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THE DAILY DRAGON

Dragon Con 2024

Not Dragon Con Without the Cruxshadows

by Max Caracappa

If you've ever been to a Dragon Con before, you have definitely heard the Cruxshadows' music as it pumps from their booth outside the Marriott Marquis Ballroom near the elevators. Rogue and the Cruxshadows have become an enduring staple of the convention. They first played here around 1996 and found themselves being asked back year after year. According to Rogue, playing Dragon Con has become part of the band's identity and they see the convention as their home base. At the time they first attended, the general public had access to the convention and were able to walk through the hotels without a badge. "The exposure that Dragon Con gave us back then was really important to the band... The fact that we came year after year after year has allowed us to see what works and what doesn't work and to make changes and improve things," said Rogue.

Rogue also said that he felt that the Cruxshadows were instrumental in the inclusion of the goth and dark wave subcultures into Dragon Con. "Dragon Con is my favorite place to live," said Rogue. "I love being able to make something that has an impact on people's lives... I love access to human beings. I love being able to reach people.

But Rogue, never one to limit himself creatively, is not just an accomplished musician and visual artist. He and his collaborator, Ringo-Award-nominated

comic creator and playwright Brenton Lengel, have been working for many years on a novel called *Afterall*.

The story of *Afterall* started as a tribute to a friend of Lengel's who passed away suddenly and asks the reader to imagine an afterlife where "all the collected hopes, thoughts, and dreams of all who have ever lived and all who have yet to live are smashed together into one world." It is a place where not just your idea of the afterlife is true; everyone else's is, too. Over the years, the story has evolved far past the original seed of it into places where neither of them expected it to go. Rogue described it as a kind of *Wizard of Oz* story that follows Dorothy out of the black and white world and into the technicolor one.

Because the story has evolved so much from the original concept, Rogue and Lengel do a reading from the novel at Dragon Con and answer questions about it. It gives them a chance to update people on the project, where it is, and where it is going. This year the reading and Q&A session is on Friday at 7PM in Regency V at the Hyatt. They recently completed and published an illustrated section of the novel titled *Afterall: Into the Void*, which will be available for sale at Lengel's booth in AmericasMart 2 (Booth 308, fourth floor).

Lengel also has a new volume of his comic series *Snow White Zombie Apoc-*



alypse that has been fully funded on Kickstarter. Previous volumes have been drawn by Ringo-Award-nominated artist Hyeondo Park and Eisner-Award-winner Luana Vecchio. The upcoming volume will be drawn by Adam Bryce Thomas, who is best known for his work on IDW's *Sonic the Hedgehog* and *Samurai Jack*. Thomas has previously created variant covers for the series, but this is the first time he has been the main artist on the series.

If you're looking for either Rogue or Lengel, you can also find them at the Cruxshadows table in the Marriott on the Marquis level. Just follow the sound of the beat. Or look for one of the Cruxshadows fairies.

Read the full interview on the Daily Dragon website!

From X-Men to Victorian England

by Nancy Northcott

Susan and Clay Griffith met in a bookstore over a copy of *X-Men* #201. The meeting led to marriage and collaboratively writing urban fantasy novels and short stories and media tie-in work.

Daily Dragon (DD): *How did a copy of X-Men bring you together?*

Clay & Susan Griffith (C&SG): Clay was working at B. Dalton Bookseller, and Susan came in as a customer. She bought a copy of *X-Men* #201, and she claims that he spoiled the ending. He disputes this. Either way, we've been together ever since.

DD: *How long after you met did you start writing together, and what spurred you to try it?*

C&SG: Several years. We certainly read and helped edit each other's solo writing for a long time before we started working on the same projects. We started working together when an editor called Clay to ask if he was interested in writing some Disney-licensed comic book stories. Clay immediately said yes, but he wasn't really a huge Disney guy. Fortunately, Susan was.

DD: *What was your first sale?*

C&SG: Our first collaborative sale was a Disney comic story. It was either *Toy Story* or *Beauty and the Beast*. Not sure which one came first.

