

# IMPULSE

onSFFA • A MonSFF

NEWS BULLETIN  
OF THE MONTREAL  
SCIENCE FICTION  
AND FANTASY  
ASSOCIATION

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

September / Septembre 2009 (Vol. 13, No./N° 8)

## NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

**Sunday, September 20**

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

### SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

**1:00PM**

#### BEST SCI-FI MOVIES NEVER MADE:

We explore a selection of potentially great genre films proposed but, ultimately, never produced, as well as a few endlessly stuck, it seems, "in development." We'll also make a list of genre films we'd like to see produced.

**2:30PM**

**MONSFFILMS PROJECT:** Following on last month's meeting, a quick 15-minute update on the progress of the club's latest fan film project.

**3:00PM**

**NEXT ON THIS CHANNEL...:** We explore some of the proposed sci-fi television series that failed to make it past a pilot, or were quickly cancelled after but a handful of episodes. We'll also look at series that were prematurely canned, leaving viewers hanging.

## Next Month's MonSFFA Meeting:

**October 25**

Zombies!

## ConCept 2009 to Mark Convention's 20th Anniversary

This year's installment of ConCept is but weeks away; the long-running convention is set to unfold over the October 2-4 weekend. 2009 marks ConCept's 20th anniversary year. *Impulse* readers will know that MonSFFA founded ConCept in 1989, establishing Montreal's first annual fan-run science fiction and fantasy convention. ConCept's philosophy then, and now, was to explore the domains of science fiction and fantasy by providing area and visiting fans with a variety of entertaining things to do over the course of the event, anchored by a series of informative presentations and spirited panel discussions.

This year's roster of headlining guests is all Canadian!

Actress Karen Cliche is a former Montrealer who has starred in, among other productions, genre TV's *Vampire High*, *Mutant X*, and *Flash Gordon*. Her most recent movie appearance is in *Saw VI*, the latest chapter of the popular horror franchise.

Ontario-based author Kelley Armstrong has populated her Otherworld series with witches, werewolves, demons, vampires, and other supernatural races. This collection of paranormal suspense novels features a number of engaging female characters like the werewolf Elena Michaels, witch Paige Winterbourne, and half-demon Hope Adams. Titles include *Bitten*, *Dime Store Magic*, *Haunted*, *Living With the Dead*, and her latest, *Frostbitten*. She also penned the Darkest Powers trilogy, a young adult urban fantasy centered on a teenaged girl who can see ghosts and raise the dead.

And Olivier Xavier is a local make-up artist and special effects expert whose credits include *The Secret Adventures of Jules Verne*, *Grande Ourse*, *Witchboard III: The Possession*, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, *Supernatural*, and the Montreal production of *Dracula, the Opera*.

Over the years, ConCept has consistently drawn praise for offering fans a fun and friendly sci-fi party and we look forward to this year's merriment.

One last thing: ConCept can always use a hand and welcomes volunteer help setting up, running, and taking down the convention. Contact event chair Cathy Palmer-Lister to offer your services: [cathyp@sympatico.ca](mailto:cathyp@sympatico.ca)

**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*:

GLOVER, Wayne  
JAMES, David  
MORROW, Gordon

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

**BOIES, Marquise  
BRAITHWAITE, Erin  
BRAITHWAITE, Keith  
BRAITHWAITE, Scott  
DUROCHER, Marc  
MOIR, Dorothy  
MOIR, L.E.**

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

BLOOM, Hendrik  
KENNEY, Daniel P.  
McCULLOGH, Brian  
McCULLOGH, Megan  
McCULLOGH, Philip  
PELLEY, Lynda  
PETTIT, William S.  
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain  
WADSWORTH, Beulah

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. The annual fee for a standard membership is \$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**

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

NO. & STREET/N° ET RUE APT./APP.

E-mail/Courriel: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests/Intérêts: \_\_\_\_\_

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PROVINCE

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## August MonSFFA Meeting

August 23 saw the club hold a dry run of its new “Sci-Fi Fair” fund-raising concept, but not before hosting a quick feedback panel on the recently wrapped Montreal Worldcon, Anticipation, and talking over plans for the production of the club’s next fan film.

A poll of the room found that all but a few of the 30 or so present had attended Anticipation. As folk offered opinion on the Worldcon, club VP Keith Braithwaite took notes (see sidebar), these to be passed along to Anticipation.

Programming content was rated top-notch by many. The con suite and masquerade scored particularly well, and the number and quality of the room parties was applauded, including the MonSFFA/ConCept effort Friday evening, which, by all accounts, proved one of the most popular. A few areas drew criticism but generally, the event was praised, with people remarking that overall, they enjoyed the experience.

The meeting immediately moved to a discussion of the club’s next video project. Keith outlined a story pitting stranded motorists against a werewolf, the favoured of several proposals considered by the MonSFFilms special interest group in previous meetings held over the summer. The requirements of the production were listed, logistics discussed, and various pre-production tasks assigned. A good number of folk signed on and the crew will meet again soon for an update and to further the project along.

