**“Do I Look Bovvered?”: An Hour with Catherine Tate** by Maggie Birge-Caracappa

Take the quick wit of Beatrice from *Much Ado About Nothing*, add it to the charisma of John Barrowman and the stage presence of your favorite actor, wrap it all up in one ginger package, and you’ve got Catherine Tate. She started her panel on Friday afternoon in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom by immediately ditching the stage and heading into the audience to do a “who came the farthest” poll. “And it better not have been me!” she said. While the answers were shouted to her, and the rest of us tested our knowledge of geography, there was little question that the attendee from Kazakhstan had definitely traveled the farthest to be in the room.

Tate returned to the stage but eschewed the traditional table and chair setup for most Q&As at Dragon Con. She prefers to stand in front of the table so it is less like a press conference or “like I’ve been accused of something.” She also prefers to bring people who have questions up on stage, which was a delight for the audience but did cause a bit of a scramble to find stairs to set up at the front to provide access.

There was one disclaimer that Tate was compelled to provide before the Q&A started: “I don’t know whether you know—and I do apologize in advance—I don’t know a lot about sci-fi. Don’t be a hater!”

The disclaimer was hardly necessary, though, because while there were certainly questions about *Doctor Who*, they also included her time on *The Office* and onstage with David Tennant in *Much Ado About Nothing*, her voice acting on *Duck Tales*, her characters on *The Catherine Tate Show*, and her time as a comedian and improv performer, including her shorts for Red Nose Day.

It would be nearly impossible to document her answers to these questions because of the speed at which Tate thinks on her feet. Regardless, she was sincere, funny, and endlessly entertaining. If you didn’t love her at the start, you certainly ended the hour with a bit of a crush.

**Being Bad and Good with the Cast of Black Lightning** by Kelly McCorkendale

The cast of *Black Lightning*—Marvin Jones III, China McClain, Christine Adams, and Nafessa Williams—is bad, bad, bad. And by bad, I mean awesome. Thoughtful. Radiant and beautiful—like literally blinding to the naked eye. And full of joy, fierce pride, spirituality, and strength when talking about being at the vanguard of diversity in superheroes, specifically, and science fiction, generally—a fact acknowledged by an audience brimming with palpable gratitude on Friday in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom.

“It’s terrible,” McClain said as they entered. “We hate each other.”

Actually, as fans learned during the panel, the cast are a close-knit group that hopes the Black Lightning ride last for at least seven seasons, with their characters growing not just as metahumans but as a family learning to be a team. They also reflected on their place in the larger Arrowverse, pop culture, and the fabric of Atlanta, where the show is filmed.

Williams discussed the responsibility—and honor—that comes with portraying the first black lesbian superhero, albeit one who is “exploring an adventurous love life” in the coming season. “It’s very rewarding to know I’ve become an advocate for the [LGBTQ] community,” she said, going on to speak for everyone: “We all want to see characters like ourselves.”

As for the superhero they’d most like work with from that rival world—which they called “the M-word” (Marvel)—McClain loves Luke Cage, Williams said Jessica Jones, and Jones would want to work with Daredevil (and team with Damien Darhk in the Arrowverse).

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

**Can’t Take the Sky from Gina Torres** by Amanda Faith

It was a packed house in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom Friday at 5:30PM as Gina Torres hosted her first panel, “Firefly: Operation Zoe Al-leyne Washburne.” This regal lady entertained all questions from the audience.

When asked about who her favorite fake-husband is, she said it was Alan Tudyk, hands down. “We became great friends, so for us, it worked great. He is such a sweet and funny man. I loved working with him.” So how did Walsh win Zoe’s heart? “He made her laugh... and he was a great kisser.”

Torres has been in the business so long that, as she stated, “I am on the air somewhere all the time.” Not only is this true, but her portrayal of a strong, confident woman resonated with the audience. She is a cross of royalty and badass all at the same time. She is the protector. She has the need for family more than anything else. She is also a role model for all women.


When asked if Firefly would have been made today (16 years later), she thought that it would. “Although I may not have been on the winning side, I was on the right side. Complacency is a dangerous and toxic thing. Don’t be complacent.”

*Read the full article on the Daily Dragon website.*
Schedule Changes

The following previously confirmed presenters will not be able to attend Dragon Con 2018: Affie Allen, Cheree Alsop, Stephen L. Antczak, Pilou Asbaek, Alexandra Breckenridge, Mary Kate Butler, Gerald L Coleman, Nesta Cooper, Michael-Scott Earle, Eric Renderring Fisk, Jayson Gates, Patrick Gilmore, Christopher Golden, Kevin Graziar, Doc Hammer, Kathryn Hudson, Jingboobooboo, John W Loftus, Heidi McDonnell, Dean Motter, Shoo Murase, Joseph Nassise, Allison Scagetti, Kal Spiro, George Taylor, Janet Varney, Titus Welliver.

