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Dragon*Con 2012

The Daily Dragon

An Interview with Les Johnson: “We WILL get to the stars!” by Amy Herring



Les Johnson, is a NASA scientist turned science writer—no, wait, science fiction writer—hold the press, I meant science and science fiction editor. Actually, Les Johnson is all that and he continues to work at NASA while pursuing his writing and editing goals. He’s back at Dragon*Con for another year, ready to share his insights and talk about his books.

Daily Dragon (DD): *Les, you’ve co-authored Living Off the Land in Space, Solar Sails: A Novel Approach to Interplanetary Travel, and Paradise Regained: The Regreening of Earth. What prompted you to share your scientific knowledge and insights with the reading public?*

Les Johnson (LJ): Science Fiction Conventions. No kidding! I’ve been attending cons since I was 17. After I earned my de-

The Gadgeteer’s Showcase

The Alternate History Track is proud to present The Gadgeteer’s Showcase: A Steampunk Show & Tell. This showcase event is designed to celebrate amateur steampunk craftsmen with original one-of-a-kind gear and gadgetry who produce Steampunk gear for their individual use (and the appreciation of thousands!).

Happy 13th Birthday, Elijah!

A Padawan no more, you’re now a Jedi! I am so proud of you. Your joy of living, your determination to succeed, and your amazing imagination brings a smile to my heart.

—Granny Anomar

grees and started working, I was asked to give science talks at a few local conventions. I then started getting feedback from those attending my talks that I should write a book. In 2006, with my good friend and frequent co-author, **Greg Matloff**, we submitted an unsolicited manuscript to Springer books and they bought it. That book became *Living Off the Land in Space*. The other books quickly followed. And yes, I use my appearances at conventions to “test market” new ideas.

DD: *You co-edited Going Interstellar with Jack McDevitt, a past Dragon*Con guest and the winner of both the Philip K. Dick award and a Nebula award for his fiction. What was it like to work with a literary star like Jack or Ben Bova, Louise Marley, and Mike Resnick, also Going Interstellar contributors?*

LJ: It was an honor. I’d never met most of these award-winning authors yet they readily agreed to work with me on the anthology. It was almost like a domino effect—once one agreed to participate, then the others agreed to sign on as well. Believe me, some of their stories will knock your socks off!

*Don’t miss seeing Les Johnson at Dragon*Con, and read the complete interview on the Daily Dragon website.*

Come see the greatest collection of artistic masterpieces and innovative constructions by tinkers, makers, and mad scientists as they put their work on display for your enjoyment! Don’t miss this high-profile showcase event highlighting the best in Steampunk innovation. Sat 4PM, Atlanta Ballroom (Westin).

To Dan

Married on Thursday morning, then on to our Dragon*Con honeymoon. Geeky perfection! I love you.

—Amy

Thursday Night: Valentine Wolfe

by Joe Church

After spending two straight days at the Veld earlier this month in Toronto, this reporter feels like something of an expert when it comes to concerts. So naturally I was keen to attend one of the first gigs of the weekend.

Performers **Valentine Wolfe**, a gothic duo from South Carolina, played Thursday night starting at 10PM. Their style infused heavy hitting bass with harmonized eerie vocals. The duo did not stop there—they added to their milkshake of macabre with a drum machine and electronic harmonies. Using the strings on the double bass affected a very nice touch to the complexity of the music.

Their style is not simple; they easily flow into many genres using their unique sound, blending gothic, vaudevillian, and electronic. Valentine Wolfe have created a sound that is as unique as it is mesmerizing. It captivated me and certainly had the audience enthralled.

World of Warcraft Costume Contest

Are you Azeroth’s Next Top Model? Let our all-star panel of judges decide! They’ll be on hand on Friday at 7PM in the Crystal Ballroom (Hil) to help you find out. Pre-judging begins at 5:30 in Grand Salon E (Hil).

Silk Road Expo

Don’t miss the Silk Road Expo, a fan-based performance exposition featuring dance performances from the past and present, both historical and imagined. Sat 5:30PM, Hanover C-E (Hy).

An Evening at Bree

Join the Tolkien Track for a great Dragon*Con tradition with Emerald Rose and the best Middle-earth costumes and contest around. Craig Parker will emcee as we admire costumes from Middle-earth. Fri 8:30PM, Cent I (Hy).

Schedule Changes

Hy = Hyatt
M = Marriott
Hil = Hilton
S = Sheraton
W = Westin

Due to professional commitments, the following previously confirmed guests will not be able to attend Dragon*Con 2012: **Corey Castellano, David Franklin, Steven McQueen, Kathy Najimy, Tim Sale, Michael Trevino.**

Additions

NEW GUESTS: **Nathaniel Buzolic, Sebastian Roche, Michael Trucco**

"Lost: Greatest Moments and Greatest Puzzles" A fandom discussion with Aaron Poole, Jon Boutelle, and JJ Hawkins of some of the greatest moments and greatest puzzles from *Lost*. Fri 10AM, M106-107 (M).

