Masquerade Winners

Best Original Character: Paige Norris
Best Disney: Daral Yam
Best Fantasy: Rob Shetler
Best Sci-Fi: Shannon Swearingen and Will Luther
Best Comedy: Jason Abbott
Best Toddler: Zoey Terlouw
Best Master: Mike and Kelsey McCarter
Best Journeyman: Dave Collier and Amanda Carambat
Best Novice: Bryan Bach
Best Junior: Amanda Carambat
Best Original Character: Paige Norris

Alton Brown at Dragon Con by Brandilynn Carpenter

Dragon Con foodies were given a treat on Sunday afternoon at 4PM in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom as the first-ever “Good Eats… the Panel” was presented. Longtime fans of the show will recognize not only Alton Brown but also the rest of the panelists, who all appeared on the show in one or more on-screen roles over the years. Joining Brown on the stage were actor Bart Hansard, actress Vickie Eng, actor Lucky Yates, production designer Todd Bailey, actress Widdi Turner, and “lawyer/professional assistant/percussionist/jack of all trades Jim Pace. These names may not sound familiar, but their many faces and talents accompanied Alton Brown on his Good Eats journey.

The cast has an undeniable chemistry on stage. This chemistry led to much banter and many stories that probably shouldn’t be repeated in print.

Condiment Freak Billie Piper by Maggie Caracappa

The hour with Billie Piper in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom on Sunday afternoon at 2:30PM was briefly hijacked by John Barrowman as he made a surprise appearance on stage to help load the room and keep us entertained while we awaited Piper’s arrival. As soon as Piper arrived, she stepped on stage with her hands in a questioning gesture, as though to say “What the heck?”

After Barrowman excused himself, the panel proceeded apace. While the panel included Piper’s roles as Rose and as Lily in Penny Dreadful, most of the questions focused on her time in Doctor Who. Piper said that she has enjoyed working with all of the different Doctors over her time with Who but that she had the most fun with Tennant. She felt that everyone relaxed a bit more while they were filming the second series because the show was a success, while they all felt like they had something to prove during the first series. She also said that her favorite and most moving scene to do was the final scene with Rose and Ten on the beach when they say farewell to each other.

Piper took a couple of questions about the upcoming series with the 13th Doctor, played by Jodie Whitaker. She is delighted to have Whitaker in the role, saying that she hasn’t spoken to her about it but that they do know each other. It is a big thing that Whitaker is taking on. “If they’re going to keep going with Doctor Who with no hiatus, you have to put a woman in that role,” Piper said. “It’s a very progressive and smart move by the BBC, and I think it’s what people want. ... What’s going to be really good is that girls are going to have a book-smart, savvy, historical role model who isn’t dancing around in [lingerie]. It would be nice to have a modern female role model who isn’t being overtly sexual to make a nice change.”

One audience member who was apparently displaying as ketchup (she introduced herself as Ketchup, anyway) asked what Piper’s favorite condiment is. To our surprise, Piper revealed herself as a “condiment freak” whose favorite condiment is A-1 Sauce.
Schedule Changes


ADDITIONS

James Callis will be on “Battlestar Galactica: Operation Cylon Resurrection” Mon 10AM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

Van Jensen will be on “State of the Comics Industry 2017 & Beyond” Mon 1PM, Chastain I-J (W).

CANCELLATIONS

Rekha Sharma will not be on “Battlestar Galactica: Operation Cylon Resurrection” Mon 10AM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

KJ McCormick will not be on “Safe Journeys: Kindred Spirits & Ghost Hunters” Mon 10AM, Grand West (Hil).

Nick Blood will not be on “Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (or Is That Hydra)” Mon 1PM, Grand Salon (Hil).

Jimmy Palmiotti will not be on “State of the Comics Industry 2017 & Beyond” Mon 1PM, Chastain I-J (W).

Paul Blackthorne will not be on “Arrow & Legends of Tomorrow” Mon 10AM, Grand Salon (Hil).

Gail Simone will not be on “Women in Comics” Mon 11:30AM, Chastain I-J (W).

R. Alan Siler will not be on “Ask the Experts: Everything Doctor Who” Mon 1PM, Galleria 5 (Hil).

Mike Horner will not be on “So You Want to Build a Puppet” Mon 11:30AM, A707 (M).

Shatner: ‘We’re All Nerds in Atlanta!’ by Kevin Shirley

William Shatner fielded a wide range of questions Sunday morning in the Hilton Salon. He apologized for his limited movement but explained that a pinched nerve in his back, caused by an accident at a horse show in Kentucky, had slowed him down a bit. He may have slowed a bit physically but Shatner’s wit and stage presence were in full form.

The questions launched with a question about Better Late than Never. The reality-travel show starring Terry Bradshaw, George Foreman, Jeff Dye, Henry Winkler, and Shatner premiered with a trip to Asia. Not only has NBC renewed the program, but they have just completed shooting a European adventure. The group traveled to Germany, Lithuania, Sweden, Spain, and Morocco. The challenge with this kind of format is not the weeks on the road (NBC took care of all that); it’s coming up with funny things for six weeks.

