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Dragon\*Con 2008

# The Daily Dragon

## An Interview with Peter S. Beagle by Bobbie Nelson

Peter S. Beagle is best known for his novel *The Last Unicorn*. This is the fourth year Peter has come to Dragon\*Con. In addition to speaking at various panels, he was gracious enough to sit down and chat with the *Daily Dragon*.

**Daily Dragon (DD):** What writers influenced you at the beginning of your career?

**Peter S. Beagle (PSB):** Oh, T.H. White for certain. James Thurber of *The White Deer* and *Thirteen Clocks*. Would give anything to have written *Thirteen Clocks*. [...] And probably in the end, the major influence was a writer I was good friends with for the last 28 years of his life, Robert Nathan, because I always felt my first book was a direct imitation of Robert.

After you know you grow up, you move on, you find your own style eventually, but when I finished *Professor Gottesman and the Indian Rhinoceros*, I looked back at it, oh, my God, I'm doing Robert again. It's been all these years. Robert's been dead for a long time. My God, that was a Robert Nathan story, and I sent the manuscript to his widow, the actress Anna Lee. Anna would be the only person to catch this, and she wrote back,



"It's the best story Robert never wrote." I was pleased.

**DD:** What writers are you currently reading?

**PSB:** Well, I'm reading, just finished reading a biography about Charles Schultz, who did *Peanuts*, which was fascinating, sad but fascinating all the way down the line, and I'm reading, there is a woman, an English woman named Diana Norman, historical novelist. Damn she's good. That's alarming. She is really good. She may have scared me off of doing a historical novel I always wanted to do because she does that stuff so well. What's the point?

In the same way, I appreciate Tolkien's work. When I read *Lord of the Rings* at 19 or so and decided somewhere: Okay, not going to do anything like that ever. Very conscious decision. Okay. That's one of a kind; I can't do that. I haven't been building a world for 50 years. There's no point. And there is a recent discovery; Jason Goodwin, an English writer, has written three mysteries set in Turkey, Istanbul, in the 1830s, and his hero of all things is an eunuch. He's the first guy to do

that. He's a very appealing hero. He knows something about people. His writing is very touching.

And I'll always re-read *The Once and Future King* periodically. And the old people who matter so much to me. I read a lot of nonfiction, more nonfiction than fiction probably, and history. My father was a history teacher. I read a lot of it. Lately, I've taken to reading more poetry. Gone back to reading poetry. I don't read a lot of fantasy unless it's by a friend, someone I know, something that has really caught my attention for some reason.

**DD:** I thought you would read more fantasy?

**PSB:** The best I can say in my ambitions is a wonderful scene at the end of *Thirteen Clock* where the Duke of Coffin Castle's world is crumbling around him; all his sins have come home to roast, and something very like something that no one had ever seen before came trudging down the stairs and ran across the floor. The Duke clutches his henchman and says, "Hark, What was that?" The Hark says, "I don't know, but it is the only one that ever was." I would like people to say that about my work. Whatever it is, it is the only one that ever was.

## An Interview with Edward James Olmos by Suzanne Church

Edward James Olmos is the distinguished and celebrated actor currently starring as Admiral William Adama in the SciFi Channel's *Battlestar Galactica*. He's won Emmy and Golden Globe awards for his work in *Miami Vice* and been nominated for an Academy Award for his portrayal of Jaime Escalante in the 1988 film *Stand and Deliver* and a Tony award for his role in *Zoot Suit*.

**Daily Dragon:** Welcome to Dragon\* Con. You acted in the groundbreaking 1982 science fiction classic film, *Blade Runner*, based on Philip K. Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, and declined the offer for the lead role in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. What components of the science fiction

palette drew your interest to *Battlestar Galactica*?

**Edward James Olmos:**

The main issue is the reality that was hit in *Blade Runner* was one that I really wanted to emulate with *Battlestar*. It was the only way to touch this kind of material, an opportunity to walk into a door that was opened by *Blade Runner* but no one had ever walked into it. Meaning that we're talking about the future; we're talking about intergalactic travel, but we're also talking about a reality based on what we actually know as being fact. In other words, we don't know if there [are] any aliens in outer



space; it's all right if there are, and it's all right if there're not. Basically, the reality that was hit by the usage of our own technology to really make the world that we wanted to look at and not bring in outside forces of alien-type looking creatures was what I was really interested in.

