

# A Chat with Jody Lynn Nye by Amy Herring



www.dailydragon.dragoncon.org

Dragon\*Con 2011

# The Daily Dragon

Author, humorist, editor, teacher, and self-proclaimed cat spoiler, **Jody Lynn Nye** will be teaching a writer's workshop at Dragon\*Con for the first time this year. The author of 43 books and hundreds of short stories, Nye writes science fiction and fantasy, often spiced with humor, both alone and in collaboration.

**Daily Dragon (DD):** The Writer's Two Day Intensive Workshop is sold out. Of the pointers you'll be passing on to your students, could you elaborate on your three most important tips to emerging writers?

**Jody Lynn Nye (JLN):** 1) Learn your craft. Everything counts:

g r a m m a r ,  
p u n c t u a t i o n ,  
s p e l l i n g ,  
r e s e a r c h ,  
c h a r a c t e r  
d e v e l o p m e n t ,  
e t c . 2) Read, read,  
read! Playing D&D or video  
games and  
watching television will not teach  
you enough about the structure  
of written literature. 3) Your  
god is Continuity; all things  
must be consistent throughout  
a work. If your character  
develops superpowers at the end  
of the book, you'd better have  
darned well telegraphed that  
possibility earlier on.



**DD:** You have written hundreds

of short stories and novels, both alone and in collaboration with the incomparable **Anne McCaffrey** and the late, great **Robert Asprin**. What unique advice on world-building for writers can you offer us?

**JLN:** Broaden your scope. I've been reading the work of a lot of young and aspiring writers, and the main thing they forget is how one change begets many. Think big. Even if your story is not science fiction, your setting will have its own laws of physics. If your protagonist can solve all his problems by flinging tons of magic around, you have no story. As **Theodore Sturgeon** always said, "Ask the next question."

## Wear a Purple Ribbon: The Back Up Project by Shannon O'Connor

**Tina Beychok** has been involved with the Back Up Project from the start, but she's taken on a unique way of spreading the message.

"The Back Up Project is designed to ensure that people will be willing to step in to help women when they get in trouble at conventions," she said. "I looked for a way to identify those willing to provide backup, so people would know who could help, and to make those willing to help feel like they had more legitimacy."

Beychok started making purple ribbons just the right size to fit on a convention badge. With BACK UP in gold lettering, the ribbons make it clear that the person wearing one is willing to serve as a resource for women (and men) who run into trouble.

The Back Up Project, which is shorthand for the full name—Open Source Women Back Each Other Up Project and Gentleman's

Auxiliary—focuses on creating safer spaces at fan conventions like Dragon\*Con. More information is available on the organization's website, [backupproject.org](http://backupproject.org).

The *Daily Dragon* will have Back Up ribbons available in our offices, Chicago E-F of the Hyatt. Look for these ribbons on the badges of your fellow con-goers and ask for assistance if you need it.

## Faith Hunter: Coming Out of Her Skin by Amanda Litfin



**Faith Hunter** is known for her dark fantasy stories, including her Rogue Mage novels and her Skinwalker series.

Under the pen name **Gwen Hunter**, she also writes action-adventure stories, mysteries, and thrillers. As both Faith and Gwen, she has over 20 books in print in 27 countries.

**Daily Dragon (DD):** Is this your first Dragon\*Con?

**Faith Hunter (FH):** Yes, and I am scared silly. So many people. Such a huge space! And for someone who can get lost in her own closet, that is terrifying!

**DD:** Reading your bio, you are such a diverse woman. You work in a hospital and have a plethora of hobbies, especially making jewelry and kayaking. What do you enjoy the most?

**FH:** Kayaking. On a river there is no email, computer, laptop, or phone, or you can't hear it over the roar of water. It's just me and the river, and I adore it. But then there are those characters who call me off the water to tell their stories. I love them, too.

READ MORE OF THIS AND THE OTHER INTERVIEWS AND ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE ON THE DAILY DRAGON WEBSITE.

## Stargate, Star Trek Tracks Present Carnival Night

Support the **National Inclusion Project** while having a blast with all your favorite games!

This year, the Stargate Multiverse Track has partnered with the Star Trek Track to bring you a bigger, better games night and dance party combination.

Stop by carnival stations with midway games, card games, and board games.

Nationally renowned graphic artist **Pierre Bernard, Jr.**, will be back to sketch your portrait in a live one-on-one session (\$30 per person). And we will

be expanding the green screen photo booth from 2010, including *Stargate*, *Star Trek*, and period backdrops in sepia tones to choose from (\$10 single, \$20 group).

Sat 8:30PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

# 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

NEW GUEST: **Eliza Dushku**

**Eliza Dushku** will be on "Stars of Buffy the Vampire Slayer & Angel" Fri 1PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

**"Manimal and Friends"** RevolutionSF.com's Joe Crowe hosts a fun look back at quickly canceled sci-fi TV shows. Fri 1PM, A-703 (M).

