

MEMORY BOOK

Thursday, April 16

The welcoming party got off without a hitch and the early arrivals were in gleeful spirits. In fact, some of our guests spent the day on Fremont Street and were just *full* of spirits.

David H. Lawrence XVII (the Puppetmaster from “Heroes”) was among the first to arrive. Scott and Monique were busy arranging goodies and Elizabeth arrived carrying several dozen cupcakes donated by gourmet cupcake purveyor “**Just Cupcakes**”.

The room filled with partyers into the wee hours and everyone was looking forward to Xanadu Las Vegas! Some of the revelers were: our Author guest **Robert J. Sawyer** and birthday spouse, **Carolyn Clink**, **James Daugherty**, **The Flick Chicks**: Judy Thorburn and Jackie Monahan, **David Gordon**, The Betty Lougaris Voice-acting troupe, **James Dodd** who played the gassy German Johann Krauss in Hellboy 2, Filmmakers Rick Shipley, Chris James and Mike Conway, plus horror maven **Nic Brown** (the b-movieman), the ever-huggable scream queen **Rachel Grubb**, **Joseph** and **Karen Kerezman**, The Mighty Mike Bissonette, Heather Lei Guzzetta, Lynne and Lynette, our registration babes and many more! Thus, the party raged on and withered at some point far beyond my ability to stay the embrace Morpheus.

Friday, April 17

Who could sleep knowing what will be happening in just a few more hours? The hotel would let neither Con staff, dealers or anyone else into the convention area till the morning of the con so there was a lot to catch up to do. Three rooms required sound systems and DVD players which had to be wired and tested before opening at 2pm. Dealers had to get their stuff on their tables ready to sell and all the things of Registration ready to reg.

Built in 1972, the Plaza Hotel has some terrific pluses and some glaring detractions. Home of several Corflus, a Star Trek Convention and mundane conventions of every stripe, the hotel has a perfect layout for such events. Spacious areas, airwalls that can shape an area to your specific needs and elevators that connect the convention area right to your hotel floor.

On the downside, the Plaza is old and somewhat dilapidated and if it wasn't for the ever present duct tape, the hotel would have collapsed years ago. Having said that, they had begun an impressive renovation that got as far as new carpeting and a paint job before the economy ground improvements to a halt. We were promised repairs on the escalator a week before the convention, but was left to languish and of 6 elevator banks, only one was working. Getting to the third floor convention area from the main entrance entailed either hiking up the urine soaked stairwell or an interminable wait for the elevator. We were sharing the hotel with visitors to the annual **Highland Games** put on by the **Las Vegas Celtic Society** and several times I witnessed burly men in kilts hurling obscenities (not cabers) at the belabored desk help! All of this I think people can live with, but the biggest problem was the hotel's inability to raise the event rooms temperature above 50° which made for mighty chilly panels and



Stephen & Judy



Scott & Monique



James Daugherty, David Gordon, Robert J. Sawyer



Robert J. Sawyer



James Dodd



Elizabeth Guernsey



Mike Bissonette
and Jacqueline Monahan



Bad Attitude's Tushell
and David H. Lawrence XVII

screenings and forcing a few scantily clad audience members to leave early and a star of our premiere film: "Alien Grey - Zone X" to quip "It's the coldest screening I've ever had".

2pm arrived to find all as it should be. Two movie rooms began their programming, Tom Safer began his Tex Avery Animation Festival in the Animation Room followed by a day of Anime under the directorship of Daniel Rego, the dealers and gamers opened their doors as well. **Robert J. Sawyer** was walking down the hall on his way to our first literary panel "Writing Your First Novel" by Richard White who only moments before, informed us he wasn't showing up! Whereupon Sawyer said "I'll do it!" And thus our Author Guest of Honor opened the convention with our first panel.

