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Masquerade 2008

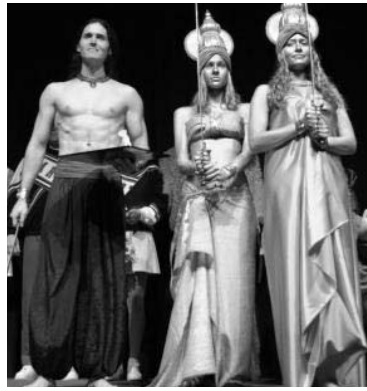
by Bobbie Nelson

As usual, the lines snaked around the hotel floor as individuals waited for the doors of the Centennial Ballroom to open. Behind the scenes, the contestants practiced their dance moves one more time and straightened their wings. At last, the hour struck, and the doors opened. First were the younger participants.

Princess and other characters crossed the stage to the delight of the audience. As the winners were announced, the crowd chanted for **Brandon Van Treuren**, who won Best in Show, to transform one more time. With a smile, he quickly changed from transformer to tank.

In the adult segment, the audience cheered as the soldiers of Battlefield 2142 started dancing. In a more subtle dance, flowing fan movements revealed the beauty of the geisha. In answer to the question, "Why did the chicken enter the Masquerade Contest?" the contestant dressed as a robot chicken replied: "To die in the name of science!"

Later, the audience oohed and ahhed a fight scene where two *Cowboy Bebop* characters spun and whirled around the stage. **Joshua Adrian** awed the audience by balancing three swords on his feet and head. The mood changed as a participant



using a tennis racket served tribbles to the audience. When "Iron Man" took the stage, the audience applauded its approval when he was revealed to be a clothes iron instead of the movie character. A lip synch routine by Axl Rose from Guns N' Roses elicited spontaneous clapping in time to the music. The audience, in obvious recognition, applauded the group who performed the *Sailor Moon* routine last year as soon as they took the stage. The Yip Yip Alien from *Sesame Street* won the Audience Favorite award, delighting with his antics.

As the judges conferred, the audience watched the winners from the Dragon*Con 2008 Hall Costume Contest.

Masquerade Kids

Best in Show: **Brandon Van Treuren** as "Decepticon Brawl"
Second Place: **Joel McRae** as

"Barbarian Family"

Third Place: **Tristan Rice** as "Sweeney Todd Junior"

Best Toddler: **Morgan, Benjamin, and Alice Grunzke** as "Kairi, Sora, and Moogles"

Honorable Mention: **Christine Beighley** as "Sith," **Jennifer Whitten** as "Cousin Its Daughter: Who Z It," **Katie Fletcher** as "Mallory from Spiderwick Chronicles," **Genevieve Desilets** and **Swatara Tucker** as "Azula and Katara," **Claire Fletcher** as "Princess Mononoke," and **Amberlyn Montoya-Childers** as "Ice Princess."

Masquerade Adults

Best in Show: **Joshua Adrian**

Best Novice: **Kurtis, Monika, Christy, Joseph, Jonathan, Nicole, Dennis, and David**

Best Journeyman: **Karl A. Nordman**

Best Master: **McKayla Butym, Lyn Cherobrier, Shannon Croom, Angis Duplis, Tracy Hunnicutt, and Sam Strickland**

Crowd Favorite: **Chris Schierer**

Best *Star Wars*: **Chris Davis**

Best Skit: **Amanda Marquez, Jenny Braun, and Jim Mossey**

Best Humor: **Daniel Valdez**

Best Fantasy: **Alan and Beverly Burt**

Best *Star Trek*: **Michael Raby**

10th Annual Miss Klingon Empire

by Debbie Yutko

The Miss Klingon Empire Beauty Pageant celebrated its 10th anniversary this year at Dragon*Con. The 2007 Miss Klingon Empire, when asked by the *Daily Dragon* how she felt about relinquishing her title, growled, "I'll cut the head off the new winner, and then I'll have two crowns and a trophy [the upstart's head]."

As the pageant began, Emcee **Eric Watts** entertained the crowd with a heartfelt rendition of "She is Klingon," sung to the tune of Helen Reddy's "I am Woman." The four contestants, **D'nal** (Alicia Moyle), **KhaZellia VanKho** (Kelly Sheckler), **Lady Vck** (Vickey Malone Kennedy),



and **Nej Vestai Le'nlnnav** (Sonya Desilets), strutted across the stage, each striving to shove the other contestants out of the way.

This year's panel of judges, **Autumn Skye-Boothe** (certified Miss America Organization pageant judge), **James Cawley** (*Star Trek: New Voyages*), **Ethan Phillips** (Nee-

lix, *Star Trek: Voyager*), **Michael Dorn** (Lt. Worf, *Star Trek: Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine*), and **Dominic Keating** (Malcolm Reed, *Star Trek: Enterprise*), sat with poised pens at the ready to determine this year's winner.

With the judges on stage, the contestants marched up to meet them, shoving each other out of the way in their fight to rule. When Lady Vck appeared to have achieved domination, Nej Vestai Le'nlnnav humiliated her foe by obliterating her beneath the folds of her silver cloak. Not surprisingly, the judges declared Nej Vestai Le'nlnnav the 2008 Miss Klingon Empire.

