

FanActivity Gazette

Volume 1 Number 10

March 2022

News of Fen of Interest to All Fen

Editorial: George Phillies writes.

Letter of Comment (Lloyd Penney)

Convention Report: Confinement 3 from Kevin Trainor

Fanzines: Fanfaronade from Justin E. A. Busch

Television: Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend by Cathode Ray

Motion Pictures: Celluloid Sentience By Cathode Ray

Conventions: Forthcoming Conventions by Mindy Hunt

Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays from Heath Row

April 2022 SF Calendar and Cover Illo from Bob Jennings

Editorial

Courtesy of Kevin Trainor, we have a Con Report. Courtesy of Bob Jennings, we have a new section, an SF Calendar. Three cheers for Kevin and Bob!

Letter of Comment

Dear George:

It is almost March, and I have the January and February issues of The FanActivity Gazette, Vol. 1, issues 8 and 9. I will make this as fast as I can.

V1#8...I have already voted in the FAAn Awards...I hope there will be new names winning some ego-boo. I got an e-mail recently that told me there would be a voting extension to March 11, so there's still some hope for some of us. Justin, where in Canada will you be in March?

You still have TV Guide...there was a Canadian version of it, but it went out of business a long time ago. I suspect our Saturday Toronto Star's own Star Week television listings guide probably hastened its demise, and now that I can see electronic listings on a particular service from our cable, often a listings magazine isn't really needed.

I need to see if Mindy Hunt is getting the convention list I produce...Mindy, if you can, get in touch with me, and we will see if I have actually subscribed you to the list. (I see familiar listings in V1#9, so I guess you are getting my listings.)

And, the rest of the zine is Nic Farey's The Incompleat Register 2021. Always a good job by Nic, and I believe it is helpful to decide your voting choices. The postponement of Corflu Pangloss will not stop the FAAn Awards from being given out, so fingers are still crossed.

V1#9...my loc...that promised payday did indeed come, and I was most pleased. I am hoping for another

similar manuscript soon, so another good payday can come about. There haven't been many events of any kind in Toronto since the Hero Market in January. The first events we will see are scheduled for June, but we are already arranging tables, memberships and hotel reservations.

I think I may have done all I can do at this point...it is getting late for me, and I am yawning my head off, so I shall submit this for your approval and consideration. Take care, and see you for more n3fzines.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Con Report

What: Confinement 3

Where: Comfort Suites, Lebanon TN

When: February 25-27

Who: Mike Williamson & family, about 95 other pros, fans, and Toni Weisskopf

Why: Because mask mandates suck and a lot of concomms seem to have gone woke

Because I am a stupid old fool, I agreed to drive to Confinement with fellow Neffer Jolie LaChance, which meant hitting the road in Tonopah around 0200 Thursday (2/24), picking Jolie up in Boulder City four hours later, and then heading east on Interstate 40 until we reached Lebanon, trading off driver duties as needed. We just missed the major ice storm that hit Texas and Oklahoma on the 23rd, but there was enough ice & snow left over to make the stretch from Oklahoma City to Fort Smith pretty stressful. On the return leg, it was relatively smooth sailing, but I was sufficiently wearied that I stopped in Henderson Monday night (2/28) to get a good night's sleep - and then stayed at the Strat(osphere) in Las Vegas over Tuesday night because I still wasn't feeling rested enough to drive home to Tonopah. But enough about me.

Mike originally started the Confinement/Emergency Holographic Conventions out of frustration at mask mandates (his lungs got fucked up in the Gulf War, and he literally can't breathe in masks) and the concomms that bent the knee to what we now know were useless, unscientific mandates so they could virtue signal to the rest of fandom. This is the second one I've been to (the other was the EHC in Clarksville back in 2020) and it's a good time. Most of the membership is pro writers, both Baen writers and independently-published, and a lot of the membership are veterans, so it's a very different vibe from your usual convention. There was an outstanding traditional consuite in the Old Style (i.e. sodas on ice in the tub, open bar) with some solid eats in addition to the usual chips and candy. There was one track of programming with lots of panels of interest to the aspiring writer, plus the hilarious "No Shit, There I Was" panel consisting of tales from panelists' days in uniform, and the Baen Roadshow hosted by Toni herself.

I enjoyed the hell out of the convention. It reminded me of the good old days at Arcana in St. Paul - a small con in a small hotel, where most of the fans knew each other and were throwing what amounted to a weekend house party. Makes me wonder if I can't manage to stage something similar out here in Nevada - not in Tonopah, of course, because that's too far from Las Vegas and Reno for people to get to - sometime in the next couple of years. Any Neffers in northern Arizona, California, Nevada, and/or Utah up for this? If so, please contact me, as there's a lot to be done to make this happen.

... Kevin Trainor

Fanfaronade: Celebrating Current Fanzines #20

As it happens, health concerns kept me from travelling to Canada to teach; the course is on-line, which,

ironically, occupies rather more time. But the same concerns with time seem, for various reasons, to be true of fanzine editors this month as well; two of the three zines sent in are fairly short. Fortunately, each has plenty of interesting material, as even a quick overview proves.

This Here... 50 (Edited by Nic Farey; efanazines .com; "Locs & that to: 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142, or Email fareynic@gmail.com")

Nic being busy with administering the FAAn Awards, this issue is, for This Here..., on the slender side (19 pages, eight-and-a-half of which are devoted to the lettercol).

Not to worry, though; there is still much to enjoy. The 'Egotorial' is devoted mainly to an unfortunate series of events involving Nic's cab, climaxing with a collision with regrettable results: "disengaging ourselves half ripped off the front of my van and somehow cut the steering linkage rendering the old bus undriveable, so I ended up having to get towed home." Fortunately, no one was injured, and, as Nic points out, he ended up getting a new car out of the event. 'Omphaloskepsis' briefly but thoughtfully takes up the question of BFFs ("Big Fat Fanzines"), zines which intimidate some readers by their very size, or perhaps the complexity of the articles within (not a problem I've ever had). Dave Hodson's 'Footy' column (surely one of the most interesting regular features in any current fanzine, regardless of the level of one's interest in its titular topic) begins with thoughts inspired by Hodson's years working in "prison education and for the probation service in a day centre in South London." He recounts aspects of the (mostly petty) criminals with whom he dealt, eventually linking them to the cruel "kicking and slapping one of his two pet "designer" cats in the kitchen of his home" by a well-known football player (posted on-line, of course, because it's not really worth being stupid and vicious if no one sees you). Alas, the best part of the story ("West Ham captain Craig Dawson had approached match referee Chris Kavanagh at half-time to complain that Newcastle's brand new striker Chris Wood was taunting Zouma by "meow"-ing at him throughout the game") turned out to be only an inventive rumor, but Hodson, as always, tells it well.