I'd expected to spend the next three days at my dealers table, but it was not to be so. Some of our staff were no-shows and thus I found myself in charge of movie projection and guest wrangling. Bless their hearts, Tom Safer and Heather Lei Guzzetta volunteered to ruin their eyes and take much of this off my hands and Peggy Newvine (el Secretario Satanica) kept me from forgetting just about everything. Even with all the help, it became clear I'd never see my dealers table again, so I put up signs saying "Welcome to the God Is Watching You Bookstore - please put money in the cups". Plastic cups scattered about my 2 tables coughed up \$140 by tear down, so I guess I can't complain.

The Freebie table was a Matterhorn of goodies. Things I'd been amassing for the last two years - fanzines, music tapes, magazines, posters plus flyers for upcoming cons and fan events.

Time flies when you're at a gallop and thus it was time for the Opening Ceremonies. The main room filled as Scott Anderson took the stage, introducing the guests and turning the podium over to the "Alien Warrior Comic" who limbered up the audience until the Fashion Show commenced.

Thanks to the fabulous Tushell of **Bad Attitude Boutique** the Corset Store for supplying the incredible models and oh, so sexy fashions!

Following the action on stage it was time for the movies and movies there were with "**The Revenant**" starring David Anders as the film to see.

Those wanting blood close enough to taste, chose the most widely attended panels of the entire con: **Eytan Kollin's** "Armor and Weapons in Writing and Film". Eytan showed up, filling a room full of swords, shields, axes, maces, wacking and hacking devices plus the lovable blunderbuss. Demonstrating both historically and in motion pictures, various ways of holding and using weapons. It was standing room only which made it easy for Eytan to find a willing victim to skewer or pummel.



Robert J. Sawyer Speaking



Carolyn Clink & Robert J. Sawyer



Scott and Robert J. Sawyer at Opening



Eytan Kollin prepares for battle. . .



and proves size doesn't matter



Showgirls Dig Alien Warriors

Eytan, with an unending supply of energy, ran the panel over two hours, much to the delight of spectators!

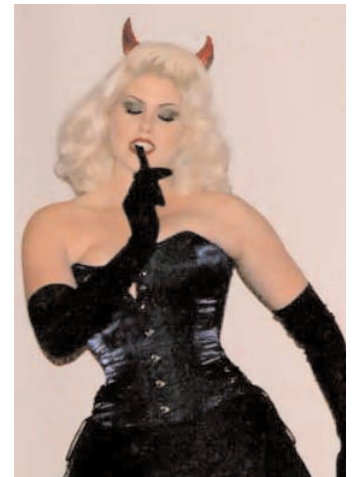
Survivors had their choice of a rather grisly movie, Chris and Rick's Midnight Music Jam or sitting up all night chatting about what they'd seen and done and making plans for Saturday.

Saturday, April 18

Tom Safer's Cartoons highlighting classical music followed by a day of Daniel Rego's Anime programming, the dealers room opens, panels: **AP Miller's** "Kick Butt Heroines", a panel on "Electronic Publishing" and "Getting Personal" with Chase Masterson. **Robert J. Sawyer** gave another well attended panel "Learning to Write". Other panels were "Women in Film" with the ever dangerous **Brooke Lewis**, completely huggable **Rachel Grubb** and **Toni Blair** from "Buffy the Vampire Slayer". **John Alexander** is a guy you've seen many times, but you would never recognise him. He played Digit in "Gorillas In the Mist" and more simians in "Greystoke" clear up to Mikey and Jara in "Men in Black" and Johann Krauss in "Hellboy 2".

Warming up for the J.J. Abrams production to be released after the convention, fans flocked to the Las Vegas premiere screening of "Star Trek: Of Gods and Men", followed by a Q&A with several of the cast: **Chase Masterson**, **William Wellman, Jr.**, and **Lawrence Montaigne**.

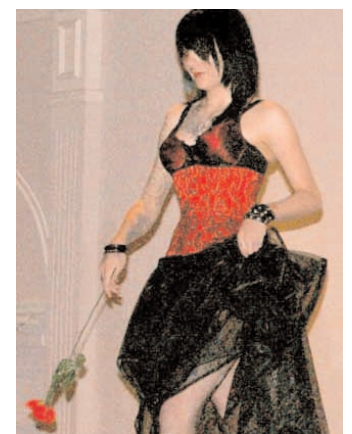
"Action in the Movies" was a popular panel by two actors who know whereof they speak. **Igor Jijikine** (Dovchenko from "Indiana Jones & the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull") and **Michael Pappajohn** (known affectionately



The Arty Among Us!



