

IMPULSE

MonSFFA • A MonSFF

NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE MONTREAL
SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

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

March / Mars 2009 (Vol. 13, No./Nº 3)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS COMING SOON

Sunday, March 15

11:00AM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING 11:00AM

BOARD OF ADVISORS: MonSFFA's Board of Advisors (BoA) meets to discuss club business and plan activities. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate.

1:00PM

IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL:

We explore the Lilliputian worlds of SF/F in such examples as *Gulliver's Travels*, *Land of the Giants*, *Fantastic Voyage*, and *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*.

3:00PM

MAGNIFICATION FACTOR 3:

Game in which players are challenged to identify iconic sci-fi images that have been greatly magnified.

Next Month's Meeting April 19

- The Cuisine of SF/F
- DVD Easter Eggs
- Easter Egg Decorating Contest

Attention! Date Change, March MonSFFA Meeting

Club members please note that the date of our March MonSFFA meeting has been *changed*. Originally set to take place on Sunday afternoon, March 22, the meeting will now unfold one week earlier, on Sunday afternoon, March 15. The Days Hotel locale and scheduled programming are unchanged. Added to the day's activities is a pre-meeting Board of Advisors conclave, beginning at 11:00AM.

This date change was necessitated in order to avoid conflicting with Montreal's annual St. Patrick's Day parade, which, contrary to expectations, has been scheduled for March 22 this year, in the wake of St. Patrick's Day rather than on the weekend prior.

We apologize for this last-minute change to our events calendar and trust that our members have not been too greatly inconvenienced.

Date Change, October MonSFFA Meeting

We advise our membership, as well, of a date change re October's MonSFFA meeting. Having been informed by the Days Hotel that October 25, the date we had originally requested, is unavailable, we have instead booked October 18.

The October meeting's planned exploration of zombie stories remains in place. Please note, however, that our annual fund-raising auction, initially slated for the latter half of the October meeting, will likely be rescheduled in order to avoid competing with a similar auction sponsored by ConCept and set to take place at the con earlier that month. Watch this space for further news.

**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*:

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Annual membership fees are due this month, March, from the following club members:

**HAMMOCK, Christopher
SIMARD, Phil
THIBODEAU, Claude**

Annual membership fees will become due next month, April, from the following club members:

DODDS, Georges
NADEAU, Marc
NOVO, Fernando
SYSAVANE, Khoba

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. Annual dues for a regular membership are \$25. Fill out the application form, below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to MonSFFA), and mail to:

**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6**

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.

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Tel. / Tél.: () ()

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February MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's February meeting was held on the 22nd. The room was full for first, a retrospective of the Apollo 11 moon landing, and then, a slideshow on the tastiest hunks in sci-fi cinema and television.

In advance of the scheduled 1:00PM start of the meeting, an episode of the superb television miniseries *From the Earth to the Moon* was screened. Dramatizing the events surrounding the Apollo 11 mission of July 1969, this episode warmed the group up for a detailed presentation on NASA's historic first manned lunar landing.

Keith Braithwaite and Theresa Penalba gave the presentation, beginning with commentary on how the events of that astounding summer 40 years ago galvanized a generation of children born at the dawn of the space age. For many, astronaut Neil Armstrong's "giant leap for mankind" proved a catalyst, sparking a lifelong interest in space. And in science fiction! Apollo 11 was the actualization of all those fictional adventures about rocketships flying to and exploring the moon that science fiction fans had, for years, been reading in paperback and watching in movie theatres. An undertaking unparalleled in human history, the Apollo 11 moon landing was, momentarily and quite literally, science fiction become science fact.

That *men* walked on the moon, it was emphasized, setting foot on another world for the first time, having travelled farther from home than anyone ever had, was a significant part of what excited people about the Apollo program. It was our pioneering spirit, inquisitive nature, human urge to explore new domains that electrified interest in Apollo 11 all around the globe, from scientists and engineers to everyday folk. The space program has not since been as exhilarating.

Keith and Theresa continued with an outline of the event that opened the space age in late 1957, the Soviet Union's

orbiting of the first manmade satellite, *Sputnik 1*, which resulted in a "space race" between the Russians and the Americans. While the Russians initially led, the Americans soon caught up and with the Apollo program, surpassed their rivals. Apollo 11 was the realization of the goal President John F. Kennedy had set for his nation of "landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth."

Our two panelists profiled Apollo 11's crew and gave details of the launch, flight to the moon, powered descent to and landing on the lunar surface, and the historic EVA. An excerpt from the documentary film *In the Shadow of the Moon* was screened, featuring both black and white TV and colour film clips of the touch-down and moon walk.

Cathy Palmer-Lister was invited to speak for a moment on moon mythology before the group was treated to authentic NASA footage of the Lunar Module's descent and landing, unfolding in real time and culminating in Armstrong's confirmation that the *Eagle* had landed.

A few plastic scale models of the Apollo spacecraft were on display for folk to inspect, courtesy Wayne Glover, along with various souvenirs of the event, including vintage copies of local

newspapers trumpeting the news.

Following the mid-meeting break, Josée Bellemare and Alice Novo stepped up to present their slideshow on sci-fi's hottest heartthrobs. As images of handsome actors flashed across the screen, discussion of the characters each played on a sci-fi television series or in a movie focused on what made them so very attractive to female fans, aside from their square-jawed, broad-shouldered physical attributes.

The girls, it seems, fantasize about these heroic characters coming to their rescue, and then falling for them. In the case of those heroes on some sort of quest, the ladies' hope is that it is they who are the object of said quest. Another take involves the military or quasi-military man—don't ya just *love* a fella in uniform?—arriving to protect the women from some otherworldly threat and finding a feisty female who can take care of herself just fine, thank you very much, and fight off the nasty aliens or monsters or demons alongside her beau!

The TV shows *Smallville* and *Stargate SG-1* were singled out as particularly plentiful in pretty boys.

Thanks to our February-meeting panellists, as well as those MonSFFen who helped to plan and run the meeting.

In that "anecdotal evidence suggests that in a game of Rock/Paper/Scissors, players familiar with each other will tie 75 to 80 percent of the time due to the limited number of outcomes," the following is suggested:

Rock/Paper/Scissors/Lizard/Spock

Scissors cuts paper.
Paper covers rock.
Rock crushes lizard.
Lizard poisons Spock.
Spock smashes scissors.
Scissors decapitate lizard.
Lizard eats paper.
Paper disproves Spock.
Spock vapourizes rock.
And as it always has, rock crushes scissors.

Briefly:

- ConCept will take place a little earlier in October this year than it has in recent years. The 2009 edition of the con is scheduled to run over the October 2-4 weekend.
- The late Heath Ledger was recently awarded an Oscar for his inspired portrayal of the Joker in last year's Batman film, *The Dark Knight*. This marks only the second time the Academy has bestowed an Oscar posthumously. On Oscar night, members of Ledger's family accepted the award on his behalf. It's interesting to note that in addition to the box office success now commonplace, genre cinema is increasingly gaining critical respect.

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":
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- E-mail: bigewok@total.net
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Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

www.MonSFFA.com

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

Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet:

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- Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse":
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