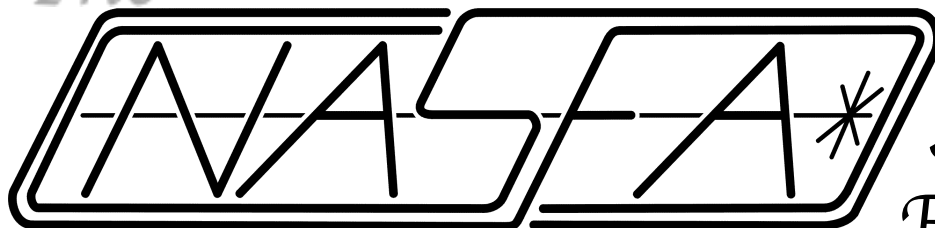


The



Shuttle
February 2012

The Next NASFA Meeting is 18 February 2012 at the Regular Time and Location

ConCom Meeting 3P, 18 February at Mike K's House

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be Saturday **18 February 2012** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Meetings are at the Renasant Bank's Community Room, 4245 Balmoral Drive in south Huntsville. Exit the Parkway at Airport Road; head east one short block to the light at Balmoral Drive; turn left (north) for less than a block. The bank is on the right, just past Logan's Roadhouse restaurant. Enter at the front door of the bank; turn right to the end of a short hallway.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

The February program will be "Short Attention Span Theater," a collection of sff/h short videos from around the web, presented by Mike Kennedy.

FEBRUARY ATMM

The February After-the-Meeting Meeting will be at Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka's house—211 Evalyn Street in Madison. See the map on page 2 of this issue for directions. The usual rules apply—that is, please bring food and drink to share.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The next Con+Stellation XXXI concom meeting will be at Mike Kennedy's house on Saturday 18 February 2012—the same day as the club meeting—at 3P. The plan is to have a dinner break between the concom and the NASFA meeting. The following meeting will be Saturday 17 March, that one at the Renasant Bank meeting room.

For the record, the scheduled first concom meeting had to be delayed, but eventually happened Sunday 5 February.

Get the Shuttle via Electrons

by Mike Kennedy, Editor

With postage rates now up, the time is great to start getting the *Shuttle* in PDF form. All you need to do is notify us by emailing <nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org>.

The current plan is for future concom meetings to generally be on club meeting Saturdays. When possible, they will be at the bank meeting room. When that room is not available early enough, the concom meeting will typically be at Mike Kennedy's house. Due to oddities in the club meeting schedule for May, June, and July, concom meetings for those months may not be held on the club meeting Saturdays.

EARLIER SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The deadline for the *NASFA Shuttle* will generally be earlier than the past, due to an altered production schedule and we will need to more strictly enforce the deadline than in the past. Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents each month to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

Future programs include:

- March: David Reimer of 2StoryProps <2storyprops@gmail.com> will present completed props and costumes, as well as an in-progress replica Dalek.
- May: Currently scheduled to be the More-Or-Less-Annual NASFA Cookout/Picnic. This would take the place of both the meeting and ATMM for that month.

Continuing Our 32nd Year of Publication

Inside this issue...

News & Info	2
Minutes of the January Meeting	4

NASFA Calendar	4
Awards Roundup	5
Letter of Comment	7

Deadline for the March 2012 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 27 February 2012

Sue Thorn will be hosting the March ATMM. We need volunteers for ATMMs for all months past March.

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

All remaining 2012 meetings are currently scheduled for the usual 3rd Saturday *except* the July meeting, which will be the 2nd Saturday due to a conflict with LibertyCon.

The June meeting will be on the 3rd Saturday, but will be held at DeepSouthCon 50 (in Huntsville). Whether that means an actual meeting will take place is left as an exercise for the reader.

NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to the calendar and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local s/f events) are added or changed. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

News & Info

HUGO ON DISPLAY IN HUNTSVILLE

G. Patrick Molloy sends word that the Retro Hugo won by Werhner von Braun, Fred Whipple, and Willy Ley is back in public view. The award was given (posthumously) to the three at the 2004 Worldcon (Noreascon 4 in Boston MA), covering the 1954 award year (there having been no Worldcon that year). The award was for Best Related Book—*Conquest of the Moon*.

