

# Fan Activity

News of Fen of Interest to All Fen



# Gazette

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Contributions  
welcome.

## *From the Editor:*

I have a cold. I'm not sure if it's a cold or allergies since I have been working out in the garden, weeding between our berry bushes. We can't use any electrical tools because we don't want to do damage to the bushes. So, allergies or cold, who knows? I do know I'm miserable.

In the end, my bushes will look very nice and groomed and this is just the downside for the pay off.

Kind of like going to conventions.

You get the fun of the experience, seeing people, checking out the merch, going to panels. However... lots of people means lots of germs and the infamous con-crud. You can prepare yourself as best as you can, taking all the vitamins and immune system concoctions ahead of time to prep your body for three or four days or maybe just a couple hours... But you're not really safe, are you?

We've all had it so what's your worst con-crud story? Don't be shy. We've all been there.

~ *Mindy*

## *And...*

I will also offer up apologies for this issue being a tad bit later than usual. 'Twas a combination of day job obligations and a number of days under the weather myself that delayed the completion of the tasks to hand.

~ *Jason*

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## BrickCan 2024 Announces Winners Jason Hunt

BrickCan, the largest public exhibition of LEGO creations in British Columbia, recently held their eighth event at the River Rock Casino Resort in Richmond. As part of the event, the “Adult Fans of LEGO” selected winners from among over 450 creations built by over 250 builders in attendance.

People’s Choice: Marius Posma, Clockwork Solar System



Best in Show, Individual: Block Doc Justin, *Stranger Things* “How It All Began”



Best in Show, Collaborative: VLC Adventurer, “Friendly Neighborhood on the High Seas?”



More information can be found at [www.brickcan.com](http://www.brickcan.com).



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## ANNOUNCEMENT!

A yellow banner with a film strip background. The text 'FILMS FANTASTIC' is in large, bold, black letters, and 'Is Back!' is in a cursive font. Below the text, it says 'The revue of reviews has returned! Check it out today at [tnfff.org](http://tnfff.org)!'.

The ‘zine presenting a revue of film and television reviews – *Films Fantastic* – is back!

Jason Hunt takes on editing duties, and we’re compiling reviews of current and not-so-current movies and long-form television productions that catch our collective eye. So be on the lookout and catch the latest over at [tnfff.org](http://tnfff.org)!

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A black and white banner with a striped background. On the left, there are silhouettes of a character in a space helmet, a superhero, and a dragon. The text 'JOIN US FOR FLIGHTS OF FANCY' is in large, bold, black letters. Below the text, it says 'National Fantasy Fan Federation - [tnfff.org](http://tnfff.org)'.

## New Movies in June

[H = horror, F = fantasy, SF = sci-fi, A = animated, D = documentary] \*limited release \*\*re-release

### June 2

*The Muppet Movie*\*\* (F)

### June 7

*The Watchers* (H/F) ~ *School of Magical Animals 2* (F) ~ *Kyle and the Last Emerald* (F) ~ *The Exorcism\** (H)

### June 8

*The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*\*\* (F)

### June 9

*The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*\*\* (F)

### June 10

*The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*\*\* (F)

### June 11

*Wild Eyed and Wicked* (H/F)

### June 14

*Inside Out 2* (A) ~ *Tiger Stripes* (H) ~ *Tuesday* (F)

### June 28

*A Quiet Place: Day One* (H) ~ *Blue Lock The Movie -Episode Nagi-* (A) ~ *Le Vourdalak* (H)

## 2024 Locus Award Finalists Announced

Jason P Hunt

The Locus Science Fiction Foundation has announced the finalists for the 2024 Locus Awards. Following a vote by readers on an open public ballot from February 1 to April 15, the top ten finalists were selected for each award category.

### SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL

- *The Jinn-Bot of Shantiport*, Samit Basu (Tordotcom)
- *A Fire Born of Exile*, Alette de Bodard (Gollancz; JAB Books)
- *Red Team Blues*, Cory Doctorow (Tor; Ad Astra)
- *Furious Heaven*, Kate Elliott (Ad Astra; Tor)
- *Translation State*, Ann Leckie (Orbit US; Orbit UK)
- *The Terraformers*, Annalee Newitz (Tor; Orbit UK)
- *Starter Villain*, John Scalzi (Tor; Tor UK)
- *Lords of Uncreation*, Adrian Tchaikovsky (Orbit US; Tor UK)
- *System Collapse*, Martha Wells (Tordotcom)
- *The Road to Roswell*, Connie Willis (Del Rey)

**FANTASY NOVEL**

- *To Shape a Dragon's Breath*, Moniquill Blackgoose (Del Rey)
- *The Keeper's Six*, Kate Elliott (Tordotcom)
- *Emily Wilde's Encyclopaedia of Faeries*, Heather Fawcett (Del Rey; Orbit UK)
- *Dead Country*, Max Gladstone (Tordotcom)
- *The Water Outlaws*, S.L. Huang (Tordotcom; Solaris UK)
- *Paladin's Faith*, T. Kingfisher (Argyll)
- *He Who Drowned the World*, Shelley Parker-Chan (Tor; Mantle)
- *My Brother's Keeper*, Tim Powers (Baen; Ad Astra)
- *City of Last Chances*, Adrian Tchaikovsky (Ad Astra)
- *Witch King*, Martha Wells (Tordotcom)

**HORROR NOVEL**

- *Vampires of El Norte*, Isabel Cañas (Berkley)
- *The Reformatory*, Tananarive Due (Saga; Titan UK)
- *A Haunting on the Hill*, Elizabeth Hand (Mulholland; Sphere)
- *Starling House*, Alix E. Harrow (Tor; Tor UK)
- *How to Sell a Haunted House*, Grady Hendrix (Berkley; Titan UK)
- *Don't Fear the Reaper*, Stephen Graham Jones (Saga; Titan UK)
- *A House with Good Bones*, T. Kingfisher (Nightfire; Titan UK)
- *Lone Women*, Victor LaValle (One World)
- *Silver Nitrate*, Silvia Moreno-Garcia (Del Rey; Jo Fletcher)
- *Black River Orchard*, Chuck Wendig (Del Rey; Del Rey UK)