Regular artist Ulrika O'Brien "Dealing With Stuff," the interior art is from Brad W. Foster, who demonstrates his skill in creating visually intriguing things with quite simple line work. The central part of "The God Sperm" is literally a single line; the "Striped Squiggle Fish,"— "not always there," requires just a few more.

Despite all the foregoing, top honors for this issue must go to "Something Out of (Almost) Nothing," by J.L. Farey, one of the most charming and delightful pieces I've read in any fanzine, old or new, recently. It is a factual tale of a move, of mysterious sounds, and of a refrigerator achieving something "weirdly impressive" entirely on its own, something which it has been left to keep achieving for three years so as to present the occasional "a murky gift, like an arctic oyster birthing a cloudy pearl." For more details, you'll need to read the essay— which will, I'm sure, stimulate your sense of wonder in unexpected ways.

Pablo Lennis 412 (March, 2022); edited by John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana, 47904. "Availability: 2\$ per or fanzine exchange, material inclusion of letter of comment." (I note that the masthead reveals that the magazine has resumed monthly publication).

Pablo Lennis is among the very few fanzines still devoting a considerable amount of space to poetry and, particularly, fiction. It has often been said that fan fiction is something which can't get published professionally; perhaps, but that does not mean that such stories are neither readable nor, in the aggregate, quite diverse. Here, for example, are no fewer than three separate serial episodes, episodes quite distinct in approach and manner. Joanne Tolson's newest contribution, "The Wave Effect," is not so much a serial as a lengthy story being presented in separate chunks; it provides an intriguing set-up, but ends rather abruptly on something rather less than a cliffhanger; it's probably better to save the next few issues and then read the several sections in close proximity to let the narrative give you a sense of its overall tone and direction. "Atomic Soldiers on Saturn," a sfnal fantasy by Celine Rose Mariotti, is rather more traditional in its approach, ending menacingly: "Somewhere out there something was stirring..." Burnett Toskey's first-person "Utopia Moon," the longest of the three, is clearly the creation of someone well-steeped in older magazine serials. What begins as a college physics exam, interspersed with some undergraduate wishful thinking about dating, suddenly turns almost surreally fantastic: "Henry smiled. "Yes, I've built a spaceship, and I'm planning a trip to the moon. And you're all invited." I suspect it will not be a conventional voyage.

Editor Thiel's regular survey of fandom (and, occasionally, prodom) has expanded to five pages, allowing rather more extensive reviews of Fantasy and Science Fiction and several fanzines (full disclosure: my own *Far Journeys* is among them). Thiel's viewpoints in his reviews are always idiosyncratic, reminding editors that what they think they have put into their zines may not be identical with what a reader will take out.

Another four pages is devoted to a misattributed reprint of the Wikipedia entry on Fredric Wertham; since the given title is "Frederic [sic] Wertham and Comic Fandom," much of the source material is irrelevant and could have been omitted. The best thing about the reprint is a startling drawing on the last page of it by PL's house artist, here credited as ESMR, of a moonlit encounter, which is quite effectively creepy.

Askew 36; edited by John Purcell (efanzines .com).

After a brief bout of near-gafia, Purcell returns in vigorous form. This is a classic perzine, twelve pages of short pieces jumping from topic to topic at the whim of the writer/editor.

"Unfortunately," as Purcell remarks, "the real world – if that is the appropriate word to describe it – intrudes on my thoughts." The first item is thus a reaction to contemporary U.S. politics, which are indeed a mess. More congenial, and more personal, is the second item, on Purcell's "very first set of hearing aids," expensive but very effective. This is followed by a segment, inspired by Dave Hodson's (not, as John has it, Nic Farey's) "Footy" column in *This Here...*, on— you guessed it— football in the global sense, or what Americans call soccer. It's rather more tightly focussed on specific games than Hodson's usual write-ups, but with some specific insights into the varying weather conditions from game to game.

Fantasy rears its head next: "Lovecraft does not age well," the headline tells us; the ensuing essay follows through: "No, crazy old Howard Phillip Lovecraft's fiction-telling craft does not work very well almost a full century after his stories first began appearing in print." Purcell had better hope that S.T. Joshi doesn't get wind of this particular essay—although presumably the response would extend the zine's lettercol considerably.

Plenty more follows, including said lettercol, this time with two Lloyd Penney contributions, along with Mark Plummer dismissing the old *Ace Double* cover for Ray Cummings's *Wandl the Invader*: "a spectacularly awful alien which is almost exactly not as described in the book." [I have to admit that I've always rather liked this cover, irrelevant though it may be to the novel behind it]. The matter eventually returns, at zine's end, to politics, this time of a rather more serious nature: the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "Fear is a powerful weapon in the hands of the fearless," Purcell comments, noting the grim history, personal and historical, behind the invasion. "Or, to put it another way, in the hands of those who don't care."

It's an ominous ending, for which Purcell apologizes, "but this," he acknowledges, "is what I keep thinking of these days." As, perhaps, do we all.

Television

Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend

By Cathode Ray

Turn on and tune in, you green-skinned, muscular creatures, you, for this month's edition of "Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend." If you haven't seen the radioactive light yet, this is an occasional column about the most important and intriguing science fiction, fantasy, horror, and other genre television programming options. Let's see what's what—now, and next—on the old boob tube, shall we? Cathode Ray... smash!