**Tedd Roberts** will be on "Year 2" Fri 2:30PM, Atlanta G-H (W).

**"Fringe: What do we, the fans, want and hope for!"** A moderated discussion on Fringe's past seasons and a discussion of what we hope to see this season. Fri 4PM, M106-107 (M).

**Dr. Charles E. Gannon** will be on "Science and Science Fiction" Fri 4PM, Greenbriar (Hy).

**Faith Hunter** will be on "Spotlight: Witches" Fri 5:30PM, Montreal/Vancouver (Hy).

**Massimo Pigliucci** will be on "Sci-Phi: The Borderland Between Science and Philosophy" Fri 5:30PM, 202 (Hil); "Skeptical Morning Chat" Sun 8:30AM, 207 (Hy).

**"Quiet Time with Doc Hammer"** Join Doc Hammer of the Venture Brothers for discussion. Fri 7PM, Dunwoody (Hy).

**Eliza Dushku** will be on "Welcome to the Dollhouse" Join some of our favorite actors from Dollhouse for an unforgettable hour-long Q&A session. Sat 1PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W);

**"Animation Fan Fun Panel"** Join us for a look at the animation industry, tips on voice acting, and more! Sat 4PM, Dunwoody (Hy).

**Massimo Pigliucci** will be on "Skeptical Morning Chat" Sun 8:30AM, 207 (Hy).

**"The Hollywood Skeptic Goes to Washington"** with Amanda Knief. Sun 10AM, 207 (Hil).

**Patrick Mason** will be on "Power Grids and Smart Grids" Sun 10AM, 202 (Hil).

**"Mark Sheppard: Man of Many Shows"** What's next for this busy actor? Sun 1PM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

**Tedd Roberts** will be on "Global Insurgency" Sun 1PM, Atlanta G-H (W).

**Eliza Dushku** will be on "Stars of Buffy the Vampire Slayer" Sun 4PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

**"DNA: It's Not Just for Coding Genes Anymore!"** Paul Gregoli discusses making 2 & 3-D nanostructures in nanomachines. Sun 5:30PM, 202 (Hil).

**Lou Anders** will be on "Blood & Steel" Sun 10PM, Montreal/Vancouver (Hy).

**"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).

## Cancellations

**Matthew Darwin Chapman** will not be on "Skeptrack Kick Off 2011" Fri 10AM, 207 (Hil); "Just the Facts, Ma'am" Fri 11:30AM, Manila/Singapore/Hong Kong (Hy); "When Art Meets Science and Skepticism" Fri 7PM, 207 (Hil); "On The Ledge" Sat 4PM, 207 (Hil); and "Skeptical Morning Chat" Sun 8:30 AM, 207 (Hil).

**Garrett Wang** will not be on "\$#! My Captain Says: William Shatner" Fri 10AM, Centennial II-III (Hy); "Star Trek: The Next Generation" Fri 5:30PM, Grand Ballroom (S).

**"Radio Detection And Ranging"** Fri 11:30AM, 202 (Hil).

**"TRON Revisited with Bruce Boxleitner"** Fri 1PM, Int'l North (Hy).

**Bruce Boxleitner** will not be on "Babylon 5" Sat 7PM, Int'l North (Hy); and "How and Why Actors Choose their Roles" Sun 5:30PM, Int'l North (Hy).

**Michael Madsen** will not be on "FT@ DC" Fri 1PM, Int'l South (Hy); and "How and Why Actors Choose their Roles" Sun 5:30PM, Int'l South (Hy).

**Jim Beaver** and **Mischa Collins** will not be on "Dragon\*Con Welcomes Supernatural Stars!" Fri 2:30PM, Atrium (M).

**David Anders** and **Michael Trevino** will not be on "The Vampire Diaries" Fri 4PM, Centennial I (Hy); "The Vampire Diaries" Sat 1PM, Int'l North (Hy); and "The Vampire Diaries" Sun 2:30PM, Peachtree Ballroom A-F (W).

**Christopher Dedman** will not be on "Dangers of the Paranormal" Fri 5:30PM & Sat 4PM, Piedmont (S).

**Louis Ferreira** will not be on "Supergate - Cast of SG: Universe" Fri 5:30PM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

**Stacia Kane** will not be on "Spotlight: Witches" Fri 5:30PM, Cairo (Hy); "The Adventure Continues..." Sat 8:30PM, Cairo (Hy); and "Shadowed Streets" Sun 7PM, Cairo (Hy).

**Adam Baldwin** will not be on "Chuck—How to Make a Spy!" Sat 4PM, Regency VI-VII (Hy); "Chuck—Casey at Bat" Mon 10AM, Centennial I (Hy).

