2018 Dragon Con Parade

Don’t miss the highlight of every Dragon Con weekend as the 2018 Dragon Con Parade takes over the streets Saturday at 10AM. Grand Marshals Emilo Degado, Roscoe Orman, and Bob McGrath of Sesame Street will lead the way, along with Parade Marshals Joel Hogenson and Jonah Ray from Mystery Science Theater 3000, pro wrestling legend Ric Flair, and the Dragon Con 2018 Literary Guest of Honor, Steven Barnes.

In addition to perennial favorites like the 501st Legion Stormtroopers, parade viewers should expect to see multiple new vehicles, including a Star Wars Sandcrawler, a Black Panther Sphinx, a Mandalorian skiff, and not one, but two Mystery Machines, along with their Scooby Gangs. Other guests will include Star Trek’s John de Lancie, former Bond girl Trina Parks, and author Dr. John Flynn. Dragon Con musical guests The Extraordinary Contraptions will be playing as well.

Be sure to get to the parade route early to stake out a good viewing spot! But if you can’t be there in person, DragonConTV will be broadcasting the parade live to all five host hotels.

Talking Sidekicks and Diversity with CB Lee by Shae Connor

Award-winning author CB Lee spoke to the Daily Dragon in advance of con with information about her series Sidekick Squad, her favorite books, and her thoughts on diversity in publishing.

Daily Dragon (DD): Tell our readers a little about your Sidekick Squad series.

CB Lee (CL): Actually, Dragon Con was the very first time readers— and myself!!!—got to see Not Your Sidekick [the first title] in print. The novel launched officially in September 3, 2016, but as I was attending Dragon Con as an author and also selling books in the vendor floor, my publisher did a special early release just for Dragon Con! It was such an experience getting to hold my book for the first time.

The Sidekick Squad series is about a group of queer teens who learn what it means to be a hero in a world that seeks to define it for you. The adventure is set in a world after a catastrophic solar flare sparked the beginning of a series of worldwide natural disasters and political upheaval, but also catalyzed a latent gene present in humans that would present itself in the form of extraordinary abilities.

DD: What do you think of the current state of diversity in publishing, and particularly in YA?

CL: I think young adult fiction is moving publishing towards a more inclusive literary landscape.

Unowns Invade Dragon Con by Brandilyn Carpenter

We have a huge gathering of pop culture enthusiasts for a con in Downtown Atlanta. What do we do but play games? One of the most popular games at the moment is the Niantic/Nintendo collaboration Pokemon Go. If you are a casual player, you may not yet be aware that Niantic has given Dragon Con a few treats for the long weekend.

First of all, there is a Dragon Con gym outside AmericasMart Building 2, near the intersection of International Boulevard and Ted Turner Drive.

Next is the release of seven Unown variants. Those variants would be the ones that spell out DRAGON CON. Unconfirmed rumors have speculated that an eighth unown—what it means to be a hero in a world after a catastrophic solar flare sparked the beginning of a series of worldwide natural disasters and political upheaval, but also catalyzed a latent gene present in humans that would present itself in the form of extraordinary abilities.

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CL: I think young adult fiction is moving publishing towards a more inclusive literary landscape.

Finally, Niantic has announced a global challenge that coincides with Dragon Con weekend. If North America can complete enough challenges this weekend, then starting September 3 at 4PM Atlanta time, there will be special rewards.

If Pokemon Go is your thing, be sure to keep your batteries charged and have fun hunting from all eras. Formal attire strongly encouraged. Come as your favorite character in their most formal ensemble or dress to impress. Fri 10PM, Savannah Ballroom (Westin).

Can’t Stop the Signal Dance

Aim to misbehave at our super-shiny party, celebrating Firefly and Serenity and benefiting Literacy Action! Bring your dollars for charity, and dance like no power in theVerse can stop you! Mature Audiences Only. Fri 10PM, Grand Ballroom A–F (Sheraton).

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Check out the Parties/Events page on the Daily Dragon website for more parties and meetups!
**Schedule Changes**

The following previously confirmed presenters will not be able to attend Dragon Con 2018: Affie Allen, cheer ee Alsop, Pilou Asbaek, Alexandra Breckenridge, Mary Kate Butler, Gerald L Coleman, Nesta Cooper, Michael-Scoot Earle, Eric Rendering Fish, Jaym Gates, Patrick Gilmore, Christopher Gold, Doc Hammer, Kathryn Haskell, Jinglebooboo, John W Loftus, Heidi McDonald, Dean Moto ter, Sho Murase, Joseph Nassise, Al- lison Scaglione, Kal Spriggs, George Taylor, Janet Varney, Tities Welliver.