Dealers



Fashionistas!



Neil Kaplan



Igor Jijikine and Michael Pappajohn



Time of the Faeries Joseph Corsentino & Donny



Joe Viskocil

as "That guy who shot Uncle Ben"). Granted, Igor is an immense Russian athlete and could easily crush your head with one head accidentally while reaching for the remote. He'll be seen again on screen with Mark Decascos and Tom Sizemore in "Shadows in Paradise" and as the demon Dorosh in the Russian "Viy" Pappajohn was an absolute hoot; full of stories and laughs. He too can be seen shortly in "G Force", "Land of the Lost", "Terminator Salvation" and "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen".

Joe Viskocil, Oscar winning pyrotechnician packed the house for his multi-media presentation on many of the films he's worked on, from "Independence Day", "Terminator", "Star Wars", "Alien: Resurrection", "True Lies", "The Abyss" and many other fan favorites.

William Wellman Jr., recently seen in "Star Trek: of Gods and Men", has had an amazing career in movies and TV. From "The Alfred Hitchcock Hour", "Gunsmoke", "Combat" up to "The Burning Zone", "Alias", "JAG", "CSI" and many others, plus a generous helping of feature films!



William Wellman, Jr.

We went into an art mode in the afternoon with a smashing show by gothic art master **Brom**. Full of behind the scenes tales and adventures on the dark side. Following was Joseph Corsentino's "Time of the Faeries - Fantasy Art and Power Photoshopping" amazing everyone with a demonstration of his photographic realism.

Certainly one of the more dynamic panels was put on by "**Mechanized Propulsion Systems**", actually in the works of creating anime style "Mechs" for working in industry and military. Their multi-media presentation featured cgi graphics and animation illustrating the potential for such machines, really cool stuff but R&D takes time, so don't hold your breath.

Horror fans enjoyed "You Creep Me Out - What Makes Horror So Horrible" with actor **David Hayes**; author, B-Movie Man and internet Guru **Nic Brown**



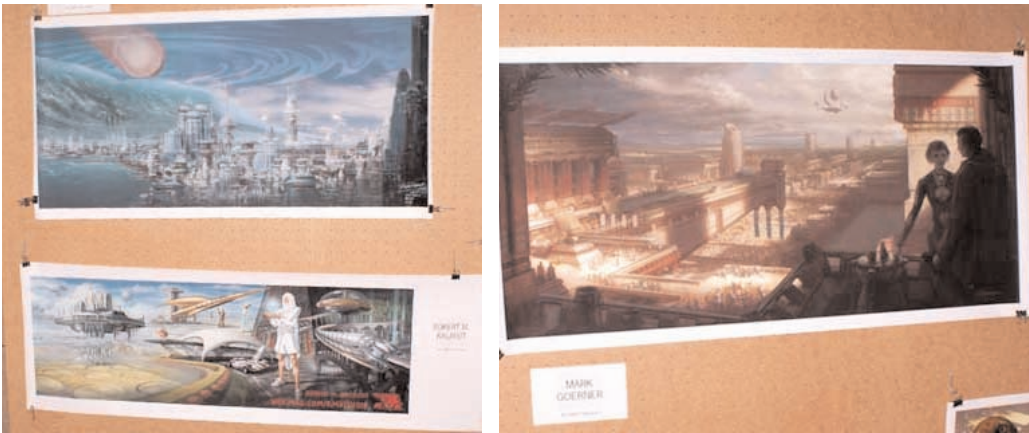
Mechanized Propulsion



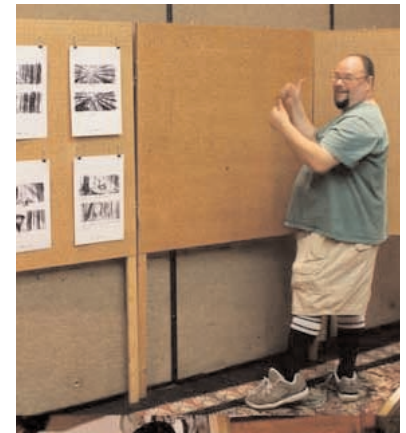
Tom Safer and Ted V. Mikels



The Master is in. . .



