

MonSFFA • A MonSFF IMPULSE

NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE MONTREAL
SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

LE BULLETIN
D'INFORMATION
DE L'ASSOCIATION
MONTRÉLAISE DE
SCIENCE-FICTION ET
DE FANTASTIQUE

February / Février 2007 (Vol. 11, No./N° 2)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, February 18

1:00PM-5:00PM

Gatineau Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

LAW AND ORDER:

We examine the cops and robbers of science fiction, the crimes and punishments imagined by SF writers, and the legal systems of strange new worlds.

3:00PM

THE FACE BEHIND THE MASK:

We play a game in which players are challenged to identify which of the unadorned faces shown on screen is that of the actor or actress under the make-up or behind the mask of an SF/F movie or TV series character.

Next MonSFFA Meeting: MARCH 18

- *The FAB Worlds of Gerry Anderson*
- *MonSFFA's First Annual (?) Sci-Fi Bake Sale*

Members are asked to prepare a sampling of fannish finger food or out-of-this-world dessert snacks to bring to the meeting to share with the group.

MonSFFA's 2007 Executive Selected

MonSFFA has returned last year's Executive Committee to office for another year. At the beginning of the club's January 21 meeting, Chief Returning Officer Cathy Palmer-Lister officiated over the investiture by club members present of Berny Reischl, Keith Braithwaite, and Sylvain St-Pierre as, respectively, president, vice-president, and treasurer for 2007.

We are confident of another stellar year for the club as MonSFFA has never before seen an executive with so much fannish organizational experience. Berny is the club's longest serving chief and a former Con•Cept concom member. He was recipient of an Aurora Award for his governance of KAG/Kanada as Admiral. Keith is a former MonSFFA president who also served for many years as *Warp* editor and headed a variety of departments during his lengthy tenure on Con•Cept's concom. He is currently editor of this news bulletin and the principal architect of MonSFFA's award-winning fan film productions. And organizational wizard Sylvain has been counting MonSFFA's beans, now, for well over a decade. He has also contributed greatly to the success of Con•Cept over the years, having served variously and notably as masquerade director, art show manager, and treasurer. All three have been MonSFFA members since the club's earliest days and have contributed much since that time to the programming of our monthly meetings and other MonSFFA projects.

We applaud their return to office as our executive and wish them well as they prepare to shepherd the club through another year.

January MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA kicked off 2007 with a well-attended meeting on January 21. The afternoon's programming was devoted to the topic of fan fiction.

Before the discussion of "fanfic" began, however, the club took about 15 minutes to attend to constitutional business, namely the selection of its three-person Executive Committee for the coming year (see lead item).

Keith Braithwaite then opened the discussion of fan

**DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR
BELOW? WATCH THIS SPACE
TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP
FEES ARE DUE.**

The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are overdue:

GAUDET, Jacques
MINEAU, Sebastien
NOËL, Kim
SMITH, Garry

**Annual membership
fees are due this month
(February) from the
following MonSFFA
members:**

**HAMMOCK, Christopher
KENNEY, Daniel
SIMARD, Phil**

Annual membership fees will become due next month (March) from the following MonSFFA members:

THIBODEAU, Claude

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. Annual dues are \$25. Fill out the membership application form, bottom of page, include cheque or money order, made out to MonSFFA, and mail to:

**MonSFFA
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc
Montreal, Québec
H2X 4A7**

If you have already done so, ignore this notice. We thank you for renewing your membership in MonSFFA, Montreal's premiere SF/F fan club.

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

Tel./Tél.: () ()
HOME/MAISON WORK/TRAVAIL

Address / Adresse: _____

E-mail/Courriel: _____

NO. & STREET/N° ET RUE APT./APP.

Interests/Intérêts: _____

CITY/VILLE PROVINCE POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL

fiction, first offering a delineation of the genre by stating that which is the generally accepted definition: fan fiction is a particular brand of unauthorized amateur writing based on a published work, or a television series or movie franchise. Fan fiction stories are set in the universe of an original work and employ characters created by the original's author. Fanfic writers rework, embellish, or explore anew the source material, or "canon," upon which their stories are based, introducing to the universe in which they are writing their own characters, called in fanfic lingo "OC"'s, or "original characters." Keith noted that some definitions of fanfic include amateur-level original fiction as well as authorized publications rooted in an original work.

While examples of what we might today term fan fiction date back centuries, it was the explosion of *Star Trek*-inspired, fan-penned stories which began appearing in *Trek* fanzines in the late 1960s and early '70s that got modern fan fiction started. Many of these early fanfic pieces revolved around rather adolescent romantic and/or sexual relationships between characters. Keith pointed out that an examination conducted of 1960s fan fiction culture revealed that some 83 percent of *Star Trek* fanzine editors and fan fiction authors were teenaged girls, no doubt the reason behind the preponderance of puerile romantic fantasies constituting much of fanfic at the time.

A controversial subdivision of the fan fiction genre, dubbed "slash," arose in the mid-1970s, depicting established canon characters as homosexual lovers often engaged in explicit sex, the most popular such pairing at the outset being that of Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock.

