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Dragon Con 2024

# The Daily Dragon

## Funny Things that Happened on the Way to Becoming John Cleese by Kelly McCorkendale

In the world of celebrity, John Cleese occupies rarefied air: Living Legend. Monty Python member. Fawlty Towers proprietor. Knight of the Round Table. Minister of Silly Walks. And sure enough, as moderator Stephanie Crugnola introduced him Saturday at 1PM in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom, he shambled on stage, looking a little lost before he sat and said, "That was my Joe Biden impersonation."

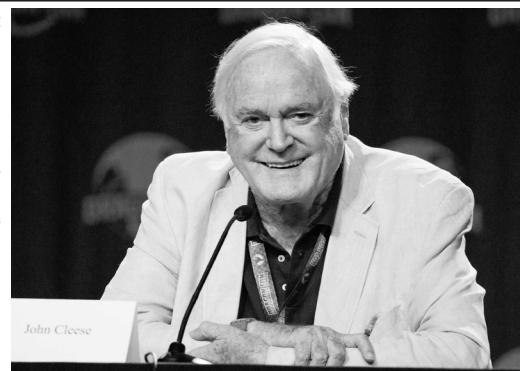
For an hour, Cleese regaled Con goers with tales from his storied career. Appearing at his first Dragon Con, he received a standing ovation and then observed, "Well nobody's able to tell me why it's called Dragon Con. Are there a lot of dragons around?"

He delighted in answering fan questions, starting with detailing new projects. He's currently adapting *Life of Brian* for the stage and grappling with a new ending since the impact of the 1988 film's crucifixion doesn't work as well in 2024. "I decided that I was gonna have Pontius Pilot apologize," he said. "I thought he would say things like 'Let's face it, mistakes were made'." Cue the laughter.

Cleese has also written a screenplay called *Yummy* that he describes as a

"light comedy about cannibalism" with lots of black humor, making it something of a hard sell, in his opinion, as he's been shopping it around for months. It has become the norm, particularly for comedies, to face an uphill battle in an industry reliant on numbers to predict and promote only money-making hits, which usually lack originality. Also, drama gets all the prestige despite comedy being the harder of the two genres.

Of course, his delivery of this information was unmatched—like watching a fresh standup set unfold in real time, which included gentle ribbing of Crugnola and expressing admiration for the ASL interpreters. But Cleese has had years of practice at being quick-witted and honing his observational humor. Monty Python formed in 1969 and, as one fan noted, ushered in a surrealist form of comedy that continues to influence. Yet, Cleese said the members of Python often questioned their own



John Cleese

material. Cleese talked about how *Life of Brian*—now considered a classic comedy—struggled to get made, with studio after studio passing on funding it for \$7 million. Yet, when it did get made, it made over \$200 million. "The people in charge," he said, "have no idea what they're doing."

"When we first started Monty Python," he continued, "the critics didn't say it was good or bad because they didn't understand it. There's was a strange silence."

**Read the full article on the Daily Dragon website!**

## Life as a Creative Being: Live Recordings of The Well Podcast by Max Caraccappa



**Read the full article on the Daily Dragon website!**

When Anson Mount and Branen Edgens started *The Well* podcast, they wanted to do something that would allow celebrities to talk not about the things we know they do but about the things we don't know that they do. They talk to anybody and everybody who you might never have heard of who are doing interesting things. That is the energy Mount brought to his live recordings of the podcast, first at 11:30AM in the Hilton Salon with Danny Trejo and then later that afternoon at 2:30PM in Hilton Grand West with Todd Stashwick.

The conversations with both guests were wide-ranging, covering everything from their early careers to playing D&D. Mount's first question

to Trejo, after explaining the podcast's aim to find out what makes him, Danny, a creative being, was "What makes you a creator of worlds rather than, say, a destroyer?" In response Trejo spoke at length about his time in prison in the late '60s and how he thought he would never get out.

