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Dragon Con 2015

The Daily Dragon

John Barrowman: Out and Proud by Ralph Gallagher

Eager fans crowded the halls and sidewalks outside of the Sheraton this morning as they waited for the Grand Ballroom to open for **John Barrowman's** 10AM panel. They packed the room to the brim, eagerly awaiting the antics that were sure to ensue. Barrowman didn't disappoint, bounding onto the stage wearing a bright TARDIS blue dress and red pumps.



From entrance to exit, Barrowman never stopped moving for more than a few seconds. His energy infected the crowd, who cheered and hollered and laughed at every opportunity. Fans eagerly lined up behind the microphone, asking everything from his most awkward encounter to what he had on

under the dress (so we got a peek at his Superman undies). One daring fan asked him to take a selfie with the crowd. (Which he graciously did!)

About halfway through the

panel, Barrowman turned serious as he brought out his sister, Carol Barrowman, his husband Scott, and David Childs from Represent. The four of them talked about their upcoming charity project to aid LGBT+ youth in the foster system. The goal of Barrowman's project is to give these kids a home where they can be safe and grow up in a caring environment run by LGBT+ foster parents and heterosexual allies. T-shirts will be sold through Represent to fund the program. The shirts read "The world is a dark place. Light It Up." Officially, the campaign will launch this upcoming Tuesday.

Read the complete article on the Daily Dragon website.

Get in Good Trouble: John Lewis by Brynna Owens

On Sunday at 2:30PM, a full-to-capacity room in Hyatt Hanover F was honored by the presence of Congressman John Lewis, as he joined Andrew Aydin, the co-author of a series of graphic novels depicting the events of the civil rights movement. These stories are drawn in part from historical documents, but mostly from Lewis' own memory, which Aydin says is sharp as a tack.



Lewis spoke eloquently about his experiences with the freedom rides, bringing a ripple of laughter from the audience

as he recalled how the night before the ride, they had all gone out to dinner, and it was his first experience with Chinese food. Quickly, he reminded us it was a serious incident as he recalled someone telling them to "eat well," as it might be their last chance.

Lewis recounted the first night of the ride, May 4, 1961, trav-

eling from Washington, DC, to New Orleans. He and his seat-mate, a white man, were beaten and left on the street. In February 2009, an elderly man, with his grown son, came to Lewis' office and told Lewis that he had been one of the Klansmen who had beaten Lewis and his seat-mate that night. He asked forgiveness, which Lewis gave, demonstrating that his commitment to non-violent change was still firmly in place.

Read the complete article on the Daily Dragon website.

Back & Forth in the City of Defiance by Maggie Caracappa

If **Tony Curran** is on a guest panel, you can pretty much guarantee that the whole panel will be frantic, frenetic, and wild. The "Familiar Faces: *Defiance* Cast Q&A" was absolutely no different. Joining Curran were **Jesse Rath**, **Graham Greene**, **Trenna Keating**, and **Stephanie Leonidas**. Case in point, as the guests were introduced, Curran stepped out first wielding a lightsaber. As Rath was introduced, Curran pretended to cut off his hand, in true father-son fashion.



The assembled guests represented all of the major races in Defiance, human (Greene), Irathient (Leonidas), Castithan (Curran and Rath), and Indogene (Keating). One question

during the panel was whether any of the cast had any influence over the various cultural idiosyncrasies of each race. Curran and Rath said that they came up with the particular way that Castithans shake hands. Leonidas said that she came up with the "head butt" that Irathients give each other in greeting. Keating decided that her character learned how to speak English by watching old movies.

Keating was asked whether her character, Doc Yewll, will ever find love. She noted that she

might be tough to date and is probably asexual, though if she goes for anyone it would be for a woman. Keating added that Yewll probably has her eye on Amanda. Rath said that he wondered what might happen between Yewll and Stahma. Keating laughed and said she's not sure who would get out alive in a relationship between her and Stahma. Curran (who plays Stahma's husband) mock bitterly said, "Sure, sleep with her. Everyone else has."

Read the complete article on the Daily Dragon website.

Schedule Changes

Hy = Hyatt S = Sheraton
M = Marriott W = Westin
Hil = Hilton
AM2 = AmericasMart Bldg 2

The following previously confirmed presenters will not be able to attend Dragon Con 2015: **Arthur Adams**, **Rene Auberjonois**, **Mike Bara**, **Ashley Field**, **Jonathan Frakes**, **Kevin Grazier**, **Alex Kingston**, **Paul McGann**, **Pamela Nance**, **Aristotle Pramagioulis**, **Stephen H. Segal**, **Eliza Taylor**, **Natasha Wescoat**.

Additions

Tamsin Silver will be on "Vampiric Variations" Mon 11:30AM, Chastain ED (W).

Cancellations

Victor Webster will not be on "Continuum: The Future Divided" Mon 10AM, Grand Ballroom East (Hil).

