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Dragon\*Con 2011

# The Daily Dragon

## Illustrator, Painter, Publishing Royalty:

### A Talk with Michael Whelan

 by Debbie Yutko and Suzanne Church

Artist Guest of Honor **Michael Whelan** is one of the most respected artists in science fiction, fantasy, and horror illustration. At the Sunday 1PM panel in Hanover G (Hy), he spoke about how he had been an artist since childhood. Having lived close to Vandenburg Air Force Base in California, Whelan was inspired by the sounds of airplanes and rockets and began to read science fiction and fantasy.

The audience was treated to Whelan's insights as he showed images of his artwork, from his early illustrations, which mostly followed the content of the book, to later pieces where he began to use more symbolism. Whelan was unable to show all of the images he'd brought with him, but if he could have, the panel could easily have gone another half hour or more.

When we sat down to interview Whelan afterward, we were able to learn more from him about the process of creating not only paintings but also other kinds of art, including writing and composition.

**Daily Dragon (DD):** What do you enjoy most about conventions like Dragon\*Con?

**Michael Whelan (MW):** The face-to-face thing is part of what brings me to conventions. It makes such a huge difference.... For me, meeting authors is really great. I can get direct feedback from them. The editor will say, " [they] really liked your work," but to have [the author] actually tell me what he really liked about



it, and for me to ask him, "What would you improve?" or "Is there anything you'd like to see changed?" That feedback is much better in person.

**DD:** When you illustrate for books, your artwork is being seen by thousands of people who purchase the book.

**MW:** That's the big advantage of doing illustrations: the dissemination of your work.

**DD:** Do you find it frightening, staring at a blank canvas before you work on a gallery piece?

**MW:** I've never had that [feeling]. There's a book called *The Blank Canvas* that's for people with [painter's block]. I've got more ideas than I'll ever live long enough to use.

READ THE COMPLETE ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE ON THE DAILY DRAGON WEBSITE.

## 2011 Masquerade Winners

- Best in Show: **Alan Burt** as "Cuddles"
- Best Novice: **Jeff Leininger** as "Jumper"
- Best Journeymen: **DC by Gaslight** "Multiple DC Comic Characters"
- Best SciFi: **Elizabeth Mckinnon and Steve McManus** as "Velociraptor and Robert Muldoon"
- Humor: **Alan, Wendi, and Jo Gratz** as "Space Ghost, Brak, and Zorak"
- Best Fantasy: **Carter Eastis** as "Medieval Batman"
- Fuze & Movie: **Lori Bair** as "Black Swan"
- Best Master: **Chester "Chip" Malinowski** as "Wolf Man"
- Best *Star Trek*: **Dan Peterson** as "Gorn Captain from *Star Trek*"
- Best Horror: **Dina Lawson** as "Undead Belly Dancer"



## Wil Wheaton Steals Show at Eureka Panel

 by Maggie Caracappa

Each day at the convention, attendees have been treated to a panel featuring the stars of *Eureka*. At the Sunday morning panel, **Colin Ferguson**, **Jordan Hinson**, and **Chris Gauthier** were joined by fan favorite **Wil Wheaton**, with **Dr. Kevin R. Grazier** available to field science questions.

The panel, however, quickly turned into "The Wil Wheaton Show," with audience members firing question after question to the man who plays the scientist

they all love to hate, Dr. Isaac Parrish. In fact, the first question Wheaton took related to his rule: "Don't be a dick." For someone who lives by this rule, it was noted, he plays quite a lot of dicks. Wheaton responded that one of the great joys about being an actor is getting to make a living playing make-believe. "It is really fun to make-believe that I am a douchey, nerdy guy like Dr. Parrish. And it is really, really fun making believe that I'm Evil Wil."

At one point, a questioner asked the panel to list some of the strangest things they'd been asked to autograph. While the rest of the guests thought of their answers, Wheaton jumped in to say that he'd been at the con for three days and had not been asked to sign a single boob. Ferguson quickly presented his own chest for autographing, which Wheaton gleefully obliged. This kind of general levity was the hallmark of the panel.

# 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 2011: **David Anders, Adam Baldwin, Bruce Boxleitner, Talent Caldwell, Matthew Chapman, Amanda Conner, Christopher Dedman, Larry Flaxman, Stacia Kane, Michael Madsen, Jimmy Palmiotti, Tony Shasteen, and Michael Trevino.**

## Additions

**"Time of the Faeries: Afterlight with J. Corsentino"** A look at the Afterlight graphic novel series with Joseph Corsentino. Mon 2:30 PM, Hanover G (Hy).

\*NEW\* **Mischa Collins** will be on "Farewell, Supernatural" Mon 11:30AM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

## Cancellations

**"Legality of Cosplay and Fan Art"** Mon 10AM, 201 (Hil).

**Adam Baldwin** will not be on "Chuck—Casey at Bat" Mon 10AM, Centennial I (Hy).

**"Unearthing Creativity"** Mon 2:30PM, Hanover G (Hy).

**"Life of the Collaborative Studio"** Mon 4PM, Hanover F (Hy).

## Returning to the Dollhouse

by Maggie Caracappa

Getting together to talk about prematurely canceled shows is a common experience for fans of **Joss Whedon**, but that doesn't damper anyone's enthusiasm. It was just as true at the "Welcome to the Dollhouse" panel Saturday afternoon. As **Eliza Dushku** took the stage, she filmed the crowd cheering and clapping, which continued unabated as she was joined by **Tahmoh Penikett**.