DD: *What is the Vampire Empire series about?*

C&SG: The series focuses on Princess Adele, heir to the Empire of Equatoria, a remnant of the old tropical British Empire. When she becomes the target of a merciless vampire clan, her only protector is the Greyfriar, a mysterious hero who fights the vampires from deep within their territory. Their dangerous relationship plays out against an approaching war to the death between humankind and the vampire clans.

DD: *You've also written another series, Crown & Key. What's the premise of that series?*

C&SG: We like to call it Charlotte Brontë's Avengers. It's a world where werewolves prowl the shadows of back alleys and the inner circles of upper-crust society of Victorian London. Only a handful of specially gifted practitioners are equipped to battle the beasts. Among them are the roguish Simon Archer, who conceals his powers as a spell-casting scribe behind the smooth veneer of a dashing playboy, Scottish monster-hunter Malcolm MacFarlane, and the self-possessed alchemist Kate Anstruther, who is equally at home in a ballroom as she is on a battlefield

DD: *How did you settle on Victorian London as the setting for your series?*

C&SG: We've both been fascinated by the Victorian era for most of our lives. It's the setting for so many formative stories we read as kids, like Edgar Allan Poe and Sherlock Holmes and Dracula. The time period is draped in mystery and adventure. There's also inherent drama and conflict from class struggle and gender roles to colonialism and scientific discovery. Plus, it just looks cool with top hats and cloaks and gowns and carriages and gas lamps.

DD: *Do you ever write separately?*

C&SG: We are both currently writing novels separately. Clay is writing a post-war Hollywood magic story, and Susan is in the final edit stages of her fantasy novel set in the NYC night club scene of the 1930s.

DD: *You cited the Avengers as an influence. What do you like about superheroes?*

C&SG: The great thing about superheroes is their flexibility in terms of stories. They can be used to tell any type of tale from gritty crime stories to galaxy-spanning science fiction. It all works as long as the character comes first.

Read the full interview on the Daily Dragon website!

Friday Parties & Events

Suspicion at the Speakeasy: AHFT & DC Charity Escape Room Event

This year's escape room will have groups of 6-8 solving a mystery set in Prohibition-era Atlanta: Suspicion at the Speakeasy! Uncover secrets and crack codes to escape, all while supporting a good cause, the Arthritis Foundation. To play, sign up in person with the track. Limited availability. Friday 10AM-3:30PM, Valdosta (Courtland Grand).



Video Game Costume Contest

Judged on craftsmanship of the costume as well as screen accuracy of the character portrayed. Judges will be looking at the costume, the workmanship, design, & inspiration. This will be open to individuals, experts and novices, & part of the judging includes a description of the game and character. Friday 5:30PM, Peachtree Ballroom (Westin).



Improvised Dungeons & Dragons LIVE!

Back by popular demand, Dungeon Master Mark Meer, celebrity guests, and members of Atlanta's own Dad's Garage Theatre Company act as improvisers attempting to survive with only their wits, character sheets, and high charisma stats. No board, no script, yes costumes. Friday 7PM, Peachtree Ballroom (Westin).



MST3K Event - Welcome to Camp Corman!

Join Tom Servo and the other camp counselors as we salute the man who conquered the drive-in, Roger Corman (1926-2024). There'll be games, prizes, rare clips around the campfire, and more! But WATCH OUT for giant leeches, sea serpents, teenage cavemen, and of course... the legendary tee-pee terror! Friday 7-10:30PM, Grand West (Hilton).



Friday Night Costuming Contest

Entrants compete in Youth, Novice, Journeyman, & Professional categories in this workmanship costume contest. Cheer on your favorites & vote for the Social Media Fan Favorite on Facebook. Friday 8:30-11PM, Atrium Ballroom (Marriott).



Klingon Karaoke (Honor)

You won't need to speak Klingon (or Klingonese) to board our vessel for this musical journey. Sing with honor, and don't behave like a filthy targ! Friday

10PM-12:30AM, Galleria 2-3 (Hilton).



An Evening in Bree

The annual celebration with live music, dancing, and High Fantasy frivolity. Plus, the much-anticipated costume contest and awards! Friday 8:30PM-12:30AM, Grand West (Hilton).



