



dailydragon.dragoncon.org

The Daily Dragon

Dragon Con 2025

Simon Pegg: Accepting the Challenge by Debbie Yutko

Simon Pegg has played a wide variety of roles since his first in the British sitcom *Spaced*, which he co-wrote. From the straight-man cop in *Hot Fuzz*, to the reluctant but reliable Benji in the *Mission Impossible* films and the indomitable Scottie in the J.J. Abram's *Star Trek* movies, Pegg's amazing ability to portray the relatable everyman makes his characters memorable and beloved. Pegg unabashedly admits to being both a geek and a nerd. He's had the good fortune of playing characters in his three favorite geekdoms: Doctor Who, Star Trek, and Star Wars. Pegg joined fans at the "Simon Pegg: All Missions Possible" panel Saturday at 2PM in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom. Moderator Brian Richardson gave the attendees their mission: to formulate interesting questions. Mission accepted.

Pegg began by happily declaring, "My first Dragon Con! Yeah!" Asked about the different accents he's had to use for roles, he thinks it's much easier to use his own (and he's been told it makes him sound intelligent, too, a nice bonus). The Scottish accent is easy, since his wife is Scottish and he's half, but he thinks the American accent is difficult. He said people seem to be "weirded out" when he uses it. "You chew your vowels a lot!"

Reminiscing about filming *Star Trek*, Pegg spoke of how close the actors became as a group. They used to hang out in Vancouver and "had some crazy nights." He ended up looking out for the younger actors. A big moment for him was walk-

ing onto the bridge of the Enterprise as Mr. Scott. "Look at this!" he remembers thinking. Another awesome experience was being able to act with Leonard Nimoy. "That's ****'n Spock!" Pegg told himself. "He's talking to me!"

Although he'd met James Doohan before playing Scotty, Pegg tried to make the role his own while also treating it with respect. He approached it by putting himself into the mindset of a starship engineer, to be the engineer rather than trying to be Doohan's version. Pegg also spoke about writing the script for the *Star Trek Beyond*. When he was asked to write it, he remembered feeling like "the world was on my shoulders." In the first two movies, the crew never left our solar system, so Pegg thought, "Let's get them out there" on a five-year mission, like the original series.

Pegg spoke fondly of the *Three Flavors Cornetto* trilogy. He said he and co-writer/director Edgar Wright wouldn't do another *Cornetto* movie, though. "We might make a drama next." Pegg feels the trilogy had a beginning (*Shaun of the Dead*), middle (*Hot Fuzz*), and end (*The World's End*). A lot of *Shaun of the Dead* came from Pegg and his good friend Nick Frost talking at a pub one time about what they'd do if a zombie apocalypse happened. They decided the pub would be the perfect spot to retreat to and defend.



When asked if he'd been given any advice about coming to Dragon Con, Pegg said, "Nick [Frost] said it was amazing." Last night, when Pegg stepped out on the street, there were so many people in costumes, he felt as if he'd just entered a convention floor. He passed someone wearing a *Shaun of the Dead* costume. Pegg had sunglasses on, and thought, "If you only knew..." as he walked by.

In closing, Pegg said that the "success...comes from the enjoyment of making [a] film...It's a bonus if the film does well." He added that he's never had a truly bad experience. "[It's] a fun thing to do...[to] dress up and playact." Judging by the applause and cheering as he exited the stage, we all hope he'll be acting for a long time to come.

Read the full article on the Daily Dragon website!

Trekking Forward by Kevin Shirley



Gates McFadden, John de Lancie, and Brent Spiner sat down with moderator and *Trek* Track director Garrett Wang Friday 2:30PM for a conversation with *Star Trek* fans in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom. This group of actors have long been known for their camaraderie, friendship, and sense of humor. All those elements were on display Friday.

The session began with one of the most common questions series actors receive: "what's their favorite episode?" McFadden pointed out that it wasn't so much a matter of a favorite episode but rather bits and pieces of episodes that carry meaning to her. She was particularly fond of those (rare) moments of comedic relief in the series as well as scenes in which the actors could explore interesting and human questions like "what is love?" De Lancie emphasized time; in his experience the work he remembered the most was that on which he spent the most time. Here he made a distinction between television and stage. With a long filmography of appearances in episodic television, de Lancie's approach was (frankly) "when,

what's the material, and how much am I being paid?" On stage, however, it is a different equation. There an actor knows that he is going to be doing it for a while and for him it is that investment of time that translates into his most memorable work.