To inspire the club’s filmmakers, Berny Reischl treated the assembly to an early short film by the director of this summer’s sci-fi sensation, *District 9*.

Following the mid-meeting break, Keith, Berny, Mark Burakoff, and Lindsay Brown introduced their notion of having an amusing time while raising funds for the club. Their “Sci-Fi Fair”, patterned after the kind of fund-raiser often held by church or community groups, was designed to get away from the raffle/auction model the club has employed for too many years in favour of something fresh and fun. Thus were set up a number of games of skill and chance, like the bean-bag throws and fish ponds of so many of the church-basement fairs enjoyed in our collective youth. But for MonSFFA’s purposes, the games were dressed up in a sci-fi theme.

Keith turned a simple fish pond into the Black Lagoon, with the fish becoming the Creature, and various other aquatic denizens of sci-fi. The bean-bag throw he converted into a

game in which “Rebel pilots” fired at the Death Star’s infamous thermal exhaust port.

Berny, meanwhile, put together a *Star Trek*-based game that had blindfolded “starfleet doctors” opening Medusan ambassador Kollos’ containment unit, racing against the clock to locate and remove a damaged organ in order to save his life. Be sure to extract the right organ, however, lest the ambassador die on your operating table! The cardboard box Berny had painted to represent the ambassador’s holding bin was filled with styrofoam packing peanuts, small balloons, and other squishy, weird-feeling objects representing the Medusan’s innards.

Mark and Lindsay set up a pair of target games, his a Nerf rifle range with various movie monsters and aliens in the crosshairs, hers a bowling alley with the plastic pins painted as evil alien invaders that had to be knocked down in order to save the Earth.

With the game stations set up and the rules explained, tickets were sold and folk circulated as at a carnival midway, trying their hand at the different challenges. Small coloured beads were awarded participants for each try and more for every point scored. At

the end of the afternoon, the player having collected the most beads got first pick of a number of premium prizes, the second most, second choice, and so on.

Following the fun, members provided constructive feedback on the whole affair, suggesting a few tweaks here and there for next time. This trial of our new Sci-Fi Fair proved successful, bringing in just over \$70 for the club’s coffers. A full-blown fair is planned in future, perhaps to be combined with a bake sale.

We thank all those club members who planned and ran this meeting.

## Briefly

- Correction: the date of MonSFFA’s September meeting was erroneously given as the 30th last issue; the correct date is September 20, as listed in this issue.
- MonSFFA offers condolences to Cathy Palmer-Lister, who recently lost her dear mother, and Danny Sichel, who mourns his cherished Marina “Rie” De Schutter, departed, sadly, far too soon. Our thoughts are with our two friends.

## Feedback on Anticipation, the Montreal Worldcon

At MonSFFA’s August 23 club meeting, feedback was given on Anticipation by some of the MonSFFen who attended the convention. Following are notes recorded at that meeting, for the attention of Anticipation’s organizers and consideration of future Worldcon committees.

- ✓ Many thanks and kudos to the Anticipation team, who put on a memorable Worldcon.
- ✓ Guest line-up outstanding —too bad that Ralph Bakshi had to back out.
- ✓ Communication was rather lax leading up to the con; requested information was not provided.
- ✓ Registration went smoothly, quickly; no long line-ups.
- ✓ Wonderful badge holders.
- ✓ Information was sometimes difficult to locate for those unfamiliar with Worldcons. A brief directory of some kind

could have perhaps pointed people in the right direction.

- ✓ Programming content was solid, but many changes to schedule caused frustration. Special events like the Stross/Krugman discussion and Melissa Auf der Maur multimedia presentation were highlights.
- ✓ Fanzine lounge was great; working Gestetner very cool.
- ✓ Knitting group could have used more space.
- ✓ Programme guide was helpful re panel details but too large to carry easily while pocket programme provided inadequate information; the daily updates were not helpful.
- ✓ Con suite was superb—splendid food. Even Dead Dog served up a great spread, not just left-overs.
- ✓ Crowd/seating control prior to show spotty but masquerade well received; good, clear sound, despite a few glitches; giant screens tremendously helpful in viewing the show

- for those seated further back; co-hosts very entertaining.
- ✓ Dealers’ area short on variety, overabundance of book dealers compared to vendors selling other types of wares. The more and greater the variety, the busier the dealers’ area will be, which should translate into more sales—win, win. Consider staff passes, which might be included with dealers’ tables so that personnel only working the dealers’ area and not taking in the rest of the convention need not also buy a costly full membership. Do not be afraid to adapt, modernize, regarding price structures, memberships, and passes.
- ✓ Greater participation in the art show might similarly be encouraged.
- ✓ Innovation regarding the attraction of fresh blood strongly encouraged; avoid slavish adherence to outdated practices, traditions.

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](mailto:bigewok@total.net)
- Voice mail: 450-692-8831

Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

[www.MonSFFA.com](http://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](mailto:bigewok@total.net)

Visitez l’AMonSFF sur internet:

- Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831
- Par la poste à l’adresse du club, à l’attention de “Impulse”:  
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4456 Boul. Ste-Rose  
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