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Dragon*Con 2012

The Daily Dragon

From Science Fiction to Shakespeare with Sean Maher

by Nivair H. Gabriel

Firefly and *Serenity* fans know Sean Maher as Dr. Simon Tam, the most devoted brother and best-dressed surgeon in hundreds of worlds. Next week, Maher will premiere his performance of Don John in Joss Whedon's adaptation of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Grinning and freshly caffeinated for his second Dragon*Con, Maher sat down with the *Daily Dragon* to chat about siblings, Shakespeare, storytelling, and the con experience.

Daily Dragon (DD): *If you could cosplay, what would you do?*

Sean Maher (SM): I'm a huge *Lord of the Rings* geek, so I'd probably want to delve into that.

DD: It's been so long now since you played Simon Tam—seven years since the movie, ten years



since the series—but do you still feel involved with him?
SM: I think Simon, as with most characters, is always a part of me. I get so invested in the work that I do. But I think Simon especially because of events like this. One of the things that I love about attending these events, especially during the Q&As, is when people ask me a question about a certain aspect that as an actor I didn't even know I was doing. As an audience member, you see things that I don't consciously manipulate and put out there. I just present a character who I try to live and breathe as truth-

fully as possible. So it's really lovely for me when people say they loved an aspect of Simon, and it's something I never really thought about.

What I loved so much about him was his love for his sister, but for me that was just so internal. I didn't think that other siblings who were watching it were going to say, your commitment or your compassion for your sister. I wasn't purposefully trying to portray that. When stuff like that resonates, it's a reminder for me what was going on as an actor creating a character, those layers—layers and layers and layers!—of who the person was. To come here, it's very easy to remain in the mindframe of that character.

Read the complete interview on the Daily Dragon website.

Fan Moments: An Hour with John Barrowman

by Maggie Caracappa

Saturday afternoon attracted another capacity crowd to the Atrium Ballroom (Marriott) for John Barrowman's solo panel, "John Barrowman Live!" The mood in the room was playful as Barrowman teased the crowd and they responded in kind.

After taking a video of the audience so he could send it to his mom, he jumped right in to answer audience questions. Barrowman happily told stories whenever they occurred to him, including one funny story involving his partner Scott Gill



and a kilt, and another about an accident Barrowman had onstage at Opryland USA. Questions ranged from his *Torchwood* character to *Desperate Housewives*, his stage performances, and the books he's written with his sister.

Read the complete article on the Daily Dragon website.

Read the complete interview on the Daily Dragon website.

Guild Launch Presents: The Dragon*Slayer Awards

DC*MMO and Guild Launch want to celebrate the great and not-so-great moments in MMO Public Relations and Customer Service. Did Ghostcrawler promise you a moose? Did your favorite MMO studio spend months hyping a new release only to see their servers crash on launch day? Did they turn around and give all the players a free month's worth of game time as a way of apologizing? The Dragon*Slayer Awards recognize those who go the extra mile as well as those who didn't make it very far out of the gate. Sun 5:30PM, Capitol Ballroom (S).

Finalists and Winners of the 2012 Parsec Awards

- Best New Speculative Fiction Podcaster or Team: *Toasted Cake*
- Best Speculative Fiction or News Podcast (Specific): *The Signal*; (General): *The Incomparable*
- Best Speculative Fiction Comedy or Parody Podcast: *Supervillain Corner*
- Best Speculative Fiction Music Podcast: *Radio Free Hipster*
- Best Podcast about Speculative Fiction Content Creation:

- Writing Excuses*
- Best Fact Behind the Fiction Podcast: *MonsterTalk*
- Best Speculative Fiction Magazine or Anthology Podcast: *The Drabblecast*
- Best Speculative Fiction Audio Drama (Short Form): *Keeg's Quest: A Skyrim Adventure* by Rich Matheson
- Best Small Cast Speculative Fiction Story (Short Form): *The Ministry of Peculiar Occurrences*

- es: Precarious Child* by Pip Balantine
- Best Large Cast Speculative Fiction Story: *The Ministry of Peculiar Occurrences: The Seven* by P.C. Haring
- Best Speculative Fiction Audio Drama (Long Form): *The Mask of Inanna* by Alicia Goranson
- Best Small Cast Speculative Fiction Story (Long Form): *Underwood and Flinch: A Vampire Novel* by Mike Bennett

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**

"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).

NEW **Alethea Kontis** will be on "Breaking off the Page with Janet Lee" Sun 11:30, Hanover F (Hy).

"The Future of TV is Online, Featuring Aaron Douglas" Aaron talks about his new show, Hemlock Grove, and other works. Sun 11:30AM, A601-602 (M).