A few of the fabulous art pieces supplied by the folks from LosCon



Christian McGuire

with “Heroes” (The Puppetmaster) star **David H. Lawrence XVII**. **David Ankrum** better (known as Wedge Antilles in the Star Wars saga (both movies and animation) was a blast bringing up memories of the old days with “My Father is the King of Mars”. Old timers will remember his father **Morris Ankrum** as the durable actor in nearly three hundred performances, particularly the genre films of the ‘50s. **Lawrence Montaigne**, local actor known for his performances in the original Star Trek television show and the new “Star Trek: Of Gods and Men” has been in motion pictures since 1950 and had some marvelous tales to tell on the set with Steve McQueen in “The Great Escape”, “Man from U.N.C.L.E.,” “Mission Impossible”, “Combat” and yes, even “The Flying Nun”.

Neil Kaplan, voice-master for Optimus Prime in “Transformers”, “Power Rangers” and many others, gave us the inside dope on how to start your own genre franchise and how the big boys do it!

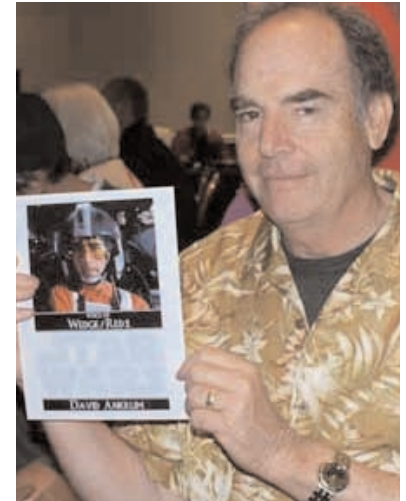
We finished with an ‘80s dance and movies playing till the wee hours when most found their way to their rooms but Rick Shipley, Chris James and I blew off the night at a table down at the McDonald’s till the vampires came home to roost and most of the tourists coming off Fremont Street had found their way home or collapsed where they stood.

Sunday, April 19

Finally got around to meeting **Jamie Donnelly** and had a great time chatting about her work in the original “Rocky Horror Show” on stage at the Roxy in L.A., “Grease” and yes “The Naked Brothers Band”. Noon pretty much wrapped it up for the con, but not until **David H. Lawrence** did his “Heroes” thing. Yeh, he played the world premiere of the “Nowhere Man” trailer, but the real hoot was listening to him go on about his life on “Heroes” and the men behind the curtains in Hollywood. He was a complete riot!

Robert J. Sawyer again filled the house with his readings, **David Ankrum**, **Dean Mitchell** and **Neil Kaplan** gave everyone the lowdown working on the Star Wars movies.

During the closing ceremony, Best Feature Award went to David Anders of “**The Revenant**” and the short film award went to Gwyndhar Bratton’s stunning “**Persephone**”. Alas, over the next few hours, the lights dimmed, chairs emptied and everyone moseyed back to their lives away from Xanadu Las Vegas. ■



David Ankrum



Lawrence Montaigne



David H. Lawrence XVII

THE FIRST TIME AROUND

By Jacqueline Monahan (Courtesy of "The Flick Chicks")

It started with a Thursday night VIP party in a South Tower suite of the Plaza Hotel. I walked into room 2255, anxious to experience a physical manifestation of the convention I'd heard about for 14 months. Xanadu Las Vegas (XLV) was most definitely in the house.

