The Walk of a Thousand Characters
by Brandilyn Carpenter and Ralph Gallagher

Crowds began filling the sidewalks along Peachtree Street by 8AM on Saturday for one of the weekend’s most popular events: the Dragon Con Parade. The oldest and youngest fans alike eagerly awaited seeing their favorite costumes and characters.

The parade kicked off with a bagpipe player, Janny Wurts, leading a contingent of dragons escorting the Dragon Con banner. Following close behind were the color guard and Colonial Marines.

This year’s Grand Marshal was the legendary Stan Lee, joined by Ms. Pepper Potts as Mary Jane Watson and Ginger Oh Snap! as Gwen Stacy.

Following closely behind was Angry Plain Jane as Mysterio, with the S.H.I.E.L.D. truck keeping a close eye on things.

The Marvelous Matt Smith
by Amanda Faith and Kelly McCorkendale

Matt Smith is a lanky, lean man with deep eyes full of excitement, joy, and kindness, which is no surprise to his fans and Doctor Who loyalists, who felt no fear taking his hand for five insane-fun years aboard the TARDIS.

His incarnation, the 11th, of the legendary Stan Lee, joined by Ms. Pepper Potts as Mary Jane Watson and Ginger Oh Snap! as Gwen Stacy.

Following closely behind was Angry Plain Jane as Mysterio, with the S.H.I.E.L.D. truck keeping a close eye on things.

The parade attracted cosplayers of all types and fandoms. Everything from traditional sci-fi such as Stargate and Star Wars to classic and modern comics, and even interesting mash-ups like a Deadpool Spartan made appearances. Special guests included the Literary Track Guest of Honor Jane Yolen, Ricky “The Dragon” Steamboat, and Kane were also seen riding through the parade.

The parade also featured Dragon Con classics like the 501st Legion, the Spartans, and the Periodic Table. Also seen were characters from current favorites such as Game of Thrones, Doctor Who, and The Handmaid’s Tale. For the gamer in all of us there were contingents from hits such as League of Legends, Borderlands, and Overwatch.

‘Shh... I’m an Actor’: John Cusack
by Jessica Clary

Saturday’s John Cusack session, 2:30PM in the Hyatt, covered near-ly the entire Cusack filmography, reaching way back to the early ’80s. Alongside longtime friend and co-star Ned Bellamy and moderator Rob Levy, Cusack charmed the crowd with stories of his wide-ranging characters and films.

I got spoiled early,” he said, responding to Levy’s first question about his early films with Rob Reiner, John Hughes, and Cameron Crowe. “I was fifteen. Instead of going to study hall, I got to go to a movie set.”

After those teenage roles, Cusack has remained steadily employed ever since, playing everything from deep dark villains to rom-com guys who get the girls. Bellamy explained that actors are “just looking for the magic of the moment.”

Cusack agreed. “Sometimes you can take how you’re perceived, or how you were perceived, and use it like a jiu jitsu move.”

Fans quickly steered the conversation to their favorites, with Levy leading the way to High Fidelity.

Levy explained that as a music lover and former record store employee, High Fidelity had a profound and lasting effect on him. Plenty of the crowd agreed, and Cusack explained that adapting that film was easy. Moving the novel’s setting from London to the movie’s Chicago wasn’t a problem, he said, because while the Brits were obsessed with American soul music, Americans were digging the British punk scene.

“But if you swap those, and take away the cockney accents, it’s the same guys. When you have a great book, you just have to make sure you don’t f*ck it up.”

An audience member asked about sibling rivalry in the Cusack family, garnering support for John to bring Joan with him on his next Dragon Con visit. He said they aren’t rivals. “Joanie, she’s sort of the most talented one of the family. I just try to get steamrolled in the most pleasurable way.”

He explained that so many of the great scenes in Grosse Pointe Blank were off-the-cuff. “With Dan Aykroyd and my sister, you just get out of the way.”

Another audience member expressed his confusion at reading that Danny Trejo calls John Cusack one of the toughest guys he’s ever worked with. “So, when did you become so amazingly badass?”

“Shh,” Cusack said. “I’m an actor.”
**Schedule Changes**


**ADDITIONS**

James Callis will be on “Battlestar Galactica: Operation Cylon Supremacy” Sun 11:30AM, Centennial II–III (Hy); “Battlestar Galactica: Operation Cylon Resurrection” Mon 10AM, Centennial II–III (Hy).

Arthur Darvill will be on “An Hour with the Ponders: Amy, Rory and River United” Sun 5:30PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

Tamsin Silver will be on “The Growing World of Harry Potter: Old Canon and New Canon” Sun 2:30PM, A707 (M).

**Sunday Sunrise with Steven Universe** Sun 10AM, Galleria 4 (Hil).

Ken Feinberg will be on “Filmmaking Essentials: Directing” Sun 11:30AM, Spring (Hy).

**CANCELLATIONS**

Rekha Sharma will be on “Battlestar Galactica: Operation Cylon Supremacy” Sun 11:30AM, Centennial II–III (Hy); “Battlestar Galactica: Operation Cylon Resurrection” Mon 10AM, Centennial II–III (Hy).