**YOUNG ADULT NOVEL**

- *Promises Stronger Than Darkness*, Charlie Jane Anders (Tor Teen; Titan UK)
- *The Making of Yolanda la Bruja*, Lorraine Avila (Levine Querido)
- *Damned If You Do*, Alex Brown (Page Street)
- *A Song of Salvation*, Alechia Dow (Inkyard)
- *The Library of Broken Worlds*, Alaya Dawn Johnson (Scholastic; Magpie UK)
- *The Sinister Booksellers of Bath*, Garth Nix (Tegen; Gollancz)
- *Into the Light*, Mark Oshiro (Tor Teen)
- *Divine Rivals*, Rebecca Ross (Wednesday; Magpie UK)
- *The Siren, the Song, and the Spy*, Maggie Tokuda-Hall (Candlewick)
- *The Spirit Bares Its Teeth*, Andrew Joseph White (Peachtree Teen)

**FIRST NOVEL**

- *Chain-Gang All-Stars*, Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah (Pantheon)
- *The Strange*, Nathan Ballingrud (Saga; Titan UK)
- *The Saint of Bright Doors*, Vajra Chandrasekera (Tordotcom)
- *Threads That Bind*, Kika Hatzopoulou (Razorbill; Penguin UK)
- *These Burning Stars*, Bethany Jacobs (Orbit US; Orbit UK)
- *Godkiller*, Hannah Kaner (Harper Voyager UK; Harper Voyager US)
- *The Marigold*, Andrew F. Sullivan (ECW)
- *Shigidi and the Brass Head of Obalufon*, Wole Talabi (DAW; Gollancz)
- *Some Desperate Glory*, Emily Tesh (Tordotcom; Orbit UK)
- *Ink Blood Sister Scribe*, Emma Törzs (Morrow; Century)

## NOVELLA

- *The Crane Husband*, Kelly Barnhill (Tordotcom)
- *The Last Dragoners of Bowbazar*, Indra Das (Subterranean)
- “Linghun”, Ai Jiang (Linghun)
- *The Salt Grows Heavy*, Cassandra Khaw (Nightfire; Titan UK)
- *Thornhedge*, T. Kingfisher (Tor; Titan UK)
- *Rose/House*, Arkady Martine (Subterranean)
- *Lost in the Moment and Found*, Seanan McGuire (Tor)
- *The Mimicking of Known Successes*, Malka Older (Tordotcom)
- *The Lies of the Ajungo*, Moses Ose Utomi (Tordotcom)
- *Mammoths at the Gates*, Nghi Vo (Tordotcom)

## NOVELETTE

- “What I Remember of Oresha Moon Dragon Devshrata”, P. Djèlí Clark (*The Book of Witches*)
- “John Hollowback and the Witch”, Amal El-Mohtar (*The Book of Witches*)
- I AM AI, Ai Jiang (*Shortwave*)
- “The Year Without Sunshine“, Naomi Kritzer (*Uncanny* 11-12/23)
- “Prince Hat Underground”, Kelly Link (*White Cat, Black Dog*)
- “At Every Door a Ghost”, Premeé Mohamed (*Communications Breakdown*)
- “The Rainbow Bank“, Uchechukwu Nwaka (*GigaNotoSaurus* 8/23)
- “One Man’s Treasure“, Sarah Pinsker (*Uncanny* 1-2/23)
- “Six Versions of My Brother Found Under a Bridge“, Eugenia Triantafyllou (*Uncanny* 9-10/23)
- “On the Fox Roads“, Nghi Vo (*Tor.com* 10/31/23)

## SHORT STORY

- “A Soul in the World“, Charlie Jane Anders (*Uncanny* 3-4/23)
- “How to Raise a Kraken in Your Bathtub“, P. Djèlí Clark (*Uncanny* 1-2/23)
- “The Mausoleum’s Children“, Aliette de Bodard (*Uncanny* 5-6/23)
- “Suppertime“, Tananarive Due (*New Suns* 2)
- “Window Boy“, Thomas Ha (*Clarkesworld* 8/23)
- “Reckless Eyeballing“, N.K. Jemisin (*Out There Screaming*)
- “The Sound of Children Screaming“, Rachael K. Jones (*Nightmare* 10/23)
- “Those Hitchhiking Kids“, Darcie Little Badger (*The Sunday Morning Transport* 4/2/23)
- “Stones“, Nnedi Okorafor (*Clarkesworld* 9/23)
- “There’s a Door to the Land of the Dead in the Land of the Dead“, Sarah Pinsker (*The Deadlands* 6/23)

## COLLECTION

- *The Essential Peter S. Beagle, Volumes 1 & 2*, Peter S. Beagle (Tachyon)
- *Zen and the Art of Starship Maintenance and Other Stories*, Tobias S. Buckell (Apex)
- *The Wishing Pool and Other Stories*, Tananarive Due (Akashic)
- *White Cat, Black Dog*, Kelly Link (Random House; Ad Astra)
- *No One Will Come Back For Us*, Premeé Mohamed (Undertow)
- *Jackal, Jackal*, Tobi Ogundiran (Undertow)
- *Skin Thief*, Suzan Palumbo (Neon Hemlock)
- *Lost Places*, Sarah Pinsker (Small Beer)
- *The Best of Michael Swanwick, Volume Two*, Michael Swanwick (Subterranean)
- *The Best of Catherynne M. Valente, Volume One*, Catherynne M. Valente (Subterranean)

## ANTHOLOGY

- *The Best Science Fiction of the Year: Volume 7*, Neil Clarke, ed. (Night Shade)
- *Christmas and Other Horrors*, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Titan UK)
- *The Year's Best African Speculative Fiction (2022)*, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, & Eugen Bacon & Milton Davis, eds. (Caecic)
- *Never Whistle at Night*, Shane Hawk & Theodore C. Van Alst Jr., eds. (Vintage)
- *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2023*, R.F. Kuang & John Joseph Adams, eds. (Mariner)
- *Out There Screaming*, Jordan Peele & John Joseph Adams, eds. (Random House; Picador)
- *New Suns 2*, Nisi Shawl, ed. (Solaris UK)
- *The Book of Witches*, Jonathan Strahan, ed. (Harper Voyager US; Harper Voyager UK)
- *Mothersound: The Sauútiverse Anthology*, Wole Talabi, ed. (Android)
- *The Best of World SF: Volume 3*, Lavie Tidhar, ed. (Ad Astra)

## MAGAZINE

- *Analog*
- *Asimov's*
- *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*
- *Clarkesworld*
- *F&SF*
- *FIYAH*
- *khōréō*
- *Strange Horizons*
- *Tor.com*
- *Uncanny*

## PUBLISHER

- Angry Robot
- DAW
- Gollancz
- Neon Hemlock
- Orbit
- Small Beer
- Subterranean
- Tachyon
- Tor
- Tordotcom