Both stars agreed that *Dollhouse* ended before its time. "In three seasons, a show can really accomplish a lot. It really deserved a third season,"

Penikett said. However, Penikett noted that if the show had gone on, he would have liked for his character not to get a bullet in the head.

Dushku agreed, saying she had really been looking forward to seeing how many more people could be crammed into her character's head. She also said she would have liked to have more time with Penikett as well as **Harry Lennix** as Boyd and **Alan Tudyk** as Alpha.

Asked about their favorite plot twists, Dushku noted that she both loved it and hated it when Boyd turned out to be the villain, but that,

"We all know Joss. He likes to make people angry." Penikett responded that he really enjoyed all the twists, but especially the reveal of Mellie (played by **Miracle Laurie**) as a doll and the conflict for his character in having to become part of the Dollhouse in order to save her.

The panel, much like the show, was over too soon. Throughout the hour, it was clear that the audience and the actors loved the show equally. As the attendees departed, Dushku and Penikett both took time to thank their fans for everything they do.

### To My Wonder Daughter, Tiffany (Tifa)!

Welcome to your first con! This is one of the happiest moments of my life to be able to share it with you! You are now an official geek! hehehe!

—William Adcock



### PL Holley

Thanks for 19 years of Dragon\*Con and friendship and love! This is our real anniversary.



### Gwen Blakeley has gone into the West

But you are with us still in spirit. We love and miss you.

—PLOBFFHH from Alesia, Dawn, Kris, Dina, Kim, Madie, Crystal, Ashley, Darcee, & Heather



### Mog, Jase, D, and Red Shirt... I mean Chrissy

Hail, hail, the crew's all here! Barring mutiny, here's to the start of a wonderful addiction! Can't wait to share our first D\*C stories—and more "you had to be there" events! Guess D wanted to renew vows after all!

—Hobbit

### To My Baby, Happy 25th Birthday

Sorry I won't be there as I am here at Dragon\*Con. —Annette



### To My Wonderful Husband, Spencer

Who, even though we just bought a new house and a new car last month and definitely don't have as much money as usual for this trip, still managed to make sure that we get to enjoy another fulfilled con together! I love you and thank you for being as geeky as I am!

—All my Love, Teresa



### Happy Birthday

To My Bestest Roomie, Karen Venn! Hope to see you at D\*C next year.

—Elizabeth



### Happy Birthday BT!

So very glad you could make it from Boston this year!

—Rich



### Happy 21st Birthday, Cassandra!

So glad we can celebrate at the Con.

—Love you, Mama

### Happy Dragon\*Con to My South Carolina Family

Much Love to Soundwave Legion of Boom, Charleston Area Star Trek Fans, and Lowcountry Anime & Gaming.

—Erika



### Thinking of You

Ryan Jones and Essay Hood, the best 10th Doctor and Rose this side of David Tennant and Billie Piper. May you get better soon!

—Sir Diddimus



### Congratulations, Kaitlyn

On your first Dragon\*Con! I hope this is the first of many.

—Love, Dad



Wishing My Husband Augie a Happy 16th Wedding Anniversary!

—Kim



A huge, huge thank you to all the guests, staff, and volunteers who make Dragon\*Con possible. Y'all don't get nearly the credit you deserve. I wanted you to know you are appreciated. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!!

—Tammy

Jennie Breeden, congratulations on your engagement!



### Happy Birthday, Claire

Best of luck to you and Alan.

—Penelope



Have a wonderful 32nd Birthday, Brendan! We all love you!

—Love, Mom, Gina, Care, Jason, and Carmen



14 Years Together and 13 Years at Dragon\*Con = The Great Adventure! Thank you, Jerry, for being geeky with me.



### Happy Birthday, Tammy!

—Love, Chris



### Happy Birthday, Navigator

From your wife and the Sunshine of your life. I Love You.



Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Rob Thurman from Dragon\*Con!

—Rwinny and Twinchy



### Happy 10-Year Anniversary

To my husband, best friend, drinking buddy, & Imzadi... you taught me the secret of eternal youth. Never stop laughing! I love you baby!

—Wendy



### Shane

Thanks for changing seats and changing my life two years ago. I love you!

—Ty



Mike, I know you're going to be a great daddy. Baby Barron #1 due April, 2012.

—Love, Your Wife Casey



### Sarabeth!

Thank you for 3 wonderful years! I love you!

—The Rev. Russell Cash



### Happy Dragon\*Con to Leatrice, Bindiya, Shelby, Angie, and Rodisha!

I wish we could all be there together, but this is an even greater incentive to come back next year! Love you all!



Thank You to Shelley for saying yes to the Big Question. I am a very Happy Man. Love You Shelley!

—Mike