I'd never been to the Plaza, always stopping just short of the venue in past forays to the downtown area. It was always the Golden Gate for the .99¢ shrimp cocktail or the Las Vegas Club for the second floor diner and its colorful, sometimes dangerous patrons. The Plaza was new terrain with old carpeting and a tired decadence that seemed to demand, "What are YOU lookin' at?" as I made my way toward the elevator.

The suite was already crowded when I arrived and I recognized about one out of every eight people sitting and standing in various configurations in the large room. There seemed to be an optimistic mood of anticipation, fueled in part by an enormous glass tank of what appeared to be orange Kool-Aid, which I later learned was heavily spiked with vodka.

XLV Director **Scott Anderson** was holding court in the middle of it all, while fellow organizer and photo-chronicler, **Alan White**, was covering the event with his camera. Author guest of honor **Robert J. Sawyer** had just arrived and was mingling with the crowd. I took a seat by the window offering an expansive aerial view of the downtown area and promptly spilled a drink on the air-conditioning unit, baptizing the suite in the name of XLV. That's what I told myself, anyway. In reality, a neo fan had descended upon the convention, in all of her green-horn, naive glory. This was XLV eve, and I looked forward to what the morning would bring.

As it turns out, morning brought The Tex Avery Animation Festival in the Ani-X room, featuring cartoons that showed such gags as one horseshoe going up into the air and four coming down, plus the horse. Of course that would be no fun unless all of them landed on some hapless schlub. Another had a cat and mouse drinking a potion (from a seemingly bottomless bottle) which rendered them giants, out-sizing each other until they were standing on top of the Earth like two Titans. Wisconsin would have made a nice snack for these two. Next, it was on to...

Brainy Blondes. . .

Costuming on a Budget took place in the Jules Verne room, with Brenda DuPont and DeDee White hosting the panel like an informational tag-team. With clothing, props, and photographic examples on hand, the two modeled Renaissance fashions and gave an historical account of the times, covering hygiene (or lack of it) layers of clothing, hair, accessories and pewter implements. The savvy duo stressed creativity over expense. Ms. Dupont displayed various treasures gleaned from thrift stores and garage sales as the audience nodded in appreciation. Ms. White became a medieval wench before our eyes with just a few swipes of belted gauze topped with a vest. Many attendees had an



Animation Room



DeDee & Brenda - Costumes on a Budget!



Chef Mayra



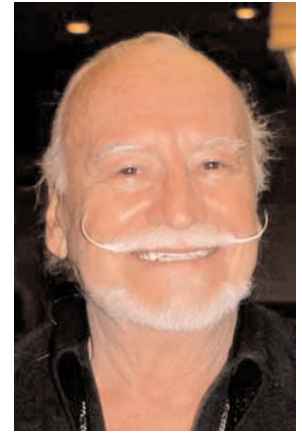
Tucky Williams



Scott and Rick Shipley



Linda Bushyager



Ted V. Mikels

edgy look themselves and approved of the presentation. There’s nothing like the smell of street cred in the morning.

... and a Vegan

Chef Mayra’s Feeding the Future panel included information on supplements that enhance sexual activity, including Siberian Ginseng, Horny Goat Weed and Dong Quai. C’mon people, how is the human race to sustain itself in space colonies without this kind of knowledge? When Chef Mayra says she bakes with love, she means it.

A Director...

Las Vegas-based director **Ted V. Mikels**, a youthful 80-year-old, was on hand to greet fans after the screening of his film, Demon Haunt (filmed in the UK & Vegas). I reminded the delightful director that he knew my husband, who worked as an extra in one of his films. Mikels promptly produced his cell phone and showed me his stored number. “There’ll be no livin’ with him now,” I lamented. Mikels wears an ivory horn around his neck that weighs almost as much as he does. He has a winning personality and a way with monsters. What’s not to like?

...and an Author

Robert J. Sawyer, the affable, award-winning author from the Great White North, spoke at length about Robert A. Heinlein’s five rules for writing. Heinlein was Sawyer’s inspiration and the reason he uses his middle initial professionally. His rules state:

1. You must write.
2. You must finish what you write.
3. You must refrain from rewriting, except to editorial order.*
4. You must put the work on the market.
5. You must keep the work on the market until it is sold.**

*RJS version – Don’t revise endlessly. ** RJS addendum – you must start another writing project.