## EDITOR

- Neil Clarke
- Ellen Datlow
- Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki
- Arley Sorg & Christie Yant
- Jonathan Strahan
- Lynne M. Thomas & Michael Damian Thomas
- Sheree René Thomas
- E. Catherine Tobler
- Ann VanderMeer

- Sheila Williams

## ARTIST

- Brom
- Rovina Cai
- Kinuko Y. Craft
- Julie Dillon
- Bob Eggleton
- Abigail Larson
- John Picacio
- Charles Vess
- Michael Whelan
- Alyssa Winans

## NON-FICTION

- *The Fiction Writer's Guide to Alternate History*, Jack Dann (Bloomsbury Academic)
- *42: The Wildly Improbable Ideas of Douglas Adams*, Kevin Jon Davies, ed. (Unbound UK)
- *Wish I Was Here: An Anti-Memoir*, M. John Harrison (Serpent's Tail; Saga 2024)
- *All These Worlds*, Niall Harrison (Briardene)
- *101 Horror Books to Read Before You're Murdered*, Sadie Hartmann (Page Street Publishing)
- *Space Crone*, Ursula K. Le Guin (Silver)
- *Ex Marginalia: Essays on Writing Speculative Fiction by Persons of Color*, Chinelo Onwualu, ed. (Hydra House)
- *A Traveller in Time: The Critical Practice of Maureen Kincaid Speller*, Maureen Kincaid Speller (Luna Press Publishing)
- *Owning the Unknown: A Science Fiction Writer Explores Atheism, Agnosticism, and the Idea of God*, Robert Charles Wilson (Pitchstone)
- *Being Michael Swanwick*, Alvaro Zinos-Amaro (Fairwood)

## ILLUSTRATED AND ART BOOK

- *The Culture: The Drawings*, Iain M. Banks (Orbit US; Orbit UK)
- *Home to Stay! The Complete Ray Bradbury EC Stories*, Ray Bradbury, adapted by Al Feldstein, art by Jack Davis, Frank Frazetta, Al Williamson, Wallace Wood, et al. (Fantagraphics)
- *The Pen & Ink Drawings of Tony DiTerlizzi*, Tony DiTerlizzi (self-published)
- *Spectrum Fantastic Art Quarterly, Volume Three*, Cathy Fenner & Arnie Fenner, eds. (Spectrum Fantastic Art)
- *The Fantastic Worlds of Frank Frazetta*, Dian Hanson, ed., art by Frank Frazetta (Taschen)
- *The Last Count of Monte Cristo*, Ayize Jama-Everett, art by Tristan Roach (Megascop)
- *Voyaging, Volume One: The Plague Star*, George R.R. Martin, art and adaptation by Raya Golden (Ten Speed Graphic)
- *Thalamus, Volumes 1 & 2: The Art of Dave McKean*, Dave McKean (Dark Horse)
- *Worlds Beyond Time: Sci-Fi Art of the 1970s*, Adam Rowe (Abrams)
- *Afrofuturism: A History of Black Futures*, Kevin M. Strait & Kinshasha Holman Conwill, eds. (Smithsonian)

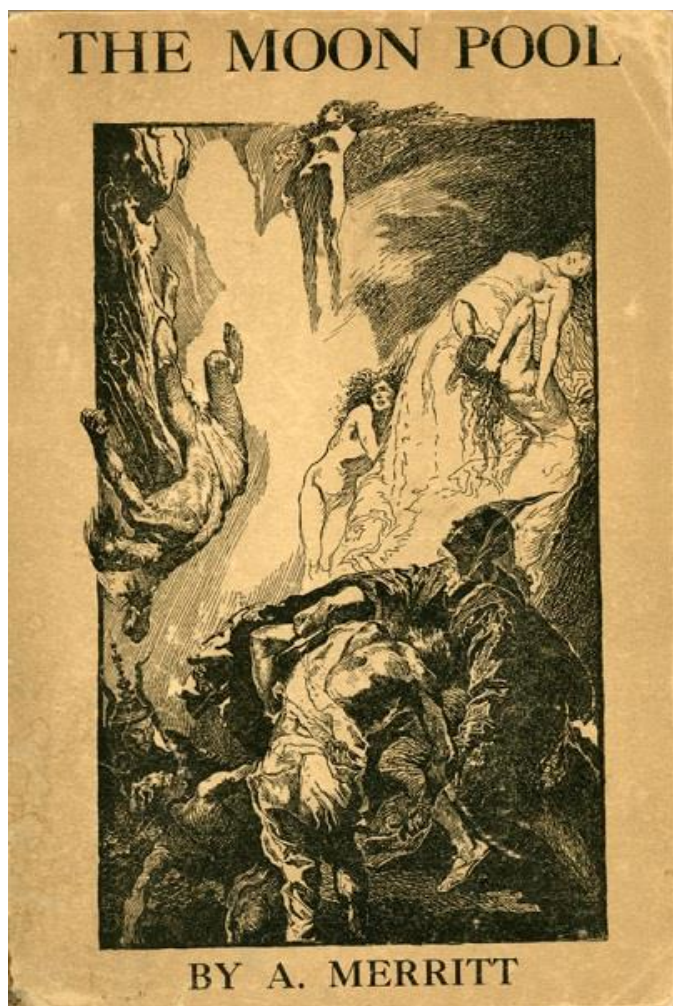
Winners will be announced during the Locus Awards Ceremony June 22, 2024. Henry Lien and Connie Willis will host the presentation at the historic Nile Hall at Preservation Park in Oakland, CA.





## A Flood of Praise for *The Moon Pool*

### Robert Jennings



In June, 1918, Abraham's Merritt's groundbreaking story "The Moon Pool" appeared in the June 22 issue of *All-Story Weekly Magazine*, creating a sensation among readers that the editorial staff had never anticipated. In fact, the cover of that issue didn't even mention the story title or its author, but it became apparent almost immediately that "The Moon Pool" was the highlight of that issue for an overwhelming majority of readers.

A flood of letters from readers poured into the Munsey editorial offices praising the story and asking when a sequel would appear. This in turn caused the editors to pressure Merritt to come up with another adventure in the same setting as soon as possible. Merritt was happy to oblige. A much longer tale titled "The Conquest of the Moon Pool" ran as a serial beginning in the February 15<sup>th</sup> 1919 issue. Again, the reader response was wildly enthusiastic.

Merritt immediately considered joining the stories together as a feature length novel. Based on the overwhelming reader reaction the magazine stories had received, G. Putnam's Sons rushed the novel into publication in late 1919, just in time for the Christmas season.

It is difficult to overestimate the impact this novel had on the world of science fiction/fantasy. It immediately established Merritt as one of the pillars of twentieth century stf writing, and created a sub-genre of mystical fantasy high adventure that has endured well into today's fantastic fiction.

