

# The Drink Tank Issue 28 (or so they tell me)

## A Fanzine for the Rest of Us



The photo above is of Kate Mulgrew. When I first saw it, I really did think it was Kate Hepburn from about 1945. Kate Mulgrew is just about as Katharine Hepburn as you'll be able to find in this world today. Tea at 5, Mulgrew's one woman show, is Mulgrew showign off her chops as Hepburn in two very different times: 1938 and 1983. It takes a hell



of an actor to make that kind of transformation, and Mulgrew does a great job. While she is pretty much exactly the age between Hepburn at 31 in 1938 and at 76 in 83, she moves deftly between the two.

Mulgrew's voice had enough natural Hepburn characteristics that it wasn't much of a stretch, but she added a few touches that made her seem even better. At times it seemed a little too authentic. I'd heard Kate on old interviews and she sounded different than in her movies, especially those of the early 1940s. When they got to the 1983 section, she was 100% incredibly perfect. It was hard to look away at that section. I got to see Kate Hepburn at a tribute they did to her while I was in school in Boston and there was no difference between what Mulgrew presented and the real thing.

The script isn't bad at all. The opening section is all about the days when Hepburn was up for the role of Scarlet O'Hara and had been riding a long wave of flops. I seem to remember hearing that Stage Door did good, but not the blockbuster that they were expecting. The first act is an introduction and is all about how Kate made it to the top and then muddled around huge success and abject failure. The second act is all about Hepburn's past and the pains of loss that she had experienced. She goes back to her brother Tom's death in 1921 and then all about her relationship with Spencer Tracy. Everyone knows that it was a tempestuous relationship at best, but the way they present it here is heartbreaking and brutal and very real. It's an emotional act, but that may also be why the act is only about 35 minutes long.

I'd highly recommend seeing it while it's on the road around the country. I've never managed to read Me, Katharine Hepburn's biography which details much of the material that they used to put the show together, but from what I hear, there are some discrepancies. One of the funniest segments was where she described living next door to a gent named Sondheim while he was working on Company. I've heard Sondheim tell the same story and I think that the version presented here is much funnier.



## My Favourite Katharine Hepburn Films

\*- This list has nothing to do with quality of the films, just my enjoyment

- On Golden Pond- It's one of her last films and Henry Fonda actually overshadows her, but it's a great role for Kate.
- The Philadelphia Story- No question, the movie that saved Hepburn's career. Possibly the one that most folks will remember her for.
- Stage Door- Not her best, but a good one. I've watched it about a dozen times over the years, and seeing it on the big screen at the Stanford Theatre is a true pleasure.
- Desk Set- The best science Fiction movie of 1957. Ok, that's a stretch, but it was a great romantic comedy with a computer that really tore the house down when we showed it at the Computer History Museum's Summer Movie series. Hepburn plays the brilliant librarian and Spencer plays the efficiency expert who is studying how to make the TV network research library they work at more efficient. Great interplay and a lot of fun to watch. One of my top five date movies. It never fails to get me at least a kiss at the end of the night.

## Wow! You can relive the past!

This weekend, I went to my pal Mike Flores' place and we watched the pay-per-view centered around the return of ECW, the promotion that changed the face of wrestling. It was a great show, made better by the fact that I had spent so much of the 1990s watching the promotion.

The funny thing is, the ECW pay-per-view will probably end up selling 10 times as many views as the old ECW PPVs did. That's after almost 5 years of inactivity. The amount of money made off this one show will probably equal a year of old ECW activity.

This got me thinking about cons. You see, in the early 1990s, there was a con I went to every year called TimeCon. It was a more media oriented con. It was a good time, and ever since it went away, I've missed it. What if that team went back and did a new one? Would a nostalgia con sell more memberships than they did when they were originally around?

## The Best Conversations I've Ever Had With Writers

- Robert J. Sawyer at Norwescon 2005
- Me- My Dad used to wrestle up in those parts.
- RJS- Looks like you inherited some of those wrestling genes.
- Robert Silverberg at Con Jose 2002
- AGBob- Are you Tom Galloway?
- Me- No.
- AGBob- Sorry, you just looked the type
- Me, Julie Porter, Greg Bear and Charles Brown at a Tapas Place in October 2004
- Me- You know, I've wanted to do a fanzine of Harlan stories.
- JP- I've got a harlan story
- GB- No Harlan Stories. They're like potato chips, you can't have just one.
- CB- True.
- Me, Some guy and Harlan Ellison, LosCon 2001
- Some Guy- Hey that's the guy, Harlan
- Harlan- You, and people that think like you, are the devil.

## ***A Very Short Story***

They gathered in the streets, their strange suits making noises closer related to caliopes than divesuits. The landing site had just been extinguished and the groups of cops and firefighters and newsmen and interested civilians who had arrived before the barricades were erected. The crew of the ship gathered in a circle, issuing demands at the top voice possible considering the age of the speakers they used.