Following Noreascon 4, Molloy arranged for the von Braun archive at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville to take possession of the trophy. It was displayed at a special USS&RC exhibit on the influence of science fiction on early rocket pioneers but then mostly dropped out of sight. Well, it's back, and sitting on Von Braun's desk. An exhibit entitled "100 Years of Von Braun: His American Journey" is open at the USS&RC that opened in October and will be there through May 2012.

One wonders what von Braun might have made of his "smallest rocket" as it has been dubbed by wag Mike Glycer.

NEW TRICORDER X-PRIZE ANNOUNCED

Wireless technology company Qualcomm <www.qualcomm.com> is sponsoring a new \$10 million X-Prize to develop a medical "tricorder" as inspired by the Star Trek universe. Their stated intent is "Empowering Personal Healthcare" and they

envision a device that would "captur[e] key health metrics and diagnos[e] a set of 15 diseases" using "a combination of wireless sensors, imaging technologies, and portable, non-invasive laboratory replacements." The diagnoses must be "independent of a healthcare professional or facility."

In other words they are looking to make a consumer-level device that can aid individuals in managing their own healthcare needs.

An overview of the competition can be seen online at <www.qualcommtricorderxprize.org/competition-details/overview>.

WHAT LETTER COMES AFTER "Z"?

You may already be looking forward to Brad Pitt in zombie flick *World War Z*—due to hit the theaters next Christmas. Now comes word that the producers are thinking about making a trilogy, if not more. Fellow actor James Badge Dale is quoted as saying "That book is such a thick dense book of so many socio and political and economic views that says a lot about us as people. So I think we'd like to make 18 more *World War Z*'s and we'd still have more material because it's an ongoing story."

TAFF VOTES RELEASED

Vote totals for the 2012 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund have been released. First-round votes were Warren Buff 28 (North America) plus 2 (Europe); Kim Kofmel 16 (NA) plus 12 (E); and Jacqueline Monahan 27 (NA) plus 8 (E). There were 2 (NA) plus 6 (E) No Preference votes.

Because Buff didn't achieve 20% of both North American and European votes, he was eliminated under a rule special to TAFF vote counting despite taking second place in the total. After redistributing his votes (per normal "Australian ballot" rules) the count changed to Komfell 30 (NA) plus 13 (E) and Monahan 35 (NA) plus 10 (E). So, Monahan won 45 to 43, a pretty close final tally.

WORLDCON PR RELEASED, HOTEL BOOKINGS OPEN

Progress Report 3 for Chicon 7, this year's Worldcon, is available online. All 4 reports (starting with PR 0) can be downloaded as PDFs from <https://www.chicon.org/progress-reports.php>.

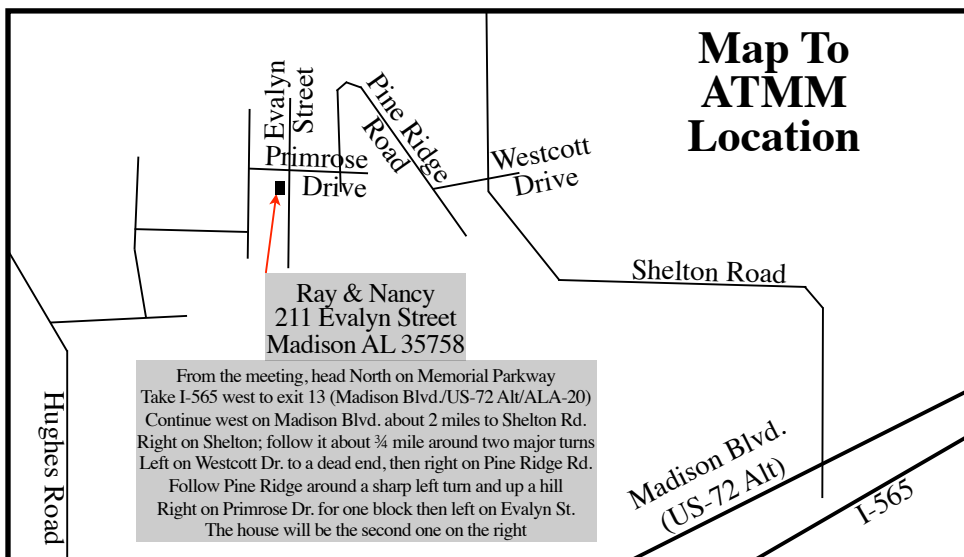
Separately, Chicon hotel bookings opened 16 January. Rooms are available at the convention rate (\$145 plus 16.4% tax) for up to 3 days before and after the official convention dates (30 August–3 September). Up to 1800 rooms are available (fewer on non-peak nights). You can start your online booking at <https://chicon.org/hotel-booking.php>. The Hyatt Regency Chicago <chicagoregency.hyatt.com> is the