Essentially a type of fantasy lost race story, the hero is Dr. Walter T. Goodwin, who encounters a strange race of beings who had developed within the earth's core. These beings evolved super science linked with cosmic metaphysical powers and created an offshoot embodying great powers for

good and equal powers for evil. Over the course of eons, selfish greed and egotism has caused this being to become almost purely evil. Originally referred to as The Shinning One, now he is most often referred to as The Dweller.

The Dweller periodically comes to the surface of the world where it captures men and women to be used as a sort of nourishment and a source of knowledge about the world beyond its realm. Goodwin and his pilot Larry O'Keefe trace the paths into the depths of the earth where they learn of the Dweller and encounter two beautiful women; forceful, evil Yolara who serves the Dweller, and Lakla, handmaiden of The Shinning Ones who is good and tries to counteract Yolara and thwart the plans of The Dweller.

Laka has an entourage of toad-like beings who obey her every command. Yolara commands an army of handsome, extremely strong dwarfs who somewhat physically resemble Polynesians. Both these women are infatuated with O'Keefe, and are determined to win him as their mate. A major battle breaks out in which the forces of The Dweller hope to invade the outside world and subjugate the entire human race to the evil dominance of The Dweller, a battle that may shake the entire cosmos.

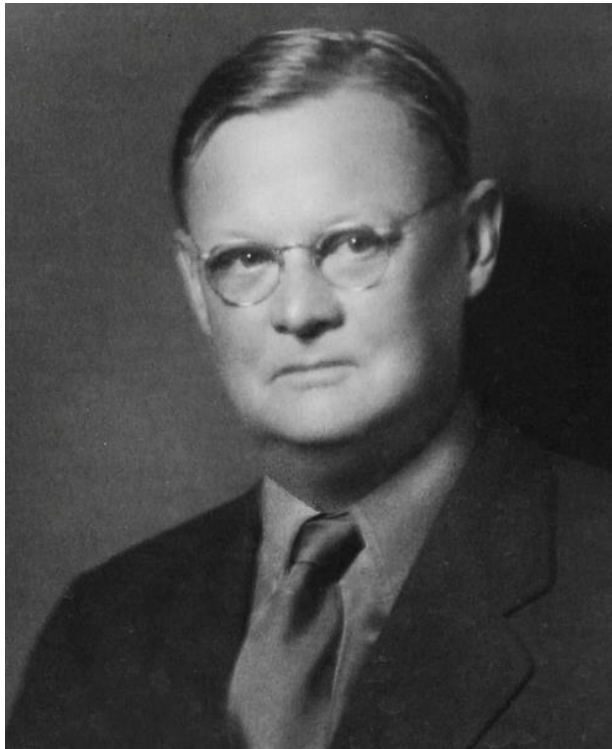
Lost Race stories were hot stuff in the world of stf during the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early third of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, pioneered by writers such as H. Ryder Haggard. What separated Merritt's writing from the other authors of the era was his extraordinary command of visual language. Using prose imagery that elapses the boundaries of the story itself, he established a dynamic written mastery that both enhances the story and also weaves an aura of ethereal weirdness that immediately creates an overwhelming exotic cocoon of other-worldliness: the very essence of sense-of-wonder style writing.

Abraham Grace Merritt was born in 1884 and originally aspired to become a lawyer. He studied law, but got sidelined into the world of journalism. He was a reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* when he suffered some sort of near-death experience that he refused to discuss the rest of his life, but it changed his entire career.

He got a job with Hearst publication *The American Weekly*, where his writing skills were immediately noticed. He could turn out folksy, down to earth homespun write-ups of family love and heroism, or exciting features about adventure and exploration in the far parts of the world, or lend realistic tension to articles about sports personalities or politicians.

He rapidly became an assistant editor of the magazine, where he wrote uncredited feature stories for the publication almost every week. For this work he was paid handsomely. He was earning \$24,000 a year in 1919, and his salary grew steadily so that by the time he took over as the fulltime editor of the publication in 1937 he was making \$100,000 a year (equivalent to \$2,200,000.00 in 2024 money).

His editorial position and his generous salary enabled him to pursue his interest in world travel, the occult, primitive anthropology, and the bizarre. He grew his own orchids, along with exotic plants that to be related to witchcraft or occult properties such as wolfbane and belladonna. He owned real estate in the Caribbean, and had a library of over 500 volumes considered to be one of the largest collections of books and publications about witchcraft and the occult in the entire United States.



He was also a hypochondriac who complained often and long about his various ailments, most of which did not exist, and he played multiple musical instruments. He kept an assortment of musical instruments in a closet in *The American Weekly* offices that he would take out from time to time and play for the office staff, ending all work until his impromptu concerts were finished. This kind of behavior along with his friendliness with everyone, and his fairness with editors and freelancers alike made him very popular with the magazine staff. He also reportedly hated to fire anyone no matter how badly the person had screwed up an assignment. He was always willing to give people a second, or even a third or fourth chance to make up for mistakes.

He was so busy writing and editing for the magazine, plus his travels and horticulture experiments, that he had not much time left over for writing fiction, which was a great source of frustration for his millions of fans. He was well aware of the adoration of science fiction/fantasy fans, who sent him letters telling him how much they loved his stories, sent him copies of their fanzines, and constantly asked when his next story would appear.

His comments appeared from time to time in selected fanzines during the 1930s, and in 1936 he may have contributed a chapter of the famous round-robin fantasy adventure *Cosmos* that was organized by Ray Palmer and written by famous science fiction

authors. (There are persistent rumors that Merritt took so long turning in his chapter that the actual story might have been written by Ray Palmer instead). Merritt also hired fan favorite artists Virgil Finlay and Hannes Bok to do regular illustrations for *The American Weekly*. Hannes Bok became a close friend, and when Merritt died in 1943 of a heart attack in his Florida vacation home, Bok completed Merritt's unfinished final novel *The Black Ship*.

Over the course of his career Merritt wrote a total of eight novels, most fantasy or science fiction and one *Seven Footprints to Satan* that was so close to the format that nobody seemed to bother separating it from his other output. He also wrote fourteen stand-alone short stories, and a lot of poetry. Most of the poetry was unearthed after his death by SF fan and researcher Sam Moskowitz who published it as a separate volume in 1985. In between writing new fiction, several of his novels were turned into feature length movies, with a few, such as *Burn, Witch, Burn* being filmed multiple times over the years.

