at <[www.irosf.com/q/zine/article/10510](http://www.irosf.com/q/zine/article/10510)>. For a quick look, the *Shuttle* notes that various online sources are citing as significant:

- Removal of the rolling eligibility period (thus limiting eligibility to one calendar year),
- Expansion of some voting rights to other than full members,
- Elimination of the ability of jurors to add works to the final ballot (except for the Andre Norton Award for Outstanding Young Adult Science Fiction or Fantasy Book), and
- Replacement of the preferential ballot with a "vote for one, highest vote count wins" ballot.

#### **"BUILD YOUR OWN" STAR TREK EPISODE**

Web site <[io9.com](http://io9.com)> has published a flowchart (designed by



Stephanie Fox) that lets you create the plot for your very own “original” episode of *ST:TOS* <[www.io9.com/5136738/create-your-own-original-star-trek-story](http://www.io9.com/5136738/create-your-own-original-star-trek-story)>. Funny stuff. In the spirit of “fair use” the *Shuttle* is showing only a small portion of the graphic; please visit the <[io9.com](http://io9.com)> site for the full thing (or bug a friend to do so and print it for you). It’s color coded, so don’t expect to tell much from the printed (grayscale) *Shuttle*; and

if you’re going to check the online (PDF) version of the *Shuttle* (which is in color) why not just go to the source?

### KLINGONS BEHAVING BADLY

Well, OK, it was *one* Klingon-wannabe and he wasn’t all that good at being bad.

Police in Colorado Springs are on the lookout for an armed robber who hit two convenience stores (one unsuccessfully) in the wee hours of Wednesday 4 February 2009. He was wielding a Klingon bat’leth and did get away with an unspecified amount of money from the first store. The clerk in the second store refused to yield and the robber went away empty handed there.



## January Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The January meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, January 17, 2009 in the BookMark meeting room at 6:14:52P by President Mary Lampert. She started the crickets, then had to whack a chair because our usual tables were removed for the program.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

There are at least two months when we want to consider moving the club meeting. The February meeting is the day before Sam’s wedding. The March meeting is up against Mid-SouthCon. September’s meeting will conflict with “a local convention of some possible significance to a few members of the club,” namely Con†Stellation. Mike K.’s major concern with moving meetings was to keep at least four weeks between meetings, so he’ll have time to finish the *Shuttle*. Moving September’s meeting a week earlier would preserve that.

Sue moved that we move the September club meeting one week earlier, from September 19<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>. Maria seconded, and the motion carried.

Moving the February meeting a week earlier would be good for the same reason. Unfortunately, that puts it on Valentine’s Day. Mike K. asked Mary to take a census of the room, to see whether February 14<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> would be better for people. Five preferred February 14<sup>th</sup>. Four preferred February 28<sup>th</sup>. Three

didn’t care. It was basically a three-way tie.

Mike C. moved that we move the February meeting one week later, to February 28<sup>th</sup>. Bill seconded. Twelve voted in favor, and two opposed, so the motion carried.

Jim moved that we move the February meeting from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. Many opposed.

Jim moved that we move the March meeting to February 28<sup>th</sup>, and Sue seconded. In her unofficial role as Sergeant at Arms, Alice stated that motion was out of order.

Many March convention conflicts were discussed, particularly on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Ultimately, there was no motion, because the consensus was that the regular March meeting date was as good as any.

Sam said member dues are due.

Mike K. noted that as of the issue of the *Shuttle* he’d just put in the mail, he’s out of stamps from the last big bunch of “Forever” stamps he purchased. Postal rate increases are regularly scheduled in May, so rates may increase then, but that’s not certain, since they’re tied to the inflation rate. He wants to buy month-to-month again until the rate increases, then he may ask to buy another big bundle to save a few bucks. Our biggest postal cost is the convention mass-mailing, but *Shuttle* postage is a nontrivial cost.

Sue announced next month’s program. It’s not yet finalized, because she didn’t know the meeting date. She’s been speaking with someone who has made TV programs on supernatural phenomena.

Shockingly, there was no spammish business, and not even any actual mail at the PO Box.

### CON BUSINESS

According to Mike K., we have Jack McDevitt as MC. We have more confirmed concomm members, including Kevin, Randy, and Marie. We’re not ever allowing her to do the Time Warp, though.

Mike K. still owes Sue a priority list of invitees for Artist Guest of Honor.

The next con committee meeting is tentatively set for Sunday, February 22. It may stay the same date as it would have been without the club meeting change. Mike K. will think about it and look at a real calendar.

Vincent Di Fate is confirmed as the Artist GoH for 2010.

Sam reported on the state of the finances. The con lost a shade less than \$4K. Doug’s reimbursement check is still outstanding. The club still owes the con \$384.14 for postage, but can’t pay until Sam deposits the [club] dues. After that’s taken care of, the club will have lost \$87.17 last year. The recent dues increase will help that. The club still has about \$19K in CDs, so we’re not in trouble.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jack announced that the first Thursday in February the Bailey Cove Science Fiction Book Club will discuss *A Princess of Mars*, the first book in Edgar Rice Burroughs’ Mars series. Jack will be MCing the meeting. It’s listed in the *Shuttle* calendar as February 5. According to Mike C., there have been 28 different covers done for the book, in just the US alone, and 75 printings.

Sam again reminded us that dues are due!

Sam moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:39:45P.

Jim quickly auctioned off his electric water heater electric element wrench, which he bought but will probably never need again, with the proceeds going to the club. It sold for 75 cents.

The program was Dr. Travis Taylor’s presentation, “Your Brain is a Quantum Computer.” Adam and Mia hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at their house.

# NASEFA Calendar

## FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.  
01 Atlanta Comic Convention — Atlanta GA.  
02 Groundhog Day.  
05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Princess of Mars*, Edgar Rice Burroughs; 6P.  
08 BD: Lin Cochran.  
09 BD: Jack Lundy.  
10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.  
11 BD: Jeanna Woosley.  
12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.  
14 Valentine's Day.  
15 Con†Stellation XXVIII Concom Meeting, Mike Kennedy's house.  
16 President's Day.  
17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.  
20–22 Con Nooga 2009 — Chattanooga TN.  
21 BD: Susan Stockell.  
22 BD: George Washington.  
27–01 SheVaCon 17 — Roanoke VA.  
27–01 MegaCon — Orlando FL.  
28\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Dan Thompson: Fan Films. ATMM: Mike Kennedy's house. **NOTE DATE CHANGE** from the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.
- MARCH**
- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.  
05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *A Dirty Job*, Christopher Moore; 6P.  
06 Vulkan Orlando Spring Sci-Fi Expo — Orlando FL.  
08 Daylight Savings Time begins.  
09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.  
10 Purim.  
10 BD: Kerry Gilley.  
13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.  
13–15 Stellarcon 33 — High Point NC.  
13–15 Madicon 18 — Harrisonburg VA.  
14–15 MomoCon 2008 — Atlanta GA.  
15 Con†Stellation XXVIII Concom Meeting, Mike Kennedy's house.  
15 BD: Carlo DeShouten.  
17 St. Patrick's Day.  
19–22 Furry Weekend Atlanta 2009 — Atlanta GA.  
20 First Day of Spring.  
20–22 FantaSciCon '09 — Chattanooga TN.  
20–22 MidSouthCon 27 — Memphis TN.  
20–22 CoastCon XXXII — Biloxi MS.  
21\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program. Program: Paranormal Investigator from Southeastern Supernatural Assistance Team. ATMM: Doug and Mary Lampert's house.  
22 BD: Jayson Woosley.  
27–29 ImagiCon 2008 — Birmingham AL.  
27–29 Econocon 2009 — Atlanta GA.