The Feb. 28 to March 13, 2022, issue of *TV Guide* featured an *OUTLANDER* exclusive on the cover, as well as a cover line promoting "Courtney Cox's new horror comedy," *SHINING VALE*. More on both shows below! (Read on, brave readers.) *GHOSTS* maintained a place on the *TV Insider* "25 Top Shows" list. For the week of Jan. 31 to Feb. 6, 2022, *GHOSTS* tied at No. 15, with 4.2 million viewers watching live. (It ranked even higher in the previous issue's listing, coming in at No. 9 with 6.7 million viewers the preceding

two weeks.) GHOSTS is currently the only genre offering attracting so much attention. In fact, the March 2022 issue of Channel Guide reported that Season 2 of GHOSTS has been confirmed for 2022-2023.

Two TV Guide correspondents lauded shows of interest to Neffers in the “Ask Matt” letter column. Matt Roush’s erstwhile pen pal Roger—if that even be his real name—wrote in to celebrate the series opening credits for superhero parody PEACEMAKER. “Being in my twenties during the hair metal days, I really appreciate its opening, plus the entire soundtrack,” scribbled Roger, perhaps even in green crayon. And the acronymic JV—if those even be his real initials—suggested that RESIDENT ALIEN’s Alan Tudyk would be well chosen to host SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE. Roush responded that Tudyk’s “gift for physical and character comedy is obvious,” perfect for a comic book adaptation. So why haven’t I made a point to watch that show yet? Maybe because I haven’t read the comic yet... (Should I? Write in care of this clubzine and let me know.)

The cover photo promoting OUTLANDER tied into a two-page feature on the program’s season premiere early this month. The current season’s eight episodes—shorter because of the pandemic and actor Caitriona Balfe’s pregnancy—adapt Diana Gabaldon’s novel A BREATH OF SNOW AND ASHES. Rick Gables’s “Did You Know?” column also complimented OUTLANDER in the Feb. 27 to March 5 edition of TV Weekly. “The series spans the genres of romance, science-fiction, history and adventure in one epic tale,” Gables opined. “[A] married combat nurse from 1945 ... is mysteriously swept back in time to 1743 Scotland.” Maybe Neffers can help me out with something I’ve long wondered: Once that character is back in 1743, are there any fantasy or science fiction elements, or does the show fall into more of a straight-forward historical romance groove? I sent my older sister several of Gabaldon’s novels for Christmas but have yet to hear much back from her. Say, perhaps she got swept back to 1743 Scotland! I cannae believe it.

Recent renewals of note include STAR TREK: DISCOVERY (Season 5), STAR TREK: LOWER DECKS (Season 3), and STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS (Season 2, already? Season 1 premieres in May.) In its feature “The Top 22,” Channel Guide highlighted multiple options for Neffers: SHINING VALE, OUTLANDER, and MOON KNIGHT (a new Marvel series streaming on Disney+ starting March 30). And TV Weekly gave RESIDENT ALIEN a Cheers for focusing on Tudyk’s very humanly emotional comedy while offering a Jeers to THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT for downplaying the club owner character played by Jennifer Beals.

In recent days, you might have missed some quality television. TV Weekly blurbed the March 1 episode of SUPERMAN & LOIS on The CW, which seemed set to reveal more about the Inverse Society. TV Guide’s “What’s Worth Watching” recommended the season finales of DC’S LEGENDS OF TOMORROW and BATWOMAN on the CW on March 2. (TV Weekly also recommended DC’S LEGENDS OF TOMORROW and BATWOMAN.) Season 2 of STAR TREK: PICARD premiered on Paramount+ on March 3, the first of 10 new episodes. And a new original animated spinoff arrived on Prime Video on March 4—THE BOYS PRESENTS: DIABOLICAL. The adult anthology, which also earned a mention in Channel Guide, comprises eight 12-14 minute shorts utilizing a wide range of animation styles. I haven’t read or watched THE BOYS yet—Should I? Write in care of this clubzine and let me know—this animated program poses a promising entry point.

Meanwhile, TV Guide’s “Stream It!” online roundup highlighted the original fantasy drama SHADOW AND BONE. A mapmaker learns she can summon sunlight and sets out to destroy a monster-filled region of darkness only to encounter a trio of “quirky, lovable criminals” dubbed the Crows. Ca-caw! Also of interest to savvy streamers: CAT BURGLAR, an interactive cartoon, and TWO SENTENCE HORROR STORIES, which debuted Feb. 28—both on Netflix; as well as the William Shatner-hosted THE UNEXPLAINED on Hulu.

Pencil these in your calendar, fen and fellow freaks: As mentioned on the cover of TV Guide, Courteney Cox’s new horror comedy SHINING VALE premieres on Starz on March 6. An author of trashy bestsellers moves with her family to a creepy house in Connecticut—aren’t they all creepy?—and is subsequently haunted by a specter played by... Mira Sorvino, of all people. A brief interview with Cox suggested that the show is in some ways a takeoff of THE SHINING and that the actress likes horror, to be scared, and the supernatural. In the March issue of Channel Guide, however, Cox changes her ghost-hunting tune a little. “I wouldn’t know a ghost if literally one was sitting on my lap,” she said in an interview. “I’m just not that kind of person.” Regardless, that conversation also detailed what might have been several supernatural experiences.

Channel Guide called out I WAS THERE: “SALEM WITCH TRIALS” on History on March 7, new episodes of THE FLASH starting March 9 on The CW, THE GHOST TOWN TERROR on Travel Channel on March 11. The editors of TV Guide recommended SNOWPIERCER on TNT on March 7 (as did Channel Guide for the March 14, 21, and 28 episodes—unheard of!), a new season of KUNG FU premieres on March 9, as does one for CHARMED on March 11— both on The CW. The adult animated series HUMAN RESOURCES (a spinoff of BIG MOUTH) becomes available on Netflix on March 18. RIVERDALE returns with new episodes mid-season on The CW on March 20. New paranormal series EXPEDITION BIGFOOT premieres on Travel Channel that day, as well. The live-action video game adaptation HALO finds its way to Paramount+ on March 24. And, of course, MOON KNIGHT premieres on Disney+ on March 30.