Most of Merritt's fictional work originally appeared in Munsey publications. *All-Story Weekly* eventually merged with *Argosy*, and even tho Merritt was very slow to turn out new fiction, the Munsey editors, well aware of how popular his material was, made up for the long gaps between original works by reprinting his stories on a constant and regular

basis. The Munsey fantasy/SF magazines *Famous Fantastic Mysteries* and *Fantastic Novels* also reprinted every single Merritt story.



becomes the object of desire by the two women inside the hidden caverns beneath the earth emerges as pretty much a lunkhead, unable to believe things he sees with his own eyes and unwilling to accept the fantastic reality of the situation even as it unfolds. Dr. Goodwin is more human, but is reserved and eventually emerges as little more than a cardboard narrator for the adventure. But the writing itself, the way the story unfolds, the mystical counterparts and the overwhelming sense of eerie otherworldliness still holds strong and compelling more than a century after it was originally written.

*The Moon Pool* was a stroke of genius that established the reputation of A. Merritt, and directly affected the entire science fiction and fantasy genres. It was far from being Merritt's best story. *Burn, Witch, Burn*; *Creep, Shadow*; and *Dwellers in the Mirage* are far better plotted, better written, and certainly feature better characters. But *The Moon Pool* was the cornerstone that launched Merritt's fiction career. If you have never read this story, you should do so. Read it in paper format or read it at Project Gutenberg or at any of the other on-line sites where it is posted for free. And if you read this story a long time ago, pick it up again and reread it, and learn again what sparked that original sense of wonder, and why this story became a legend as soon as it was published.



In addition, after Better Publications bought out Munsey and turned *Argosy* into a men's slick-paper magazine, they established *A. Merritt's Fantasy Magazine* in 1949 that ran five issues. The Avon Books division of the Hearst publishing enterprise under the guidance of long-time fan Don Wolheim established the Avon Murder Mystery series of digest sized paperback books that reprint all of Merritt's stories despite none of them being murder mysteries. Avon reprinted all of Merritt's novels on a regular basis in paperback from the early 1950s thru the end of the 1980s, whereupon Carroll & Graf took over the franchise in the 1990s.

The influence of *The Moon Pool* in the world of science fiction was long and enduring. H.P. Lovecraft was heavily influenced by the novel and incorporated many of its plot elements into his own writings. Lovecraft openly praised Merritt in letters to friends and colleagues. Richard Shaver, creator of the so-called Shaver Mystery stories and hypothesis, was a long-time fan of Merritt, and often expressed his belief that the story elements in *The Moon Pool* were true, but Merritt was compelled to present the facts in the form of fiction. Shaver's own stories of underground caverns and the Deros, degenerate gnome-like creatures, was taken directly from the premises established in *The Moon Pool*.

Today *The Moon Pool* and all of Merritt's other fiction has fallen into public domain and can be read for free at Project Gutenberg and many other on-line free fiction sites. Many parts of the story appear hopelessly dated. Larry O'Keefe, the stalwart male figure who



Bob Jennings has been involved in fandom since the late 1950s, and is one of the original founding members of comics fandom, founding the SFPA and publishing hundreds of fanzines. From 1979 to 2000, Bob ran a science fiction/comics/game store, which is now all mail order. He's currently at work to develop a device that will zap robo-callers and internet spammers.

## Pubnites and Other Events

### Lloyd Penney (Toronto, ON, CAN)

#### THIRD MONDAY

May 20, 2024

The Red Cardinal Tavern

555 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Unit 102, in Etobicoke. It is at the north-west corner of Burnhamthorpe and The West Mall, right beside the Tim Horton's. There's plenty of parking out back, free after 5pm, and you can drive in to the parking from either street, although the Burnhamthorpe entrance is easier. If you are taking transit, you can take the 50 Burnhamthorpe bus from Islington station and get off at The West Mall, or the 112B or 112C West Mall bus from Kipling station and get off on the north side of Burnhamthorpe.

Start time is 6:30 and we have the back table area 4, 5 & 6.

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#### TORONTO PAGAN PUB MOOT

Third Monday of each month

Gatherings Resto Bar, 49 St. Clair Ave W.

For more info call Karen or Evan at 416-635-5981 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TorontoPaganPubMoot>

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#### OTHER EVENTS

This year, Lloyd and I will be attending the NASFiC (North American Science Fiction Interim Convention) in Buffalo, and the WFC (World Fantasy Convention) in Niagara Falls, NY. The purpose for our attendance will be to promote *Amazing Stories* Magazine and to raise funds for the magazine. In an effort to accomplish this, we would like copies of past *Amazing Stories* magazines to sell. (Other old pulp magazines would be great, too!)

We would like to ask all of you who may have copies or a collection of the older magazines if you would donate **DUPLICATES** that you may have. We ask that you do not break up any collections just to send old issues, so please keep your collections intact. If you are attending these conventions, please stop by for a chat. If you wish to submit a story, we can let you know how to do that.

#### THURSDAY NIGHT OF NONSENSE

Is the first Thursday of the month at the Fox and Fiddle at 27 Wellesley from 6PM -10ish.

We're a casual collection of sci-fi fans and friends who eat and have friendly discussion on any topic of interest. We encourage consideration of diverse opinions and intelligent debate that includes topics which are sometimes controversial. Our social media centre is currently a Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057256547793>) where people will find announcements of any special activities such as a book swap or a birthday celebration.

All newcomers welcome to just show up. For more info call Yvonne at 647-226-4249 before 10PM or email us at: [Penneys@bell.net](mailto:Penneys@bell.net)

See you there!!!

Yvonne ;-)




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**Got something to share with us? Send an e-mail to [mindyhunt@scifi4me.com](mailto:mindyhunt@scifi4me.com)**

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## 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.*

### June

June Adrienne Fein, 6/1/47; Mike Meara, 6/1/48; Allen Spencer Willey, 6/1/54; Lester del Rey, 6/2/15; Robert A. Madle, 6/2/20; Leigh Edmonds, 6/2/48; Lloyd Penney, 6/2/59; Warren Lapine, 6/2/64; Marion Zimmer Bradley, 6/3/30; John Norman, 6/3/31; Steve Schultheis, 6/4/30; Wendy Pini, 6/4/51; Noreen Shaw, 6/6/30; Ron Salomon, 6/6/48; Kit Reed, 6/7/42; Jon White, 6/7/46; John W. Campbell, Jr., 6/8/10; Robert F. Young, 6/8/15; Kate Wilhelm, 6/8/29; Roger Sims, 6/8/30; Elizabeth Lynn, 6/8/46; Leo R. Summers, Keith Laumer, 6/9/25; Lin Carter, 6/9/30; Joe Haldeman, 6/9/43; Drew Sanders, 6/9/49; Jim Glass, 6/9/51; Keith Berdak, 6/9/55; Ed Naha, 6/10/50.