So-called "crossovers" followed, in which characters from two or more canons were brought together—Mulder and Scully might open an X-file on one Buffy Summers, for instance.

The arrival of the Internet saw fan fiction move away from fanzines as a means of distribution to Usenet and the like, and later, the World Wide Web. Today, literally *millions* of fanfic stories are archived on such Web sites as FanFiction.net.

The unique terminology of fan fiction was explored and Keith also touched on fanfic formats, from quick shorts of a few hundred words or less to multi-chaptered epics approaching novel length. Further, he outlined

modern copyright law and some of the legal issues involved in publishing fanfic.

Following the mid-meeting break, MonSFFA members and fanfic authors Barbara Silverman and Josée Bellemare each read from one of their stories, spoke of their motivations in writing the tales, and of the feedback they'd received. Barbara's *Star Trek: Voyager* story builds upon the relationship established in the television series between Janeway and Chakotay and she was encouraged by the positive online response her work has generated to date. Josée's short *Doctor Who* piece was one of several Christmas-themed tales she had submitted for publication in *Warp*. In a stroke of perfect timing, MonSFFen were able to read these in issue 66 of the club's fanzine, which, as it happened, had just been distributed to members present at this very meeting. In keeping with the afternoon's topic, the issue also included a Christmas-themed fanfic by Fernando "Fern" Novo, a crossover—*Buffy the Vampire Slayer/Charmed*—by Josée again, and Mireille Dion's informative article on fan fiction.

The meeting closed with an informal writer's workshop, during which various outlines or excerpts of works-in-progress were read aloud and the authors offered advice on story development. Leslie Lupien received the input of his fellow MonSFFen on a first-contact scenario he was having trouble bringing to a conclusion. Fern, meanwhile, presented an outline of the fanfic piece he had begun using one of the suggested titles we ran in our request for fan fiction in last month's *Impulse*. Fern's work-in-progress is entitled "The Instruments of Darkness." The group also enjoyed Keith's reading of a short *Beavra* fanfic, penned by his 10-year old son, Scott, in which our famous monster beaver battles a giant lobster named Lobstera. Finally, Wayne Glover introduced folks to a *Battlestar Galactica/Babylon 5* epic he has been enjoying, among other fanfic downloaded from FanFiction.net.

The usual thanks to the crew who put this meeting together with a special nod to all of our programming participants.

Local Theatre Company Explores Sci-Fi Funny Bone

We don't often see SF reflected in live theatre and so MonSFFA passes along the

following interesting tidbit of information to members: Montreal-based theatre company Two by Four is currently presenting a "hilarious new play," *Space Jail*, running Wednesday through Saturday evenings until February 24th at the downtown Theatre Ste-Catherine, 264 Ste-Catherine Street East.

The Etan Muskat/Brent Skagford-penned script was developed, we are told, in tandem with the cast and promises audiences a "side-splitting" evening of entertainment, "part theatre, part improv, and all comedy!" Riotous antics result when an innocent man living in a "dystopian future ruled by a brutal tyrant" is incarcerated for a crime he did not commit. He finds himself in "Space Jail," reads the press release received by MonSFFA, "an orbital penal colony filled with the galaxy's most dangerous criminals," and soon realizes that he may represent the only hope of foiling his captors' plans before they imprison the entire universe!

Tickets are \$15, \$12 for students and seniors. Surf to: www.spacejailtheplay.com; call 514-284-3939 for ticket information.

Briefly:

- MonSFFA recently co-sponsored the local premieres of the *The Messengers* and *Ghost Rider*.
- Con•Cept has scheduled a preliminary "meet, greet, and eat" concom meeting for March 18, 10:00AM, at the Days Hotel's restaurant (1005 Guy Street, downtown Montreal). The convention is looking for dedicated persons interested in joining the 2007 organizing committee. Long-time Con•Cept chief Cathy Palmer-Lister has had a change of heart, reversed her decision of last year to step down and will again chair the event.
- Toronto Trek has changed its name to Polaris.
- MonSFFAn Nick Krimp informs us of his involvement in a new e-book publishing venture currently seeking "new and established authors." The company will handle the publishing and selling of e-books of all genres, says Nick. Illustrators are sought as well to produce cover art for the books. Interested MonSFFen may contact Nick for more information at: nkrimp@hotmail.com
- Club members are reminded to inform us of any changes to their mailing addresses.

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite on behalf of MonSFFA. An e-version is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following methods:

- In person at a MonSFFA meeting
- Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse":
MonSFFA
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc
Montreal, Québec, H2X 4A7

- E-mail: bigewok@total.net
- Voice mail: 450-692-8831

Impulse est préparé une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est aussi disponible en version électronique sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit:

- En personne à une réunion du club
- Courriel: bigewok@total.net

- Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831
- Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse":
AMonSFF
C.P. 1186, Place du Parc
Montréal, Québec, H2X 4A7

Visit MonSFFA on the Web: Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet:

www.monsffa.com