The March 2022 edition of Entertainment Weekly—reportedly its penultimate print issue, believe it or not—includes a front-of-book article with the headline “Keep Con and Carry On,” which considers the pandemic’s impact on “pop culture fan conventions.” The issue also includes a profile of Cate Blanchett from NIGHTMARE ALLEY and DON’T LOOK UP. The article “The 50 Best TV Romances of All Time” features Sun and Jin on LOST; Miss Piggy and Kermit from the Muppets franchise; Elena, Damon, and Stefan from THE VAMPIRE DIARIES; Catra and Adora from SHE-RA AND THE PRINCESSES OF POWER; Lois and Clark from LOIS & CLARK: THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, SMALLVILLE, SUPERMAN: THE ANIMATED SERIES, and SUPERMAN & LOIS; Buffy, Angel, and Spike from BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER; Claire and Jamie from OUTLANDER (again with the OUTLANDER!); Iris and Barry from THE FLASH; Sookie, Eric, and Bill from TRUE BLOOD; and Scully and Mulder from THE X-FILES. Power couples, or threesomes, all.

Also in the pages of Entertainment Weekly, Chancellor Agard offered a feature story on Ava DuVernay and NAOMI, which premiered in January and will wrap its first season by the end of the month. Interviewees include comic book scribe—and creator of the character—Brian Michael Bendis. (The eponymous hero first appeared in Naomi #1 in 2019.) And “What to Watch” recommends four classic Batman adventures, including BATMAN: THE MOVIE, BATMAN RETURNS, the BATMAN: THE ANIMATED SERIES’s episode “Heart of Ice,” and the GOTHAM episode “The Gentle Art of Making Enemies.” I watched “Heart of Ice” (Season 1, Episode 4, originally airing Sept. 7, 1992) streaming on HBO Max and “The Gentle Art of Making Enemies” (Season 3, Episode 14, airing Jan. 30, 2017) streaming on Netflix this evening. I heartily recommend both episodes, particularly the neo-deco-noir cartoon, which was written by Paul Dini and features character designs by Mike Mignola and music by Danny Elfman.

The March 2022 issue of Remind, well, reminds readers that THE JETSONS premiered Sept. 23, 1962; while THE YOGI BEAR SHOW aired its finale Jan. 6, 1962 and TOP CAT took a bow April 18, 1962—both premiering in 1961. Fannish readers also were treated to several notable books that year, including Madeleine L’Engle’s A Wrinkle in Time, Anthony Burgess’s A Clockwork Orange, and Ray Bradbury’s Something Wicked This Way Comes. How many of those titles have you read?

And in the April 2022 edition of Otaku USA, writers review anime such as BAKI HANMA (Netflix), HAIBANE RENMEI (Funimation), MEMORIES (Discotek Media), MIERUKO-CHAN (Funimation), RANKING OF KINGS (Funimation), and YAKITATE!! JAPAN (Crunchyroll). Feature stories explore additional anime, including KOMI CAN’T COMMUNICATE, LUPIN THE THIRD PART SIX, NANA, SAKUGAN, and TAKT OP.DESTINY. And the “Tokyoscope” film and TV DVD review column comments on GODZILLA VS. HEDORAH, HIRUKO THE GOBLIN, and YOKAI MONSTERS: 100 MONSTERS.

From across the Big Pond, several recent British magazines included articles of potential interest to Neffers. Infinity #45 opened with a four-page feature on the British TV-related comic book Target. That title focused mostly on action-oriented programs such as CANNON, HACKETT, HAZELL, and KOJAK rather than science-fiction fare. The issue also included an interview with Barry Morse from SPACE: 1999; a feature about CHILDREN OF THE STONES, which seems promising; a piece on BLAKE’s 7; and reviews of original TV soundtracks for the DOCTOR WHO serial “The Myth Makers” and CAPTAIN SCARLET AND THE MYSTERONS. And in the current issue of Infinity’s sister publication, The Dark Side #227, there’s a feature on scary TV shows of the 1970s such as SPOOKY and DRAMARAMA.

SFX #350 (March 2022) included news about an audio drama based on a long-lost script for the DOCTOR WHO episode “Mind of the Hodiac;” a piece on Apple TV+’s FRAGGLE ROCK: BACK TO THE ROCK; features about the programs FROM, SHINING VALE, THE BOYS PRESENTS: DIABOLICAL,

SILVERPOINT, and THE WALKING DEAD; the second part of a story about the production design behind the six-part DOCTOR WHO storyline “Flux;” interviews with Tudyk of RESIDENT ALIEN and Jeri Ryan from STAR TREK: PICARD; and reviews of STATION ELEVEN—including a drinking game—WOLF LIKE ME, ALL OF US ARE DEAD, CHOSEN, FERIA: THE DARKEST LIGHT, ARCHIVE 81, , and THE EXPANSE; and a back-page recollection of THE MAX HEADROOM SHOW. Finally, Total Film #322 (March 2022) even touches on television. That issue included a one-page piece on the HALO adaptation; feature stories about the forthcoming MOON KNIGHT series and THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT; and a back-of-book article on kaiju movies.

The Feb. 28 TV Guide crossword, Puzzle #1435, served up several brain teasers: 18 Across is “GAME OF _____.” 29 Across is “Martin Brenner on STRANGER THINGS (2 wds.)” 50 Across is “GARFIELD AND FRIENDS dog.” 6 Down is “_____ BLOOD.” 22 Down is “Garnet or Pearl, on STEVEN UNIVERSE.” 39 Down is “GRIMM state (abbr.)” And 46 Down is “Title used for Patrick Stewart.”

TV Guide Magazine Puzzler Vol. 2, No. 6, focused on “’80s TV Dramas,” including N3F-appropriate fare such as THE A-TEAM, MACGYVER, STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, THE GREATEST AMERICAN HERO, KNIGHT RIDER, and QUANTUM LEAP—though only HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN made the cover.

To end this installment of the column, I’d like to share several capsule reviews sent in by Neffer Will Mayo:

“AMERICAN HORROR STORY: This show is a story I thrilled to late at night on Netflix before losing my access. In the noteworthy TV show, a California house possesses the unique quality of giving the dead life... for a while. Jessica Lange wins notice, especially, as the mother of a dead boy who impregnates a woman with the spawn of Satan. If you can tune in to the show, I suggest you go for it. It’ll haunt you for many nights to come.

“MORK AND MINDY: Who can forget the late 1970s/early 1980s TV show MORK AND MINDY? An alien lands in an apartment on Earth in the form of an egg, hatches, and finds the Earthlings all-so peculiar—as peculiar as I now find them myself. The show gives new life to that old David Bowie song “Loving the Alien” (<https://tinyurl.com/28dvw7ur>) and is emblematic of the era. Worth a sight on your local video channel.

