

**NEXT
MonSFFA
MEETING
COMING SOON**

Sunday, October 30

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.

Downtown Montreal

PROGRAMME

1:00PM

COOL SCI-FI TOYS: Remember your older brother's wind-up walking tin robot? Dinky Toys' die-cast model Space: 1999 and Thunderbirds vehicles? Major Matt Mason? Those first Star Wars action figures? We revisit the days of our collective youth through an exploration of classic sci-fi toys, comparing them to today's examples.

2:30PM

BREAK/OPEN DISCUSSION: While we break mid-meeting, the floor will be open for discussion of any SF/F or fannish topic.

3:15PM

FAN FILM THEATRE: We screen a sampling culled from the Web of some of the most creative short films produced by sci-fi fans worldwide.

ConCept 2011

October 14-16 (see lead item)

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Sunday, November 20

**ConCept 2011
Unfolds This Weekend**

The 2011 edition of Montreal's long-running SF/F convention, ConCept, takes place this weekend, October 14-16 at the downtown Hôtel Espresso, MonSFFA's meeting locale. Founded by MonSFFA in 1989 and today a wholly independent, entirely volunteer-run operation, ConCept has always provided local fandom with an entertaining sci-fi party packed with a variety of activities. In this age of the mega sci-fi convention, ConCept remains an oasis for those who enjoy a more traditional, intimate and casual event that, paradoxically, offers more, in fact, than simply the dealers' room and endless autograph lines characteristic of most of the big shows. And in a setting that doesn't call to mind the planet Gideon!

Headlining guests this year include Vancouver-based actress Agam Darshi, who portrays Kate Freelander in the sci-fi series Sanctuary, and authors Eric Flint and Patrick Senécal. Flint penned the alternate history novel 1632 and the comic fantasy novels The Philosophical Strangler and Forward the Mage. He has collaborated on works with David Drake, David Weber, Mercedes Lackey, and Dave Freer. Drummondville-born Senécal wrote the horror/thrillers *Sur le seuil*, *5150 rue des Ormes*, and *Les Sept Jours du talion*, all adapted for the screen, as well as the Boréal-award winning, Lewis Carroll-inspired *Aliss*.

Other guests include folk singer Judith Hayman, recording artist Heather Dale, whose music draws upon Celtic mythology, and co-Masters of Ceremonies Alain Ducharme and Gordon Rose.

At-the-door admission for the full weekend is \$50; MonSFFA members enjoy a 20-percent discount. For more information visit ConCept on the Web at: www.conceptsf.ca

MonSFFA supports ConCept, providing the event with many of its volunteer staff. We'll see you at ConCept 2011 this weekend!

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

The Annual Membership Fees of the
Following Club Members are...

Overdue:

BOIES, Marquise
HICKEY, Mark
NOVO, Fernando
PENALBA, Theresa

Due this Month, October:

BOOM, Hendrik
DUROCHER, Marc
KENNEY, Daniel P.
PELLEY, Lynda
PETTIT, William S.
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain
WADSWORTH, Beulah

Due Next Month, November: Ø

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the 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 your
patronage*

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.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____
No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

Province Postal Code/Code Postal E-mail/Courriel: _____

INTERESTS/INTÉRÊTS: _____

New MonSFFA Membership Cards

MonSFFA recently began issuing a freshly designed, multi-coloured membership card to MonSFFen renewing their memberships, and to those new joiners. This new card, designed by club president Berny Reischl, will be phased in over the coming year, replacing our familiar yellow membership card. Note that the old card some members currently hold will be recognized as valid until the close of 2012, by which time all members should have re-upped and received a new card.

Montreal ComicCon 2011

Many MonSFFen no doubt attended the recent Montreal ComicCon at Place Bonaventure over the September 17-18 weekend. They were among some 20,000 comics, horror, and sci-fi fans who took in the event, according to a local newspaper report published following the convention. The hall was certainly crowded and we can easily believe that number, and perhaps add a few thousand more.

Effectively demolished by this mass of fandom was the myth of today's sci-fi fan being a socially awkward, girl-shy fellow in his 20s or 30s still living in his parents' basement. There were as many women wandering the convention floor, young and old, as men, noted another newspaper piece on the event. Interviews with dozens of the fans present found few that fit the myth. The Montreal ComicCon's attendees were a diverse mix of teenagers, young college students, aging baby-boomers, many couples, some married with their children in tow, blue collars workers and professionals. It's always satisfying to see the mainstream's negative image of the so-called geek turned on its head.

Autograph hounds must have been especially thrilled with the opportunity to meet so many luminaries from the fields of comics, movies, and television. The galaxy of guests included actors Adam West and Burt Ward, stars of the 1960s Batman TV show, and comics legends Stan Lee and Neal Adams. Also on hand were Buck Rogers' Gil Gerard and Erin Gray, Star Wars' Jeremy Bulloch, TNG's Michael Dorn and Marina Sirtis, Buffy the Vampire Slayer's James Marsters, Mercedes McNab, and Clare Kramer, among many more!

Fans could have their rare comic book or collectible signed, or have a photo taken of themselves with their favourite actor. But at considerable additional cost. Autographs and photo opportunities with the star guests were extra, averaging about \$30 and climbing as high as \$125 for an Adam West/Burt Ward photo op. The avid fan's visit to ComicCon might well require taking out a second mortgage!

Perhaps folk might have, instead, opted to spend their money in the dealers' room—big conventions like this one tend to offer little more than a roster of name stars for the autograph collectors and a dealers' room for the rest of us, although we must give this con points for setting up a display of very cool sci-fi vehicles, including the classic 1960s Batmobile. You don't see that every day! The event catering primarily to comics fandom, we were not surprised to find a lot of the hundred or more vendors in the hall selling comic books. Action-figures were in abundance, as well. Prices varied and there were probably a few bargains to be found but in general, we gauged that prices were not particularly discounted. To be fair, we didn't have opportunity to properly peruse the dealers' room so there may well have been some great deals amid the clutter of merchandise.

The reason we didn't have opportunity to properly peruse the dealers' room was that the place was so very crowded. We don't know if organizers were expecting so many, but the horde moving about the hall at times made it near impossible to get around. Shoppers were packed thick in front of dealers' tables and we often couldn't get near the goods. The throng proved an impediment to fully enjoying the convention, unfortunately. Line-ups to take in many of the scheduled talks and Q&As by star guests were so lengthy that a lot of people missed these appearances in part or altogether waiting in line to get in. The queue just to get into the con snaked back and forth in the foyer, taking between an hour and two to negotiate!

Big, star-studded shows like the Montreal ComicCon, while offering fans the chance to meet celebrated stars of the genre, are at the same time burdened by the inevitable disappointment experienced by the many fans who miss meeting their favourite stars simply because there are too many people in line in front of them. We suspect that some may not be so willing, next time, to spend their day waiting in single file, hoping that they'll get to the front of the line before the star attraction leaves the building.

Next Issue

We are all out of room this issue, so readers will have to wait until next issue (November) for coverage of recent MonSFFA meetings and other club-related news and information. And so, until next time...

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 means:

- In person at a MonSFFA meeting
- E-mail: keith1958@live.ca
- Voice mail: 450-692-8831
- Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse":
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Impulse est préparée 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:

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Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet:

www.MonSFFA.com