

The Drink Tank

With your Host: Christopher J. Garcia

I figured, if I'm gonna read them, I may as well write a little something of my Own

This here is my first personal e-zine. No frills, I'm not a design guy, so this will just be a bunch of thoughts and the like. I figure I should introduce myself to the world, since as much as I'd like to think they do, far fewer people know me than should. So, here's Christopher J. Garcia in a series of friendly bullet points

--Been around fandom since the first NASFiC in 1975, when Pops insisted that we go. I apparently got to meet folks like Kelly Freas, Gene Roddenberry and even Bjo Trimble. I only wish I was older than 9 months at the time.

--I grew up in and around Santa Clara, CA. Went to Santa Clara High before heading over to Boston for School at Emerson College and then back to Cali.

--Almost as long as I've been around fandom, I've been around wrestling.

--Over the last 6 years, I've been working as a Computer Historian at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA.

--I'm a writer of all sorts of random things. I write a lot of history, mostly of baseball, wrestling, fandom, film, art and the Chicano Experience.

--I've been solidly back in fandom since about 1998 and am --Toastmastering at BayCon this coming May.

--I'm a big fan of SteamPunk, Jazz, El Santo, Calculators, and the works of my good pal Frank Wu!

There, that's all you need to know to enjoy The Drink Tank...if it's at all possible.

Talking about fanzines

□ So, I've been reading fanzines since I was about five years old. My Dad had a tonne of them, old Granfalloon, Space Ships, a bunch of Niekas and SF5Ys. Later, I got a hold of the collection of a friend of mine that had about five thousand titles dating from the fifties through the early 1990s. Most of my life, whenever I came across a fanzine, it had been out for at least a decade before I read it.

□ Thank God for efanzines.com.

□ I've read everything available on efanzines.com, and since they are current, I've even sent in a few LoCs. Without efanzines.com, it really wouldn't be possible to get so filling a slice of the work that's out there. While I had been keeping up on Mimosa over the years through their website along with Cheryl Morgan's Emerald City, I hadn't managed to read much else. I picked up a copy of Niekas at Westercon 57 in Seattle and that got me interested in trying to get back into reading fanzines. I found efanzines and then went to town. Immediately, I found that not too much had changed.

□ So many of the names I recognised from the 60s, 70s and 80s were still at it, and some of their stuff hadn't changed much beyond the fact that it was being done on computers now. There were some finds of people I had somehow missed. Arnie Katz was one. Jan Stinson who does Peregrine Nations (a fantastic piece of work which has featured one of my articles) thought that I might actually have been Arnie playing a rib on her. She pointed me towards Flicker, Arnie's fanzine. His stuff is fantastic, and he's a wrestling fan, which is highly applaudable. I read a few issues of Flicker and was hooked.

□ Another find was a gentleman I had heard of long ago: Mr. Earl Kemp. For some reason, my friend Johnny (see the August 2004 edition of IROSF.com for my article The Downing of Fanzine One-0-Two) had several issues of Safari. The thing that I wait most anxiously for updating is Earl's el. It's Kemp's way of collecting his memoirs and it is fantastic. By far the best thing in fanzines today. His issue that dealt with Robert Bonfils was the single best issue of anything, pro or fannish, I read all last year. The others that have held this distinction for various years include the WorldCon Wrap-up issue of Emerald City for 2002, and the final issue of Mimosa, and neither of those are in the same league as that issue of el.

□ So, without efanzines.com, I'd have no idea what was out there. I only hope that more and more things end up there so that those of us without access to giant collections will have access to a giant collection.

Me, Writing...

□ I'm a writer. Sadly, that remains the case. I had hoped to be an author by this point, but it's not meant to be. I've basically decided that there'll be no more fiction writing. Well, I'll still write the occasional story and will try to keep getting things in Nth Degree and various other For The Love locations. Why am I stopping? Not only due to my inability to get stuff into the larger venues, but because most of my non-fiction is doing very well. Other Magazine has one of my stories in this go 'round. I had the IROSF article last year, and a few other places over the last few months. That, my FanboyPlanet.com articles and fannish stuff will take up enough of my time.