After again explaining the aim of the podcast to get to "the juice" of what makes Stashwick a creative being, Mount asked him what he does that is for himself. The immediate answer was to play a lot of *Dungeons and Dragons*, which is something Mount also does for himself and was a topic of a longer conversation later. But Stashwick also said that if he needs to solve a problem in his writing, he turns to music and the outside to help.

## 2024 Dragon Con Parade Highlights



**See more pictures on our website!**

# The Magical World of the Dragon Con Common Room

by Lauren Jacques and Jared Austin



Wizarding fans from across the country gathered in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom on Friday at 4PM and in the Marriott Imperial Ballroom on Saturday at 11:30AM to welcome some of our favorite Gryffindors to Dragon Con. "Live from the Gryffindor Common Room!" gave fans a chance to ask some of their most pressing questions to Matthew Lewis, James Phelps, Oliver Phelps, and Bonnie Wright with Katelyn Matthews moderating the Friday panel and Kiki Falkanger moderating the Saturday panel.

When asked about improvised moments, the cast said there weren't very many. Wright commented that adapting the book to screen was incredibly

difficult for the writers, producers, and everyone involved, so once a script was finalized, it was held sacred. You don't see that on many sets.

Steering away from the Wizarding World, one fan asked for recommendations on visiting London when he and his partner celebrate their anniversary. James said the best experience is waking up at the crack of dawn on a Sunday and taking a bus ride to which Lewis replied, "if you're waking up at the crack of dawn on a Sunday in London, you did Saturday wrong." Oliver recommended

taking a walk around South Bend.

The Saturday panel started off light-hearted with moderator Kiki Falkanger asking the cast their favorite southern foods they've had either this week or in previous visits to the south. For Wright, she's enjoyed peach cobbler and peach pie in the past, but her favorite is fried green tomatoes. James likes grits. When he orders them, he tells people he's not from here, so he asks how he can get them. He's tried many varieties. Oliver playfully asked the audience what he should ask for, and some recommended chicken and waffles. Lewis was less enthusiastic about that suggestion.

Following a question about funniest behind-the-scenes moments from the movies, James talked about rehearsing for the Yule Ball in the fourth movie. During rehearsals, it was just like a school dance for teens. All the girls stood on one side of the room, excited and anxious to learn dancing. Meanwhile, the boys awkwardly stood on the opposite side of the room, looking at their shoes, nervous about the prospect.

**Read the full article on the Daily Dragon website!**

## Sunday Parties & Events

### Dragon Con Masquerade: With Eddie McClintock and Tony Gowell

Presenting the most spectacular masquerade contest in the known universe! Hosted by Eddie McClintock and Tony Gowell, with an expert panel of judges! Sunday 8:30-11PM, Centennial II-IV (Hyatt). Overflow viewing: Atrium Ballroom (Marriott).



### Splendid Teapot Racing

Bring your own teapot racer or just come and enjoy this kid-friendly action as steampunk builders race remote-control cars carrying teapots around an obstacle course for fun and prizes. Official rules can be found at dragon-con-splendid-teapot-race.mailchimpsites.com. Sunday 10AM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand).



### Badge Beard Competition and Awards

You have been collecting, you have been adding your ribbons to your badge... Now what??? Bring your Badge Beard and challenge others with the length! Come watch or join the fun with your Badge Beard! Sunday 5:30-8PM, Regency V (Hyatt).



### Loyal Order of the Ribbon—Crowning Finale and Processional!

Find out who has collected the most ribbons this year. Cheer them on in the procession to the Hyatt Lobby, where the strongest of the realm will pose for quick photos and bragging rights! Sunday 7PM, Regency V (Hyatt).

### The Open Casket Party

By popular demand, there's even more room for you at the Open Casket Party this year, as we move to a much larger space and a brand new day! Join us for a night of Goth dance anthems — what sweet music they play! Introduced by Kayvan Novak and Harvey Guillén. Mature Audiences. Friday 10PM-2AM, Peachtree Ballroom (Westin).