convention hotel, but start your res at the convention website if you can to get the easiest link to the con rate.

FAAN AWARDS NOMINATIONS OPEN

All genre fans are encouraged to submit nominations for the 2012 Fan Activity Achievement Awards, for fan writing, drawing, publishing and posting in calendar year 2011. Winners will be announced at the annual fanzine con, Corflu <www.corflu.org>, the 29th of which will be held 20–22 April 2012 at the Sunset Station Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas NV.

A PDF of the ballot has been posted at <tinyurl.com/FAAN2012Ballot>. The ballot includes definitions of the categories and instructions on



now to vote by email or snailmail. Votes must be received by the administrator by noon PST 1 March 2012.

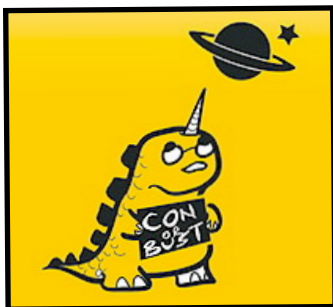
OLDER WRITERS GRANT OPEN AGAIN

The Speculative Literature Foundation is once again accepting applications for their annual Older Writers Grant <www.speculativeliterature.org/Grants/SLFOlderWriters.php>. This \$750 grant is for “a writer who is fifty years of age or older at the time of grant application.” The grant is “intended to assist such writers who are just starting to work at a professional level.”

The application process (see web link above for details) includes an autobiographical statement, submission of a writing sample, and a bibliography of previously-published work (though note that having prior publications is not required).

CON OR BUST AUCTION SEEKS DONATIONS

The Con or Bust auction <con-or-bust.livejournal.com> seeks to raise funds for people of color to attend the SF conventions. They are currently seeking donations of items for this year’s auction (and also accepting monetary donations). The Auction will run 11–25 February 2012. Financial management of the fund is by the Carl Brandon Society <www.carlbrandon.org>.



BE “FRIENDS” WITH NASA

NASA has launched a new space trivia game on Facebook <apps.facebook.com/spacerace>. Their announcement notes that “Players who correctly answer questions earn virtual badges depicting NASA astronauts, spacecraft and astronomical objects.” The press release for the game is at <www.nasa.gov/topics/nasalife/features/space_race_blastoff.html>.

“BACK TO THE HUGOS” REVIEWS

It’s not *new* news, but *Shuttle* readers may be interested in a series from *The Guardian* <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/series/sam-jordison-hugo-award-winners>> reviewing past winners of the novel Hugo. The latest review, from 19 January 2012, covers Frederik Pohl’s *Gateway*. Other reviews in the series (which went under a different name) go back as far as 4 years.

E-BOOK LIBRARY NEWS

Major publisher HarperCollins has announced that henceforth they will limit the number of circulations allowed for e-books sold to libraries to 26. Their reasoning seems to be that this is the approximate number of lendings that could take place with a physical book before it wore enough that it had to be taken out of circulation. Unsurprisingly, librarians (who always have budget issues) are not pleased. Two other major publishers (Macmillan and Simon & Schuster) still don’t allow library distro of e-books at all. News of the HarperCollins move first came out via e-book distributor OverDrive Inc.