**Jimmy Palmiotti** will not be on "The Weird, Weird West" Sat 11:30AM, International B-C (W); "Clockwork Comics" Sat 2:30PM, Atlanta C-F (W); "Comic Book Babes Costume Contest" Sat 8PM, Centennial I-III (Hy); and "An Hour with

**Stan Lee!** Sun 2:30PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

**"The Man They Call Jayne"** Fri 7:30PM, Peachtree Grand Ballroom (W).

**Jim Beaver** will not be on "Supernatural: God, Devils, and Destiny" Sat 2:30PM, Atrium (M).

**"Trivia for Charity"** Sat 7PM, Galleria (Hil).

**Amanda Conner** will not be on "Comic Book Babes Costume Contest" Sat 8PM, Centennial I-III (Hy).

## Updates

**"Costuming with Leather"** moved from Fri 1PM to Fri 10AM, A401-403 (M).

**"The Hobbit is finally happening!"** moved from Fri 11:30AM, A601-602 (M) to Fri 1PM, Int'l Ballroom (Hy).

**"Costuming Q&A"** moved from Fri 2:30PM to Sat 5:30PM, L401-L403 (M).

**"The Finishing Touches: Distressing and Embellishing Costumes"** moved from Sat 2:30PM to Fri 2:30PM, L401-L403 (M).

**"Circus Postorus—Inside the Collective"** moved from Sat 10AM to Sun 2:30PM, Hanover F (Hy).

**"Venture Brothers Fans Unite!"** moved from Sun 2:30PM to Sat 10AM, Dunwoody (Hy).

**"Interview with Voltaire"** Sat 1PM moved from Montreal/Vancouver (Hy) to Int'l North (Hy).

**"The Historical and Literary Roots of the Hobbit"** moved from Sat 4PM to Sat 2:30PM, L401-L403 (M).

**"Game of Thrones—Books or Series?"** moved from Sat 5:30PM to Sat 7PM, Greenbriar (Hy).

**"Otaku Jeopardy"** moved from Sun 5:30PM to Sat 7PM, Courtland (Hy).

**"What Women Want"** moved from Sat 7PM to Sat 5:30PM, Greenbriar (Hy).

**"Match Game in the 25th Century"** moved from Sat 8:30PM to Sat 7PM, A-703 (M).

**"Why You Should NOT Use a Virus Scanner"** will be Sat 8:30PM, 201 (Hil).

**"Busted: The Movie"** will be Sat 10PM, 201 (Hil).

SEE MORE SUN-MON SCHEDULE CHANGES AT THE DAILY DRAGON WEBSITE. CHANGES ARE AUTOMATICALLY UPDATED IN THE APP.

## Don't Forget Your Room Key and Badge!

Between 7PM-1AM, you **must** have a Dragon\*Con badge or room key in order to enter the Hyatt or Marriott. A badge gets you in everywhere, but folks with just a hotel room key will only be allowed entrance to the corresponding hotel.



## Daily Dragon Tweets

Don't miss the latest Dragon\*Con news—follow @daily\_dragon on Twitter!



## The Dragon\*Con Store

Get your official Dragon\*Con gear at the Dragon\*Con store, located in the Marriott on the Marquis Level. Store hours:

Fri-Sun: 10:00AM-7:00PM  
Mon: 10:00AM-5:00PM

We'll also have a satellite location in the Sheraton offering lanyards, hats, sanitizer, and t-shirts. Satellite location hours:

Thu: 10:00AM-9:00PM  
Fri: 8:00AM-2:00PM

Follow @dragoncon\_store for Twitter-only specials!



## The Late Show on Dragon\*ConTV

The *Dragon\*Con Late Show* will bring you each day's news, events, and schedule changes. Broadcast live each morning, Fri-Mon, at 9AM (so early it's late!) to each of the five host hotels on DCTV, it'll also be broadcast throughout the day and podcast. Tune your dials:

Hyatt: 42 Marriott: 40  
Hilton: 3 Sheraton: 72  
Westin: 48



## Dinner for Pern Fans

Curries and Mai Tais! Thu 7PM, Trader Vic's (Hil).



## Yellow Ribbon Party

Celebrating those still serving this country, those who can't come home yet to their loved ones, and those who gave all so that we geeks and fans could gather in freedom. Thu 8PM, 601-602 (M).

CHECK OUT THE FULL PARTY LISTING ON THE DAILY DRAGON WEBSITE OR SHOW DOCUMENTS IN THE APP.

## Dragon\*Con Mobile App

Introducing the Dragon\*Con mobile app! Immediate access to programming updates, panel descriptions, exhibitors, and maps, right in the palm of your hand! For Android, iOS, and Blackberry devices.