□ You know, I started writing for fanzines with Stacked Decks, the amazingly precient zine about Poker Playing, Porn and Low-Fi music. Half of the final issue was my story Searching For Doyle Brunson. I then didn't write anything until 2000 when I started writing things for various newsletters and programmes. In 2002, I managed to start having things show up in Nth Degree, and then a hundred other places. Sadly, I've had more art reviews in the Globe than stories in SF magazines. Odd for a guy who is, at best, Middle-Brow.

□ SO, No more fiction, more fannish writing, and a few articles in interesting magazines. Hopefully, it'll be enough to keep me from writing any more scripts.

Hugo Short Form Funk

Not too long ago, I heard that there was talk of dropping the Best Dramatic Presentation award from the Hugos. I understand the idea that they thought they were doing the split for: to give TV shows a chance by not having them compete against big budget movies, but they seemed to over-look another positive side effect of the split.

Most folks wouldn't know it, but I am the founder of the S4F: The Science Fiction Fan Film Fund. We're all about seeing that fan films keep getting made and that they get seen and preserved. There is no danger of Fan Film going away, since everyone now has a video camera, but there is a danger of them never getting seen. Even my film, *The Chick Magnet*, might be completely over-looked, especially by fandom, who are the ones that would get it the most.

The Best Dramatic Presentation Hugo is important, especially to those of us who are con-fans who also happen to be media fans (which makes you a pariah to most fen). I love SF literature, I do, but there's nothing like a good science fiction movie. Indeed, there have been folks who say that the Hugos should drop the category and just concentrate on the Lit side. That would be a sad day for those of us who like a good movie and can't wait for nomination time to roll around. I always look forward more to the BDP Hugo than any other. The thing is, with the split, another group of became realistically eligible.

That's right, fan films.

There is no chance of a fan-produced film going head to head against the big-budget bullies that reign, they just don't have the exposure nor the funds to compete. But, like a WorldCon Dining Guide getting nominated, if a fan film gets shown to enough of fandom, it will end up getting a nod. With the split, we could see a film like *The Chick Magnet* get a nom. It'll take a lot of leg (which I'm doing) but it could happen.

And it's not only fan films. With the additional spaces, we could see more radio dramas, or realistically Book-On-Tape, and perhaps even live performances nominated. It would be nice if it weren't just Movies on one side and TV on the other.

My thought, if they really want to change the way that BDP Hugos are done, is to split it into Best Fan-Produced Dramatic Presentation and Best Professional Dramatic Presentation. No different from the way that the other categories are done. That way, every year the hundreds of fan-produced films would have a shot. I'd take something like *Danny-Bot* or *Metal Tears* over just about everything that'll likely end up on the Short Form list this year. Far better than Gollum's Acceptance Speech from 2003 was *Belief's Untitled 003: Embryo*. This coming year, in addition to the *Chick Magnet*, there's Tom Putnam's *Broadcast 23*, and the brilliant *Apartment 203*. These are great and should be thought of for BDP.

So, let's look long and hard about the lines of deliniation. We should be encouraging fan filmmaking, and by having a category where they can get nominated, whether it's running against TV episodes or other fan-produced works. Keeping the split is the only way that can happen.



Cons, Cons, Cons...

I love Cons. Ever since I can remember, I've just loved a good con. I've probably been to a hundred or so over my lifetime, but I'm still not nearly tired of them.

Recently, I was asked to become a member of SPFFil, the group that runs BayCon, is putting up a bid for WesterCon in 2007 and various other things. I'm enjoying getting an inside look at how con-running is done, but I must admit that being able to watch completely uninterested in fannish politics is much nicer than being surrounded by it.