A member on Discord asked McFadden about her sense of pride and place in a franchise that has inspired so many and shaped so many lives. She described *Star Trek* as a "role-model filled" franchise. Whether the cast inspired artists or scientists, counselors or officers, it was something she was quite proud of. Reacting to McFadden's comments about the franchise and inspiration, Wang asked her about her famous action figure photos. Appearing on the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, McFadden wanted to poke fun at the entire merchandising phenomenon by posting photos of her figure in various scenes and poses, including one or two described by Wang as "naughty." This gave Spiner his opening. Earlier in the hour Spiner pointed out that the name placards all guests

have in front of them during these sessions had not only their names on the back but a warning to remember that they may well be live on Dragon Con TV. In response to Wang's characterization of McFadden's "naughtiness," Spiner proceeded to wave his placard around and point out to her that they may be "live on Dragon Con TV." The audience roared.

The conversation turned to reflections on *Star Trek* and its arc from the original series through today. De Lancie told the tale of being in a hotel somewhere and while looking for something to watch on television, he happened upon the original series' season three premiere episode "Spock's Brain." As he watched he found that Shatner was finding a way to make it work, an incredible feat under the circumstances. At the other end of the spectrum de Lancie loved the way the franchise was moving forward. The current crop of *Star Trek*, including *Star Trek: Discovery*, *Star Trek: Lower Decks*, and *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*, drew universal praise. Wang declared himself the "ultimate lower decker" and all cheered the creativity and genius of *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*' "Subspace Rhapsody." The franchise has come a long, long way from "Spock's Brain" and these actors (clearly) love having been a part of it.

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, David McRaney, Jim Shooter, Tom Wilson**

ADDITIONS

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).

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).

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

CANCELLATIONS

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

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

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

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

Alex Brown will not be on "Reimagined: 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).

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

UPDATES

NEW "Farewell, Paranormal All-Stars!" is now Monday 11:30AM, Imperial Ballroom (M).

NEW "Closing Ceremonies" is now Monday 4PM, Imperial Ballroom (M).

"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).

Hy = Hyatt
M = Marriott

Hil = Hilton
W = Westin

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

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 10-11:30AM, Grand Ballroom A-F (Courtland Grand).



Annual Hyatt Ribbon Drop!

Come see or show off all the ribbons! Cheer on the LOotRs in the Hyatt Lobby, as they let their badge beards hang out! How many floors up will we have to go this year? Sunday 5:30PM, Lobby (Hyatt).



Family-Friendly Dance

Kids & parents let loose on the dance floor to family-friendly music for all ages! Kids under 16 must be with a parent/guardian; children 7+ must have badges. Adults without kids may be turned away. Sunday 4-6:30PM, Regency V (Hyatt).



The Open Casket Party

Goth Night at Dragon Con is back with the Horror Track's 4th annual Open Casket Party! Return with us to our crypt in the Westin's Peachtree Ballroom for a night of Goth, post-punk, deathrock, and darkwave dance anthems. What sweet music they play! WARNING:

FLASHING LIGHTS. 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!

Arcade Gaming with Joystick

Come get your "game on" at the pop-up from our friends at Joystick Gamebar, Atlanta's official retro arcade. Classic arcade cabinets and pinball machines are on FREE PLAY, located in the old Benihana space of our beloved food court in Peachtree Center Mall. Live long and party on! Wednesday 6PM-4:30AM; Thursday-Sunday 10AM-4AM; Monday, 10AM-5PM.

NAMI Georgia

Dragon Con's Official 2025 Charity. Follow the link via the QR code or text NAMIGA to 24251.



bit.ly/DragonConGivesBack

Daily Dragon Social

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



Coffee & Coloring

Ease into your day at Dragon Con with a quiet space to relax and color. We'll have copies of this year's coloring book for sale. No need to wait in line at Starbucks—the hotel has coffee and tasty treats available right outside the room. Saturday-Sunday 8:30-11AM, Augusta E-H (Westin).



Main Charity Auction

It's the Annual Dragon Con Charity Auction! For 2025, we've partnered with the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Georgia as our official charity. Benefit this worthy cause & 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 17th Annual Don S. Davis Memorial Charity Auction returns to "do it for Don" and raise money for NAMI Georgia! Bid on hard-to-find items from *Stargate*, *Firefly*, *BSG*, *B5*, *Orville*, *Space*: 1999 & 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 2025 Dragon Awards in 11 categories! Who will you choose as the fan favorites this year? Come & find out the results! Also presented in this prestigious ceremony are the Eugie Award, Julie Award, Reinhardt Award, and Mike Resnick Memorial Awards. Sunday 5:30PM, Centennial I (Hyatt).



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. Through Sunday, 7PM-12AM, The Learning Center (Hyatt).