Schedule Changes

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

Additions

"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 be-

come well loved and effective tools in genre planning and niche marketing: pros and cons. Mon 1PM, A704 (M).

Cancellations

Mitchell Graham will not be on "Question and Answer Roundtable," Mon 2:30PM, Manila/Singapore/Hong Kong.

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

Updates

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

Science that Totally Rocks by Suzanne Church

After the double-fun of the *Firefly* and *Battlestar Galactica* parties on Saturday night, this reporter ventured out once more on Sunday night and was absolutely, positively, geekily blown away.

Arcattack were the fantabulous headliners at the Mad Scientist ball in Regency V. Between sets, the room was emptied, and a new crowd of technology worshipping fans filed in. The anticipation as

we all waited for the set to start was palpable; the crowd huddled as close to the instruments as they could squeeze.

On with the show. Arcattack is made up of two Tesla coils, which are giant voltage-producing coils that shoot glowing sparks of lightening into the air. The frequency of the bolts can be modified; thus a scientific experiment transforms into one rockingly cool instrument of musi-

cal nerdvana. Computer controlled drums lay down the rhythm track, while a giant screen of visualizations adds eye candy to the equation.

This reporter was all a-glow, literally and figuratively, as I danced beneath the black lights and swayed to the music. If you've never seen the Tesla coils before, you simply MUST check them out. For more information on the band, visit their website: Arcattack.com.

Blood Drive Success

As of 5PM Sunday, 1,000 people have participated and donated 750 units. We expect to collect a total of 1,000 units by the close of Dragon*Con. This will break the

record held by Comic-Con of 856 units. Almost all of the blood will be sent to aid the victims of Hurricane Gustav. Our thoughts go out to the eight con participants who

had to return home Sunday for the evacuation. Monday is the last day that blood can be taken. The hours on Monday are from 9AM to 4PM. Please donate to this worthy cause.

To the Yip Yip Alien

Congratulations to **Chris Schierer** for winning "Crowd Favorite" at the Masquerade for "Yip Yip Alien," and major snaps go to the costume's creator, **Kristin Schierer**. A big thank you from the staff of the *Daily Dragon* for bringing the convention to us on Sunday night!



Dawn Look-alike Contest Winners

- 1st Place: **Belle Chere**
- 2nd Place: **Nadia Heller**
- 3rd Place: **Jennifer O'Funne**
- Best Theatrical Presentation: **Alia & Athena Sanchez**
- Best Armor: **Gayle Karr**
- Most Original: **Jennifer Newman**
- Best Adaptation: **Tiffany Antrim**
- Most Outrageous: **Patricia Nall**
- Dramatica Award: **Keith Benshoof**

Dragon-After-Dark Winners

Saturday night, the Costume Track held the "Dragon-After-Dark Contest," co-emceed by **Brian Holloway** and **Jerry Doyle**. Congratulations to the following winners:

- 1st Place: **Joshua Adrian** – Prince of Persia
- 2nd Place: **Mike Ziemer** – Death Squadron, *Star Wars*
- 3rd Place: **Abby** – Rope Corset
- Honorable Mention: **Daty Moore** – Night Elf
- Honorable Mention: **Jade Malice** – Naughty Hogwarts
- Honorable Mention: **Kate Boyd** – Jokerette

The Dragon*Con 2008 Charity Auction

Raised \$7,300.00 for the American Heart Association, with the celebrity quilt bringing in \$700.00. Thank you!



To the On-Site Guest Registration Team

Through eight crates to one, you guys are the best. Thanks for being you! ~Chris Ceraolo, Director On-site Guest Registration



For Chrissier

Come hell or neck surgery, YOU ROCK!! ~The Whole Guest Services Team



To Luke (of the Non-Skywalker Variety)

I love you! Thank you making this weekend even more awesome than I knew it would be! ~Pez



Alan

I love you so much! Thanks for being a nerd with me. ~Claire



Settlers Tournament Winner

Congratulations to **Bob Petolillo** for winning the Saturday *Settlers* of Catan Tournament.



Happy Birthday Eric!

Another year of dragon-slaying excitement! ~Stephanie



To the Friends of the Late Joey Grillot

Joe attended Dragon*Con many times, working backstage or participating in movie panels. He ran the movie rooms for conventions all over the country for over 30 years. He died December 25, 2007, in New Orleans.



Dave

Glad you decided to join staff! ~Bobbie



For My Love Lucius

Thank you for making me your bride. Happy Anniversary! I love you more every day. And the babies miss you. ~Mrs. Weasley

Happy Anniversary to My Honey, Tom

Happiness is waking up to someone you love...for 23 terrific years! ~Elizabeth



Happy Birthday, Eelem!

Love, Balenya



Turn It Up To Eleven

Eleven years of happy marriage. Eleven Dragon*Cons. Coincidence? I THINK NOT! Happy Anniversary to Jacqui and Happy Dragon*Con to Madeline. ~Love, David/Papa



Congrats to Newlyweds Storm and Marie!

Hope you have a memorable honeymoon here at Dragon*Con and return every year to celebrate your anniversary. ~Tracy



Happy Birthday Courtney Wynn!

Isn't it wonderful that 40,000 of your closest friends could join you to celebrate your special day! ~Cami