"Performance by Matt Leger" Sun 11:30AM, Baker (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).

"Open Filking" Sun 1PM, Baker (Hy).

"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).

"Performance Workshop with Craig Crumpton" Sun 4PM, Baker (Hy).

"Ask Zombie Squad" Sheltering in place, bug out bags, and skills for the apocalypse. Zombie Squad will 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).

Suzanne Church will be on "Short and Not So Sweet Stories" Sun 7PM, Embassy D-F (Hy).

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

NEW **"Brina Palencia Sings!"** Sun 7:30PM, Baker (Hy).

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

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

"Performance Workshop with Craig Crumpton" Sun 11:30AM, Baker (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).

David Franklin will not be on "Pop the Frelling Bubble: Farscape Cast Reunion" Sun 1PM, Int'l North (Hy).

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

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 **"The Art of Short Film"** Sun 4PM, Embassy C (Hy).

Carlos Pedraza will not be on "Ms. Star Trek Universe" Sun 4PM Grand Ballroom A-F (S).

D.J. Grothe will not be on "James Randi: Why Skepticism Matters" Sun 5:30PM, Int'l N (Hy).

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

NEW **Tee Morris** will not be on "Steampunk 101" Mon 11:30AM, Embassy D-F (Hy).; "How Do You Take Your Steampunk—Light or Dark?" Mon 1PM, Int'l A (W).

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).

"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).

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

WoW Fan Gathering

Do you enjoy watching your hosts and fellow fans make complete fools of themselves while trying to dance like Draenei? The DC*MMO crew has got you covered. Are you one of the legions of fans who have been asking for a WoW Trivia Contest? We're doing one of those too! Sun 7PM, Grand Salon E (Hil).



Princess Alethea's Traveling Sideshow

Free swag bags! Goodies! Prizes! Join Princess Alethea and her guests Leanna Renee Hieber, Gray Rinehart, and James Maxey for an exciting hour of stories, songs, and zombie haikus. Sun 2:30PM, Edgewood (Hy).



Jordu Schell

Truth presents Jordu Schell! Meet the mind behind the art for such films and TV shows as *Avatar*, *300*, *Hellboy*, and *Babylon 5*. Sunday 4PM in Embassy (Hy).



Once Upon a Time Cosplayers Meetup and Photo Shoot

For characters from the ABC hit *Once Upon a Time*. Sun 5:30PM, Pulse Bar (M).



Mechanical Masquerade

The Alternate History Track is proud to bring the Mechanical Masquerade to Dragon*Con, featuring some of the best and brightest from any time period. Costumes/formal-wear with a mask encouraged. Sun 8:30PM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).



Yule Ball

Where students of Hogwarts will socialize with their "foreign" guests! Sun 8:30PM, Grand Ballroom (S).



Pern and Game of Thrones Wedding

Joesph Hand will marry Valerie Hampton in the Pern track room. The wedding will have *Pern* and *Light* refreshments will be served, all reserved guests will get favors, and there will be prizes. Groom has requested pictures, so show up in medieval or GoT or Pern costumes and be photographed. Sun 10PM, Vinings (Hy).

An Hour of Quorum Fun

Saturday afternoon's *Battlestar Galactica* (BSG) panel "Welcome to the Quorum" provided the audience with a great surprise. **Aaron Douglas** strutted out to a huge round of applause by the audience and hugs from the other cast members.

When **Jamie Bamber** was asked about experience of having his wife, actress and musician **Kerry Norton**, appear on the show, Bamber said, "If I could define the show as one thing, it was a family experience, due to Eddie [Edward James Olmos] and Mary [Mary McDonnell]."

The actor who fielded the most questions was **James Callis**. Among other topics, he discussed the many transitions that his character, **Gaius Baltar**, lived through on the show, from scientist to politician to religious figurehead.

When asked to compare his consulting work on *BSG* to his work on *Eureka* and *Falling Skies*, **Dr. Kevin R. Grazier** said the science on *Eureka* was much more speculative, while *BSG* and *Falling Skies* were more grounded, and most of the technology was based on real science.

Richard Hatch compared his experiences filming the original *BSG* and the new show. In the original, we didn't "have a lot of rehearsal or collaboration." The new show was "far more deep, profound, and edgy," with opportunities to portray a "richer, deeper, more interesting character."

Michael Trucco really enjoyed playing the dynamic between Anders and Starbuck, despite the fact that it "wasn't easy being a doormat sometimes."

The panel ended with a frakking enthusiastic, "So say we all!" cheer.