Gaming Room



The Plazacalo



The Ever Perky Lynette



The Panel on Kickbutt Heroines!



Chris James, Big Al, Rick Shipley



Joan Kelly

Mr. Sawyer hosted several panels and marveled at the presence of so many repeat attendees. I offered my opinion that it was a tribute to his charisma he seemed genuinely surprised - and grateful, just as I was to X organizers for giving me access once again to such a creative mind. Yes he did say “about’ (about) like a true Canuck – and he’s become my first Canadian Facebook friend. ABC just optioned his novel Flash Forward as a series, proving that the good guys don’t always finish last.

...and an Artist. . .

Brom is a tall and stately presence, reminiscent of a cross between Jesus and John Carradine in an undertaker’s suit. The charismatic artist showed slides of his fantastic artwork, commissioned by scores of books, comics, games, and films. Narrated anecdotes included a slide illustration that was deemed “too gay” (Brom posed for that himself) and one that incorporated his wife’s image (she objected to his use of strippers) Soft-spoken and low-key, his demeanor offset his amazing talent even more.

. . .and an Academy Award winner

Joe Viskocil – show this man an object and he’ll know just how to destroy it (Star Wars, Independence Day). With a satisfying fireball and slo-mo debris cascading toward the viewer in a violent but graceful dance of dissolution and detritus, J.V. displayed his long Hollywood affiliation of conflagration with an upbeat and sunny disposition (easy to understand – he gets to take out all his aggression in his work). His sample reel features a marionette in a sea of his own pea-green vomit and enormous explosions, rendering chaos out of order. And this guy gets paid for it! J.V. has a dream job for the 21st century and beyond.

...and an Alien Warrior Comedian

Like a galactic Kelsey Grammer, the urbane, 7-foot AWC shredded his human audience into a



Tanja



The Alien Warrior meets David H. Lawrence XBII



Brom



The Maid Parade



Opening Ceremonies



Dangerously Cute

massive field of space junk. The insult comic taunted the crowd, threatening to douse them with a phaser full of deadly neuro-toxin..."Las Vegas water!" which brought an appreciative roar.

The AWC was on hand to introduce both the Fashion Show and the Masquerade. Fashion X featured corsets from sponsor **Bad Attitude** with enough laces to circle the earth a few times; these however cinched the curves of the models and their charades full of fishnets and fan dances. No less an international sensation than fantasy artist Lubov graced the stage as a winged fairy. The Masquerade featured costumes from Star Wars, Star Trek, graphic novel heroines and various video games. Red and white figured prominently, as in a bloody nurse, and pairs of Imperial Stormtroopers and Star Trek red shirts, the kind worn by the sacrificial crew of any search party (you don't even bother to get to know their names).

Ichigo Café

Here you could rent squeaky-voiced girls in French maid outfits for company or (innocent) massages. XLV featured a contingent of these exceedingly happy creatures who'd sing and dance to pre-recorded music, escort you around the premises, and in general raise the happiness and silliness factor of a room. Quite a change of pace from the horror film fest. XLV offered X-tremes – in attitude and atmosphere.

The astoundingly cold George Melies Room could have accommodated sides of beef nicely, but was filled instead with guests of honor, films and panels. I pleasantly shivered my way through the activities despite being able to see my breath crystallize. Yet everyone stayed put. Yes, it was that good.

Tony Bennett was waiting for me at the freebie table. Well actually his cassette was, buried amid movie posters, fanzines and audio books. We left together (I picked HIM up) and headed to the dealer room a maze of books, jewelry, clothing and artwork. The miniature Lego fantasy world caught my eye. If the theory of "like attracts like" is correct, that would mean I'm small-minded. Hmm... something to think about.