Candice Patton will not be on "DC United" Mon 11:30AM, Centennial II-III (Hy).

Ksenia Solo will not be on "Lost Girl Cast" Mon 1PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

Kinshore Hari will not be on "For Survival: 4 Years Later" Mon 1PM, Chastain 1-2 (W).

See the complete list of schedule changes on the Daily Dragon website, or download the latest information from the Dragon Con mobile app.

Wonderfully Wild Sylvester McCoy by Kelly McCorkendale

Thunderous applause greeted Sylvester McCoy as he entered the Sheraton Grand Ballroom on Sunday at 1PM for his final panel at his fourth Dragon Con. The moderator described McCoy as one of the most popular and, certainly, most loved and of the guests. He is also incredibly comical and entertaining—a man who knows how to work a crowd.

McCoy, who played the seventh incarnation of The Doctor on the popular *Doctor Who*, started on a more serious note, describing his experience in The Hobbit film series as wonderful and glorious and helping him to round out



his career. "I've been blessed with playing the Doctor [on TV], and then I was blessed to play in King Lear [on stage], and then to get three films? The response from the world has been very, very good," he said before breaking the tender moment. "Apart from the hedgehog!"

When asked about Peter Capaldi, who currently portrays The Doctor, McCoy did an amazing fast-talking, garbled impression of the acerbic Capaldi, but said he thinks he's great in the role. The Doctor was always an older man, and McCoy is happy to see the character back in this form.

"I like that we have an older superhero," McCoy said. "He's brawn and brain and doesn't wear his underpants on the outside." He did like Matt Smith in the role because "his face had the experience of a thousand years in it," but believes that having an actor like Capaldi portray The Doctor shows reverence for older people that is often missing in Western cultures.

McCoy took extra time to impart advice on an aspiring actor—"be utterly committed" McCoy told him—and to tell a little girl named Julie, who asked about his favorite companion, to give Amy Pond/Karen Gillan his love.

Read the complete article on the Daily Dragon website.



Back to Sesame Street by Kelly McCorkendale

Steve Whitmire and **Carroll Spinney**, better recognized as Kermit the Frog and Big Bird, delighted a captivated audience at Sunday, 11:30AM for their only Dragon Con panel together, "Carroll & Steve: Early Days of Sesame Street." They recounted moments from their storied careers, from appearing on *The Muppet Show* and *Sesame Street* to working with the incomparable and legendary (and still very missed) Jim Henson.

Whitmire and Spinney agreed that the art of performing as a Muppet is perfected with ex-

perience and that they both learned as they went.

"I was surprised how much I didn't know," Whitmire remembered about joining the cast of *The Muppet Show* at the height of its popularity, which was a great time to study "muppeteering."

"I felt I was not deserving to be with Jim and Frank [Oz]," Spinney said. He even tried to quit early on when he kept missing the first note of a song. He thought he was that unworthy.

Read the complete article on the Daily Dragon website.

Walking in High Heels by Alicia Pack

The *Lost Girl* cast consistently ups their Dragon Con panel memorability game from year-to-year. This time, they emerged spectacularly from the back of the room and sprinted down the aisles in glorious fashion to the cheers of an eager crowd. **Anna Silk**, **Kris Holden-Ried**, **Zoie Palmer**, **Ksenia Solo**, **Rachel Skarsten**, and **Paul Amos** joined a packed house on Sunday at 2:30PM in the Westin Peachtree Ballroom.

After the presentation of the porn names, the actors each explained their superpowers and names. Silk's superhero ability would be to read minds, while wearing cute outfits, and her hero would be

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Film Festival Filmmaker Discussion

Join the film festival filmmakers in a no-holds barred discussion. How do we make films and festivals better, and how do you enter your work in a festival? Mon 10AM, Regency V (Hyatt).



The RetroCast Round Up

The Ratchet RetroCast will be recording their annual "we survived Dragon Con" podcast, featuring various special guests and listener input. Spend the last few hours of the Con with other weary time travelers reminiscing about the weekend and looking forward to 2016. Mon 2:30PM, Augusta I&II (Westin).



Shout-Outs

Happy Birthday Sam! May you continue to bemuse, befuddle and be loved by me for many years to come! —Kelley



Happy birthday to my wonderful daughter, Linda V.



Happy birthday Pam! Have fun with your 65k closest friends at this most epic of parties!

named after her junior high porn name Sugar St. John. Solo had the same superpower, but her name would be Super Solo. Holden-Ried's well thought-out superhero would have the power to control metal at the atomic level and be able to turn himself into an immortal metal man with razor-sharp samurai swords. His superhero is epic enough to have his own sequel. Palmer's is simple: to fly invisibly and be named Invisa Fly Thing. Perhaps the most impractical, Amos would wear high heels with rockets and blades and be appropriately named Captain Stiletto.

Read the complete article on the Daily Dragon website.