## APRIL

- 01 April Fool's Day.  
02 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Seventh Heaven*,  
Naguib Mahfouz; 6P.  
03-05 MTAC Ninja — Nashville TN.  
07 BD: Mary Lampert.  
09 First day of Passover.  
09-12 Frolicon 2009 — Atlanta GA.

- 12 Easter Sunday.  
15 BD: Manda Freeman.  
15 BD: “Uncle Timmy” Bolgeo.  
15 Income Tax Day.  
17–19 JordanCon — Alpharetta GA.  
18\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program. Program:  
TBD. ATMM: TBD.  
19 ConfStellation XXVIII Concom Meeting, Mike Ken-  
nedy’s house. **NOTE:** Moved to this date to avoid con-  
flict with Easter.  
21 BD: Randy B. Cleary.  
22 Earth Day.  
22 Administrative Professionals’ Day.  
24 Arbor Day.  
24–26 RavenCon — Richmond VA.  
26 BD: Chloe Airoidi.  
30 BD: Mark Maxwell.

## MAY

- 01 BD: Russell McNutt.  
01-03 Costume Con 27 — Timonium MD.  
01-03 OutLantaCon — Atlanta GA.  
01-03 Dicehead Siege — Chattanooga TN.  
03 BD: Martha Knowles.  
04 May Day.  
05 Cinco de Mayo.  
07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *A Spell for Chameleon*, Piers Anthony; 6P.  
10 Mother's Day.  
14 BD: Debbie Hughes.  
14 BD: Nancy Evans (to be Evans-Whittle).  
14-17 Star Fleet Region 1 Summit — Pigeon Forge TN.  
15-17 Mobicon — Mobile AL.  
16\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.  
16 BD: Linda Bolgeo.  
16 Armed Forces Day.  
17 Con†Stellation XXVIII Concom Meeting, Mike Kennedy's house. **NOTE:** Moved to this date to avoid conflict with Mother's Day.  
19 BD: David O. Miller.  
20 BD: Mike Glicksohn.  
22-24 TimeGate — Atlanta GA.  
22-24 Oasis 22 — Orlando FL.  
22-25 Play On Con — Birmingham AL.  
22-25 Balticon 43 — Baltimore MD.  
25 Memorial Day.  
25 BD: Gail Murphree.  
27 BD: Kathy Paulk.  
29-31 ConCarolinas — Charlotte NC.

## FUTURE CONCOM MEETINGS

- 14 June  
05 July  
19 July (if needed)  
02 August  
16 August  
06 September  
17 September (Thursday, at con hotel)
- OoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOo
- The North Alabama Science Fiction Association meets on the third Saturday of each month. (Unless there is a large nearby convention being held that weekend — in which case we often move the meeting to the second or fourth weekend.) The current regular meeting location is the meeting room at BookMark on South Memorial Parkway. The Executive Committee meeting (if scheduled) is at 5P. The business meeting is at 6P. The

program is at 7P. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings. There is usually an after-the-meeting meeting with directions available at the program.

## A List of Lists

Many people love to make — and argue over — lists. Herein are a few of the odder genre-related lists that have come to the *Shuttle*'s attention of late.

### SEXIEST SF TV STARS?

Web site <tvguide.com> has published a photo essay of what they regard as TV's 15 "Sexiest Sci-Fi Stars." The list skews very strongly male (11-4) and almost as strongly to current or recent shows. Little or nothing is listed from the old Big Three broadcast networks (ABC, CBS, NBC), though that could be an artifact of a lower current output of genre shows versus the more recent broadcast networks (Fox, CW/WB/UPN) and cable-only outlets (Sci Fi Channel, BBC America).

- 15 David Duchovny (*The X-Files*)
- 14 Eliza Dushku (*Buffy, Angel, Tru Calling, Dollhouse*)
- 13 Gillian Anderson (*The X-Files*)
- 12 Katee Sackhoff (*Battlestar Galactica*)
- 11 Ben Browder (*Farscape, Stargate: SG-1*)
- 10 Nathan Fillion (*Firefly*)
- 9 John Barrowman (*Torchwood, Doctor Who*)
- 8 Joe Flanigan (*Stargate: Atlantis*)
- 7 David Tennant (*Doctor Who*)
- 6 Jamie Bamber (*Battlestar Galactica*)
- 5 Alex O'Loughlin (*Moonlight*)
- 4 Allison Mack (*Smallville*)
- 3 Tom Welling (*Smallville*)
- 2 Jared Padalecki (*Supernatural*)
- 1 Jensen Ackles (*Supernatural*)

### GOOD TRAILER; BAD MOVIE

Web site <scifiwire.com> has published their list of nine genre movies from 2008 that had great trailers but turned out to be lousy movies. Of course, YMMV — some people loved at least a couple of these movies. Now, discuss among yourselves (or better yet, send the *Shuttle* a LoC on the subject).