Meanwhile—in what may or may not be related *news*—end-of-the-year reports on library e-book borrowing have begun to appear. Different (and somewhat contradictory) numbers have been thrown about in different stories. One report says that demand has more than doubled at “some major public libraries” and gives some stats for Boston and NYC. Other stories have quoted a more-exact-sounding 130% bump cited by the American Library Association, but it’s unclear if that is intended to be the number of books checked out or some other metric.

OverDrive also announced a bit of news of their own. They

are adding a service, to be available through at least some library websites, whereby all e-books from participating publishers will be visible (title, author, excerpts, etc.). OverDrive CEO is quoted as saying “Right now, we have librarians who are trying to add books to the e-catalog but don’t always know what to add. Now, by exposing a publisher’s entire list, it becomes like crowdsourcing, where patrons can offer their suggestions.” Click-through purchasing may also be available, though it’s not clear if libraries would get a commission.

RAZZIES MOVE TO APRIL FOOL’S DAY

The sponsors of the Golden Raspberry Awards (aka the Razzies <www.razzies.com>) have announced that they are shifting their schedule to announce the winners on 1 April. Nominees will be announced 25 February, the day before the Oscars are presented. Previously both nominees and winners had been announced the day before the corresponding Oscar event.

The news release said that this would give Razzies voters “additional time to see the dreck they will eventually nominate.”

UNIVERSAL RESTORES GENRE FILMS

Universal Studios is celebrating its 100th anniversary <www.universal100th.com> this year and as part of the celebration is restoring and reissuing 13 classics—including a number of genre (and related) films. In the indisputably-sf/f/h category those include *The Birds*, *Dracula*, *Dracula Spanish*, *Frankenstein*, and *Bride of Frankenstein*. In the genre-related-depending-on-how-you-look-at-it category, there’s *Jaws*.

ALIENS GOT ~~BOOB~~ BOOB

One of the purported highlights of Rome Fashion Week was a Gianni Molaro design named “Fishlike Alien With a Literal Boob in the Center.” Oddly enough, the title of the “dress” was accurately descriptive. One commenter said it was like “*Pan’s Labyrinth* Pale [Man] meets a boob.”



DEPP ROCKS CREEPY VAMPIRE LOOK

Photos have surfaced of Johnny Depp getting his freak on as Barnabas Collins (in Tim Burton’s upcoming big screen version of *Dark Shadows*). *Shadows*, of course, was the soap that brought vampires to the small screen from 1966–71.

Jonathan Frid played the Collins character in the TV show. According to the Internet Movie Database listing for the movie <www.imdb.com/title/tt1077368>, Frid (who turned 87 in December 2011) will receive a screen credit, his first since 1974’s *Seizure* (aka *Queen of Evil*). Much of Frid’s career was on the stage prior to his TV and movie work. He returned to some stage work (including one-man shows) after some significant time away from showbiz after *Seizure*.

So, do you think Frid or Depp looks better in whiteface and fangs?



January Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The January meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday January 14, 2012 in the Renasant Bank meeting room at 6:18:23P by President Mary Lampert.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Dues are due. For purposes of NASFA dues, Anita is now in Mike C.'s family. Yours truly was delinquent because he forgot to bring his checkbook.

We received a Christmas card from Guy and Rosie Lillian. We also received a thank you card from SNAP (Spay Neuter Action Project) saying they got our check. SNAP was the charity for Con†Stellation 2011.

A check from Baen for their ad in the 2011 Con†Stellation program book came in on the day of the meeting.

Do we want to move any NASFA meetings in 2012? The June 2012 NASFA meeting was scheduled on the same weekend as DeepSouthCon. Wyman moved that we have the meeting at DSC and Sam seconded. Doug thinks that motion means we don't actually want to have a meeting that month. Wyman suggested that we could call it the club picnic and that wouldn't even require a club vote. (Wyman confirmed that we are actually having the picnic in May.) Doug asked if it's a good idea to go two months without a meeting. The club wasn't too worried, because the motion to hold the meeting at DSC carried 6 to 1. We are officially holding the June 16 meeting that's not really a meeting at DeepSouthCon 50.

The July meeting is scheduled for LibertyCon weekend. Mike S. moved that we table moving the July meeting due to information overload, but there was no second. Doug moved that we move the July meeting to the second Saturday. The motion was seconded and won 4 to 1.