To build a character driven piece of work where [viewers] would actually learn about these people that we're looking and talking about [on *Battlestar*], as you would do in say *The Sopranos*, or *The West Wing*, or *ER*, or any dramatic show. We did it, and I'm grateful that Ron Moore and David Eich were strong enough to really live up to their word. I asked them if this was the way that we could make [*Battlestar*], and they said, "Yes."

# Schedule Changes

\*The default is the Hyatt if no hotel is indicated.

## Additions

**"Q&A with Lance Henriksen"** Meet the man behind the android Bishop. Sun 11:30AM, Cent I.

**"Animated Short Films"** A block of animated shorts from the Independent Film Festival. Sun 1PM, Baker.

**David Nykl** will be on "Stargate Charity Auction." Sun 4PM, Cent II-III.

**"Frodo, the Reluctant Hero"** Campbell and Jung call the reluctant hero a hero for the times we live in. Sun 4PM, L506-L507 (M).

**"LARP Costuming and Props"** A Q&A with LARP costume designers and prop makers. Sun 4PM, Salon B (Hil).

**"Why We Love (and Hate) Disney"** Join our panel for a look at Old Men, Princesses, and Uncle Remus. Sun 4PM, Baker.

**Anne Petty** will be signing autographs. Sun 5:30PM, M301-M304 (M).

**Caitlin Kittredge** will be on "Outsiders." Sun 7PM, Montreal/Vancouver.

**"Requiem for the DC Animated Universe"** Where are DC superheroes going? Sun 7PM, Baker.

**"3rd Annual Anime Music Video Contest"** The best AMVs submitted over the past year: Action, Drama, Romance, Comedy, and Best In Show. Sun 11:30PM, Hanover C-E.

**(NEW) "Late Night Haiku"** Haiku after dark / Naughty bits we write, some-

times, / No kids, just adults. Sun 11:30PM, M101 (M).

**"Anime Music Videos"** Sun 1AM, Hanover C-E.

**(NEW) "All-Star Jam Featuring Rick Joyce of The Last Dance"** Join surprise guest Rick Joyce of the Last Dance as he joins members of Abney Park, Ghost Project, and others. Mon 11AM, Concourse Stage.

**"Oh, They're BIG in Sci-Fi"** Actors become well loved and effective tools in genre planning and niche marketing: pros and cons. Mon 1PM, A704 (M).

## Cancellations

**David Nykl** will not be on "I was a Paranormal Guest Star!" Sun 11:30AM, M106-M107 (M).

**Claire Eddy** will not be on "Now, That's Funny" Sun 11:30AM, Manila/Singapore/Hong Kong.

**"Heroes are people too!"** Sun 11:30AM, A704 (M).

**Kevin Grazier** will not be on "Dradis Contact is Made." Sun 1PM, A704 (M).

**"The Secret World: Q&A w/Funcom"** Sun 1PM, Athens (S).

**Mitchell Graham** will not be signing autographs Sun 4PM, M301-M304 (M), or on "Question and Answer Roundtable," Mon 2:30PM, Manila/Singapore/Hong Kong.

**"Tolkien's Darkness"** Sun 4PM, L506-L507 (M).

**"Middle-earth Gaming: Board of the Rings"** Sun 8:30PM, L506-L507 (M).

**Scott Sigler** will not be on "Talk Back to the Podcasters!" Mon 1PM, Rockdale (Hil).

## Corrections

**"Voice Acting"** Sun 1PM will be in Regency VI-VII not Baker.

## Updates

**(NEW) "Virginia Hey's Meditation Workshop"** Sun 10AM moved from L405-L406 to A708 (M).

**"Star Wars Galaxies: Q&A w/Sony Online"** moved from Fri 11:30AM to Sun 1PM, Athens (S).

**(NEW) "The Future is ONLINE"** moved from Sun 11:30AM to 4PM, A704 (M).

**(NEW) Voltaire** Sun 6:30PM, Concourse, moved to Sun 7PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

**"Maintaining Wife (or Husband) Faction"** moved from Sun 10AM to Sun 1PM, Athens (S).

**"Planet Strange"** retitled **"Draw It Strange,"** featuring *Emily the Strange* and illustrator Buzz Parker, discussing the cult character and the creative teams behind the art and message of "being true to yourself." Sun 4PM, Montreal/Vancouver.

