

IMPULSE

onSFFA • 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

September-October / Septembre-Octobre 2008 (Vol. 12, No./N° 8)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, September 21

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

SPACECRAFT DESIGN: We look at the many cool spacecraft designs populating sci-fi film and television, several inspired by the real thing.

2:00PM

CON•CEPT 2008: A quick update on this year's upcoming Con•Cept SF/F convention (see also lead item, right).

2:45PM

THE SEXY SIRENS OF SCI-FI:

The boys can't help but slaver over the many foxy females of our favourite SF/F films and television shows and we'll analyze the appeal of these lovely ladies, beyond simply their physical appearance, examining the character of a heroine and the femme fatale archetype.

OUTING NEXT MONTH

October 26

Bowling

Details to be announced
in early October at MonSFFA.com

Con•Cept 2008

This year's edition of Con•Cept will unfold at the usual Days Hotel locale, 1005 Guy Street, downtown (same hotel at which MonSFFA meets), over the October 17-19 weekend. Scheduled guests include award-winning author David Brin (*Earth, the Uplift* books, *Kiln People*) and actress Samantha Ferris (*The 4400*, *Supernatural*, *Smallville*, *Battlestar Galactica*).

MonSFFA will, of course, be in attendance. This club founded Con•Cept and has either run the convention or helped and supported the event since day one. (Next year, by the way, will mark Con•Cept's 20th anniversary.)

Con•Cept has always succeeded in appealing to as many interests within SF/F fandom as possible. With a gregarious mix of guest appearances, discussion panels, workshops, fan film screenings, and hallway debates, along with convention staples like the dealers' room, art show, con suite, masquerade, and dance, this con delivers a *great* SF/F party for all.

At the door cost of admission is an even \$50; the premium Friends-of-Con•Cept option, which includes a few special extras, will run you \$60. Visit the con's Web site—www.conceptsf.ca—for more details.

August Meeting Devoted to Fancraft

For the third year running, the club devoted its August meeting, held on the 24th this year, to a number of hands-on fancraft workshops. The creative talents of MonSFFers were evident as numerous SF/F-themed crafts were on display. Folk had the opportunity to learn about each or try their hand at any of the crafts for which a workshop had been set up.

Sci-fi needlepoint, origami, and creative snack-making were among the hobbies featured this year, the snack-making providing a tasty demonstration of how to make an SF/F snack item using everyday confections like jelly beans, marshmallows, and cookies. A number of appetizing aliens, mouth-watering monsters, and scrumptious spaceships ensued with a *Doctor Who*-themed treat winning kudos as the most artistic and appealing at day's end. Members were encouraged to employ what they'd learned here to the benefit of the fund-

**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*:

BRODEUR, Chantal
JAMES, David
JAMSHIDI, Abbas
METHE, Ann
MINEAU, Sebastien
PETERS, Ernst-Udo
WADSWORTH, Beulah
WALLING, René

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

BOIES, Marquise
DUROCHER, Dominique
HICKEY, Mark
McCULLOGH, Brian
McCULLOGH, Megan
McCULLOGH, Philip
PENALBA, Theresa
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

Annual membership fees will become due next month, October, from the following club members:
PETTIT, William S.

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.: () ()

HOME/MAISON

WORK/TRAVAIL

Address / Adresse: _____

E-mail / Courriel: _____

NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP.

Interests / Intérêts: _____

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raising snack table MonSFFA sets up at all regular meetings.

Meanwhile, at the scale modelling station, two of the club's youngest members were busily painting their plastic Snap-Tite kits of prehistoric beasts using a technique called dry brushing, thus named because so modicum is the quantity of paint applied that the paintbrush is practically dry. This approach produces subtle blends of colour and is the perfect method of giving molded plastic scales or fur an authentic look. The technique is commonly utilized to realistically "weather" spacecraft, aircraft, and vehicle models and can be used, as well, for figure-painting or prop-making. A number of uni-coloured, dollar-store plastic toy animals were on hand so that people could have a go at dry brushing and a resulting rat later made the rounds of the creative snack-making table!

At another station, a demonstration of computer-generated photo-art was underway. Working with such software as Adobe Photoshop, the step-by-step process of retouching, combining, and tweaking photographs to create a digital illustration was revealed for all to see on a large monitor. The next cover of our club fanzine, *Warp*, is to feature a product of this workshop.