Sylvia Stevens, 6/11/52; Galen Tripp, 6/11/59; Henry Slesar, 6/12/27; Alan Hershey, 6/13/17; Doreen Webbert, 6/13/34; Rebecca Henderson, 6/13/44; Stephen Tall (Compton Crook), 6/14/08; J.F. Bone, 6/15/16; Chandra Sargent, 6/15/53; Murray Leinster (Will F. Jenkins), 6/16/1896; Ted Dikty, 6/16/20; Ted Johnstone, 6/16/39; David Stever, 6/16; Wally Wood, 6/17/27; Sandy Cohen, 6/17/48; Phyllis Weinberg, 6/17/53; Richard Spelman, 6/18/31; Melissa Dougherty, 6/18/67; Robert Moore Williams, 6/19/07; Julius Schwartz, 6/19/15; Bruce Dane, 6/20/50.

William Tuning, 6/21/35; Sally Syrjala, 6/21/48; Mike Morman, 6/21/50; H. Rider Haggard, 6/22/1856; Octavia E. Butler, 6/22/47; John-Henri Holmberg, Lillian Stewart Carl, 6/22/49; Fred Hoyle, 6/24/15; Charles N. Brown, 6/24/37; Stephen Silverberg, 6/24/41; Earl Evers, 6/24/42; Susan Ellison, 6/24; John Maddox Roberts, 6/25/47; Hal Shapiro, 6/26/30; Charles Lee Jackson II, 6/26/50; James P. Hogan, 6/27/41; Tim Gatewood, 6/27/59; Joe Schaumburger, 6/28/30; Peggy Rae Pavlat, 6/28/44; Jon M. Gustafson, 6/28/45; Richard Harter, 6/29/35; David Mattingly, 6/29/56; Michael Whelan, 6/29/50; Sam Moskowitz, 6/30/20; Anie Linard, 6/30/29



*As Heath is working on new exciting ventures, the Gazette is looking for a volunteer to help compile and maintain the birthday list each month. If you're interested, please let us know!*



**READ  
MORE  
'ZINES!**

Eldritch Science  
FanActivity Gazette  
Films Fantastic  
Ionisphere  
Mangaverse

N'APA  
The National Fantasy Fan  
N3F Review of Books  
Origin  
Tightbeam

National Fantasy Fan Federation - [nfff.org](http://nfff.org)

# June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Flip a Coin Day
2 National Frozen Yogurt Day	3 World Bicycle Day	4 Old Maids Day	5 Hot Air Balloon Day	6 D-Day WWII	7 National VCR Day	8 Name Your Poison Day
9 Donald Duck Day	10 Ball Point Pen Day	11 National Corn On the Cob Day	12 National Jerky Day	13 Penguin Appreciation Day	14 Monkey Around Day	15 National Prune Day
16 Father's Day	17 Eat Your Vegetables Day	18 International Panic Day	19 National Kissing Day	20 Ice Cream Soda Day	21 Take Your Dog To Work Day	22 National Onion Ring Day
23 National Pink Day	24 Swim A Lap Day	25 National Catfish Day	26 National Canoe Day	27 Sun Glasses Day	28 Paul Bunyan Day	29 Waffle Iron Day
30 National Meteor Day						

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## RECENT BOOK LAUNCHES

Lloyd & Yvonne Penney

*The Dance: An Anthology of Speculative Fiction*, ed by Ira Nayman (May 11) - What would life be like if things had been different? Trying to answer this question, *The Dance* features stories that traverse multiple universes to explore the way our choices and fate affect the directions of our lives. Copies are available at <https://mybook.to/thedance>.

"... it'll blow your mind... remarkable anthology... you won't want to miss a single one of the... stories... in *The Dance*." ~ Paul Levinson, Author

*The Downloaded*, by Robert J. Sawyer (May 11) - In 2059 two very different groups have their minds uploaded into a quantum computer, astronauts and convicted murderers. When disaster strikes, the two groups have to download back into physical reality to save Earth.

"A triumph. Sci-fi fans will eat this up." -- PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (starred review, denoting a book of exceptional merit)

## JUNE CONVENTIONS & EVENTS

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 [SciFi4Me.com](http://SciFi4Me.com).

If you know of a local event, big or little, send us and email at [events@scifi4me.com](mailto:events@scifi4me.com) so we can add it and make it the most comprehensive conventions list on the internet.

### May 29 – June 2

Colossalcon – Sandusky, OH May 29-Jun 2  
 Narrativity – Plymouth, MN May 30-Jun 2  
 StokerCon – San Diego, CA May 30-Jun 2  
 Bugeater – Omaha, NE May 31-Jun 2  
 ConCarolinas – Charlotte, NC May 31-Jun 2  
 DieCon – Collinsville, IL May 31-Jun 1  
 DreamHack Dallas – Dallas, TX May 31-Jun 2  
 FunCon One – Buxton, United Kingdom May 31-Jun 2  
 Monsterpalooza – Pasadena, CA May 31-Jun 2  
 OffKai Expo – Burlingame, CA May 31-Jun 2  
 River City Steampunk Expo – Louisville, KY May 31-Jun 2  
 Spring Offensive – Burlington, NC May 31-Jun 2  
 StratosFur – Houston, TX May 31-Jun 2  
 Trek Long Island – Hauppauge, NY May 31-Jun 2  
 UK Games Expo – Birmingham, United Kingdom May 31-Jun 2  
 Vampire Fan Weekend – Charlotte, NC May 31-Jun 2  
 3 Rivers Comicon – Pittsburg, PA Jun 1-2  
 Anime Riverside – Riverside, CA Jun 1-2  
 Bak-Anime – Bakersfield, CA Jun 1-2  
 Brickfest Live Columbia – Columbia, SC Jun 1-2  
 Brickfest Live Indianapolis – Indianapolis, IN Jun 1-2  
 Chibi-Con – Winterthur, Switzerland Jun 1-2  
 Durham Brick Convention – Durham, NC Jun 1-2  
 EpicCon Russia– St Petersburg, Russia Jun 1-2  
 Fantasticon – Copenhagen, Denmark Jun 1-2  
 KimoKawaii – Conroe, TX Jun 1-2  
 Leeds Anime & Gaming Con – Leeds, United Kingdom Jun 1-2  
 Lilac City Comicon – Spokane, WA Jun 1-2  
 Nashville Comicon – Nashville, TN Jun 1-2  
 Oz Comic Con Adelaide – Adelaide, Southern Australia, Australia Jun 1-2  
 West Texas Comic Con – Lubbock, TX Jun 1-2  
 WonderFest – Louisville, KY Jun 1-2  
 Animangapop Cardiff – Cardiff, United Kingdom Jun 1  
 AugustaCon – Augusta, GA Jun 1  
 CORGS-Con – Columbus, OH Jun 1  
 Glasgow Comic Con – Glasgow, United Kingdom Jun 1  
 Illinois Game Con – Bloomington, IL Jun 1