Dragon Con's Pin-ups by the Pool

Don your best poolside pin-up attire... there's gonna be a pin-up competition! Register for the competition poolside 30 minutes before the party begins. Judges will be mixing and mingling in the fray, so don't be a wallflower. Remember the judges love a nerdy twist to your pin-up creation! Friday 8:30-11PM, Pool and Courtyard (Courtland Grand).



The Artistic Soirée: An After-Hours Painting Party

Let your creativity soar at an exclusive paint party! Join seasoned artists in a live group-painting session, where you'll unleash your artistic prowess and create stunning masterpieces. This 18+ event is limited to the first 40 lucky participants who register. Mature Audiences. Friday 10PM, Hanover AB (Hyatt).



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K-Pop Dance Party

Bring your best moves to the K-pop Dance Party with DJ 1C3NIN3, where we will be playing your favorite hit songs! Friday 10PM-12:30AM, Imperial Ballroom (Marriott).

Can't Stop the Signal Dance

Aim to misbehave at the shiny 7th Annual Can't Stop the Signal Dance, celebrating Firefly and Serenity and benefiting the Arthritis Foundation! DJ Phasim will be on deck and keeping it spinning. Bring your dollars for charity & dance like no power in the 'Verse can stop you! Friday 10PM-2AM, Peachtree Ballroom (Westin).



Zombie Prom: Your Brain Will Go On

Join us for Dragon Con's only post-apocalyptic bash! Both zombies and zombie hunters alike gather from the nuclear wastelands for a fallout-fueled dance party. Prizes awarded for best undead king and queen and best post-apocalyptic Cosplays. Can you survive this radiation-infused evening of fun? Friday 10PM-2AM, Grand Salon (Hilton).



After-Hours Artistry: Paint the Night Away

Unleash your inner artist at our exclusive paint party, where the strokes are bold, the colors vibrant, and the company unmatched! This is your canvas to create, surrounded by fellow artists and night owls. Friday 10PM, Hanover AB (Hyatt).



Classic Sci-Fi Charity Lock-In Movie: Miami Connection!

Experience the 1987 martial arts rock band epic for this year's Dragon Con charity! COOL BONUS: Get pumped for the movie with a performance from the best band the 80s never had, NEON WARLORDS! Friday 8:30-11PM, M103-105 (Marriott).



Costuming Exhibit

A spectacular display of Dragon Con's finest costuming craftsmanship. Friday-Sunday 1PM-8PM, 301 (Hilton).



Salon du Cospl-AID

Brighten up your morning with a truly Victorian experience: dressing help from a lady's maid or valet, provided by the wonderful volunteers of the Cospl-AID group. Drop in if you need assistance, or some finishing touches, to feel your very best in your cosplay. Friday-Saturday 8:30-11AM, Augusta (Courtland Grand).



Headless Lounge

A chill place to take off your character head and cool down away from prying public eyes, ruining the illusion. Fans, water, quiet time...whether a member of the 501st, cartoon character, or furry, all head-wearing costumers w/ one handler are welcome. Made possible with the help of Furry Weekend Atlanta. Friday-Sunday 2:30-11PM, 308 (Hilton).

Check out the Parties and Events pages on the *Daily Dragon* website for more!

Daily Dragon Tweets

Don't miss the latest Dragon Con news and announcements. Follow @daily_dragon on Twitter... er, X!

Schedule Changes

The following previously confirmed guests are unfortunately not able to attend Dragon Con 2024: **Freeman Agyeman, Chloe Bennet, Jack Coleman, Emilie de Ravin, Dan Jeannotte, Terry Matalas, Melissa Navia**



Arcade Gaming with Joystick

Come get your "game on" at the pop-up from our friends at Joystick Gamebar, Atlanta's official retro arcade. Classic arcade cabinets and pinball machines are on FREE PLAY, located in the old Benihana space of our beloved food court in Peachtree Center Mall. Live long and party on! Thursday 6PM-1AM; Friday-Sunday 10AM-4AM; Monday, 10AM-5PM.



Arthritis Foundation

Dragon Con's Official 2024 Charity



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