KJ McCormick will not be on “Ghost Hunters: Fave & Odd Cases” Sun 10AM, Grand Ballroom A–F (S); “Safe Journeys: Kindred Spirits & Ghost Hunters” Mon 10AM, Grand West (Hil).

Joe Granato will not be on “Screening: The New 8-Bit Heroes” Sun 10PM, August E–G (W).

Caleph B. Wilson (@HeyDrWilson) will not be on “Chemical Warfare in Wonder Woman” Sun 3:30PM, Grand East (Hil).

Jacqueline Goehner will not be on “Masquerade” Sun 8:30PM, Centennial I–III (Hy).

**Saturday Night Awards**


Alex Kingston has a new convention game, and she kicked off her attendance about 33 conventions. She was the first one that I ever did, and it’s all good from there.”

Alex Kingston has a new convention game, and she kicked off her attendance about 33 conventions. She was the first one that I ever did, and it’s all good from there.”

The winner of the 2017 Eugie Award was presented Saturday night during the Dragon Con Guest of Honor banquet. The winning story was “The City Born Great” by N.K. Jemisin.

To the girl with pink sandals from the Alternates writing seminar: it’s the guy in the blue suit and Gilmores didn’t get your name! Would love to talk about writing more. I’ll be at the 1PM seminar Sunday if you want to meet up again. Name’s Jonathan Halper, I’m on Facebook.

The Daily Dragon Tweets

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

**Eugie Award Winner**

Sean Gunn sat down with the press Saturday morning and reflected not just on Gilmores and the Guardians of the Galaxy franchise, which is a part of the larger Marvel Universe driven by The Avengers series of films, but also on how Dragon Con helped initiate him into the world of fandom and convention culture.

“You know what’s interesting about this convention, is that, it’s the first one that I ever did, and it just seemed like such a madhouse.” That, as he noted, was three years ago, and he’s since attended about 33 conventions. “Now I’m back here with the perspective of somebody who’s now on the con circuit... and I see... what makes [Dragon Con] really, really different from all these other conventions. And it’s kinda a trip.”

When asked about Gilmores fans versus Guardian or comic fans, Gunn said, “I think the most interesting thing is that they’re more similar than they are different.” He described Gilmores fans as being very rabid, yet it is his work in Guardians that get him in the door at conventions as it fits the mold of what promoters are looking for. Still, ardent fandom is not just for sci-fi or fantasy anymore. “Theirs is a unique brand of fan,” he said of Gilmores loyalists. “I think it’s really pretty interesting now to sort of guess what it is that makes any particular show the type of show that would spark this intense fan base.”

**Art Show Award Winners**

The winners of the 2017 Dragon Con Art Show were announced Saturday night. Awards were given in three categories—attendee awards, voted on by convention attendees, “Fantastic Beasts!!”, and juried awards, as well as best in show.

**Attendee Awards**

Best Alien: Stan Morrison, The Magician
Best Amazon: Bernard Lee, Coronation
Best Dragon: Naomi Vandreorn, The Albino Fox Dragon
Best Horror: Paul Bielaczyz, Just Your Imagination
Best Fairy: Joseph Cosentino, Nyx
Best Spaceship or Spacescene: Amanda Makepeace, War for Jupiter
Best Warrior: Stan Morrison, St. George and the Dragon
Most Humorous: Lisa Sell, “And You Think Your Cat was Bad”
“Fantastic Beasts!!”
Third Place: Brenda Lyons, Suitcase of Wonders
Second Place: David Lee Pancake, Failed Mimic—Do I look like a suitcase now?
First Place: Valerie McGreivy, Fantastic Box

**Juried Awards**

Best 2-D: Erika Taguchi-Newton, Shallow Waters
Best 3-D: Joseph Gubocki, Piece #30

**Best Black & White:** Julie Wilmore, Hone Claws
Best Jewelry Art: Helen Rule, Niobium Victorian Collar
Best Mixed Media: Aedan C. Roberts, TinterTanter
Best Photography: Joseph Cosentino, Nyx
Best Textile or Fiber: Daniel French, Toolied Leather Backpack
Best Doll: Sarah B. Seiter, Wondering—BJD
Third Place: Amanda Coronado, Giant Flower
Second Place: Tran Nguyen, Traveling to a Distance Day
First Place: Mark Roland, The Tower

**Shout-Out**

**Art Show Award Winners**

Alex Kingston has a new convention game, and she kicked off her Q&A panel with it on Saturday. It’s called “How well do you know River?” and involves having people in the audience imitate her famous Doctor Who greeting, “Hello, Sweetie.” This also required a “sweetie-off,” which involved the two ultimate co-winners imitating her catch-phrase “Spoilers!” The two ultimate co-winners imitating her catch-phrase “Spoilers!”

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Shout-Out

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Check the mobile app, the Pocket Program, or the Daily Dragon website for more information.

Gunn, Guardians, and Gilmores

by Kelly McCorkendale

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