*In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale*  
*Jumper*  
*10,000 BC*  
*Speed Racer*  
*Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*  
*The Happening*  
*The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*  
*The X-Files: I Want to Believe*  
*Mirrors*

### THE EYES HAVE IT

Back to <tvguide.com>, this time with an illustrated list of their choices for the 17 "Best TV and Movie Characters with Eye Patches." Not all of these characters come from genre related works, but quite a few do and there were a number of borderline cases. Since just what is and is not genre related is a matter of debate, the full list follows. [With some TV shows and movies your editor considers non-genre struck out, but even then at least two of those are arguably genre-related. -ED]

~~Steve the Pirate (Alan Tudyk), Dodgeball~~  
 Emilio Largo (Adolfo Celi), *Thunderball*  
 Nadine Hurley (Wendy Robie), *Twin Peaks*  
~~Vernon Schilling (J. K. Simmons), *Oz*~~  
~~Daniel "Big Dan" Teague (John Goodman), *O Brother Where Art Thou?*~~  
 One-Eyed Willie, *Goonies*

Mikhail Bakunin (Andrew Divoff), *Lost*  
 Snake Plissken (Kurt Russell), *Escape from New York*  
 Alastor "Mad-Eye" Moody (Brendan Gleeson), *The Harry Potter Series*  
 Colonel Saul Tigh (Michael Hogan), *Battlestar Galactica*  
 Ragetti (Mackenzie Crook), *The Pirates of Caribbean Trilogy*  
 Number Two (Robert Wagner), *The Austin Powers Trilogy*  
 Commander Francesca "Franky" Cook (Angelina Jolie), *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*  
 Lilly Charles (Swoosie Kurtz), *Pushing Daisies*  
~~Steve "Patch" Johnson (Stephen Nichols), *Days of our Lives*~~  
~~Elle Driver (Darryl Hannah), *Kill Bill*~~  
~~Claus von Stauffenberg (Tom Cruise), *Vallarie*~~

### 2009's REMAKES, ADAPTATIONS, PREQUELS, AND SEQUELS

Web site <www.ctv.ca> recently published a list of 25 movies to be released in 2009 that they labeled as remakes. Well, not quite. Some are outright remakes but many are adaptations from other media, or are prequels/sequels. Possibly not surprising to *Shuttle* readers, a large percentage of these movies are genre or genre related (albeit some of the ones we list quite distantly related). In order of projected release date (per IMBD), the 19 (76% of the original list!) we choose to pass on are:

*Watchmen* (6 March 2009) — Adaptation shows what the Cold War might have been like with Superheroes.  
*Monsters vs. Aliens* (27 March 2009) — Animated pic "inspired by" '50s monster movies has Earth defended by homegrown monsters.  
*X-Men Origins: Wolverine* (1 May 2009) — Hugh Jackman gets to bare both his claws and his chest. Again.  
*Star Trek* (8 May 2009) — The iconic series tries a reboot. Hmm... Sylar as Spock?  
*Angels & Demons* (15 May 2009) — Not really genre, but anything featuring the Illuminati has to be related, eh?  
*Terminator Salvation* (22 May 2009) — Rumors abound that the Governator will appear in a cameo or voice role. Don't hold your breath.  
*Night at the Museum 2: Battle of the Smithsonian* (22 May 2009) — More madcap hilarity. Um, we guess.  
*The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus* (6 June 2009, UK) — Helmer Terry Gilliam revisits the Faust mythology.  
*Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* (26 June 2009) — The Decepticons strike again. And probably lose again.  
*Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs* (1 July 2009) — Moviemaking trumps facts as animated dinos and mammals cross paths.  
*Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (17 July 2009) — Harry's in his 6<sup>th</sup> year at Hogwarts.  
*G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra* (7 August 2009) — Even with high-tech weapons it Isn't Easy Being Green. Or Olive Drab.  
*Dorian Gray* (11 September 2009, UK) — Bust it out for Oscar Wilde!  
*The Wolf Man* (6 November 2009) — The Hairy One in a re-re-re-remake.  
*2012* (13 November 2009) — Oh, those pesky Mayans; the apocalypse is upon us. Watch out for several movies with similar titles.  
*Sherlock Holmes* (13 November 2009) — Yeah, yeah, Holmes is non-genre. But we just *had* to list it anyway.  
*Nine* (25 November 2009) — Remaking 8½ (Federico Fellini) is ballsy which, with slight fantastical elements (at least is the original), pushed it into our extract.  
*The Lovely Bones* (11 December 2009) — Maybe not really genre, but with a dead narrator how can it not be related?  
*Avatar* (18 December 2009) — Director James Cameron claims inspiration from "every single science fiction book

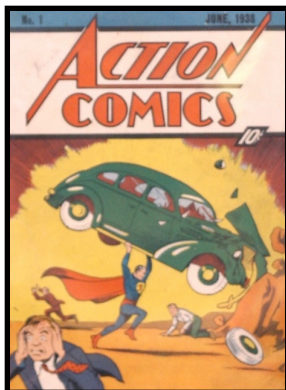


I read as a kid” and particularly cites Burroughs’ John Carter series. To be clear, this is *not* an adaptation of the similarly-named animated TV series.

### TOPDOG COMICS

Web site <io9.com> recently published a list of the 10 most expensive comics they found at the New York City Comic Con. From least to most expensive they were:

- 10 *Fantastic Four* #4 — \$15,000
- 9 *All-American Comics* #16 — \$21,000
- 8 *Detective Comics* #38 — \$39,000
- 7 *Marvel Comics* #1 — \$40,000
- 6 *Superman* #1 (Restored) — \$45,000
- 5 *Amazing Fantasy* #15 — \$57,500
- 4 *Amazing Fantasy* #15 (yes, again, but graded higher) — \$78,000
- 3 *Amazing Spider-Man* #1 — \$80,000–\$90,000
- 2 *Human Torch* #2 — “Hoping to reach \$100,000+” at an upcoming auction
- 1 *Action Comics* #1 — “\$250,000 to Priceless” at an upcoming auction



## ALA Honors Announced

At their Midwinter Meeting in Denver the American Library Association <www.ala.org> and the Young Adult Library Services Association (a function of the ALA) announced winners of a number of honors, including the prestigious John Newberry Medal; with genre and related authors featuring quite prominently. In most of the ALA categories a Medal or Award winner is chosen, typically along with several Honor Books. The YALSA Alex Award is an unranked list.

The **Newberry Medal** (for “the most distinguished contribution to children’s literature”) went this year to **Neil Gaiman**, for *The Graveyard Book* (illustrated by Dave McKean, published by HarperCollins Children’s Books). At least two of the four **Newberry Honor Books** are also genre related, Kathi Appelt’s *The Underneath* (magical realism) and Ingrid Law’s *Savvy* (outright magic).

The winner of the **Michael L. Printz Award** (for young adult literature) was non-genre, but two of the four **Printz Honor Books** are genre-related, at least insofar as author is concerned — *Nation* (Terry Pratchett) and *Tender Morsels* (Margo Lanagan) — the latter being out-and-out fantasy.

None of the various **Coretta Scott King Book Awards** (for African American authors and illustrators) were genre, but one of the **King Illustrator Honor Books** — *The Moon Over Star* (written by Dianna Hutts Aston, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, published by Dial Books for Young Readers) — was inspired by the Apollo 11 moon landing, so it probably squeaks in as genre-related.

Many of the **Theodor Seuss Geisel Award** (for beginning readers) and **Geisel Honor Books** aren’t really *quite* genre, but do feature anthropomorphic characters. The winner, *Are You Ready to Play Outside?* (written and illustrated by Mo Willems, published by Hyperion Books for Children), for instance, features “an optimistic (and sometimes reckless) pig and a cautious, pessimistic elephant.”