North Dallas Toy Show – Plano, TX Jun 1  
 Nottingham Brick Festival – Nottingham, United Kingdom Jun 1  
 Pikeville Comic & Toy Convention – Pikeville, KY Jun 1  
 Quad City Con Oshkosh – Oshkosh, WI Jun 1  
 Steampunk Alchemy Fest – Hackettstown, NJ Jun 1  
 Trenton Comicon – Trenton, Ontario, Canada Jun 1  
 Watford Comic Con – Watford, United Kingdom Jun 1  
 Capital Trade Show – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Jun 2  
 Cleveland Comic Book & Nostalgia Show – Cleveland, OH Jun 2  
 Japan Fest Mansfield – Mansfield, United Kingdom Jun 2  
 LA Comic Art Show – Redondo Beach, CA Jun 2  
 New Haven Comic & Collectible Spectacular – New Haven, CT Jun 2  
 Oshawa Comicon – Oshawa, Ontario, Canada Jun 2  
 Wayne NJ Toy Show – Wayne, NJ Jun 2

### June 6 – 9

Atlanta Game Fest – Atlanta, GA Jun 6-9  
 Fairford Festival of Fiction – Fairford, United Kingdom Jun 6-9  
 Northern Michigan FurCamp – Traverse City, MI Jun 6-9  
 North Texas RPG Con – Irving, TX Jun 6-9  
 Anime Blues Con – Memphis, TN Jun 7-9  
 AnimeCon – Rotterdam, Netherlands Jun 7-9  
 Arkansas Anime Festival – Bentonville, AR Jun 7-9  
 Bayou Wars – D'Iberville, MS Jun 7-9  
 Fan Expo Dallas – Dallas, TX Jun 7-9  
 Living Dead Weekend – Monroeville, PA Jun 7-9  
 Midwest Haunters Convention – Rosemont, IL Jun 7-9  
 Niagara Falls Comic Con – Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada Jun 7-9  
 SaltCon Summer – Layton, UT Jun 7-9  
 SCG Con Las Vegas – Las Vegas, NV Jun 7-9  
 Sci-Fi Valley Con – Pittsburgh, PA Jun 7-9  
 The Road So Far...The Road Ahead Creation Tour – Columbus, OH Jun 7-9  
 Cogs & Corsets – Bloomington, IL Jun 7-8  
 East Coast Comic Expo – Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada Jun 7-8  
 Brick Fest Live Hampton – Hampton, VA Jun 8-9  
 Brick Fest Live Portland – Portland, OR Jun 8-9  
 Chaosium Con – Melbourne, Victoria, Australia Jun 8-9  
 Em-Con – Nottingham, United Kingdom Jun 8-9  
 Nococon – Watertown, NY Jun 8-9  
 Oz Comic Con Melbourne – Melbourne, Victoria, Australia Jun 8-9  
 Smoky Mountain Terror – Kingsport, TN Jun 8-9  
 SoCal Gaming Expo – Pasadena, CA Jun 8-9  
 Annandale Comic Book & Non Sports Card Show – Annandale, VA Jun 8  
 Boston Kids Comic Fest – Chestnut Hill, MA Jun 8  
 Dover Comic Con – Dover, DE Jun 8  
 Exeter Brick Festival – Exeter, United Kingdom Jun 8  
 The Great Prop Swap – San Diego, CA Jun 8  
 Kauai Comic Convention – Lihue, HI Jun 8  
 Powerhouse Comic Con – Antioch, CA Jun 8  
 Quad Con Burlington – Burlington, IA Jun 8  
 SWFL Space Con – Fort Myers, FL Jun 8



Tampa Bay Toy & Comic Expo– Tampa, FL Jun 8  
 Albany Comic Con – Albany, NY Jun 9  
 Clandestine Comic Book Show– Laurel, MD Jun 9  
 Doncaster Brick Festival – Doncaster, United Kingdom Jun 9  
 Quad Con Springfield – Springfield, IL Jun 9  
 Utica Anime-Fest– Utica, NY Jun 9

### June 13 – 16

4th Street Fantasy – Minneapolis, MN Jun 14-16  
 Anime Marathon – Konigslutter, Germany Jun 14-16  
 Armageddon Expo – Auckland, New Zealand Jun 14-16  
 Brass Screw Consortium – Port Townsend, WA Jun 14-16  
 Duke City Comic Con – Albuquerque, NM Jun 14-16  
 Fan Expo Boston– Boston, MA Jun 14-16  
 Orlando Card Party– Orlando, FL Jun 14-16  
 Game Con Canada– Edmonton, Alberta, Canada Jun 14-16  
 Gaming Istanbul– Istanbul, Turkey Jun 14-16  
 Heroes Con – Charlotte, NC Jun 14-16  
 OMG! Con – Owensboro, KY Jun 14-16  
 Orlando Card Party – Orlando, FL Jun 14-16  
 PopCon Louisville – Louisville, KY Jun 14-16  
 Pyrkon – Poznan, Poland Jun 14-16  
 Scintillation – Montreal, Quebec, Canada Jun 14-16  
 Bigfoot Con– Weyers Cave, VA Jun 14-15  
 AnimeCon Birmingham– Birmingham, United Kingdom Jun 15-16  
 Brick Fest Live Cleveland– Cleveland, OH Jun 15-16  
 Cosplay World– Richmond, VA Jun 15-16  
 Desert Hawks Comic Con– Odessa, TX Jun 15-16  
 GeekCraft Expo PDX – Portland, OR Jun 15-16  
 HellmouthCon– Torrance, CA Jun 15-16  
 Indonesia Anime Con– Tangerang Banten Indonesia Jun 15-16  
 Oddities & Curiosities Expo – Toronto, Ontario, Canada Jun 15-16  
 Quad Con Davenport – Davenport, IA Jun 15-16  
 Rhode Island Anime Con – Providence, RI Jun 15-16  
 Saline County Comic Expo – Benton, AR Jun 15-16  
 Space Coast Comic Con – Melbourne, FL Jun 15-16  
 Wie.MAI.KAI – Florsheim am Main, Germany Jun 15-16  
 YetiCon – The Blue Mountains, Ontario, Canada Jun 15-16  
 Bavarian Furdance– Nurnberg, Germany Jun 15  
 Comicverse – Appleton, WI Jun 15  
 Finn-Con– Miami, FL Jun 15  
 Kingston Comicon– Kingston, Ontario, Canada Jun 15  
 Oxford Brick Festival – Oxford, United Kingdom Jun 15  
 Forest City Comic Con – London, Ontario, Canada Jun 16  
 Leeds Comic-Con – Leeds, United Kingdom Jun 16  
 London Film Fair – London, United Kingdom Jun 16  
 Peterborough Brick Festival – Peterborough, United Kingdom Jun 16  
 Peterborough Comicon – Peterborough, Ontario, Canada Jun 16