Michael Trucco will be on "BSG—This is not all We are" Fri 11:30AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

"An Hour with Anthony Michael Hall" Anthony Michael Hall discusses his film history and future plans. Fri 1PM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

***NEW* "Q&A with Michael Dorn,"** Fri 7PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

James Urbaniak will be on "Quiz-o-Tron 2000" Fri 10PM, Int'l South (Hy).

Nathaniel Buzolic and Sebastian Roche will be on "Vampire Diaries" Sat 1PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

"Babylon 5: Gathering of the Babblers" After Bruce Boxleitner and Mira Furlan appear, get together with your fellow *Babylon 5* fans! Sat 2:30PM, A703 (M).

Kelly Lockhart will be on "Belief Systems in SF 102" Sat 2:30PM, Fairlie (Hy).

Philippa Ballantine will be on "The World is Bigger Than England: Multiculturalism in the Alt. Hist Environment" Sat 2:30PM, Int'l B-C (W).

Michael Trucco will be on "BSG—Welcome to the Quorum" Sat 4PM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

Aaron Poole and Joseph Scrimshaw will be on "Gonzoroo II" Sat 8:30PM, Atrium (M).

"Weapons in Fiction" Laser blasters or M4s? How and when gun accuracy is important in the comics medium from Nathan Edmondson. Sun 10AM, Kennesaw (Hy).

"Aliens: Friendly Visitors or Invading Foes?" From *V* and *Falling Skies* to *ET* and *Contact*, we've seen different reasons for alien visits. Sun 11:30AM, M106-107 (M).

Nathaniel Buzolic and Sebastian Roche will be on "Vampire Diaries" Sun 11:30AM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

"Metalocalypse Fan Panel" Join groupies for Dethklok to talk about all things Metalocalypse! Sun 1PM, Dunwoody (Hy).

"Reading: Van Allen Plexico" Sun 2:30PM, University (Hy).

"Ask Zombie Squad" Sheltering in place, bug out bags, and skills for the apocalypse. Zombie Squad will be on hand to answer your questions. Sun 4PM, Vinings I-II (W).

"Lantern City Signing" Join the creators of *Lantern City* for an exclusive signing event! Sun 4PM, Augusta (W).

"Venture Bros. Signing" Following "The Venture Bros." panel, Doc Hammer, Jackson Publick, and James Urbaniak will be signing autographs. Sun 4PM, tables outside Atrium Ballroom (M).

Michael Trucco will be on "BSG—Bright Shiny Futures are Overrated" Sun 5:30PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

Aaron Poole and Joseph Scrimshaw will be on "Gonzo Quiz Show IV: The Quest For Quiz" Sun 7PM, Atlanta Ballroom (W).

Michael Trucco will be on "BSG—Galactica will bring us Home" Mon 11:30AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

Sherrilyn Kenyon will be signing autographs Mon 11:30AM, M301-304 (M).

"Make the Internet More Skeptical With One Mouse Click" Tim Farley discusses how to help make the Internet more skeptical. Mon 1PM, 205-207 (Hil).

Aaron Poole will be on "Make the Bad Men Stop, The Sequel—Stop Harder and Faster" Mon 2:30PM, M106-M107 (M).

Cancellations

***NEW* "Legality of Costuming/Cosplay"** Fri 10AM, 201 (Hil).

***NEW* George Pérez** will not be on "Who are you really?" Fri 11:30AM, Regency V (Hy).

"Spyplanes and Fighters and Drones, Oh My!" Fri 1PM, 202 (Hil).

"Warehouse 13—Stars Look Back" Fri 1PM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

***NEW* David Franklin** will not be on "Weird, Amazing, Psychotic Life: The Farscape Cast Reunion" Fri 4PM, Int'l South (Hy); "Dueling Overrides: Farscape Cast Reunion Part Two" Sat 2:30PM, Int'l North (Hy); and "Pop the Frelling Bubble: Farscape Cast Reunion" Sun 1PM, Int'l North (Hy).

Kathy Najimy will not be on "Voice Acting" Fri 2:30PM, Regency VI-VII (Hy); and "Voice Acting" Sat 2:30PM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

Chandler Riggs and Steven Yeun will not be on "Cold Light of Day: The Walking Dead Q&A" Fri 5:30PM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

"The Gift of Sight" Fri 7PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

Steven McQueen and Michael Trevino will not be on "Vampire Diaries" Sat 1PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

Van Allen Plexico will not be on "Between the Candle and the Star: *Babylon 5's* Bruce Boxleitner and Mira Furlan" Sat 1PM, Int'l North (Hy).

"Inside the Artists Studio—Tim Sale" Sat 2:30PM, Hanover F (Hy).

***NEW* Tee Morris** will not be on "The World is Bigger Than England: Multiculturalism in the Alt. Hist Environment" Sat 2:30PM, Int'l B-C (W); "How Do You Take Your Steampunk—Light or Dark?" Mon 1PM, Int'l A (W).

"Miyazaki, Gender, and Joseph Campbell on the Heroic Quest" Sat 5:30PM, Courtland (Hy).

"Performance by Alex Boyd" Sat 7PM, Baker (Hy).