Con†Stellation XXXI will be held October 12–14, 2012.

Wyman has scheduled the March program to be a presentation by a prop-making group. They do vacuum molding and are working on a life-sized Dalek.

February's program will be Mike K.'s Short Attention Span Theater.

CON BUSINESS

Mike K. was out that evening, so there was no one to ask about Con†Stellation in 2012. There was no news from Doug and Mary about Con†Stellation in 2013 either.

Sam moved to adjourn at 6:36:03P.

The program was "Things to Come," about conventions coming to Huntsville in 2012. Representatives from a few different cons were invited, but only representatives from DeepSouthCon 50 made it. In DSC's name, Randy Cleary had a request. "If you only go to one convention this year, go to this one too." Dave Watson held the After-the-Meeting Meeting at his house.

NASFA Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Little, Big*, John Crowley; 6P.
- 02 Groundhog Day.

- 03–05 Kami-Con 4—Tuscaloosa AL.
- 05* Con†Stellation XXXI Concom Meeting—3P at Mike Kennedy's house.
- 05 Atlanta Comic Convention—Atlanta GA.
- 08 BD: Lin Cochran.
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
- 12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
- 14 Valentine's Day.
- 17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
- 17–19 ConNooga—Chattanooga TN.
- 18* Con†Stellation XXXI Concom Meeting—3P at Mike Kennedy's house.
- 18* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: "Short Attention Span Theater." ATMM: Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci's house.
- 20 President's Day.
- 22 BD: George Washington.
- 24–26 AnachroCon—Atlanta GA.
- 25 Nashville Anime Day—Nashville TN.
- 26 Columbus Comic Con—Columbus GA.

MARCH

- 01 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Catching Fire*, Suzanne Collins; 6P.
- 02–04 StellarCon 36—High Point NC.
- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
- 03 KampingKon—Cochran GA.
- 09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
- 09–11 Madicon 21—Harrisonburg VA.
- 09–11 Game Days 7—Nashville TN.
- 09–11 Days of the Dead 2—Atlanta GA.
- 10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
- 11 Daylight Saving Time begins.
- 13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
- 15–18 Furry Weekend Atlanta—Atlanta GA.
- 16–18 CoastCon 35—Biloxi MS.
- 16–18 MomoCon—Atlanta GA.
- 16–18 FantaSciCon—Dalton GA.
- 17* Con†Stellation XXXI Concom Meeting—3P at Renasant Bank.
- 17* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: Costuming and props with 2Story-Props. ATMM: Sue Thorn's house.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day.
- 18 Mother's Day.
- 22 BD: Jayson Woosley.
- 23–25 AggieCon 43—College Station TX.
- 23–25 MidSouthCon 30—Memphis TN.

APRIL

- 00 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion for April TBD.
- 01 April Fool's Day.
- 06–08 MTAC Omega—Nashville TN.
- 06–08 Frolicon—Atlanta GA.
- 07 BD: Mary Lampert.
- 08 Easter.
- 13–15 ConGlomeration 2012—Louisville KY.
- 15 BD: "Uncle Timmy."
- 15 BD: Manda Freeman.
- 16 Federal Income Taxes due.
- 20–22 JordanCon 4—Roswell GA.
- 20–22 TrekTrax—Atlanta GA.
- 21* Tentative Con†Stellation XXXI Concom Meeting.
- 21* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 21 BD: Randy B. Cleary.

Perry and Kanye West), which according to Wikipedia features extraterrestrial metaphors. And if Wikipedia says it's so it must be true :-)

CRITICS' CHOICE MOVIE AWARDS

The 17th Annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards (for 2011 films) were presented 12 January 2012. The awards are selected by the Broadcast Film Critics Association <www.criticschoice.com/bfca>.

Genre films didn't do all that well in the "main" categories, but did pick up a number of wins in the technical and secondary categories. The only genre film with multiple wins was *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2* which took the Makeup and Sound categories. The Art Direction prize went to Dante Ferretti and Francesca Lo Schiavo for *Hugo*. The Animated Feature trophy nod was for *Rango*, while *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* was honored in the Visual Effects category. *The Muppets* took the Best Song win for "Life's a Happy Song."