**June 19 – 23**

Orgins Game Fair – Columbus, OH Jun 19-23  
Haunted America Conference – Alton, IL Jun 20-23  
International Horror Hotel Film Festival and Convention – Cleveland, OH Jun 20-23  
Superhero Car Show & Comic Con – San Antonio, TX Jun 20-23  
Anime Festival Wichita – Wichita, KS Jun 21-23  
Anime Ohio – Sharonville, OH Jun 21-23  
Black Hills Con– Rapid City, SD Jun 21-23  
Cosplay America – Cary, NC Jun 21-23  
Hazard Con – Erie, PA Jun 21-23  
JAFAX – Allendale Charter Township, MI Jun 21-23  
JoeFest Toy and Comic Convention – Augusta, GA Jun 21-23  
LibertyCon – Chattanooga, TN Jun 21-23  
Moon City Con – Springfield, MO Jun 21-23  
Ranger Stop Pop Con Atlanta – Atlanta, GA Jun 21-23  
SoonerCon – Norman, OK Jun 21-23  
SunnyCon Anime Expo – Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom Jun 21-23  
Vampire Fan Weekend – Whippany, NJ Jun 21-23  
Washington State Summer Con – Puyallup, WA Jun 21-23  
Anime El Paso– El Paso, TX Jun 22-23  
Bold Matsuri– Jacksonville, FL Jun 22-23  
Collect-a-Con– Kansas City, MO Jun 22-23  
Garden State Comic Fest – Morristown, NJ Jun 22-23  
Kelowna Comic Con– Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada Jun 22-23  
Mississippi Comic Con – Jackson, MS Jun 22-23  
Oddities & Curiosities Expo – Providence, RI Jun 22-23  
Rail City Fan Fest – Saint Albans, VT Jun 22-23  
Rochester Parafest– Rochester, NY Jun 22-23  
Sinister Creature Con– Sacramento, CA Jun 22-23  
Shenanicon– Parsippany, NJ Jun 22-23  
SugoiPopCon– Fishkill, NY Jun 22-23  
Supernova Comic Con & Gaming– Sydney, New South Wales, Australia Jun 22-23  
Birmingham Brick Festival – Birmingham, United Kingdom Jun 22  
Bowmanville Comicon– Bowmanville, Ontario, Canada Jun 22  
Game Con– Archbold, OH Jun 22  
Hutch Comic Con– Hutchinson, KS Jun 22  
Stars of Time Film & Comic Con – Swindon, United Kingdom Jun 22  
Vancouver Retro Gaming Expo – Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada Jun 22  
Akron-Summit Comic Con– Tallmadge, OH Jun 23  
Belleville Comicon– Belleville, Ontario, Canada Jun 23  
London Comic Mart – London, United Kingdom Jun 23  
Trafford Comic Con – Trafford, United Kingdom Jun 23

**June 26 – 30**

VidCon – Anaheim, CA Jun 26-29  
PortConMaine – Portland, ME Jun 27-30  
Rebel Scum Con– Dallas, TX Jun 27-30  
TrekFest– Riverside, IA Jun 27-29  
Cleveland Brick Convention– Dallas, TX Jun 27-28

Akai Con– Lebanon, TN Jun 28-30  
 Anime Festival Orlando – Orlando, FL Jun 28-30  
 Dokomi – Dusseldorf, Germany Jun 28-30  
 Ecchi Expo Anime– \*Dallas, TX Jun 28-30  
 Fairy Blossom Festival – Monroe, WA Jun 28-30  
 Horror On Main– Harrisburg, PA Jun 28-30  
 Invasion – Birmingham, United Kingdom Jun 28-30  
 Nickel City Con – Buffalo, NY Jun 28-30  
 OCon Expo – Omaha, NE Jun 28-30  
 Planet Funk Con– Davenport, IA Jun 28-30  
 RAGECON – Reno, NV Jun 28-30  
 Super MegaFest – Natick, MA Jun 28-30  
 The Road So Far...The Road Ahead Creation Tour – \*Bellevue, WA Jun 28-30  
 Too Many Games– Philadelphia, PA Jun 28-30  
 Tampa Bay Screams– Tampa Bay, FL Jun 28-29  
 X-Files Fan Fest– Saratoga Springs, NY Jun 28-29  
 London Film Fair – London, United Kingdom Jun 28  
 BrickUniverse – Raleigh, NC Jun 29-30  
 Hershey Comic Con – Hershey, PA Jun 29-30  
 Kotae Expo– Tampere, Finland Jun 29-30  
 Norwich Anime & Gaming Con – Norwich, United Kingdom Jun 29-30  
 Supernova Comic Con & Gaming – Perth, Western Australia, Australia Jun 29-30  
 Undiscovered Realm Comic Con– Westchester, NY Jun 29-30  
 Midwest Comic Book Con Madison – Madison, WI Jun 29  
 Quiet Corner Sci-Fi & Comic Experience– Pomfret, CT Jun 29  
 San Fernando Valley Comic Book Convention – North Hollywood, CA Jun 29  
 Weston Brick Festival – Weston, United Kingdom Jun 29  
 Huntsvillecon – Huntsville, AL Jun 30  
 Midwest Comic Book Con St Louis – Collinsville, IL Jun 30

*Cosplacon, located in Jefferson City MO, has shut down after ten years of operation. While they don't give reasons for the decision, it likely has been impacted by the financial burden that has taken down several events post-pandemic. The July 2023 event was the tenth and final.*



**We welcome your feedback!**

If you have comments, suggestions, or articles to share please send an e-mail to [mindyhunt@scifi4me.com](mailto:mindyhunt@scifi4me.com) or [jphunt@scifi4me.com](mailto:jphunt@scifi4me.com) and let us know how we're doing!

Thank you for taking the time to read and respond.