Perhaps the most unusual and fascinating demonstration of the day was the recycling of spent cartridges to fashion prop or souvenir bullets. Several people inquired as to a silver bullet, lest they encounter a werewolf on the way home from the meeting. Without the necessary gunpowder and primer caps to produce live rounds, of course, these bullets were just for show and completely harmless.

We thank the many crafters in the club for sharing their hobbies with fellow MonSFFen on this day.

No Regular Meeting or Impulse Next Month

Please note that because a meeting hall is not available to us next month, we will not hold an October meeting. As such, and as a cost-saving measure, *Impulse* will not publish next month.

But MonSFFen will nevertheless have opportunity to get together! In lieu of a meeting, we are organizing a group outing—an afternoon of bowling at a downtown location—the details of which will be announced on the club Web site next month. Further, we expect that many

of our members will be attending Con•Cept 2008 (see also lead item).

MonSFFA's next regular meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 16.

Briefly:

- Montreal's traditional moving season is now a couple of months behind us. We remind any MonSFFA member who moved on or about the July 1st weekend or shortly thereafter to please advise the club of his or her change of address so that we may update our membership database and mailing lists.
- A group of MonSFFen attended the Montreal launch of the new *X-Files* film during the summer movie season as a result of MonSFFA's on-going involvement in the sponsoring of local sci-fi film premieres. We thank our good friends in the movie promotions business for the complimentary passes.
- MonSFFA's Executive welcomes input from members as to the club's plans for Anticipation, the 2009 Worldcon, scheduled to unfold here in Montreal in August of next year. How will MonSFFA welcome worldwide SF fandom to our city? A room party or reception has been suggested; perhaps we might publish a special issue of *Warp* outlining our club's history. Members are encouraged to let the Executive know of their ideas at the next club meeting. A special raffle has been instituted at club meetings to help raise the funds needed to finance this project.

Suggestions for 2009 MonSFFA Meeting Programming

In no particular order, following are a dozen of the topic suggestions for next year's schedule of MonSFFA meetings. These ideas are among those received at BoA and regular meetings from the ranks of the club's membership.

Your Executive would like feedback as to which interest you, and as to specifically which you might be able to contribute in some manner, perhaps as a panelist or presenter. Please also feel free to add to the list.

A BoA meeting is planned for November 16, at which time we will formulate our 2009 meeting schedule and nail down programming based upon your feedback.

1. Superman

As depicted in comics, on radio and TV, in movies.

2. Government in SF/F

Exploration of different forms of government as depicted in SF/F.

3. SF/F About SF/F

Exploration of SF/F stories that reference the SF/F genre in some way.

4. The Write Stuff

Discussion of trends in SF/F writing; what's hot, what's not, both in professional circles and in online fanfic. Highlight the most original new fiction, most hackneyed clichés, and most overused plot devices. Invite professional writers as panelists and include fanfic authors, as well.

5. Zombie Stories

Given their familiarity with the topic, perhaps invite past guest speakers Nancy Kilpatrick and/or SV Bell as panelists.

6. Next on this Channel...

Exploration of rejected or unrealized SF/F TV show pilots and short-lived (no more than a single season) series that left viewers hanging.

7. Best SF/F Movies Never Made

Exploration of promising SF/F films that never got past the planning stage or forever remain "in development."

8. "Take Me To Your Leader!"

Exploration of alien invasion scenarios in SF literature and on screen.

9. It's A Small World After All

Exploration of Lilliputian worlds and people in SF/F—*Honey, I Shrank the Kids*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Land of the Giants*, *Fantastic Voyage*, among other examples.

10. Game: The Word is Given

Randomly selected character, place name, or the name or term given by an SF/F author or scriptwriter to a thing or concept, must be identified by players—e.g., Yoda, Dagobah, gimer stick, the Force. Poker chips earned for correct answers, lost for wrong answers.

11. Game: Magnification Factor 3

Iconic sci-fi images shown at extreme magnification. Players must identify each image to score points. Magnification factor reduced by half after 10 seconds; if image now identified, reduced points earned. Same again, and finally, image displayed at zero magnification to confirm/provide correct answer and end round.

12. Giving Good Panel

How-to guide on preparing and presenting a topic for an audience.

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

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

Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

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":
AMonSFF a/s de
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

www.MonSFFA.com