Scream Queen Brooke Lewis



Batman meets Catwoman - In the Shadows



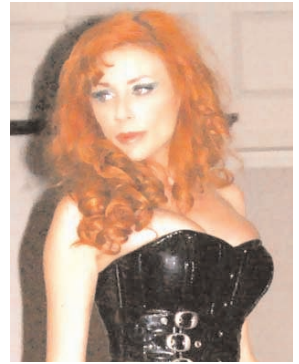
Dani Kollin



Rosie, the Blood Red RN



Costume Line-Up



'nuff sed



...and your little dog too!



Madcap Antics



Poison Ivy



The Mad Patrol



Spectators Spectating



Goth Dancers

Sunday's closing ceremonies were well attended and featured Betty Lougaris' production of shadow vignettes that highlighted her crew's voiceover talent in subjects both ridiculous and sublime. In between these skits performed in high "kvetch", certificates and plaques were handed out to "best of" convention panels, films, gamers, etc

And then it was done, the end of the long journey to XLV. I was sad to see it pass into history – but very happy to have had the chance to attend the world of X – one of Las Vegas' homegrown creations. If my calculations are correct (I am a math tutor) X2 should be exponentially refined and even more groundbreaking. And it's only about 50 weeks away. ■



Brenda Dupont & Derek Stazinski



The Voice-Casters



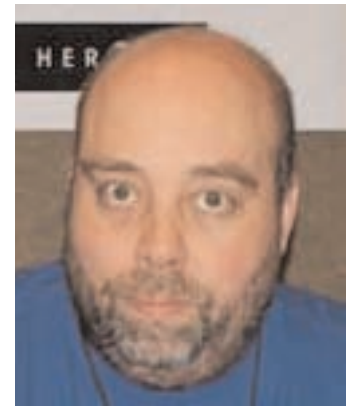
AAAAeeeeeeeeeeee!



John Hardin and Daughter Collette



Derek Scores a Couple Showgirls



The Puppetmaster!

Xanadu Las Vegas Hosts Indie Film Festival

Feature Article by Jacqueline Monahan

Las Vegas Round The Clock

Jacqueline Monahan is an English tutor for the GEAR UP program at UNLV. She is also a consultant for Columbia College Chicago in Adjunct Faculty Affairs

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John Alexander - Man of 1000 Faces



Brooke Lewis, Rachel Grubb & Tucky Williams



Michael Pappajohn



Late Night Party



Rachel Grubb

Xanadu Las Vegas, Sin City's newest annual convention for Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy fans swept into town on April 17-19 at the Plaza Hotel and Casino, and included an Indie Film Festival featuring several world premieres.

Offerings in feature-length Drama, Science Fiction, and Horror were complemented by Shorts ranging in running time from 10-30 minutes. There was, however, no shortage of demons, arterial spurts, spaceships, face masks, CGI beasts, gratuitous sex, poetic visuals, macabre images, poignant revelations, and pregnant men. All manner of life form human or otherwise, graced (or disgraced) the multiple screens, rendering them alive with the undead, backlit and most definitely awake in the dark.



1 in 10¹⁰
 Occam's RAZO
 1 in 10^{40,000}



James Kerwin's Spirituality in Science Fiction

James Kerwin

Chase Masterson

Derek Maki

Festival awards went to "Persephone", (Best Short) a mask and puppet retelling of the Greek myth, sans dialogue, but bursting with lush imagery and vivid colors, and The Revenant (Best Feature) about a decomposing, but animated corpse with a blood lust and two pals willing to help him satisfy it. That is, if there really can be satisfaction in putrefaction.

Other entries featured actress/producer Chase Masterson (Deep Space 9, E.R.) in "Yesterday Was a Lie", a black and white film-noir homage, stylish and atmospheric in its quest to unveil a mystery. Even the dialogue is delivered in a staccato tempo reminiscent of gumshoe heroes from a bygone era. This time though, instead of the line, "and then SHE walked in," the female lead IS a she, and a beautiful one at that.

Tim Russ's "Star Trek: Of Gods & Men" continues the Star Trek saga with Walter Koenig and Nichelle Nichols from the original series in a brand new Starfleet adventure, 40 years after the series. A sentimental favorite. Nichols also stars in J. Neil Schulman's "Lady Magdalene's" about Al Qaeda and a Nevada Brothel. Your call if this one belongs in Sci Fi, Fantasy or Horror.