Sadly, at just 6.23 inches tall, their words carried little weight



### ***Kate Kelton is Coming to Town!***

So, Kate Kelton, star of *The Last Woman on Earth* and *The Chick Magnet*, will officially be moving from Toronto (believe it or not, she grew up in the land of Etobicoke) and moving out to LA, where it will be much easier to have her in our films...not to mention for her to get real film work. We're all very excited, especially since we have a lot of projects. *5 Suicides*, my first feature film, will star Kate and should start (in a very different form than I intended) around January first. That's not 100%, but it's more than likely.

Another great thing about having Kate out here is that I'll get to use more of her art, like the piece that's illustrating this little article!



### ***The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes***

Let me say this, Disney has never been known to shy away from science fiction. From their fine effects-riddled *The Black Hole* to the *Absent-minded Professor* to so many others over the years that I've lost, Disney capitalized on the SF trend and made a good deal of money on some of them. The unequalled King of the Disney Science Fiction Film happened to be Kurt Russell.

In 1968, Russell starred in the first of the Dexter Reilly films, *The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes*. It would be lying to say that it was a classic, but of all the films I've written about for various places, it's a ton of fun and shows a lot of the opinions on computers from that period.

Here's the story in a nutshell: Dex is a college student whose favourite prof manages to get a used computer for his class. The class then sets up problems. We're shown the computer doing simple tasks, like closing doors and letting in the cat when it starts raining. That's a typical theme in older films that feature computers, that they will do the simple jobs that we just don't want to do ourselves. What nobody knows is that the computer was actually used by a local mobster, played by Caesar Romero, and all the mob info is protected by the password *Applejack*.

And here is where the plot begins and the fun begins.



Caeser and some guy who always plays the heavy

Dexter, fresh in from the rain one night when he was sent to find tubes for the computer, gets zapped and all the memories and processing power of the computer are entered into him. The college enters The College quiz circuit and makes tonnes of money using Dex's new found brain power. Of course, as Dex becomes beloved and successful, he forgets about his friends. After one of the answers to a quiz question is Applejack, he spews forth the info that the mob had been hiding. This leads to whacky hijinks as his pals try to save him and still win the quiz competition.

The idea that a computer's intelligence can be transferred to a person is ages old, with some of the first thoughts of it being in the pages of old Wonder Stories. It's not surprising that lasted into the 1960s, when computers were still a bit of a mystery. I've



Note the guy in the fez

seen many films that talk about computers, but none of them were as stilted as this. The idea that a computer can recall any info fed into it instantly is patently false, especially in those days when computers required long search times when accessing tapes. The idea of transfer to a human is silly, but not offensive. In fact, I think it makes the whole thing kinda fun.

If you like brainless little 1960s films, this is the one to pick up.

Dear Chris;

Please, PLEASE, don't write about The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes again. It makes you look like an idiot -M Lloyd, 1999

### News and Views From Chris Garcia

Now that M Lloyd is based in the US (Chicago for the moment, likely Boston or possibly Tahoe in the future) I've thought about starting Stacked Decks again, perhaps workign with a distro-group in Austin that a friend of mine runs. This may or may not happen in the near-term, but I'm fairly certain that it will happen.

The current count of Chris Garcia regular activities is as follows: Claims Department Number Four is printed, but there's no cover yet as the artist hasn't sent it on it's way from Australia. Hopefully, I'll have it by next week or it'll be out at some point in July.

The Drink Tank Chess issue is still behind, mostly due to folks not getting me stories, but it'll be ready for the official opening of the chess exhibit.

LISP has gotten some slight notice, including an LoC from someone who picked it up at BayCon. I'm thinking of doing another issue for NASFiC.

Alternate Wildly, my eAPA zine, is finished for next month with one of my better articles on BayCon's Alt Hist panel. I like the folks in eAPA and am glad to be a part of it all.

I'm going to start submitting to The Everlasting Club, an APA dealing with Ghost Stories and Supernatural fiction that's based out of the UK. I do love a good ghost story and can't wait to start up that one in the next couple of months.

# E-mail Words of Comment Sent to garcia@computerhistory.org by my gentle readers

**First off, it's fellow Brother in Fez Andy Trembley!**

Thanks for the kind words about BayCon; we were having a difficult time keeping up with all the zaniness.

**Yes, there was far too much zaniness, though much of it was caused by Frank Wu. He must be hunted for sport for his crimes!**

Our "Kevin and Andy talk about shit" panel was scheduled next door to the MonkeyCon panel; we could hear the laughs through the wall.

**Yeah, we were a rowdy, though smallish, bunch.**

I think my only real complaint about programming is that most of the "featured" GoH panels were scheduled against at least one other. Then again, none of us were morning people, so that made things difficult. MonkeyCon sounded like a riot.

**That's almost always the case, sadly. I wish I could have been at the panel the two of you did and Jay's reading and everyone was raving about the Spintronics panel too.**

I'm going to tease anybody who claimed they couldn't find us to meet us. Between the fezzes (worn out at all times except when we were wearing the LJ commando uniforms) and the fact that we were out and about nearly all waking hours (except when sequestered for judging) we were kind of hard to miss.