“SUPERNATURAL: I also tuned in to SUPERNATURAL regularly every night before I lost access to Netflix. Brothers Sam and Dean hunt down supernatural entities in an effort to find out what exactly killed their mother—and what exactly it is that their father himself is hunting down out there somewhere in America. The series is worth a watch if you can get it. Tune in and freak out.

We must have the same remote, Mr. Mayo. You watch some good TV! (Thank you very much for sending in your capsule reviews.) What are other Neffers checking out on the old boob tube? Write in, care of this clubzine, and share your recent favorites.

Until next time, you hulked-out head cases, this is “Cathode Ray,” your guide to the best of what’s hidden in the grids. Turn on, tune in, and blast off!

Motion Pictures Celluloid Sentience By Cathode Ray

This column, “Celluloid Sentience,” is a spinoff of the TV-themed column “Rabid Eyes.” It is a periodic listing focusing on upcoming movie and DVD releases of potential interest to fans of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Release dates occasionally change, and we will do our best to update them in this listing. (Movies labeled with an * are particularly recommended.) Please check your local listings before you go to the movie theater. And tell ’em Ray sent you! (That’s got to be good for a free box of Dots, at least!)

If you become aware of any movie or DVD release dates, send them in care of this clubzine, and we’ll do

our best to verify and include your submissions. And if you see any of these fantastic flicks, consider writing a review to share with other Neffers.

Movie Release Dates

The Adam Project (Science Fiction, streaming, March 4)
* The Batman (Science Fiction, theatrical, March 4)
Blink (Horror, theatrical short, March 13)
The Boy Behind the Door (Horror, streaming, March 15)
The Changed (Science Fiction, theatrical, March 4)
The Exorcism of God (Horror, theatrical, March 11)
Fear (Horror, theatrical, March 11)
Master (Horror, streaming, March 18)
Moonshot (Science Fiction, streaming, March 31)
Night's End (Horror, streaming, March 31)
Offseason (Horror, theatrical and streaming, March 11)
Outsiders (Science Fiction, streaming, March 11)
Peanut (Animated/Horror, theatrical short, March 12)
* The Primevals (Fantasy/Science Fiction, streaming, March 1)
Project Gemini (Science Fiction, streaming, March 15)
Project PastaHunters 3 (Fantasy/Horror, streaming, March 5)
The Real World (Science Fiction, streaming, March 25)
Sin Eater (Horror, streaming, March 15)
Sing 2 (Animated/Fantasy, streaming, March 1)
Tethered (Horror, theatrical, March 18)
Turning Red (Animated/Fantasy, streaming, March 11)
Ultrasound (Science Fiction, streaming, March 11)
* Umma (Horror, theatrical, March 18)
X (Horror, theatrical, March 18)
You Are Not My Mother (Horror, theatrical, March 25)

DVD Release Dates

The Boy Behind the Door (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, March 15)
Demonic (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, March 1)
The Legend of La Llorona (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, March 8)
* The Matrix Resurrections (Science Fiction; DVD, Blu-ray, and 4K; March 8)
* Nightmare Alley (Thriller; DVD, Blu-ray, and 4K; March 22)
The Nowhere Inn (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, March 8)
Project Gemini (Science Fiction, DVD and Blu-ray, March 15)
Silent Night (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, March 8)
Sing 2 (Animated/Fantasy; DVD, Blu-ray, and 4K; March 29)
Supergirl: The Sixth and Final Season (Fantasy/Science Fiction/TV, DVD and Blu-ray, March 8)
* Supergirl: The Complete Series (Fantasy/Science Fiction/TV, DVD and Blu-ray, March 8)
* The Three Musketeers (1948, Adventure, Blu-ray, Feb. 15)
* Touch of Evil (1958, Noir, Blu-ray, March 8)
The Walking Dead: World Beyond—Final Season (Horror/TV, DVD and Blu-ray, March 8)
The Walking Dead: World Beyond (Horror/TV, DVD and Blu-ray, March 8)

Until next time, double feature creatures, this is “Cathode Ray,” your guide to the best of what’s crawling in the aisles and on the big screen. Ticket, please!

Conventions for April

Mindy Hunt

Each month we will provide a list of conventions from around the world. This list is constantly being updated throughout the month. You can find our full events list as well as a calendar at <http://scifi4me.com/conventions-events/>.

During the week, we provide regular updates on our TV channel <http://scifi4me.tv/> with any schedule changes or cancellations. These updates also include any COVID-19 requirements the events are requesting. These requirements are also listed on our calendar for each event.

We are always looking to keep the list and calendar as current as possible. If you know of a local event, big or little, send us and email at events@scifi4me.com so we can add it and make it the most comprehensive conventions list on the internet.

Apr 1-4

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

[Costume-Con](#) – Bethesda, MD **Apr 1-4**

[Dark Side of the Con](#) – Parsippany, NJ **Apr 1-3**

[Cyphacon](#) – Lake Charles, LA **Apr 1-3**

[Earpapalooza](#) – Columbus, OH **Apr 1-3**

[Shake, Battle, & Roll](#) – Southampton, United Kingdom **Apr 1-3**

[Supernatural Official Convention](#) – Indianapolis, IN **Apr 1-3**

[WonderCon](#) – Anaheim, CA **Apr 1-3**

[Edwardian Ball](#) – San Francisco, CA **Apr 1-2**

[Animarathon](#) – Bowling Green, OH **Apr 2-3**

[Birmingham Anime & Gaming Con](#) – Birmingham, United Kingdom **Apr 2-3**

[ETSU Con](#) – Johnson City, TN **Apr 2-3**

[FACTS](#) – Ghent, Belgium **Apr 2-3**

[FicZone](#) – Granada, Spain **Apr 2-3**

[KupoCon Pop Up](#) – Toronto, Ontario, Canada **Apr 2-3**

[Quad Cities Comic Con](#) – Rock Island, IL **Apr 2-3**

[Wales Comic Con](#) – Wrexham, United Kingdom **Apr 2-3**

[LexiCon](#) – Lexington, IL **Apr 2**

[Long Island Comic Fest](#) – Hicksville, NY **Apr 2**

[Oddities & Curiosities Expo](#) – Chicago, IL **Apr 2**

[Roanoke Valley Comicon](#) – Roanoke, VA **Apr 2**

[Wayne NJ Toy Show](#) – Wayne, NJ **Apr 2**

[Canton-Akron Comic Book, Toy & Nostalgia Con](#) – Akron, OH **Apr 3**

[Capital Trade Show](#) – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Apr 3
[Clandestine Comics](#) – Hunt Valley, MD Apr 3
[Elk Grove Toy-Anime-Comic Con](#) – Elk Grove, CA Apr 3
[London Film Fest](#) – London, United Kingdom Apr 3
[Raleigh Comic Book Show](#) – Raleigh, NC Apr 3