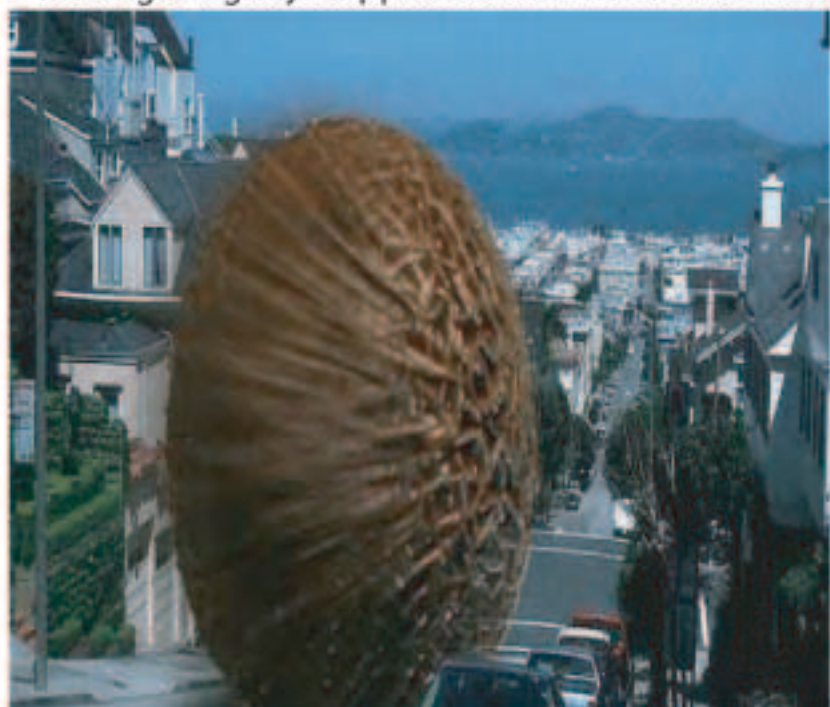
Film Festivals!!!

*Cinequest is coming up, with the debut of *The Chick Magnet*, and that'll be followed by Sonoma Valley in April and Hi Mom! in May. But more important than any of those is The Silicon Valley Science Fiction Film Fest that I'm programming for October at the Computer History Museum. A One-Night Fest of short films from around the world with a focus on those that were made by fans. This should be a great night. I've got a huge number of shorts that we'll be showing, including a few classics. Write me for details. Garcia@computerhistory.org*

So, I made a Movie...

Yeah, I made a movie.

Well, I didn't make it myself, I just produced it, but it was a combination of fantastic and a truly hellish experience, including having our funding snapped away from us, leading us to making a slightly stripped down version for about 800 bucks.



It's a funny little ten minute marvel about a guy who drinks the wrong syrum and ends up beign magnetic to women. We shot it in July, but due to our second film, the Last Woman On Earth, coupled with the Hearty amount of effects that we had to composite (taking roughly 1.4 years of computer time) , we ran late. We're showing at Cinequest here in San Jose, plus at a bunch of cons liek I-Con, SheVaCon, Capricon, BayCon, SwanCon, and more than like NASFiC. If you want a copy, lemme know and I'll be glad to send ya one.

Wrestling History

Like I said, I love wrestling. I rewatched one of my favourite matches from my youth: Ricky Steamboat vs. Randyt Savage. It was a lot like revisiting my Dad's issues of Space Ship: The thrill was still there, but it was far different from when it was new. Still, you don't see stuff like that anymore. Brilliantly thought-out match with AMAZING heat.



Quick Notes

- I'd love to see some LoCs, but hey, don't feel like you gotta.

garcia@computerhistory.org with any info, comments, threats, you name it.

- I've been going to BASFA meetings for a few months now. Good bunch of folks they are. My favourite part? The Auctions.

-Two Word Reviews: Michael Swanwick's Jack Faust: SteamPunk Good!; Michael Chabon's McSweeney's Enchanted Chamber of Astounding Stories: polyShort Fun! The Film The Saddest Music in the World: Olde-timey Perfection.

-Cons Coming for Me: Corflu (Feb), NorWesCon (March), BayCon (May)

-Amatuerish? Yes! Interesting? Maybe...



Strange Facts

- I own more than 300 T-shirts.
- If you took all the books I own and divided them by the number of them I've actually read, the result is .1273545
- Frank Wu is letting me borrow a 9-year run of Analog from the 1950s and 60s. I'm making a catalog of them!
- I've got writings coming up in Nth Degree, Catchpenny Gazette, Crass Dansy, in teh current issue of Challenger and fanboyplanet.com
- The Little One is still small, and she stills calls her Godzilla toy Gojira!
- Go to Dannybot.com NOW!

On the Set of The Chick Magnet.

A Very Short Steampunk Story by Christopher J. Garcia

The machine had methodically ground Arizona cities into a dust finer than the West's windblown sands. Dr. Bonnett had been miraculous in the service of certain parties. Now, he sat at the controls, screaming obscenities at each clunking cog and whirring cam as he powered towards revenge. He took his hand off the brake, steaming harder towards Tombstone.

"Damn you, bastards! Damn you All!" he shouted in pained rage as he forced the boiler full-ahead.

The explosion was the next day's front page engraving