CORRECTION

Autograph Sessions (all) are in International South 1-3 (M).

ADDITIONS

Mari Mancusi will be on “Meet & Greet: Middle-Grade Authors” Sun 11:30 AM, Roswell (Hy); “Thank you for 40th Anniversary Panel” Sun 7 PM, Peachtree 1-2 (W).

“Anime 201 For Parents” Sun 1 PM, Galleria 1 (Hil).

“HamillTunes: An American Singalong at Dragon Con” Sun 1 PM, Crystal Ballroom (Hil).

Mark W. Gura will be on “Meditation: What It is and Isn’t” Sun 2:30 PM, Galleria 7 (Hil).

Constance Wagner will be on “Religion in High Fantasy” Sun 2:30 PM, L401-403 (M).

Billy Tucci will be on “Dynamite Entertainment Comics” Sun 4 PM, 204I (AM2).

Robert Duncan McNeill will be on “Star Miss Star Trek Universe Pageant” Sun 5:30 PM, Grand Ballroom A-5 (S).

Gigi Edgely will be on “Gongo Quiz Show: No Regrets” Sun 10 PM, Regency V-VII (Hy).

Grant Baciocco will be on “The Late-Night Puppet Slam” Mon 12 AM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

Black Nerdiness on Display

by Maggie Birge-Caracappa

The Learning Center in the Hyatt was full to capacity Saturday at 11:30 AM for a discussion on new genre black film led by moderator Andrew Shephard, a PhD student at Stanford with a particular focus on Afro-futurism. On the panel were Karen Ceasay (The Walking Dead, Black Lightning, Stranger Things), Quatoyiah Murry (Editorial Manager at TCM and FilmStruck), and Davior Snipes (voice actor and professional actor with Alliance Theater Atlanta).

The discussion was framed around the success of Black Panther and Get Out along with other successful films featuring people of color and what it may all mean. One of the first questions that Shephard asked was about why it seems like the sea-change in black participation in genre film is happening now. Murry responded that it is something that audienc- ees have been craving for some time and the conversation about the need for that kind of participa- tion has been happening for a couple of years. She also noted that there has historically been an aabb- and-flows to black genre films, where there are several produced in a period of time but then it falls off, so she hopes that this time it continues. Snipes and Ceasay agreed, noting that social media and the internet have allowed a collective voice and shared expe- riences worldwide.

Ceesay went on to say that she felt like it would stay when it was no longer a big deal that people of color are represented on film. “When everything is not weighted on this one thing, that this has to be awe- some or we’ll never see it again. We’re pushing for mediocrity.”

Read the full article on the Daily Dragon website.

Daily Dragon Tweets

Don’t miss the latest Dragon Con news. Follow @daily_dragon on Twitter!

Black Geeks of Dragon Con 2018 Photo Shoot

The Black Geeks of DragonCon (BGD) will be holding its third annual photo shoot. BGD began as a way to increase awareness of geek diversity because of a lack of African American interest in science fiction and the associated multigenerational conventions. While BGD honors the growing African American community at Dragon Con, it is no way exclusion- ary and welcomes all who want to celebrate the diversity of convention. Sun 2:20–3:30PM, back steps (Hilton).

An Evening at Vic’s—Holo-Karaoke

Recently seen the horrors of war? Looking to recover from a long day at the con? You’re in luck! Vic’s Lounge has recently been approved for rest & rehabilitation by the Ensign Dax! Learn the Great American Song- book classics—or sing whatever you want, it’s your rehab! Sun 10PM, Galleria 2-3 (Hilton).

Yule Ball

Our annual Harry Potter-themed party! Come dance the night away while DJ spins your top pop hits from the ‘80s, ‘90s, and now! Join us for a YA Lit costume showcase at 9:30PM. Adults only after 10 PM. Sun 8:30PM, Imperial Ballroom (Marriott).

4th Annual Doctor Who Ball

The best party this side of Rax- cocciroffalatorious! We’re rockin’ like an Axon late into the night! Dance to DJ Black Sunshine’s tunes & stay for our Pageant of Rassilon Winner Announcements at midnight! Allons-y! Sun 10PM, Grand Salon (Hilton).

Mechanical Masquerade: Frontier

The Alt History track party is back for our 7th installment. This year is “A Fantastic Voyage” as we take our guests on a wild romp through time featuring DJs, costumed dancers, and high adventure. It is THE party to see on the final night of Con! Costumes and masks are encouraged but not required. Sun 10PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Sheraton).

Check the mobile app, the Quick Start Guide, or the Daily Dragon website for more information!