Apr 7-10

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

[Luxcon/Eurocon](#) – Dudelange, Luxembourg Apr 7-10
[Cinema Wasteland](#) – Berea, OH Apr 8-10
[Big River Comic Convention](#)– Hannibal, MO Apr 8-10
[CODCON](#) – Glen Ellyn, IL Apr 8-10
[Fan Expo Philadelphia](#) – Philadelphia, PA Apr 8-10
[Grand Rapids Comic-Con](#) – Grand Rapids, MI Apr 8-10
[Made in Asia](#) – Brussels, Belgium Apr 8-10
[Star Trek Mission](#) – Chicago, IL Apr 8-10
[Steel City Con](#) – Monroeville, PA Apr 8-10
[Voughtcon](#) – Birmingham, United Kingdom Apr 8-10
[Central Texas Comic Con](#) – Waco, TX Apr 9-10
[Quad Con Madison](#) – Madison, WI Apr 9-10
[SC Comicon](#)– Greenville, SC Apr 9-10
[Sci-Fi Scarborough](#) – Scarborough, United Kingdom Apr 9-10
[Swansea Comic and Gaming Convention](#) – Swansea, United Kingdom Apr 9-10
[TimminsCon](#) – Timmins, Ontario, Canada Apr 9-10
[Collingwood Comicon](#) – Collingwood, Ontario, Canada Apr 9
[Gem State Comic Con](#) – Boise, ID Apr 9
[Long Island Tabletop Gaming Expo](#) – Garden City, NY Apr 9
[Louisvillecon](#) – Louisville, KY Apr 9
[Mid-State Comic Con](#) – Harrington, DE Apr 9
[Midtown Con](#) – Memphis, TN Apr 9
[Milwaukee Comic Con](#) – Milwaukee, WI Apr 9
[Raider Con](#) – Moweaqua, IL Apr 9
[RodCon](#) – Cedar Falls, IA Apr 9
[LouisvilleconSt Tammany Collectors Con](#) – St Tammany, LA Apr 9
[Wicked Comic Con](#) – Boston, MA Apr 9
[Barrie Comicon](#) – Barrie, Ontario, Canada Apr 10

Apr 13-17

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

[Fastaval](#) – Hobro, Denmark Apr 13-18

[Insomnia Gaming Festival](#) – Birmingham, United Kingdom Apr 14-17

[NorWesCon](#) – SeaTac, WA Apr 14-17

[Polymanga](#) – Montreux, Switzerland Apr 15-18

[BABSCon](#) – Burlingame, CA Apr 15-17

[Colorado Anime Fest](#) – Denver, CO Apr 15-17

[EasterCon](#) – Birmingham, United Kingdom Apr 15-18

[Indiana Comic Convention](#) – Indianapolis, IN Apr 15-17

[Kanpai!Con](#) – Omaha, NE Apr 15-17

[Minicon](#) – Minneapolis, MN Apr 15-17

[Puerto Rico Comic Con](#) – San Juan, Puerto Rico Apr 15-17

[SacAnime](#) – Sacramento, CA Apr 15-17

[Sakura-Con](#) – Seattle, WA Apr 15-18

[Edinburgh Comic Con](#) – Edinburgh, United Kingdom Apr 16-17

[WeGame](#) – Kyiv, Ukraine Apr 16-17

[Animangapop](#) – Newport, United Kingdom Apr 16

[Oddities & Curiosities Expo](#) – Tulsa, OK Apr 16

[Saluki Con](#) – Carbondale, IL Apr 16

Apr 21-24

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

[Ice and Fire Con](#) – Mt Sterling, OH Apr 21-24

[Neotropolis](#) – Edwards, CA Apr 21-24

[Anime St Louis](#) – St Louis, MO Apr 22-24

[Bangor Comic & Toy Con](#) – Bangor, ME Apr 22-24

[Bayou City Comic Con](#) – Houston, TX Apr 22-24

[Cheyenne Gaming Convention](#) – Cheyenne, WY Apr 22-24

[Comicon](#) – Naples, Italy Apr 22-24

[El Paso Comic Con](#) – El Paso, TX Apr 22-24

[Fanboy Expo](#) – Las Vegas, NV Apr 22-24

[Haven Con](#) – Austin, TX Apr 22-24

[Huntsville Comic & Pop Culture](#) – Huntsville, AL Apr 22-24

[JordanCon](#) – Atlanta, GA Apr 22-24

[Kawaii Kon](#) – Honolulu, HI Apr 22-24

[No Brand Con](#) – Wisconsin Dells, WI Apr 22-24

[Planet Comicon](#) – Kansas City, MO **Apr 22-24**
[South Texas Comic Con](#) – McAllen, TX **Apr 22-24**
[Supernatural Official Convention](#) – East Brunswick, NJ **Apr 22-24**
[Yellow City Comic Convention](#) – Amarillo, TX **Apr 22-24**
[BrickUniverse](#) – Rochester, NY **Apr 22-23**
[Cardiff Anime & Gaming Con](#) – Cardiff, United Kingdom **Apr 23-24**
[Cornwall & Area Pop Event \(CAPE\)](#) – Cornwall, Ontario, Canada **Apr 23-24**
[Fayetteville Comiccon](#) – Fayetteville, NC **Apr 23-24**
[German Comic Con Spring](#) – Dortmund, Germany **Apr 23-24**
[Lexingtoncon](#) – Lexington, KY **Apr 23**
[Old School Comic Show](#) – Rochester, NY **Apr 23**
[Midwest Comic Book Con Madison](#) – Madison, WI **Apr 23**
[Mobile Bay Anime Festival](#) – Daphne, AL **Apr 23**
[Napanee Comicon](#) – Greater Napanee, Ontario, Canada **Apr 23**
[Oddities & Curiosities Expo](#) – Indianapolis, IN **Apr 23**
[Chicago Toy Show](#) – St Charles, IL **Apr 24**
[Kingston Comicon](#) – Kingston, Ontario, Canada **Apr 24**
[Midwest Comic Book Con Peoria](#) – Peoria, IL **Apr 24**