At least one of the **Pura Belpré Awards** (for Latino authors and illustrators) is genre related — the magical realism *Just in Case* (illustrated by Yuyi Morales, published by Roaring Brook Press) took the **Belpré Illustrator Award**.

Fantasy *Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit* (translated from Japanese) took the **Mildred L. Batchelder Award** for the most outstanding children’s book originally published in a language other than English in a country other than the United States, and subsequently translated into English for publication in the United States. One of the two **Batchelder Honor Books**, *Tiger Moon* (translated from German), is also a fantasy.

The **Odyssey Award for Excellence in Audiobook Production** went to a distinctly non-genre book, but one of the five **Odyssey Honor Audiobooks**, *I’m Dirty!* (written by Kate and Jim McMullan, narrated by Steve Buscemi, produced by Weston Woods Studios), features anthropomorphized construction equipment and another, *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale* (written and narrated by Carmen Agra Deedy, produced by Peachtree Publishers), anthropomorphizes less savory things. A third genre-related **Odyssey Honor** went to *Nation* (written by Terry Pratchett, narrated by Stephen Briggs, produced by HarperChildren’s Audio/HarperCollins Publishers).

The inaugural **William C. Morris Award** (for a previously unpublished author) went to supernatural novel *A Curse Dark as Gold* (Elizabeth C. Bunce) — a retelling of the Rumpelstiltskin story.

And finally, in the YALSA **Alex Awards** list of the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences, at least three of them are genre/related — *The Dragons of Babel* (Michael Swanwick), *Just After Sunset: Stories* (Stephen King), and *Sharp Teeth* (Toby Barlow).

## Stoker Preliminary Noms

The Preliminary Ballot for the Horror Writers Association <www.horror.org> Bram Stoker Awards (“for Superior Achievement” in horror and related writing) has surfaced. Winners will be announced and the awards presented at a banquet during HWA’s Stoker Award Weekend, to be held 12–14 June 2009 at the Burbank Marriott Hotel. At that same banquet, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro and F. Paul Wilson will be presented with separate Lifetime Achievement Awards from HWA. In the competitive categories the Stoker nominees include:

### NOVEL

*Coffin County*, Gary Braunbeck (Leisure)  
*The Shadow Year*, Jeffrey Ford (William Morrow)  
*Ghost Walk*, Brian Keene (Leisure)  
*The Reach*, Nate Kenyon (Leisure)  
*Duma Key*, Stephen King (Scribner)  
*Johnny Gruesome*, Gregory Lamberson (Bad Moon/Medallion)  
*Water Witch*, Deborah Leblanc (Dorchester/Leisure)  
*Bad Moon Rising*, Jonathan Maberry (Pinnacle)  
*Dead and Gone*, Harry Shannon (Delirium Books)  
*The Price*, Alexandra Sokoloff (St. Martins)  
*The Man on the Ceiling*, Steve Rasnic Tem and Melanie Tem (Wizards of the Coast)

### FIRST NOVEL

*Bestial: Werewolf Apocalypse*, William D. Carl (Permuted Press)  
*Apricot Brandy*, Lynn César (Juno Books)  
*Midnight on Mourn Street*, Christopher Conlon (Earthling Publications)  
*Veins*, Lawrence C. Connolly (Fantasist Enterprises)

*Eternal Vigilance*, Gabrielle S. Faust (Immanion Press)  
*The Gentling Box*, Lisa Mannetti (Dark Hart Press)  
*Monster Behind the Wheel*, Michael McCarty and Mark McLaughlin (Delirium Books)  
*Frozen Blood*, Joel A. Sutherland (Lachesis Publishing)  
*Crimson Orgy*, Austin Williams (Borderlands Press)

### LONG FICTION

"The Lagerstatte," Laird Barron (*The Del Rey Book of Science Fiction and Fantasy*)  
*The Shallow End of the Pool*, Adam-Troy Castro (Creeping Hemlock)  
*Miranda*, John R. Little (Bad Moon Books)  
*Redemption Roadshow*, Weston Ochse (Burning Effigy)  
*The Confessions of St. Zach*, Gene O'Neill (Bad Moon Books)  
*Orpheus and the Pearl*, Kim Paffenroth (Magus Press)  
"Behold the Child," Harry Shannon (*Brimstone Turnpike*)  
*Just Like Hell*, Nate Southard (Thunderstorm Books)  
*Population Zero*, Wrath James White (Cargo Cult Press)  
*Orgy of Souls*, Wrath James White and Maurice Broaddus (Apex Book Company)

### SHORT FICTION

"The Last Word," Maria Alexander (*Sins of the Sirens*)  
"Mama Strangelove's Remedies for Afterlife Disorders, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Mother Death," C. Dean Andersson (*Brutarian*)  
"Consumed," Michael Louis Calvillo (*Horror Library*, Vol. 3)  
"Petrified," Scott Edelman (*Desolate Souls*)  
"Mechanix," Christopher Fulbright (*Bound for Evil*)  
*The Lost*, Sarah Langan (Cemetery Dance Publications)  
"The Dude Who Collected Lovecraft," Nick Mamatas and Tim Pratt (*Chizine*)  
"The Haven," John Palisano (*Horror Library*, Vol. 3)  
"Turtle," Lee Thomas (*Doorways*)  
"The Blog at the End of the World," Paul Tremblay (*Chizine*)  
"Those Eyes," Mark W. Worthen (*Thinner Than Mist*)

### ANTHOLOGY

*The Undead: Headshot Quartet*, Christina Bivins and Lane Adamson, eds. (Permuted Press)  
*Like a Chinese Tattoo*, Bill Breedlove, ed. (Dark Arts Books)  
*Horror Library*, Vol. 3, R. J. Cavender, ed. (Cutting Block Press)  
*Abominations*, Tim Deal, ed. (Shroud Publishing)  
*Beneath the Surface*, Tim Deal, ed. (Shroud Publishing)  
*Unspeakable Horrors*, Vince A. Liaguno and Chad Helder, eds. (Dark Scribe Press)

### COLLECTION

*The Number 121 to Pennsylvania*, Kealan Patrick Burke (Cemetery Dance Publications)  
*Mama's Boy and Other Dark Tales*, Fran Friel (Apex Publications)  
*Just After Sunset*, Stephen King (Scribner)  
*Little Creatures*, Michael McCarty (Sam's Dot Publishing)  
*Other Gods*, Stephen Mark Rainey (Dark Regions Press)  
*The Autopsy and Other Tales*, Michael Shea (Centipede Press)  
*Sheep and Wolves*, Jeremy C. Shipp (Raw Dog Screaming Press)  
*Fourtold*, Michael Stone (Baysgarth Publications)  
*Gleefully Macabre Tales*, Jeff Strand (Delirium)  
*Ennui and Other States of Madness*, David Niall Wilson (Dark Regions Press)