**"TrekTrak Presents: Robert Picardo"** moved from Fri 7PM, Savannah 1-3, to Mon 10AM Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

## Blood Drive Progress

Friday totals: 283 people with 238 donors giving 256 units. Keep bleeding!



## Surprise Settlers Tournament

Join us for a surprise *Settlers* tournament. Sun 6PM. More information available at Board Game Headquarters on the Hilton Galleria level



## Hypnosis Trance

Please join **Dee Bitner** as she conducts a hypnosis trance (reprise from the trance last year). Sun 8:30PM, A102-A103 (M).



## Dagobah Retreat

Games, Trivia, and just a good *Star Wars* time! Bring the latest McDonald's *Star Wars* toys, your extra trading cards, and figures to swap! We'll also have puzzles to put together. Best time wins a prize! Sun 10PM, Dunwoody.



## Techno

I love you with all of my heart (and scales). Happy 5th D\*Con together! ~Love, Doozer



## Hey Bunnies!

I want to wish a very Happy Dragon\*Con to all my Bunnies! I love you all, and I'm so glad we can all be here together! ~xoxo, Kabe



## Ogre! Walking and Talking!

Baron, here's the official "THANK YOU" for making me come to Atlanta despite the tigers and Alabama-ians here for football...and the regular crazies and wild times Atlanta is famous for! You betcha! Here's to 2008 being fun and fantastic! ~Mishelle



## DomFamily

Thanks for letting me lead you all down the Dark Side path of sci-fi cons and SW events. I love you all very much! ~Darth Daddy



## To Info Services

Thank you for going above and beyond and teaching me the ropes. And thank you to my signage peeps that came with me for rising to the occasion. ~Your director, Sara

## Memorial and Awards Honor Dr. Patrick Roberts

by Amy Herring

The Dragon\*Con Art Show honored its former director **Dr. Patrick James Roberts** (1962-2008) with a memorial Sat evening and dedicated this year's D\*C Art Show and awards to his memory. Co-director **Jon Parise** narrated a video featuring Patrick and his interests.

The video included many can-

did photographs of Patrick taken by jewelry artist **Scott Hancock** at previous D\*Cs.

Patrick was also honored posthumously with this year's Fandom Award. His daughter, Nicole, accepted the award on her father's behalf.

Also to honor Patrick, the "Dragon Heart" box Special

Artists' Project was held to benefit the American Heart Association.

The entries submitted by Dragon\*Con artists will be available at the Voice Auction to be held Mon 12PM in Hanover C-E. The heart-shaped art was also judged and included in Art Show awards.

## 501st Legion Begins Second Decade at D\*C

by Debbie Yutko

The 501st Legion, Vader's Fist, began here at Dragon\*Con in 1998. A popular part of the annual D\*C Parade, the *Star Wars* fan group, begun by founder **Albin Johnson**, now has over 4,000 members in 40 countries. That's a lot of white armor!

**Angela Mash**, the 501st's activities coordinator for this year's

con, said all the costumes are made by the members. You'll see everything from Imperial Guards and bounty hunters to Sith Lords and Darth Vader, all with official 501st badges. Of her ten different costumes, Angela's favorite is the Galactic Marine.

And best of all, the 501st Le-

gion wants you! If you're 18 years or older with a hankering to represent the Empire by creating your own costume and using it to do good in your part of the universe, you're welcome to go to their website (501stlegion.org) and join up. Stop by the 501st's table on the bottom floor of the Marriot to find out more.

## Friday Night Costuming Contest Winners

- Best Youth: Grant Kuehney, "Robo~Frog"
- Best Novice: Brandi & Jimmy Burns, "In The Witch's Castle"
- Best Journeyman: Gordon Steinecke, "Steampunk Adventurers"

- Best Professional: Chris Brown, "The Hogfather"
- Best Use of Materials: Simon McDonald, "Lego Boba Fett"
- Best In Show: Chris Brown, "The Hogfather"
- Audience Choice Award: Brandi & Jimmy Burns, "In The Witch's Castle"