"Animal, Human and..." Sat 8:30PM, M106-107 (M).

"The Activity" Sun 10AM, Kennesaw (Hy).

"Dr Sperry's Strangest Cases" Sun 11:30AM, M106-M107 (M).

Kat Graham, Steven McQueen, and Michael Trevino will not be on "Vampire Diaries" Sun 11:30AM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

"Kathy Najimy in the Spotlight" Sun 11:30AM, A601-A602 (M).

"Children's Show by Alex Boyd" Sun 1PM, Baker (Hy).

***NEW* Corey Castellano** will not be on "Movie Magic: Makeup, Special Events & Props" Sun 2:30PM, Regency V (Hy).

Leanna Renee Hieber will not be on "Victorian Orientalism and Steampunk" Sun 2:30PM, Int'l A (W).

***NEW* Philippa Ballantine** will not be on "How Do You Take Your Steampunk—Light or Dark?" Mon 1PM, Int'l A (W); "Women in Alternate History" Mon 2:30PM, Int'l B-C (W).

***NEW* Aleksandra "Sasha" Chernova** will not be on "Costuming Biz & Shop Organization" Mon 10AM, M103-M105 (M).

"From Believer To Skeptic" Mon 1PM, 205-207 (Hil).

Veronica Belmont will not be on "Reaching the Fans" Mon 11:30AM, 209-211 (Hil); "When Things Go Wrong" Mon 1PM, 204 (Hil); and "Podcasting Track Sign-Off" Mon 4PM, 204 (Hil).

Updates

"How Have Movies Treated the Paranormal" moved from Fri 10AM to Sun 5:30PM, M106-107 (M).

"Portrait of a Vampire—Live Painting Demo with Brian Stelfreeze" moved from Fri 4PM, Hanover C-E (Hy), to Fri 7PM, Regency V (Hy).

"Pinups by the Pool Party" moved from Fri 8:30-11PM to Fri 8-10PM, Pool (S).

"Drum Circle" moved from Fri 10PM to Fri 11:30PM, Centennial I (Hy).

"An Hour with Sean Maher" Sat 5:30 PM moved from Int'l D-E to Augusta (W).

"Fringe: What's Next?" moved from Sun 5:30PM to Sat 8:30PM, M106-107 (M).

"Disasters Past, Present, and Future—Hear from the Feds" Sun 11:30AM moved from 202 (Hil) to Valdosta (S).

"Behind the Brooms: The Sci-Fi Janitors" moved from Sun 1PM to Sun 11:30AM, M101 (M).

"Game of Thrones" moved from Sun 7PM to Sun 10PM, Greenbriar (Hy).

"Rebuilding the World" Mon 10AM moved from Roswell 1-2 to Augusta 1-2 (W).

"The Return" Mon 11:30AM moved from Roswell 1-2 to Augusta 1-2 (W).

"It's the End of the Track as We Know It" Mon 1PM moved from Roswell 1-2 to Augusta 1-2 (W).

"Last Call!" Mon 2:30PM moved from Roswell 1-2 to Augusta 1-2 (W).

"Leavetakings" Mon 4PM moved from Roswell 1-2 to Augusta 1-2 (W).

Corrections

"DJ Spider" DJ Dance will run two hours not four hours, Sat 3-5AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

"Making Video Games with Artix Entertainment" is Sat 5:30PM, Grand Salon E (Hil).

"DJ Nemesis" DJ Dance will run two hours not four hours, Sun 3-5AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

"DJ little Jen" DJ Dance will run two hours not four hours, Mon 3-5AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

Rock Star Photo Shoot

Inviting all genres of rockers and famous musician costumers to come together for one big Rock Star Photo Shoot! Fri 8PM, Pulse Bar (M).



Team Free Will: A Supernatural Photo Shoot

Calling all hunters, demons, angels, and other supernatural beings. Fri 11PM, 10th Floor area (M).



Legend of the Seeker/ Goodkind Photo Shoot

Join the Seekers, Mord-Siths, Confessors, Sisters of the Dark, and more. Fri 11:30 PM, 10th Floor area (M).



G+ Hangout In Real Life

A Google+ Hangout in real life event. Fri 5PM, 10th Floor (Marriott).



Apocalpto Disco, Our Last Dance—Charity Ball

News flash: the world is ending... again. This time, it's the ancient Mayans that have predicted our demise. And nothing says the end of the world like... disco. This is a charity event. All donations will benefit Dragon*Con's 2012 charity, The Georgia Chapter of the ALS Association. Cash bar available. Fri 10PM, Regency VI-VII (Hy).



To My Knight in Slightly Dented Mandolorian Armor, Ray McCoy

Happy Anniversary! Dragon*Con brought us together, married us, and now is the best anniversary ever! I love you!

—Jenna



The Best Night Ever: A My Little Pony Party

Discuss all things My Little Pony and have a sing-along. Fri 7PM, Peachtree Center Food Court by Subway and Moe's.



Zombie Prom

Shamble the night away with the Apocalypse Rising Track. Fri 10PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (S).