### NONFICTION

*Bram Stoker's Notes for Dracula*, Robert Eighteen-Bisang and Elizabeth Miller (McFarland)  
*Shadows Over New England*, David Goudsward and Scott T. Goudsward (BearManor Media)

*Spirits and Death in Niagara*, Marcy Italiano (Schiffer Publishing)

*The New Annotated Dracula*, Leslie S. Klinger (W. W. Norton)  
*Beauty and Dynamite*, Alethea Kontis (Apex Publications)  
*Cheap Scares*, Gregory Lamberson (McFarland)  
*Zombie CSU*, Jonathan Maberry (Citadel)  
*Modern Mythmakers*, Michael McCarty (McFarland)  
*A Hallowe'en Anthology*, Lisa Morton (McFarland)  
*The Book of Lists: Horror*, Amy Wallace, Del Howison, and Scott Bradley (Harper)

### POETRY COLLECTION

*The Nightmare Collection*, Bruce Boston (Dark Regions Press)  
*The Phantom World*, Gary William Crawford (Sam's Dot Publishing)  
*Virgin of the Apocalypse*, Corrine De Winter (Sam's Dot Publishing)  
*The Flayed Man and Other Poems*, Phillip A. Ellis (Gothic Press)  
*Attack of the Two-Headed Poetry Monster*, Mark McLaughlin and Michael McCarty (Skullvines Press)  
*Ghosts of Past and Future*, Darrell Schweitzer (Borgo)

## Oscar Noms Released

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences released the nominations for the 81<sup>st</sup> annual Oscars on Thursday 22 January 2009. Winners will be announced at a ceremony to be broadcast live on ABC Sunday 22 February at 7P Central from Hollywood's Kodak Theater.

As usual, genre and related films accumulated quite a few nominations in the technical and animation categories, but they did manage a few mentions in the headline categories as well. There were some disappointments, as both *The Dark Knight* and *WALL-E* had at least (far) outside chances at Best Picture noms, which neither got. *DK* also was seen by it's fans as having some chance for honor in the directing and writing categories, but no soap there, either.

Genre-related *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* did lead all films this year with 13 nominations, including in the headline categories of Best Picture and Directing plus two of the acting categories — Leading Actor (Brad Pitt) and Supporting Actress (Taraji P. Henson). Their other noms were for Adapted Screenplay, Art Direction, Cinematography, Costume Design, Film Editing, Makeup, Original Score, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects.

*The Dark Knight* tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in total nominations with 8, though only one was in a headline category (Heath Ledger for Supporting Actor). Their other recognitions were for Art Direction, Cinematography, Film Editing, Makeup, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects.

Though shut out for a [well deserved, IMHO! -ED] Best Picture nom, *WALL-E* still did well with 6 nods for 5<sup>th</sup> place overall. Their biggest honor came with an Animated Feature Film nomination, but they also scored nods in the Original Score, Original Screenplay, Original Song ("Down to Earth"), Sound Editing, and Sound Mixing categories.

The only other genre or related film with multiple noms was *Iron Man*, with nods for both Sound Editing and Visual Effects. Six additional genre and related films copped a single nom: *Bolt* and *Kung Fu Panda* for Animated Feature Film; *Hellboy II: The Golden Army* for Makeup; and *Oktapodi*, *Presto*, and *This Way Up* for Animated Short Film.

## Razzies Noms

Nominations for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden Raspberry Awards were announced 21 January 2009. The Razzies <[www.razzies.com](http://www.razzies.com)> “celebrate” the worst in cinema and — as something of a counterpoint to the Oscars — both the nominations and awards are timed to be just a day earlier than the corresponding Big O’s events. The Razzies are voted on by members of the Golden Raspberry Award Foundation (which could include you if you have a minimum of \$25 in your pocket).



Genre and genre-related films usually (and perhaps sadly) score rather “well” in the Razzies noms. This year they may have fallen down on the job just a bit, but did scare up at least one nod in each category and a “win” in the new-for-this-year Special Category of Worst Career Achievement. That “prize” will be presented, and the other Razzies both announced and presented, during a 7:30P (Pacific) ceremony Saturday 21 February 2009 at Hollywood’s Barnsdall Gallery Theatre.

“Leading” genre-related movies with four and two half nominations was *In The Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale*. They received “honors” in the Worst Picture, Worst Screenplay (Doug Taylor), Worst Supporting Actor (Burt Reynolds), Worst Supporting Actress (Leelee Sobieski), Worst Director (Uwe Boll), and Worst Screen Couple (Uwe Boll and any Actor, Camera, or Screenplay) categories. Both *King* and *Uwe Boll’s Postal* were mentioned in the latter two categories.

Speaking of *Postal*, they made a “strong” showing, coping two and two half noms, in the Worst Supporting Actor (Uwe Boll, as Himself), Worst Supporting Actor (again!, this one for Verne Troyer), Worst Screen Couple (Uwe Boll and any Actor, Camera, or Screenplay), and Worst Director (Uwe Boll) categories. Those last two nods were, as before, shared between *Postal* and *King*.

*Postal* was eclipsed, however, for second place in the genre-related list, as *The Happening* was “awarded” four unshared noms in the Worst Actor (Mark Wahlberg), Worst Director (M. Night Shyamalan), Worst Picture, and Worst Screenplay (M. Night Shyamalan) categories.

Fourth up in the genre-related Razzie “hit” parade was *Meet Dave* with two noms; in the Worst Actor (Eddie Murphy) and Worst Screen Couple (Eddie Murphy in Eddie Murphy) categories.

Six additional genre-related films “achieved” a single nom — *The Day The Earth Blowed Up Real Good* (Worst Prequel, Remake, Rip-Off, or Sequel), *The Eye* (Worst Actress, Jessica Alba), *Indiana Jones and The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* (Worst Prequel, Remake, Rip-Off, or Sequel), *Repo! The Genetic Opera* (Worst Supporting Actress, Paris Hilton), *Speed Racer* (Worst Prequel, Remake, Rip-Off, or Sequel), and *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (Worst Prequel, Remake, Rip-Off, or Sequel).

And finally, in that Special Worst Career Achievement category, the “winner” has been announced as Uwe Boll who was responsible for non-genre 1968: *Tunnel Rats* as well as “memorable” genre works *In The Name of the King* and *Postal* this year. For good measure, the Razzie noms list even invoked the memory of *Plan 9 from Outer Space* by calling Boll “Germany’s answer to Ed Wood.”