Apr 28-May 2

VIRTUAL

[Glasgow International Fantasy Con](#) – Glasgow, United Kingdom **Apr 27-29**

ON-SITE

[Chicago Steampunk Exposition](#) – Schaumburg, IL **Apr 28-May 1**
[Furry Weekend Holland](#) – Sleen, Netherlands **Apr 29-May 2**
[Texas Nightmare Weekend](#) – Dallas, TX **Apr 29-May 1**
[Avalon Expo](#) – St John's, Newfoundland, Canada **Apr 29-May 1**
[Causeacon](#) – Beckley, WV **Apr 29-May 1**
[Fan Expo](#) – Cleveland, OH **Apr 29-May 1**
[Great Plains Game Festival](#) – Lincoln, NE **Apr 29-May 1**
[ICCC](#) – Nashville, TN **Apr 29-May 1**
[Kameha Con](#) – Dallas, TX **Apr 29-May 1**
[Midwest Gaming Classic](#) – Milwaukee, WI **Apr 29-May 1**
[RavenCon](#) – Richmond, VA **Apr 29-May 1**
[Artic Comic Con](#) – Anchorage, AK **Apr 30-May 1**
[BrickUniverse Maine](#) – Portland, ME **Apr 30-May 1**
[Four State Comic-Con](#) – Hagerstown, MD **Apr 30-May 1**
[New Orleans Comic Con](#) – Kenner, LA **Apr 30-May 1**
[Oddities & Curiosities Expo](#) – Columbus, OH **Apr 30**
[Oshawa Comicon](#) – Oshawa, Ontario, Canada **Apr 30**
[Wirral Comic Con](#) – Brighton, United Kingdom **May 1-2**

[Capital Trade Shows](#) – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada **May 1**

[Fangaea](#) – San Diego, CA **May 1**

Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays

This list of fandom-related birthdays was first published by Bruce Pelz in the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Andrew Porter published and updated the list for Science Fiction Chronicle. Updates are welcome!

Unless stated otherwise, all birthdays are in the 20th century.

April

Anne McCaffrey, 4/1/26; Samuel R. Delany, 4/1/42; Hans Christian Andersen, 4/2/1805; Redd Boggs, 4/2/21; Elliot Shorter, 4/2/39; Peter Haining, 4/2/40; Joan D. Vinge, Teny Zuber, 4/2/48; Noel Loomis, 4/3/05; Colin Kapp, 4/3/28; Ted Atwood, 4/4/43; Lora Trimble, 4/4/57; Robert Bloch, 4/5/17; Al Halevy, 4/5/31; Sherry Gottlieb, 4/6; Henry Kuttner, 4/7/15; James White, 4/7/28; Marty Cantor, 4/7/35; Ed Buchman, 4/7/42; Susan Petrey, 4/7/45; S.P. Meek, 4/8/1894; E.J. Carnell, 4/8/12; Bill Benthake, 4/8/18; George O. Smith, 4/9/11; Charles Burbee, 4/9/15; Georges Giguere, 4/9/55; Ross Pavlac, 4/10/51; David Langford, William T. Center, 4/10/53; John M. Ford, 4/10/57

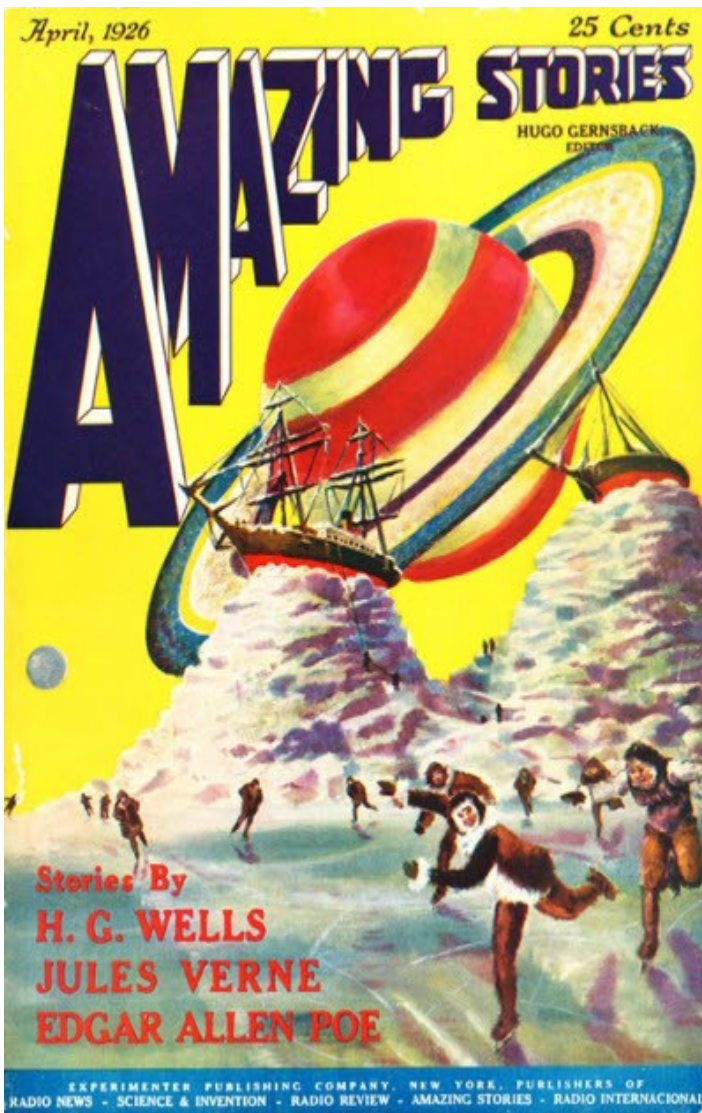
J. Ben Stark, 4/11/16; Janie Lamb, 4/12/08; Emil Petaja, 4/12/15; Carol Emshwiller, 4/12/21; John Foyster, 4/13/41; Jean-Marie Stine, 4/13/45; Mary Burns, 4/13/46; Morris Scott Dollens, 4/14/20; Leland Sapiro, 4/14/24; Tom Monteleone, 4/14/46; Kingsley Amis, John Christopher, 4/16/22; J. Neil Schulman, 4/16/53; Lloyd Biggle, Jr., T. Bruce Yerke, 4/17/23; G.M. Carr, 4/18/07; Martin Hoare, 4/18/52; Tom Purdom, 4/19/36; Gary Tesser, 4/19; Donald Eastlake III, 4/19/47; Donald Wandrei, 4/20/08; June Moffatt, 4/20/26; Peter S. Beagle, 4/20/39; Ian Watson, 4/20/43