Don Barnhart Jr.'s "China Dolls" deals with the serious subject of human trafficking. Two girls break free and the mob wants them back. Bet on guns, and skin and a Vegas backdrop to keep this action/adventure flick on high octane.

Christopher Mihm's "Cave Women on Mars" provides truth in advertising as American crewmen land on the red planet and discover...well, you know the rest. One of them even falls in love. Seems horny comes with its own gravitational pull.

Mike Conway's "Exile" contains its own strong female in the formidable form of Heather Lei Guzzetta as an android with a mission to protect her human charge. Everyone else is hamburger in her hands. This one was an audience favorite.

Ted V. Mikels' "Demon Haunt" is the 80-year-old director's latest horror happening about an exorcism. This time it's a house that needs it. Demons are everywhere, scratching and screaming and lounging around like insouciant housecats. Call the priest and some guy that loses, and then regains his faith, and you have instant redemption, and at least a shot at using the basement of your home for a useful purpose.



Brenda, Dave Gordon, Judy Thorburn



The Kiss-the-Alien-Game



Robert Quill



The Bear



DeDee White & Mr. Anime Daniel Rego



Gwyndhar Bratton, Director of "Persephone"

In Chris Gabriel's "S4", Marines get pregnant. Male Marines. They get fat and have wild cravings for raw steak and lark. They get emotional and they give birth to offspring who'd like to eat them. When the military gets hormonal no one is safe.

Jeff Ferrell's "Morella", based on the Edgar Allen Poe tale is a somber, pensive ode to true love – physically dead, but supernaturally immortal. Poetic in visuals and pacing, Morella is like a painting in each frame. As sweet as Poe can bear to be while maintaining his macabre reputation.

"Vadata", from Germany, is Manuel Lebelt's cryptic tale about a last puzzle piece that changes all perception for its recipient. Puzzling, indeed, but as satisfying as finally reaching a long sought-after destination with a man who will ask for directions.

"Desert Rose" is Gilbert Cuevas' surreal tale of an illegal border crossing. Hot, harrowing, heartbreaking, the sepia-toned short is full of tension and hard-choices. Lots of words beginning with "H" but not at all helpless in its effective portrayal of a desperate man and the painful decision he must make.

"Star Wars Episode Dew" is Pat Kerby's parody of "Star Wars" characters (a Darth and a Jedi) battling over...product placement. You'll have to see it for yourself and let it sneak up on you – pretty hard to do in the middle of a lightsaber duel. Hint: "There is no try, there is only Dew." Watch it [HERE](#).

Debbie Mariott's "Home" is not some tree-lined block in Middle America. It's not even in Middle Earth. Disgusted with her life, a woman packs a useless bag and stands in the backyard and waits. Her boyfriend discovers just how far she will go to get away from it all.

These are just some of the Indies that invaded Xanadu's Pleasure Dome in mid-April. Follow the link below for a complete list.

Xanadu Las Vegas also featured guest speakers (Author, Robert J. Sawyer, Artist, Brom, SFX Master, Joe Viskocil), panels, vendors, a masquerade competition and fashion show, anime antics, games, technology, and horror and fantasy enough for Goth vixens who like to read. XLV was its own continent for three days on the third floor of the Plaza Hotel & Casino, a place where you'd find a seven-foot Alien Warrior Comic amid Japanese maids, Starfleet Commanders next to corseted creatures (some with wings) and a statuesque Princess Leia, complete with cinnamon-roll hair and virginal white gown in the company of Imperial Stormtroopers.

And they'll all return the same time next year. Even your humble correspondent will adopt her best Terminator voice to utter the signature phrase, "I'll be back." Join me? ■

Xanadu Las Vegas • April 17, 18, 19 • 2009

Xanadu Las Vegas Memory Book produced by Alan White.

All these pics and more available at: [Sci-Fi Vegas!](#)

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