**I had mine on almost**

On the gelatin printing front, Dr. Gafia skipped a few things:

Gelatin is very recoverable. If you tear the gelatin, just pop the cookie sheet into a

really low oven until the gelatin reaches 150 degrees. Then just drop it in the fridge and in a little while you're good to go again. You may have to add a skooch of water while it's melted to make up for evaporation during use and during reheating. As long as you don't overheat the gelatin you can reset it numerous times.

You may be able to increase your print count by lightly misting each sheet with a bit of alcohol (90% isopropanol, I'd think) before laying it down. It's an old trick.

Hecto is a very gentle printing method. If it will take ink, you can hecto on it. Some people take this as a challenge. I've heard of 'zines hecto-printed on bluejeans. Yeah, you could screen-print on jeans, so that's not a major achievement. The Bologna-zine, though, really is the ultimate "just because I could" hectograph experiment (no, it wasn't mine). A friend in the midwest froze his copy; I haven't seen him in years, but I'm pretty sure he still has it.

If you're going to hecto a zine, put a bit of political content into it; because it's cheap and requires no equipment, it was the printing method of choice for opposition political activists. "Printing, officer? I was only making jigglers!" When gelatin is outlawed only outlaws will have printing capability.

**OK, a bologna zine probably won't come out with my name on it, though I might do a zine entirely on yarmulkes. Now that would be awesome!**

**My hecto experiment is going to be quite a fun one, I think.**

**And now, The Drink Tank's favourite UK EWOCer, Helen Spiral!**

Hi Chris,

If you print a hecto zine then there's only one possible name for it. As you're a film fan it's gotta be: Bring Me The Hectograph Of Alfredo Garcia.

**God, I miss Sam Peckinpah. It would be a suitable name for it too.**  
In DT 26's ewocs Lloyd Penney asked how

I know about his Hawaiian shirts. But how could he question, even for a moment, Yvonne's international reputation in the soft engineering field as a fashion designer and fabric guru? Or his own consequent world famous sartorial elegance...

My etiquette minion has pointed out my inadvertent faux pas when I suggested a tuxedo may be worn with a top hat. Apparently this is only an acceptable dress code for shamans. Those of us who aren't ministers of religion are supposed to follow stricter rules. Dinner jackets, including Hawaiian print tuxs, should be worn with cummerbunds and bow ties but without hats (not even fezzes). Top hats should only be worn with tailcoats as either morning dress or evening dress. Morning dress should be worn with a tie whereas evening dress should be worn with a bow tie.

***I think I knew that once, when I had an Emile Post Etiquette book from back in the darque days of the 1950s. A fez is allowable, though, if you are representing an Islamic country or attending a ball thrown by such a country. At least that's what I think I remember.***

I asked if revolving bow ties are acceptable on formal occasions but I was told they're frowned upon by Her Majesty's circle at the Court of Saint James and also at events such as weddings or funerals. However my etiquette minion insists that spinning bow ties are almost de rigueur at Royal Ascot race meets... except on Ladies Day when it would be ungentlemanly to draw attention away from the ladies spectacular hats (some of which are almost certainly capable of revolution or possibly evolution). Or I could've just imagined the whole conversation.

***If I'm not allowed to wear a rotating tie, I don't want to be a part of the event.***

Alas I failed to enquire about the advisability of carpeting one's head with a purple fez the size of the Cairo Holiday Inn but everyone knows fandom has its own dress codes. ;-)

I liked the ultra short alternate Worldcon fic in DT 27 but there was something which needed tweaking (the last paragraph?). I couldn't analyse it exactly. The airship was a perfect touch though. ***I love airships. I write about them a lot.***

I suppose ultra short fics are like precious gems because a rough diamond only increases in value when the crafter spends enough time cutting and polishing it. I occasionally re-read something I wrote years ago and discover I finally have the words to truly express the idea.

I also enjoyed "The Last Words Heard By Human Ears...". I bet we could've heard the same last words on the Marie Celeste. When the ship was found abandoned there were half-eaten meals on the table (and probably half done DIY and hobby projects too!). Imagine how many short stories could end with the words: "Are you gonna finish that?". Oh look... here's one now...

The dragonwife arrived home hungry from her treasure-seeking expedition to Woolworths. She was pleased with the way she'd cunningly tricked the shopkeepers into exchanging a whole catering-size roll of satisfyingly shiny aluminium foil for a tiny and insignificant scrap of printed paper. What fools humans were!

Her husband had cornered yet another homicidal burglar in their home cave.

The dragonwife sighed smokily. She preferred to eat the pork from her prize-winning herd of Old Spots but she supposed long pig was an acceptable substitute. Especially now the magistrates had officially ruled that it was only self-defence...

She experimentally clinked her raptorial claws on the polished steel armour of the knight with whom her husband was idly toying, "Are you gonna finish that?"

Helen

***Helen, this is GENIUS!!! At some point in the not-too-distant future, I shall be forced to run an issue of stories that end with "Are you gonna finish that"!***