Wrai Ballard, 4/21/24; Clay Hamlin, 4/21/25; Don Hutchison, 4/21/31; John Bangsund, 4/21/39; Fiona Kelleghan, 4/21/56; Damien Broderick, 4/22/44; Talbot Mundy, 4/23/1879; Avram Davidson, 4/23/23; Don D'Ammassa, 4/24/46; Larry Carmody, 4/24/53; Fletcher Pratt, 4/25/1897; Leslie Croutch, 4/25/15; A.E. Van Vogt, 4/26/12; H.L. Gold, Shepard Mead, 4/26/14; Miriam Knight, 4/26; George W. Fields, 4/26/39; Bill Warren, 4/26/43; Jerry Lapidus, 4/26/49; Frank Belknap Long, 4/27/01; Philip E. High, 4/28/14; Bill Blackbeard, 4/28; Brandon & Gil Lamont, 4/28/47; George Senda, 4/28/52; Will Murray, 4/28/53; Jack Williamson, 4/29/08; Elmer Perdue, 4/29/19; Robert J. Sawyer, 4/29/60; Edmund Cooper, 4/30/26; Larry Niven, 4/30/38.

To update this list, contact Heath Row at kalel@well.com via email with the subject "Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays" or something similar.

April 2022 SF Calendar

The Monthly Illo



Dated April, 1926, the first issue of AMAZING STORIES hit the American newsstands, becoming the world's first magazine devoted exclusively to science fiction stories.

It was published by Hugo Gernsback, who had regularly included scientific based fiction in his popular electronics and radio magazines. In 1924 Gernsback sent a letter to 25,000 subscribers of *The Experimenter* trying to gauge interest in a magazine devoted entirely to scientific style fiction. Response was uniformly negative. But two years later he decided to risk creating an all scientific fiction style publication anyway.

The first issue was devoted entirely to reprints, and most of the first two years were heavy on reprint fiction, much of it from sources outside the United States.

It was an immediate success, and reached a circulation of 150,000 copies per issue by March of 1927.

Gernsback added *Amazing Stories Annual*, and *Amazing Stories Quarterly*, both of which also sold well.

Unfortunately Gernsback had severe financial problems related to his commercial radio station and his experimental television station. His failure to pay his printers, paper supplier, authors, and other creditors on time led to his company being forced into involuntary bankruptcy, with him losing his company, including *Amazing Stories* and all of his other magazines as well. Gernsback returned with *Science Wonder Stories*, but

without *Amazing Stories*.

The magazine passed thru a series of other owners who were unable to keep the publication profitable during the Great Depression, until Ziff-David bought the title in 1938, and installed Raymond Palmer as editor. Palmer revived the circulation and made it the best selling SF magazine during the 1940s. Palmer left the magazine in 1949, and Ziff-Davis finally sold the publication in 1964.

Since then the magazine has gone thru many different owners and formats. Mostly recently it has been both a PDF digital publication as well as a print magazine appearing on a quarterly schedule. At the present time publication has been temporarily suspended, but is expected to resume in the near future.

In addition to being the world's first science fiction magazine, *Amazing Stories* was directly responsible for creating science fiction fandom, by running a letter column that published the names and addresses of each letter writer (allowing readers to correspond with each other). In 1934, thru the pages of his new SF magazine *Wonder Stories* Gernsback initiated the Science Fiction League, which further developed the hobby and solidified science fiction fandom as the unique sub-culture it has become. (For calendar, see over)

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Anne McCaffrey 4/1/26 Samuel R. Delany, 4/1/42 Brian Jones 1923-2001	2 Peter Haining 19/40 Joan D. Vinge 1948
3 Noel Loomis 1905 Colin Kapp 1928	4 Ted Atwood 1943 Lora Trimble 1957	5 Robert Bloch 1917 Al Halevy 1931	6 Sherry Gottlieb 1946 Henry Kuttner 1915	7 James White 1928	8 S.P. Meek 1894 E.J. Carnell 1912	9 George O. Smith 1911 Charles Burbee 1915
10 William T. Center 1953 John M. Ford 1957	11 J. Ben Stark 1916	12 Emil Petaja 1915 Carol Emshwiller 1921	13 John Foyster 1941 Jean-Marie Stine 1945	14 Morris Scott Dollens 1920 Leland Sapiro 1924	15 Nation Rubber Eraser Day	16 Kingsley Amis 1922 John Christopher 1922
17 Lloyd Biggle, Jr 1923 T. Bruce Yerke 1923	18 Martin Hoare 1952	19 Tom Purdom 1936 Donald Eastlake III, 1947	20 Donald Wandrei 1908 Peter S. Beagle 1939	21 Wrai Ballard 1924 Don Hutchison 1931	22 Damien Broderick 1944	23 Talbot Mundy 1879 Avram Davidson 1923
24 Don D'Amassa 1946 Larry Carmody 1953	25 Fletcher Pratt 1897 Leslie Croutch 1915	26 A.E. Van Vogt 1912 H.L. Gold 1914	27 Frank Belknap Long 1901	28 Philip E. High 1914 Will Murray 1953	29 Jack Williamson 1908 Robert J. Sawyer 1960	30 Edmund Cooper 1926 Larry Niven 1938

Free calendar provided and created by handycalendars.com