

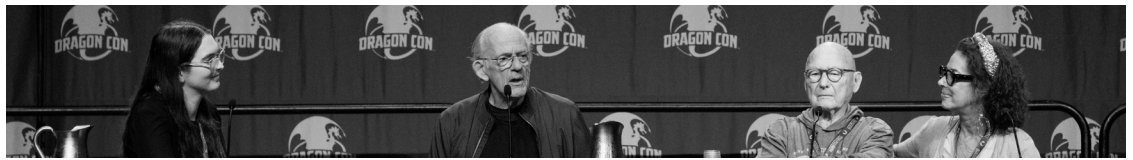


dailydragon.dragoncon.org

Dragon Con 2025

The Daily Dragon

Looking Back to the Future by Debbie Yutko



This year marks the 40th anniversary of the first *Back to the Future* movie. Although plutonium still isn't available at the corner drugstore, Christopher Lloyd (Dr. Emmet Brown), James Tolkan (Mr. Strickland), and Claudia Wells (Jennifer Parker) emerged from the time-space continuum at the "Back to the Future 40th Anniversary!" panel on Friday at 2:30PM on Hyatt Centennial II-IV. Moderator Ryan Segur steered the guests through a series of questions while carefully navigating the pitfalls of time paradoxes.

The first question involved cosplay and costumes. Lloyd recalled trying to choose outfits for Doc Brown from the fitting racks. He did his best to select combinations that matched the character. Tolkan based his character on a teacher he'd had who would crack misbehaving students on the knuckles with a ruler. If you made the mistake of pulling your hand away, she would crack you over the head instead. Upon request, he scowled at the delighted attendees and growled, "You look like a bunch of slackers!"

When speaking of characters he'd like to play again, Lloyd said his favorite was always the one he was playing at any given moment—Doc Brown, Judge Doom, and Uncle Fester among them. When he was young, he noted, one

of his favorite cartoon characters was Uncle Fester, whom he thought wasn't really evil but was full of mischief. Decades later, Lloyd was lucky enough to be able to play Uncle Fester. Wells loved her roles. She joked about being nicknamed the "pilot queen" because of her roles in eight pilots, but she also played characters in six TV series. "Acting was freedom," she said, a chance "to be fully and completely me."

A favorite moment for Lloyd was filming the train chase scene in *Back to the Future Part III*. There he was, galloping toward the train, getting closer and closer, until the handle was within reach... and a stunt double took his place. "It was right there!" he cried. "I could have done it!" For Tolkan, his favorite moment was joining the cast of *Back to the Future*. "Exactly my answer," Wells said. "I think I hit the jackpot." Her favorite moment, though, is now, being able to laugh and hang out with fans who loved the movies.

All three guests spoke of how much they treasured working with Michael J. Fox, who was not originally cast as Marty McFly. Lloyd and Tolkan had spent six weeks filming with a different actor, Eric Stoltz, who had a more serious take on Marty. When the change to Fox was announced, they were surprised and a bit disappointed to have to refilm all those

weeks of shooting. But Fox, Lloyd recalled, brought a comedic flair that had been lacking. "It was like magic," Lloyd said. "His energy worked." It was an exciting time. Because of that six-week delay and reshoot, Wells, who had been unable to accept the part of Jennifer due to a prior commitment, was able to regain the role. Fox, Tolkan said, was such an easy actor to work with. "Any scene with him was a privilege." Wells agreed. Fox was "always very positive and upbeat," she said, a trait that's still obvious in his life as he tries to help others living with Parkinson's disease.

Asked if they could time travel, would they choose the past or the future, Tolkan said he would go back to the day he was born and "try to avoid all the mistakes I have made." Lloyd would like to see how the problems we face today work themselves out in the future. Wells would go back and meet Jesus Christ. "We all make mistakes," she noted, "but He can fix them much better than I can."

In closing messages to their fans, Lloyd, Tolkan, and Wells said, respectively, "Come again," "Thanks for being here," and "Go see *Back to the Future: The Musical!*" With that, they stood and took a selfie with the audience to treasure this moment for all time.

A Vampire, an FBI Agent, and a Navy Seal Walk into a Bar by Jared Austin

Moderator Tony Gowell interviewed David Boreanaz in a relaxed and humorous panel on Friday at 4PM in the Hyatt Centennial II-IV. David thanked the audience for their warm southern-hospitality greeting upon his arrival. He made jokes throughout, such as adding his own Con hotel with an open bar, and spoke about being present in the moment with his acting.

Gowell began the panel by asking Boreanaz how he keeps his performances fresh over the course of numerous seasons of a show. Boreanaz noted that comfortable is the worst word you can use in that arena, because you never want to get comfortable in a role. You need to bring truth and vulnerability to every moment or it won't come across as authentic. He aims to be present with every character and every scene. He also noted that repetition gives you time to learn a character. You might not know how to perform a character in a given scene until seasons down the line.