### Klingon Karaoke (Glory)

You won't need to speak Klingon (or Klingonese) to board our vessel for this musical journey. Sing like the warrior you are, and fill both your throats for the glory of Kahless! Sunday 10PM-12:30AM, Galleria 2-3 (Hilton).



### Captain's Log: Star Trek Improv Show

Space: the final frontier. Improv: a frontier before that. Captain's Log: somewhere in the middle. Join the crew of Captain's Log as they take you on a completely improvised trek through our universe, inspired by your suggestions. Sunday 8:30PM, Grand West (Hilton).



### Doctor Who Ball

The Rockinest Ball in all of Time and Space is back with DJ Black Sunshine! The Goblin King himself doesn't throw a better party! Rock out with your fellow Whovians (and everyone else) Sunday night! Allons-y! Sunday 10PM-2AM, Grand Salon (Hilton).



### Miss Star Trek Universe Pageant

Orions, Klingons, and Borg, oh my!

Hosted by *Star Trek: Voyager's* Garrett Wang and judged by a panel of celebrities. Sunday 5:30-8PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand).



### Buffy Horror Picture Show

"Once More, with Feeling," the beloved Buffy musical episode, gets enacted once again on the stage while the episode plays on the screen. Sunday 7PM, Peachtree Ballroom (Westin).



### The Temporal Formal: Rhapsody in Blue

This year's Temporal Formal blends dance instruction with live music for a timeless experience! From waltz to swing, expert instructors and talented musicians create a night to remember in celebrating the joy of movement and music honoring the 100th anniversary of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue! Sunday 10PM-2AM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand).



Check out the Parties and Events pages on the *Daily Dragon* website!



bit.ly/DragonConGivesBack

## Daily Dragon Tweets

Don't miss the latest Dragon Con news and announcements. Follow @daily\_dragon on Twitter... er, X!



### Coffee & Coloring

Take a break from the Georgia heat and relax while we color, converse, and drink enormous amounts of coffee. Saturday/Sunday 8:30-11AM, Augusta E-H (Westin).



### Main Charity Auction

It's the Annual Dragon Con Charity Auction! For 2024, we've partnered with the Arthritis Foundation as our official charity. Benefit this worthy cause and get some treasures in the process! Remember, Dragon Con matches up to the first \$125K, so make those dollars count! Sunday 10AM-2PM, Hanover C-E (Hyatt).



### Annual Don S. Davis Memorial Charity Auction

The 16th Annual Don S. Davis Memorial Charity Auction returns to "do it for Don" and raise money for the Arthritis Foundation! Bid on hard-to-find items from *Stargate*, *Firefly*, *BSG*, *B5*, *Orville* & more. You never know who'll show up or what will happen, but we'll have a frakking good time! So Say We All! Sunday 4-6:30 PM, Hanover C-E (Hyatt).



### Dragon Awards Ceremony

Presentation of the 2024 Dragon Awards in 11 categories! Who will you choose as the fan favorites this year? Come & find out the results! Sunday 5:30PM, Centennial I (Hyatt).



### Headless Lounge

A safe space away from the public eye! Monsters, muppets, mascots, and furies can kick back, cool off, and relax while sitting in front of the fans and blowers, all without having to ruin the illusion of character! Only full-headed costumes will be permitted to enter. Through Sunday, 2:30-11PM, 308 (Hilton).



### Coloring for Charity

Chill out while you color to the lo-fi nerdy beats, and raise money for this year's charity, CURE Childhood Cancer. Through Sunday, 7PM-12AM, The Learning Center (Hyatt).

## Schedule Changes

The following previously confirmed guests are unfortunately not able to attend Dragon Con 2024: **Freema Agyeman, Chloe Bennet, Jack Coleman, Emilie de Ravin, Dan Jeanotte, Terry Matalas, Melissa Navia, Genevive Padalecki**