## Awards Roundup

### MORE POTENTIAL DICKHEADS

And yes, that’s what the winners of the annual Philip K. Dick Award <[www.philipkdickaward.org](http://www.philipkdickaward.org)> are unofficially (and affectionately) called — at least by self-appointed wags in the genre community.

The PKD Award was conceived by Thomas M. Disch to honor the memory of Philip K. Dick by rewarding “a distinguished original science fiction paperback published for the first time during the award year in the U.S.A.” The juried award is now supported by the Philip K. Dick Trust and sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society <[www.psfs.org](http://www.psfs.org)>. The ceremony is sponsored by Norwescon <[www.norwescon.org](http://www.norwescon.org)> and it’s parent organization the Northwest Science Fiction Society.

Jurors for this year’s award (for books from calendar year 2008) are Tobias Buckell, M. M. Buckner (chair), Walter Hunt, Rosemary Kirstein, and Bill Senior. Nominees for this year are:

*Emissaries from the Dead*, Adam-Troy Castro (Eos Books)

*Fast Forward 2*, Lou Anders, ed. (Pyr)

*Judge*, Karen Traviss (Eos Books)

*Plague War*, Jeff Carlson (Ace Books)

*Terminal Mind*, David Walton (Meadowhawk Press)

*Time Machines Repaired While-U-Wait*, K. A. Bedford (EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing)

The winner and any special citations will be announced on Friday 10 April at Norwescon 32, to be held at the Doubletree Seattle Airport Hotel in SeaTac WA.

### IAFA CRAWFORD AWARD

The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts <[wiz.cath.vt.edu/iafa/iafa.htm](http://wiz.cath.vt.edu/iafa/iafa.htm)> gives several awards annually, including the juried William L. Crawford Fantasy Award for “an outstanding new writer whose first fantasy book was published during the previous calendar year.” While not specifically a First Novel award, the name of the qualifying first fantasy book is listed along with the awardee’s name. The winner and additional shortlist entries are announced simultaneously. The award is presented at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (aka the IAFA Conference), to be held this year 18–22 March 2009 at the Orlando Airport Marriott.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Crawford winner is **Daryl Gregory**, for *Pandemonium* (Del Rey). The other shortlist entries were Doug Dorst (*Alive in Necropolis* (Riverhead)), David Schwartz (*Superpowers* (Three Rivers)), Felix Gilman (*Thunderer* (Bantam Spectra)), and J. M. McDermott (*Last Dragon* (Wizards of the Coast)). Although published in late December 2007, the Gilman novel was deemed eligible for consideration because it appeared too late for consideration in 2008.

The award is currently administered by Gary K. Wolfe. This year’s jury (styled as a “panel of nominators”) included Niall Harrison, Kelly Link, Farah Mendlesohn, Cheryl Morgan, Graham Sleight, and Paul Witcover.

### PGA AWARDS

The Producers Guild of America <[www.producersguild.org](http://www.producersguild.org)> announced the winners of their 2008 TV and movie awards on Saturday 24 January 2009. The only genre winner was **WALL-E**, in the Animated Theatrical Motion Picture category. A genre win was a shoo-in there as the other two nominees were *Bolt* and *Kung Fu Panda*.

Two genre-related movies (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* and *The Dark Knight*) had been nominated for the headline Darryl F. Zanuck Producer of the Year Award (theatrical films) but lost to *Slumdog Millionaire*. The only genre-



related TV nominee had been *24: Redemption*, but it fell to HBO's *John Adams* in the Long-Form Television category.

#### SAG AWARDS

The Screen Actors Guild <[www.sag.org](http://www.sag.org)> announced the winners of their 15<sup>th</sup> annual SAG Awards on Sunday 25 January 2009 during a ceremony cablecast live from Los Angeles' Shrine Exhibition Center. In the theatrical motion picture categories *The Dark Knight* took two awards, for Stunt Ensemble and for Supporting Actor (Heath Ledger, Joker), the only two categories in which it had received a nomination. *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* had led genre/related films with three noms (Supporting Actress, Lead Actor, and "the big one": Ensemble Cast), but was shut out. This continues something of a trend in which *Button* had received several noms but took home no trophies in both the Critics' Choice and Golden Globe Awards. [And that trend continued further in the WGAs below, though the BAFTAs broke the trend. -ED]

In the TV categories, genre works had received little love in the noms; but *Heroes* did take home the TV Stunt Ensemble prize.

**James Earl Jones** received the 45<sup>th</sup> SAG Life Achievement Award (previously announced). His work includes several iconic genre and related roles, some of which (the voices of Darth Vader in *Star Wars* and King Mufasa in several *Lion King* films, Lt. Zogg in *Dr. Strangelove*, and more) were featured in his introduction during the event.

#### WGAs NOT DOWN WITH BUTTON

The Writers Guild of America <[www.wga.org](http://www.wga.org)> announced the 2009 Writers Guild Awards (for "outstanding achievement in writing for screen, television, radio, news, promotional, and videogame writing") at ceremonies held simultaneously at Los Angeles' Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel and NYC's Hudson Theatre at the Millennium Broadway Hotel on Saturday 7 February 2009. There was not much love for sf/f/h this year.

Genre films had received two noms in the Adapted Screenplay (movie) category (for *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* and *The Dark Knight*) but lost to non-genre *Slumdog Millionaire*. In the numerous TV categories, genre shows had received a new noms but came away with only one win for the sort-of-related *Elmo's Christmas Countdown* in the Children's Episodic and Specials category.

Outside of the mainstream TV and movie categories, genre items picked up two more wins. In the On-Air Promotion (Radio or Television) category *Jericho: Two-Minute Drills* took home the prize, while *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed* won in the Videogame Writing category.

#### BAFTA AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts <[www.bafta.org](http://www.bafta.org)> announced the winners of the 2009 Orange British Academy Film Awards on Sunday 8 February 2009 at a ceremony in the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Genre and related films came away with six wins — multi-multi-nominated *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* led with three of those though they were shut out in the major categories by the *Slumdog Millionaire* juggernaut. *Button* won for Production Design, Make Up & Hair, and Special Visual Effects.

The other three genre/related wins went to *The Dark Knight* (Supporting Actor, **Heath Ledger**), *WALL-E* (Animated Film), and *Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death* (Short Animation).

Also leaning into the sf/f column, the previously-announced Academy Fellowship was awarded to **Terry Gilliam**. His work has included such genre/related fare as *Brazil*, *Baron Munchausen*, and *Time Bandits*.