A fan asked Shatner to recite the opening monologue to Star Trek. Shatner admitted that he could not remember and never got it right. In fact, while trying to recite it on his own, he kept saying “Peace, the final frontier.” A lady then stood up, showing him her t-shirt, which just so happened to have the prologue emblazoned across the front. He called her up, and read (with many a comment) the prologue with the “majesty” he’d always hoped to bring to it.

Shatner has long been famous (or infamous) for his albums, and he wanted the crowd to know that he is working on a Christmas album that will probably be out for Christmas 2018. He envisions a combination of narration and music throughout.

‘Young Justice’ and ‘Teen Titans’

by Ralph Gallagher

Peter David and Benjamin Percy joined a crowd of eager fans to discuss Young Justice and Teen Titans in the comics. Both writers were eager to talk about their works. One of the first questions asked by the audience was how the rosters for the two comics were determined.

Peter David said he was given the original roster for Young Justice: Robin, Impulse, and Superboy. He wanted to include more female characters, though, because he felt more comfortable writing teen-age girls—he had two of them.

The Powers-That-Be gave him the approval, asking him to wait a couple issues then introduce the new characters. He brought in Secret, Wonder Girl, and Arrowette to help round out the team. During the run, he ended up retiring Arrowette and introducing an original character named Empress. David said one of his biggest reasons for creating her was to add some more diversity to the team, with her being their first black teammate.

Percy’s story was much different. He met with some of the executives in a boardroom, with every potential character written on a white board. They then hashed out each character and came up with the current Teen Titans roster. He said it was difficult for them to figure out how to introduce each character without overwhelming the readers. He also hinted that a new Green-Arrow-related character would be visiting the Teen Titans soon and potentially joining the team.

2017 Dragon Award Winners Announced

Best Science Fiction Novel: Baby’s Ashes, James S.A. Corey
Best Young Adult/Middle Grade Novel: The Hammer of Thor, Rick Riordan
Best Military Science Fiction or Fantasy Novel: Iron Dragons, Richard Fox
Best Alternate History Novel: Fallout: The Hot War, Harry Turtledove
Best Apocalyptic Novel: Walkaway, Cory Doctorow
Best Horror Novel: The Change Ring, Victor LaValle
Best Comic Book: The Dresden Files: Dog Men, Jim Butcher, Mark Powers, Diego Galindo
Best Graphic Novel: Jim Butcher’s The Dresden Files: Wild Card, Jim Butcher, Carlos Gomez
Best Science Fiction or Fantasy TV Series: Stranger Things, Netflix
Best Science Fiction or Fantasy Movie: Wonder Woman, directed by Patty Jenkins
Best Science Fiction or Fantasy PC/Console Game: The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild, Nintendo
Best Science Fiction or Fantasy Mobile Game: Pokemon GO, Niantic
Best Science Fiction or Fantasy Board Game: Betrayal at House on the Hill: Widow’s Walk, Avalon Hill
Best Science Fiction or Fantasy Miniatures/Collectible Card/Role-Playing Game: Magic the Gathering: Eldritch Moon, Wizards of the Coast

Drake's Week

Hy = Hyatt
S = Sheraton
Hil = Hilton
AM1/2 = AmericasMart Bldg 1/2

Daily Dragon Tweets

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Shout-Out

To my best friend Jonathan: Couldn’t have done “Press Your Luck” without you! Here's to 10 more years.—Your friend, Bryan

Zachary Levi: A Man of Passion

by Kelly McCorkendale

Zachary Levi is many things—namely a charismatic, triple-threat performer who may be able to do a little Kung Fu—but, mostly, he is passionate. Passionate about Chuck, the show that made him famous, passionate about nerd culture and his fans, and passionate about bettering the world by addressing social media bullying, abject poverty, and getting undiscovered talent into Hollywood: all things he spoke candidly about during his first panel at his first Dragon Con.

“I’m super excited to be here,” he said, calling the Con and its attendees “freakin’ stupendous!” as he relieved his moderator and hopped up on the table to sit, often swinging his feet—clad in some coolly distressed boots—while giving a closet shot to the camera/screens that was quickly remedied. But not before a few well-timed jokes and hearty audience laughter. Levi was, in a nut shell, entertaining. Whether he was talking about his new favorite color (a reddish pink called awesome), rejecting a proposal, or reminiscing about his hometown, he was gracious, magnetic, and, clearly, full of hunger.

This is Levi’s first year on the con circuit, though he did attend one years ago with Chuck co-star Adam Baldwin in England and in 2011 founded Nerd HQ, an alt-con offering that usually runs in tandem with San Diego Comic-Con. Levi may be a handsome actor with a seemingly devil-may-care attitude, but it’s clear he’s a social warrior (who is not interested in running for office). He’s dismayed by self-righteous social media bullies who attack people from behind the safety of computer screens and that Hollywood doesn’t always listen to the people it should be listening to: you, the fans. “You are the power,” he told the audience. He later followed with, “We deserve to have the best of things.” Levi said he believes talent should be rewarded, but it doesn’t always make it to Hollywood, a fact that concerns him.