For *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*, Gowell brought up how there were so many incarnations of Angel that Boreanaz got to play and asked if that was challenging. Boreanaz joked how early in *Buffy*, he just got to stand there and brood, so it was easy. Sarah Michelle

Gellar had all these monologues. But it was there that he got to learn about working on a set, how to find your light, and just seeing how a show is made. He would also do the character completely different if he were playing Angel today because it would be with the maturity he has today versus back then.

Boreanaz joked that he's never bought a suit in his life thanks to his time on *Bones*. "You wear the pants, you pull down the pants, they're your pants."

When asked what project has been the most physical, Boreanaz said it was *Seal Team*. When they started, all the actors wanted to do their own stunts. They were down shooting the pilot in New Orleans, and two days into the shoot, he would get back to hotel and sit on the bed and it hurt.

As for putting pieces of himself into his character, Boreanaz's internal personality is Swavy B. But he also takes certain pieces of his personality for every character he plays. He also notes how, as an actor, you pull inspiration from all sorts of places. During season one of *Seal Team*, he listened to musician Annie Lennox a lot. He also mentioned how Kobe Bryant would listen to Michael Myers theme music before games to get himself in the mindset he wanted for the game.



Toward the end of the panel, Boreanaz talked about working with charities that are important to him. During *Seal Team*, they hosted a Price Is Right event to raise money for veterans. During the event, a woman told him how she was dealing with PTSD and that *Seal Team* helped her through a difficult time. Hearing that the show helped a soldier meant a lot to him. He noted it's important to take care of our soldiers and vets. He works with the Travis Manion Foundation that does great work helping vets—building homes and helping them find hope.

Read the full article on the Daily Dragon website!

Schedule Changes

The following previously confirmed guests are unfortunately not able to attend Dragon Con 2025: **Andy Belanger, Alex Brown, Olivia Dudley, Colton Haynes, John Gregory Keyes, Maggie Lawson, David Mack, Jim Shooter, Tom Wilson**

ADDITIONS

John Barrowman will be on "Arrowverse Guests: Return to the Arrowcave" Saturday 2:30PM, Centennial II-IV (Hy).

John Barrowman will be on "Arrowverse Guests: Into the Future" Sunday 1PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

John Barrowman will be on "Arrowverse Guests: One Last Visit to Starling City Monday 10AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

Raymond Carr, Kevin Kelly, Lenore Romas, Hallie Zeller, and Richard Gomez will be on "Puppet Karaoke" Friday 8:30PM, A704 (M).

K.N. Lee will be on the author "Autograph Session" Sunday 2:30PM, Overlook (W).

Charles Kelso and Veronica Dashiell will be on "Felt Nerdy's Stargate Puppet Show!" Monday 1PM, Chastain DE

(W).

Mark Zoran will be on "Giant Walkarounds and Body Puppets" Saturday 8:30PM, A704 (M).

Dan Jolley will be on "15-Minute Mentor Session" Sunday 4PM, Embassy G (Hy).

CANCELLATIONS

***NEW* David McRaney** will not be on "Creativity in Skepticism" Saturday 2:30PM, 204-207 (Hil).

***NEW* David McRaney** will not be on "Academics and Skepticism" Sunday 2:30PM, 204-207 (Hil).

***NEW* David McRaney** will not be on "On Deception..." Sunday 8:30PM, 204-207 (Hil).

***NEW* David Mack** will not be on "Daredevil & Punisher: Marvel's Street Protectors" Sunday 1PM, 204J (AM2).

Colton Haynes will not be on "Arrowverse Guests: Return to the Arrowcave" Saturday 2:30PM, Centennial II-IV (Hy).

Colton Haynes will not be on "Arrowverse Guests: Into the Future" Sunday 1PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

Alex Brown will not be on "Reimag-

Hy = Hyatt
M = Marriott

Hil = Hilton
W = Westin

CG = Courtland Grand
AM2/3 = AmericasMart Bldg 2/3

ined: Diverse Retelling of Classic Stories" Sunday 1PM, A707 (M).

Alex Brown will not be at the "Dragon Awards Ceremony" Sunday 4PM, Centennial I (Hy).

Alex Brown will not be on "Love without Limits: Revolutionizing LGBTQ Representation!" Sunday 7PM, Hanover AB (Hy).

Colton Haynes will not be on "Arrowverse Guests: One Last Visit to Starling City Monday 10AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

Andy Belanger will not be on "Kick-starting Comic Books" Friday 1PM, 204J (AM2).

Allora Lee will not be on "Red Sonja" Sunday 5:30PM, L401-L403 (M).

UPDATES

NEW The Charity Book Fair is closed! All books have been sold. Saturday 11AM-7:30PM, Augusta (CG).

"What We're Reading" was Monday 10AM, A707 (M) and is now Monday 11:30AM, A707 (M).