**CORRECTION**

Autograph Sessions (all) are in International South 1–3 (M).

**ADDITIONS**

Van Allen Plexico will be on “Battlesstar Galactica Frakkin’ 40th/15th Anniversary Panel” Fri 1 PM, Chastain DE (W).

“Anime 101 For Parents” Fri 4 PM, Galleria 1 (Hil).

Michael George Williams will be on “The Greatest Michaels & Michelles in Classic Sci-Fi” Fri 8:30 PM, M103–105 (M).

Trip Hope will be on “A Beginner’s Guide to Dungeons & Dragons” Sat 10 AM, Augusta 1–2 (W).

“Gina Torres: Firefly’s Big Damn Hero” Sat 1 PM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

Matthew Clark will be on “DC Comics Artists” Sat 5:30 PM, 204I (AM2).

“NEW” Alex Sinclair and Richard Starling will be on “Batman & The Heroes of Gotham” Fri 5:30 PM, International South (Hy).

“Peter Beagle and Authors Sing” Sat 7 PM, International North (Hy).

Mari Mancusi will be on “Meet & Greet: Middle-Grade Authors” Sun 11:30 AM, Roswell (Hy); “Halloween 40th Anniversary Panel” Sun 7 PM, Peachtree 1–2 (W).

“Anime 201 For Parents” Sun 1 PM, Galleria 1 (Hil).

“HamiTunes: An American Singa-long at Dragon Con” Sun 1 PM, Crystal Ballroom (Hil).

Mark W. Gura will be on “Mediation: What it is and Isn’t” Sun 2:30 PM, Galleria 7 (Hil).

Constance Wagner will be on “Religion in High Fantasy” Sun 2:30 PM, L401–L403 (M).

Billy Tucci will be on “Dynimate Entertainment Comics” Sun 4 PM, 204I (AM2).

Robert Duncan McNeill will be on “Star Miss Star Trek Universe Pageant” Sun 5:30 PM, Grand Ballroom A–F (S).

Gigi Edgely will be on “Gonzo Quiz Show: No Regrets” Sun 10 PM, Regency VI–VII (Hy).

Grant Baciocco will be on “The Late-Night Puppets: Comedy Slam” Mon 12 AM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

Bill Mulligan will be on “Keep on Rot ting in the Free World” Mon 11:30 AM, Peachtree 1–2 (W).

“NEW” The Taj Motel Trio, Mon 2:30 PM, Concours II (AM2).

**CANCELLATIONS**

Lou Diamond Phillips will not be on “Stargate: Universe—Operation Destiny Awaits” Fri 11:30 AM, Peachtree Ball room (W).

Tara Strong will not be on “Voice Actor’s Panel: The Pros & the Cons” Fri 1 PM, Grand West (Hil); “Batman & The Heroes of Go tham” Fri 5:30 PM, International North (Hy); “Ask a Character!” Sun 5:30 PM, Grand East (Hil); “Dragon Con Presents (again): Masterpiece Theater” Sun 7 PM, Augusta E–H (Hil).

Michael D. French will not be on “Battlesstar Galactica Frakkin’ 40th/15th Anniversary Panel” Fri 1 PM, Chastain DE (W).

Robert Duncan McNeill will not be on “Star Trek Alum QA” Fri 1 PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

Alexa Black will not be on “Making It for the Movies” Fri 1 PM, Grand East (Hil).

Janet Varney will not be on “Thrilling Adventurer!” Fri 1 PM, A601-602 (M); “Attack of the Celebrity Improv” Fri 10 PM, Imperial Ballroom (M); “The Legend of Korra” Sat 1 PM, Grand East (Hil); “Two Misfits Who Dream: Women Who Create Fantasy Worlds” Sun 10 AM, Grand East (Hil).

“Painting Miniatures” Fri 2:30 PM, August 3 (W).

“From Deku to Dekiru: Teaching Anime and Manga in First-Year Compositions” Fri 4 PM, Imperial Ballroom (M).

Jessica Harmon will not be on “The 100: Cast Q&A” Fri 4 PM and Sat 5:30 PM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

Stephen L. Antczak will not be on “Creating Iconic Characters from Page to Screen” Fri 4 PM, 204I (AM2).

Jesse Kriess will not be on “Keep on Rotting in the Free World” Mon 11:30 AM, Grand Ballroom A–F (S).

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