In the "vaguely-sort-of-genre" area, *The Tree of Life* tied in the Cinematography category. *ToL* is nominally a non-sfnal drama but some "experimental" aspects of the storytelling could come across as genre.

PGA AND DGA ANNOUNCE AWARDS

The Producers Guild of America <www.producersguild.org> announced winners of their 23rd annual Producers Guild Awards at a 21 January 2012 ceremony at the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles. *Sf/f/h* works had received nominations in most of the fiction (as opposed to non-fiction) film, TV, and web categories but pulled off only two wins. Those categories, and their genre winners, are:

Animated Theatrical Motion Pictures*The Adventures of Tintin* (Peter Jackson, Kathleen Kennedy, and Steven Spielberg)

Children's TV Program.....*Sesame Street* (PBS)

The Directors Guild of America <www.dga.org> announced the winners of their 64th annual DGA Awards at a 28 January 2012 ceremony at the Grand Ballroom at Hollywood & Highland. Genre works scored noms in only a couple of categories. One or two of the commercials cited for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Commercials winner Noam Murro had genre elements, otherwise the field got no love this year from the DGA.

PULPFEST RENAMES AWARD THE RUSTY

PulpFest <www.pulpfest.com> has renamed their service award The Rusty Hevelin Service Award (aka the Rusty) in honor of the late, great James "Rusty" Hevelin. The award was formerly known as the Munsey Award for Frank A. Munsey (who PulpFest credits as publishing the first all-fiction pulp magazine).

The history of Rusty Hevelin and PulpFest (an annual Columbus OH pulp magazine convention) is a bit complex. It was founded by a splinter group from Pulpcon (which is no longer in operation). That previous convention was guided by (among others) Rusty in their early days. The *Shuttle* has seen reports that Rusty was on good terms with PulpFest, even though there had been contention between the two conventions when the split happened. Rusty was apparently not associated with either con at the time.

BSFA AWARDS SHORTLIST RELEASED

The British Science Fiction Association <www.bsfa.co.uk> has announced finalists for their 2011 BSFA Awards. Voting is the final round is open to all current members of the BSFA and the 2012 Eastercon, the British natcon. Winners will be announced at Eastercon <olympus2012.org>, to be held 6-9 April 2012 at the Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow, London.

By category the nominees are:

BSFS Novel Noms

Cyber Circus, Kim Lakin-Smith (Newcon Press)
Embassytown, China Miéville (Macmillan)
The Islanders, Christopher Priest (Gollancz)
By Light Alone, Adam Roberts (Gollancz)
Osama, Lavie Tidhar (PS Publishing)

BSFA Short Fiction Noms

"The Silver Wind," Nina Allan (*Interzone* #233)
"The Copenhagen Interpretation," Paul Cornell (*Asimov's*, July 2011)
"Afterbirth," Kameron Hurley <www.kameronhurley.com>
"Covehithe," China Miéville (*The Guardian*)
"Of Dawn," Al Robertson (*Interzone* #235)

BSFA Non-Fiction Noms

Out of This World: Science Fiction But Not as We Know It, Mike Ashley (British Library)
The SF Encyclopedia, 3rd Edition, John Clute, Peter Nicholls, and David Langford, eds. (SF Gateway <sf-encyclopedia.com>)

Review of M.J. Engh's *Arslan*, Abigail Nussbaum <wrongquestions.blogspot.com>
SF Mistressworks, Ian Sales, ed. <sfm mistressworks.wordpress.com>

Pornokitsch, Jared Shurin and Anne Perry, eds. <www.pornokitsch.com>

The Unsilent Library: Essays on the Russell T. Davies Era of the New Doctor Who, Graham Sleight, Tony Keen, and Simon Bradshaw (Science Fiction Foundation)

BSFA Art Noms

Cover of Ian Whates's *The Noise Revealed*, Dominic Harman (Solaris)

Cover and illustrations of Patrick Ness's *A Monster Calls*, Jim Kay (Walker)

Cover of Lavie Tidhar's *Osama*, Pedro Marques (PS Publishing)