"Bring Your Own Book Game" was Monday 11:30AM, A707 (M) and is now Monday 1PM, A707 (M).

What Should I Do With My Tiny Human? by Elizabeth Caruso

Kids Track hosted "How to Dragon Con with Kids" panels on Thursday at 7:30PM and Friday at 11:30AM in Hyatt Techwood, dispensing wisdom to con parents. Moderators Morgan A McLaughlin McFarland and James Wells fielded questions from curious families on how to optimize the Dragon Con experience.

Dragon Con's commitment to fami-

ly-friendly entertainment is evident this year with unique programming all weekend for kids and parents alike. Kids Track has grown to a 17-person department, operating across the Hyatt. One such offering is "Splendid Teapot Racing," a steampunk sport out of New Zealand in which competitors race oversized novelty teapot vehicles, which you can see Sunday 10AM in the Courtland Grand, Grand Ballroom A-F.

Dragon Con is intended to be fun for all attendees, big and small. The hosts advised modifying con routines to accommodate the younger members of the party in order to maintain harmony (and sanity). Letting kids and teens set the pace reduces stress.

Read the full article on the Daily Dragon website!

Saturday Parties & Events

10th Anniversary of Hamilton Sing-Along

Come sing your hearts out as we revive a fan-favorite sing-along to celebrate its 10th Anniversary. We will once again raise our voices to a selection of our favorite songs as we remember the story of Alexander Hamilton. Cosplay is encouraged as we stand in the room where it happens. Saturday 5:30PM, Grand East (Hilton).



Spectrum: A Rainbow Flag Party

It's Dragon Con's LGBTQI+ & allies geeky pride party; theme is Could it Be Magic! Our party DJ Neon the Glowgo Bear starts you off with club versions of your favorite Sci-Fi tunes and quickly progresses to house music. Bring a friend and dance your magical butts off. 18+ to party, 21+ to drink. Must have valid photo ID & Dragon Con badge to enter. Saturday 10PM-2AM, Regency VI-VII (Hyatt).



The Dragon Con Cotillion

We've transformed the Con into a slice of Regency life where you can mingle, dance, and compete to be crowned the most remarkable attendee and be our Dragon of the Con! Learn historical dance steps, take a turn on the floor, and show off your period look or fanciest Cosplay. Saturday 4-6:30PM, Capitol Ballroom N/C, (Courtland Grand)



Cartoon Bebo Lounge

Need some SPACE on a Saturday night? Dance, mingle, or relax to the chill and jazzy tunes of DJ Scooby Snaxx, playing music that spans space, time, dimensions, and generations. Characters from all channels are invited to this intergalactic way station lounge party. Saturday 8:30-11:30PM, Grand West (Hilton).



The Last Party on Alderaan

Dragon Con's premier house, EDM, pop, any type of music dance party! You never know who might drop by, but you can bet the party will be jumping for hours. Tonight we're going to

party like it's the end of the world as we know it... Saturday 10PM-2AM, Salon (Hilton).



The Cults of Dragon Con Costume Contest

Marriott carpet attire! Dancing T-Rexes! Googly eyes galore! Badge ribbons, flaming speakers, and more! Paying tribute and adulation to the Dragon Con cults in this one wacky evening of clever costuming. We award the best of the best. Could it be YOU who takes home the grand prize? Hosted by Crispy & friends. Saturday 7:30-9PM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand). Contest registration 5:30-6:30PM, Piedmont (Courtland Grand).



Big Damn Game Show!

Our most awesome blend of pop culture, nonsense, and PRIZES GLORIOUS PRIZES returns! We need contestants and YOU NEED PRIZES! 18+ ONLY PLEASE. Saturday 10PM-12:30AM, International North (Hyatt).



Daily Dragon Social

Don't miss the latest Dragon Con news and announcements. Follow @daily-dragon on BlueSky!



Coffee & Coloring

Ease into another day of Dragon Con with the Video Gaming track. Coloring pages and art supplies are available if you don't have your own. Bring Your Own Coffee or visit the coffee bar outside the panel room. Saturday/Sunday 8:30-11AM, Augusta E-H (Westin).



Salon du Cospl-AID

Brighten up your morning with a truly Victorian experience: dressing help from a lady's maid or valet, provided by the wonderful volunteers of the Cospl-AID group. Drop in if you need assistance, or some finishing touches, to feel your very best in your cosplay. Friday-Saturday 8:30-11AM, Augusta (Courtland Grand).



Headless Lounge

Is your costume head, helmet, or mask getting too hot to handle but you don't want to ruin the illusion by taking it off in the crowd? Rejoice! The Headless Lounge is back—you can relax under the fans, get a cold drink of water, & cool down before your (refreshed) character returns to the masses. Friday-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, NAMI Georgia. Thursday-Sunday 7PM-12AM, The Learning Center (Hyatt).

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

NAMI Georgia

Dragon Con's Official 2025 Charity



bit.ly/DragonConGivesBack