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Dragon Con 2017

The Daily Dragon

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 Junior (any contestant under 16): Bryan Bach
- Best Novice (has never won an award in competition): Robert and Teresa Bolwerk
- Best Journeyman (has won at least one, but less than four, category awards at a large convention or recognized competition): Dave Collier and Kelsey McCarter
- Best Master (previously won major award): Mike and Amanda Carambat
- Best in Show: Holly Hasty and Jason Szabo



Alton Brown at Dragon Con by Brandilyn 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”/production 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 Caraccappa

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



One thing that can be repeated—in fact, Brown encouraged the entire crowd to record and share on social media—is Brown's announcement that *Good Eats* will be returning to Food Network in 2018 as *Return of the Eats*. The new show will air both on the network and through its streaming services. Streamed episodes will also include bonus content not broadcast on the network.



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

Brown et al. treated fans to many comical stories of times on set and many behind the scenes outtakes. Turner related that script changes were so common that the cast never actually committed them to memory, so she was constantly learning things from her own lines while she watched the show itself. She also may have heaped some praise on her former boss by saying that “Alton is a genius.” Specifically, she was speaking about the timing and pace of the show. However, any Alton Brown fan would agree with the sentiment.

The question and answer session brought new insights to the audience. One such insight is that the crew had a goal to use at least one new technique or shot in every episode. Brown wanted to “make *Good Eats* visually interesting and pack it full of good information” with the goal that “[viewers] would watch *Good Eats* more than once.”

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 cosplaying 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

Hy = Hyatt S = Sheraton
M = Marriott W = Westin
Hil = Hilton
AM1/2 = AmericasMart Bldg 1/2

The following previously confirmed presenters will not be able to attend Dragon Con 2017: **Taylor Anderson, Kate Baker, Paul Blackthorne, Nick Blood, Amanda Conner, Ric Flair, Lena Headey, Jon Heder, Joe Granato, D. Alan Lewis, KJ McCormick, E.C. Myers, Bobby Nash, Corvis Nocturnum, Jimmy Palmiotti, Rekha Sharma, R. Alan Siler, Gail Simone, Joonas Suotamo, Karl Urban, Toni Weisskopf, Caleph B. Wilson (@HeyDrWilson).**

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: *Babylon's Ashes*, James S.A. Corey

Best Fantasy Novel (Including Paranormal): *Monster Hunter Memoirs: Grunge*, Larry Correia and John Ringo

Best Young Adult/Middle Grade Novel: *The Hammer of Thor*, Rick Riordan

Best Military Science Fiction or Fantasy Novel: *Iron Dragoons*, Richard Fox

Best Alternate History Novel: *Fallout: The Hot War*, Harry Turtledove

Best Apocalyptic Novel: *Walkaway*, Cory Doctorow

Best Horror Novel: *The Changeling*, 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

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 cosplayers "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 crotch 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 year ago with *Chuck* co-star Adam Baldwin in England and in 2011 founded Nerd HQ, a 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.