Cover of Liz Williams's *A Glass of Shadow*, Anne Sudworth (Newcon Press)

PHILIP K. DICK AWARD NOMS

Nominees for the 2011 Philip K. Dick Award <www.philipkdickaward.org> (for distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States) have been announced. The winner (and any special citations) will be announced at Norwescon 35 <www.norwescon.org>, to be held 5-8 April 2012 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport in SeaTac WA. The nominees are:

The Company Man, Robert Jackson Bennett (Orbit)

Deadline, Mira Grant (Orbit)

The Other, Matthew Hughes (Underland)

A Soldier's Duty, Jean Johnson (Ace)

The Postmortal, Drew Magary (Penguin)

After the Apocalypse, Maureen F. McHugh (Small Beer)

The Samuil Petrovich Trilogy (*Equations of Life, Theories of Flight, and Degrees of Freedom*), Simon Morden (Orbit)

SEVERAL AWARDS OPEN NOMS/VOTING

Tor wants your vote in their 2011 Reader's Choice Awards (aka The Stubbies). There are 4 categories (Novel, Short Fiction, Comic, and Book Cover) and you can vote for as many items as you want in each category. This does not appear to be limited to Tor titles. Full info can be found at <tinyurl.com/TorRC2011>.

The Washington Science Fiction Association Small Press Award <www.wsfasmallpressaward.org> for short fiction has opened nominations for this year's award. In addition to WSFA members, noms can also be made by sf authors and small press

publishers through 1 April 2012. See the website for more info. WSFA members select the winner. The award will be presented at Capclave 12 <www.capclave.org/capclave/capclave12> to be held 12–14 October 2012.

Nominations for the Ursula Major Awards (for “the best works published in the field of anthropomorphics”) are also open. Noms close 29 February 2012 with the final voting round running 15 March–4 May. See www.ursamajorawards.org/nominations.htm for more information. Winners will be announced at a ceremony at CaliFur VIII to be held 1–3 June 2012 in Irvine CA.

VAMPIRE NOVEL OF THE CENTURY NOMS

The Horror Writers Association <www.horror.org> is selecting a special one-time, juried Bram Stoker Vampire Novel of the Century Award in memoriam of the 100th anniversary of Bram Stoker’s death. The winner will be announced 31 March 2012 during the Bram Stoker Awards Banquet at the World Horror Convention <www.whc2012.org/World_Horror_2012.html>, to be held in Salt Lake City UT. The nominees are:

The Soft Whisper of the Dead, Charles L. Grant (1983)

Salem’s Lot, Stephen King (1975)

I Am Legend, Richard Matheson (1954)

Anno Dracula, Kim Newman (1992)

Interview with the Vampire, Anne Rice (1976)

Hotel Transylvania, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro (1978)

DORIAN AWARDS NOMS

The Gay and Lesbian Entertainment Critics Association <www.galeca.com> has announced the nominees for their annual Dorian Awards. With about 16 categories some sf/f/h works are bound to sneak in (though not, it appears, in the top film categories).

Leading the genre pack was *American Horror Story*, receiving 4 noms (for TV Drama, TV Performance [for Jessica Lange], LGBT-Themed TV Show, and Campy [Intentional or Not] TV Show of the Year).

True Blood was the only other effort with multiple nods, picking up mentions in the LGBT-Themed TV Show and Campy (Intentional or Not) TV Show categories.

On the film side, 4 movies picked up a single nom in the Campy (Intentional or Not) Film of the Year category—*Ka-boom*, *The Muppets*, *Thor*, and *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1*.

ASC NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

The American Society of Cinematographers <www.theasc.com> released nominees for their 26th annual awards in both film and TV categories. No genre TV shows made the cut, but in the feature film category *Hugo* did pick up a nod. Winners will be announced 12 February 2012 in a ceremony at the Hollywood and Highland Grand Ballroom.

OSCAR NOMINATIONS RELEASED

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences <www.oscars.org> announced nominees for the 84th annual Academy Awards (Oscars) on 24 January 2012. Winners will be announced during a televised ceremony 26 February. Sf/f/h movies got nominations in several categories though they missed out on all the 4 actor/actress categories.