#### ALA BEST GENRE FICTION

The American Library Association <[www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)> has published their 2009 Reading List of recommended titles in various genres (for works published in 2008). Each list includes a winner plus a short list of other worthy titles and a list of "read-alikes" from previous years. The full list is available online at <[tinyurl.com/db26rp](http://tinyurl.com/db26rp)>. Winners and short-list runners up in the sf/f/h categories are:

**Fantasy Winner**..... *Veil of Gold*, Kim Wilkins (Tor)

**Fantasy Shortlist**..... *The House of the Stag*, Kage Baker; *Ink and Steel*, Elizabeth Bear; *Shadowbridge*, Gregory Frost; and *Small Favor*, Jim Butcher

**Horror Winner**..... *Sharp Teeth*, Toby Barlow (Harper)

**Horror Shortlist**..... *Coffin County*, Gary A. Braunbeck; *Infected*, Scott Sigler; *The Killing Circle*, Andrew Pyper; and *The Wolfman*, Nicholas Peckaro

**Science Fiction Winner**..... *Hunter's Run*, George R. R. Martin, Gardner Dozois, and Daniel Abraham (Eos)

**Science Fiction Shortlist**..... *The Automatic Detective*, A. Lee Martinez; *City at the End of Time*, Greg Bear; *Matter*, Iain M. Banks; and *A World Too Near*, Kay Kenyon

#### AUDIE NOMS RELEASED

The Audio Publishers Association <[www.audiopub.org](http://www.audiopub.org)> released (perhaps ironically, in print) a list of the nominees for the 2009 Audies — for spoken-word entertainment published in 2008. With over 30 categories, genre and related works snuck in several places outside the Science Fiction/Fantasy category (nominees for which are listed below). Web site <[sfawardswatch.com](http://sfawardswatch.com)> notes outliers by Neil Gaiman, Homer, L. Ron Hubbard, Stephen King, Terry Pratchett, Salman Rushdie, J. R. R. Tolkien, Kurt Vonnegut, Oscar Wilde, and a big group for the audiobook anthology *Metropolis* (Elizabeth Bear, Tobias Buckell, Jay Lake, John Scalzi, and Karl Schroeder). Winners will be announced 29 May 2009 at a ceremony at the New-York Historical Society in NYC. In the SF/F category the nominees are:

*Sunrise Alley*, Catherine Asaro (narrated by Hillary Huber, Blackstone Audio, Inc.)

*Childhood's End*, Arthur C. Clarke (narrated by Eric Michael Summerer, Audible, Inc.)

*Ghost Radio*, Leopoldo Gout (narrated by Pedro Pascal, HarperAudio)

*Skybreaker*, Kenneth Oppel (narrated by David Kelly, Full Cast Audio)

*Calculating God*, Robert J. Sawyer (narrated by Jonathan Davis, Audible, Inc.)

#### CLARKE LONGLIST RELEASED

The Arthur C. Clarke Award <[www.clarkeaward.com](http://www.clarkeaward.com)> — which advertises itself as "the UK's premier prize for science fiction literature" — has broken with their tradition and announced the longlist of works submitted to the judges and eligible for the shortlist (to be announced in March). The lengthy longlist is available online in several places including <[tinyurl.com/cpwvtj](http://tinyurl.com/cpwvtj)>. Eligibility is limited to full-length science fiction novels in English, published in the UK in the preceding calendar year.

#### ANNIES WALLOP WALL-E

The Annie Awards <[www.annieawards.org](http://www.annieawards.org)> (for animated works and individual achievements in animation) are given by ASIFA-Hollywood, the Los Angeles chapter of the Association Internationale du Film D'Animation (the International Animated Film Society). The 36<sup>th</sup> annual Annies (for work in 2008) were announced Friday 30 January 2009 during a ceremony at Royce Hall on the campus of UCLA. In somewhat of an upset, critical [and personal -ED] favorite *WALL-E* was shut

out in all categories. On the other hand, the Annies absolutely adored *Kung Fu Panda*.

Not all animated films, TV shows, commercials, etc. are genre, of course, but many are and many others are at least arguably genre related. In the spirit of inclusion (and of not having to make difficult borderline calls) the *Shuttle* will list all winners. The Annies are divided into three major categories, for productions, for individual achievements (tied to a single production), and juried awards (in theory not tied to any particular production). The winners are:

#### Annies Production Categories

**Best Animated Feature.....***Kung Fu Panda* (DreamWorks Animation)

**Best Animated Home Entertainment Production.....**  
*Futurama: The Beast with a Billion Backs* (The Curiosity Company and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Home Entertainment)

**Best Animated Short Subject.....** *Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death* (Aardman Animations Ltd.)

**Best Animated Television Commercial.....** United Airlines “Heart” (Duck Studios)

**Best Animated Television Production....***Robot Chicken: Star Wars Episode II* (ShadowMachine)

**Best Animated Television Production Produced for Children.....***Avatar: The Last Airbender* (Nickelodeon)

**Best Animated Video Game.....***Kung Fu Panda* (Activision)

#### Annies Individual Achievement Categories

**Animated Effects....** Li-Ming Lawrence Lee, *Kung Fu Panda*  
**Character Animation in a Feature Production.....** James Baxter, *Kung Fu Panda*

**Character Animation in a Television Production or Short Form.....** Pierre Perifel, *Secrets of the Furious Five*

**Character Design in an Animated Feature Production.....** Nico Marlet, *Kung Fu Panda*

**Character Design in an Animated Television Production or Short Form.....** Nico Marlet, *Secrets of the Furious Five*

**Directing in an Animated Feature Production.....** John Stevenson and Mark Osborne, *Kung Fu Panda*

**Directing in an Animated Television Production or Short Form.....** Joaquim Dos Santos, *Avatar: The Last Airbender* “Sozin’s Comet Pt. 3”

**Music in an Animated Feature Production.....** Hans Zimmer and John Powell, *Kung Fu Panda*

**Music in an Animated Television Production or Short Form.....** Henry Jackman, Hans Zimmer, and John Powell, *Secrets of the Furious Five*

**Production Design in an Animated Feature Production.....** Tang Heng, *Kung Fu Panda*

**Production Design in an Animated Television Production or Short Form.....** Tang Heng, *Secrets of the Furious Five*

**Storyboarding in an Animated Feature Production.....** Jen Yuh Nelson, *Kung Fu Panda*

**Storyboarding in an Animated Television Production or Short Form.....** Chris Williams, *Glago’s Guest*

**Voice Acting in an Animated Feature Production.....** Dustin Hoffman (Voice of Shifu), *Kung Fu Panda*

**Voice Acting in an Animated Television Production or Short Form.....** Ahmed Best (Voice of Jar Jar Binks), *Robot Chicken: Star Wars Episode II*

**Writing in an Animated Feature Production.....** Jon Aibel and Glenn Berger, *Kung Fu Panda*

**Writing in an Animated Television Production or Short Form.....** Tom Root, Douglas Goldstein, Hugh Davidson, Mike Fasolo, Seth Green, Dan Milano, Matthew Senreich, Kevin Shinick, Zeb Wells, and Breckin Meyer, *Robot Chicken: Star Wars Episode II*

#### Annies Juried Awards

**Winsor McCay Recipients** (for career contributions to the art of animation)... **Mike Judge, John Lasseter, and Nick Park**

**June Foray Award** (for significant and benevolent or charitable impact on the art and industry of animation)..... **Bill Turner**

**Certificate of Merit Award** (for service to the art, craft, and industry of animation)..... **Amir Avni, Mike Fontanelli, Kathy Turner, and Alex Vassilev**

## Letters of Comment

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

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20 January 2008

Got the January *Shuttle* on hand, so now it’s time to respond and see what I can say on this day besides Happy Obama Day to you all. Let’s all hope he can do as advertised, but he’d have to be Superman to live up to everyone’s expectations.

If you are planning to buy a Captain’s chair, better make sure your living room is as big as the bridge. Wonder if there’s some place in the arms of the chair to hold the remotes?

Award news... not only did nominations for the Hugos start up, but so did the nominations for the Aurora Awards. The nomination period goes until February 28, and all information on these awards is at <www.prix-aurora-awards.ca>. All Canadians are eligible to vote on these awards, and they will be given out at Anticipation.

Greetings to PieEyed... when I lived on the west coast, many places had holly trees as shrubbery. Holly can be very sharp and scratchy, and as said, very difficult to kill. Sometimes, it’s difficult to prune back, and walking down the sidewalk can be a dangerous stunt.

Short and sweet, and about all I can do at the moment. It’s been a busy and historic day, and it’s time to fold it up. See you next month.

[Awards of all sorts happen the year-round, but with the end of the year just past we seem to well and truly be in the capital-A Awards Season. The roundup for this issue kept growing and growing. Rather than a hideaway for assorted remote controls in the Trek chair, they should perhaps include a programmable remote that one could set up to control all the bits and pieces of a home theater system — at least as an option. (Some of the more extreme examples of those controls cost up to \$500!) Integrating such a remote would raise the geek factor *even* higher than just the chair itself! -ED]

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23 January 2008

Well, the new guard has been sworn in. Now we have to give it enough time to effect change before we start criticizing (that will never happen, we just like to yell far too much!). I watched the proceedings the same as everyone else. The difference is

that I was using this occasion to see if the digital converter box (advertising it as the only one that would do so!) would actually do remote taping. It did not. Sigh.

Oh yes, I *did* check the time posted on every channel the converter picked up — none of those times matched the original problem time. Since I got back the replacement, time seems to be consistently off by one minute. I can live with one minute — but can I trust it to *stay* that way?

I have been looking at the “smaller” flat TVs — see a 19” for sale for \$179. As soon as I saw the price and realized I might be able to buy a small one I began wondering if you can get rabbit ears for them? I need to select a manufacturer and send an email to find out. If I cannot, then it is pointless to get a replacement set — only three built-in connections to the big roof antenna — any other TV has to have rabbit ears. The small set would replace one that is an old one (but still looks very good — hate to retire it). I wonder if you will be able to donate older sets after the conversion takes place?

For some odd reason I was convinced the 20<sup>th</sup> was a holiday. Of course an awful lot of people around here had the day off since the Federal government had the day off. The local school systems slowly changed their minds and closed up shop for the day.

Just a gentle reminder that all readers who qualify ought to start thinking about the Hugo nominations for this year. I have not been paying close enough attention to know what (if) the special category will be. As usual, if you can, fill in all the blanks in any category that you feel competent.

Terry Jeeves’ daughter says her father would love reading material (letters or zines) — if of interest, I can send along the address she sent me for the nursing home where he is currently residing. I suspect computer products are not accessible to him. Any faned sending a zine needs to remember that Terry is unlikely to respond, but will take great enjoyment from his reading. Remember how much enjoyment his art and writing has given all of us throughout the years.

Hmm — wonder if Kirk’s chair will show up on *The Big Bang* — in the same way the Time Machine did. It seems reasonable to think it might... at least if the writers are aware of its availability.

Comments about Elektro remind me that I have not yet heard reviews of the remake of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. I did just get to see *The Dark Knight* and was not as taken as the critics. That makes the total number of Oscar-nominated movies which I have seen one.

For some reason I have set off both the talking fire alarm and one in the large bathroom (non talking). I take that back — I have half a reason. I set up some sugar in water to dissolve and come to a boil (for cranberry sauce) and got tired of waiting. I went back into the living room, thinking I would remember to

check in... well, I didn’t. I have now ruined one of the small Paul Revere sauce pans and those suckers are expensive. I have scrubbed and scrubbed — but no go. When the talking alarm started screaming *Fire! Fire!* at me I realized the alarm no longer made me panic. I went through anything I could think of that would set it off — nothing came to mind. Then I walked into the kitchen to the black billows and huge chunks of charcoal filling the pan. It kept screaming. I got a broom and stood in the hallway — poking it to see if I could make it shut up. It took at least three cycles of poking and waiting but it finally cut itself off. Right, one down.

I never did figure out what set the regular alarm off in the bathroom. I had forgotten to turn the fan on and the room was steamy — but no (so far as I could tell) excessive heat or actual flame. I yanked the unit down and tried to convince it to reset. No luck. Then I simply parked it out in the hallway and waited until it shut up all on its own. Absolutely *no* idea what set it off. I guess I just wait and see if it happens again. I can always invest in earplugs.

Lloyd: Three in my family have birthdays “fairly” close to Christmas and it was *always* family policy to get separate presents. There was the problem of setting up a birthday party since it was already the party season, but that is a small price (compared to one Christmas-Birthday gift) to “pay.”

PED: All that size (shape?) changing must take a lot of energy. Hmm, does growing take more (exponentially, geometrically?) energy than shrinking?

[Some types of smoke detectors can be fooled by steam (well, by airborne water droplets, which are technically not steam) so that *may* have been what happened. New TVs are not likely to come with rabbit ears, but one can buy indoor antennas. (Of course, they don’t have as much gain as a large outdoor antenna and so may not pick up as many channels.) One website I’ve seen recommended for figuring out what one might need is <[www.antennaweb.org](http://www.antennaweb.org)> which uses one’s address to calculate the distance and direction to local broadcast towers; then recommends one or more of several broad classes of antennas. Montreal has elected to run a Best Graphic Story Hugo race with their add-a-category authority. This is in large part because of the change to the WSFS Constitution (to permanently add such a category) that received first passage at Denvention 3 and will take effect after Anticipation if it is ratified there. The thinking seems to be that the Anticipation Hugo race would be a test case. The final result won’t be known before the Business Meeting has to vote yea or nay to ratification, but some things that will be known (the five — more if ties — items nominated and some statistics on the nominating votes) may be enough to allay any remaining misgivings that the category could be too weak to add to the canon. -ED]



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