The majority of the noms went to one genre/related work, *Hugo*, which led all films with 11 nods—in the Picture, Director, Adapted Screenplay, Art Direction, Cinematography, Costume Design, Film Editing, Original Score, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects categories.

Two other genre works got 3 nominations apiece, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2* (Art Direction, Makeup, and Visual Effects) and *Transformers: Dark of the Moon* (Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects).

Eight further genre films received one nom each. Three of the Animated Feature kudos went to genre sf/f/h works—*Kung Fu Panda 2*, *Puss in Boots*, and *Rango*. Two more films (*Real Steel* and *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*) took Visual Effects honors and 2 got Original Song nods—*The Muppets* and *Rio*. One Original Score nod went to *The Adventures of Tintin*.

Letter of Comment

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

Lloyd Penney
<penneys@bell.net>
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Etobicoke ON
Canada M9C 2B2

21 January 2012

I’ve got here the January *Shuttle*, Vol. 32, No. 1, and there’s a little bit of time to write up a letter of comment. It’s too cold to go outside, anyway...

Good to hear that Burt Rutan and Paul Allen are starting up a new private space venture in Huntsville... I read a recent article about how Huntsville is dealing with the shrinking space industry there, thanks to NASA basically drying up and blowing away, and taking some private ventures with them. If you think the aerospace industry in Huntsville is dry, you can imagine how it’s doing in other countries, like Canada. I haven’t heard anything from the Canadian Space Agency in many months.

Just got my PR3 for Chicon 7, and there’s the Hugo [nominating] ballot already. So much of it I cannot fill in, but I will fill in what I can. You should have the details of the TAFF race by now...

It was a shock and not a shock to hear that Rusty Hevelin had passed away. I never knew Rusty well, but enough to say hello to one another at the odd convention we’d meet at, or at special events held at the home of the late Mike Glicksohn. I [am] pleased to know that the pulp fanciers have renamed one of their major awards after him.

I remember a long time ago not to eat or drink anything that isn’t a colour in nature, and then we go and drink something bright blue in a cup anyway... I am not sure about the Dark Vader burger. A black bun? Would the Darth Maul burger be red and black? Would it even be cooked?

Hugo and the Golden Globes... I think of its three nominations, only Martin Scorsese got his GG for directing the film. I saw the movie and fell in love with it, as it turns into a tribute to the French pioneer of moving pictures, Georges Méliès. I got the original book and the movie companion book, both by Brian Selznick, for Christmas.

My letter... that short-term assignment with an advertising agency was shorter than I thought. It lasted only five days because their client, whose website I was working on, backed out of the agreement with the agency with a classic case of cold feet on the agreement they’d signed. There is the possibility I may return to continue my work, but I’ve been away more than a month. However, I still have all my notes, so I am ready to go back. In the meantime, more jobs I’d really like and I am waiting for a decision on a government position. More and more, it’s hurry up and wait.

Mike, I will probably take you up on a TAFF nomination. Looks like the 2014 TAFF ballot will be crowded, so nominations will be at a premium.

(LoC—continued on back cover)



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(LoC—continued from page 7)

All done, gotta go, many thanks, bye for now!

[The private space venture is welcome, but I'm not sure it will lead to much employment for Huntsvillians. The companies being hired to do the various pieces of work (booster, aircraft, system integration, etc.) already have offices in many cities and are probably hurting for work to keep their existing employees busy—so even if the work is *in* Huntspatch underemployed employees might transfer in from other locations. RE the TAFF race, yep, I've seen the vote totals and listed them in the "News & Info" article earlier in this issue. I think it's interesting that

their "20% rule" came into play. I wonder if anyone has paused to consider that it would be perfectly possible for that rule to eliminate *all* candidates, even if there were only 2 of them. I understand the sentiment behind it—that a candidate should have voting support from both sides of the pond—but the implementation of that sentiment seems potentially flawed. RE the Darth Maul burger, if the meat is fresh enough then being uncooked could supply the red for the bun. I think I'll pass on ordering one. RE nominating you for TAFF, I've never done that for anyone but if you're serious you should let me know what's needed a few months ahead of the deadline and I'll be glad to help out. -ED]