

BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#434

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BOULDER FOX ~ MASTER OF CAMOUFLAGE!

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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C 1J6. *BCSFazine* solicits electronic submissions and black-and-white line illustrations in JPG, GIF, BMP, or PSD format, and offers printed contributor's copies as long as the club budget allows.

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This Month in BCSFA

- Sunday 5 July @ 8 p.m.: **Discordian/Royal Swiss Navy/Garth Spencer's Evil Mad Scientist Conspiracy meeting** at the Grind Gallery and Café, 4124 Main Street and King Edward in Vancouver. Bring your favourite crank theories and pet prank projects.
- Thursday 9 July @ 7 p.m.: **July book discussion** at the Grind Gallery & Café. Book to be discussed will be *Saturn's Children* by Charles Stross.
- Friday 17 July: **BCSFazine deadline**—see Felicity's contact information in the indicia above.
- Saturday 18 July @ 7 p.m.: **BCSFA meeting/party**—at Philip Freeman's residence—7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond. Phone 604-277-0845 for directions.
- Friday 31 July: **BCSFazine production.**

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
Brad Foster.....	Cover
Felicity Walker.....	Page 13

Editorial

Some friends and I recently watched the entire *Battletech* animated series. Its setting and story are interesting and fun. It's too bad the artwork wasn't better. Either high-quality 1980s American/Japanese animation like *GI Joe* or runchable, solidly-designed limited animation like Hanna-Barbera's *Super-Friends* would have been fine. When the series first aired in 1994, its computer-animated mech battle sequences looked primitive compared to the then-standard of the medium, but 15 years later, when there's less subjective difference between 1990 and 1994, the computer animation doesn't seem as out of place.

A couple of months ago I finally gave in and started a Twitter account (<http://twitter.com/felicity4771>). You might remember Twitter from the Book View Café items in “News-Like Matter.” For those not familiar: Twitter was originally designed as a social networking tool with which users would write status updates (“tweets”) about their location and activities, but it has since become more like a blog with a strict 140-character limit on each post; users show off epigrams, carry on conversations, and post links to outside content of interest—either their own or something they've found. One major appeal of Twitter is that great or celebrated individuals seem to be willing to reply to fans who write to them on Twitter. Examples include radio broadcaster, comedy writer, and actor [Phil Hendrie](#), *Mystery Science Theater 3000*'s [Michael J. Nelson](#) and [Kevin Murphy](#), and *Daily Show* correspondent and cult nerd hero [John Hodgman](#). You can also follow creators such as [Robert J. Sawyer](#), [Douglas Coupland](#), or [Al Yankovic](#), who use Twitter but don't reply to the public. Not all Twitter users are human: you can also read the thoughts of [a cat](#), [an anus](#), or [a comic strip character](#).

Zines Received

‘Opuntia’ 67.1F

Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Available for \$3 cash for a one-time sample copy, trade for your zine, or letter of comment. Reviews of books: *Investing in Gold* by Jonathan Spall (gold); *College Days* and *Too Much College* by Stephen Leacock, *Wilt* by Tom Sharpe, *Moo* by Jane Smiley, and *High Spirits* and *The Lyre of Orpheus* by Robertson Davies (university life); *Small World* by David Lodge (academic conferences); and *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley (mystery with stamp-collecting content).

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

From: **Lloyd Penney**
1706-24 Eva Rd.,
Etobicoke, ON
M9C 2B2
penneys@allstream.net

Wednesday 10 June 2009

Dear Felicity:

Time to respond to another *BCSFazine*, and with some luck, this response to issue 433 might even make sense. If not, it won't make much of a dent in the IN box.

Yes, I like the idea of having virtual adventures by being beamed into a remote pattern buffer, and possibly living a lifetime before being beamed out to resume the actual life you have. Such experiences you could have, and still have a lifetime to enjoy. Subjective time could be conquered. It's fun to discuss SFnal ideas, isn't it? Exercises the leetle grey cells. Some of the shows on television more accurately show that even with the characters we've grown to love and respect, or despise, they are not all white or black, but various shades of grey.

My LOC...Anime North has come and gone, and even not being an anime fan, I had a good time. Not every bit of merchandise in the dealers' room was anime, hurray for that, and the steampunk fashion show was a very good time. If we have ever wondered where our successors have gotten to, they do not come to science fiction conventions, they come to anime conventions. Attendance was estimated at about 17,000. Yvonne and I spent most of our time helping out at the Ad Astra fan table, plus the Astronomicon table (annual convention in Rochester, New York). About half the attendees were in costume, and many of those costumes were anime-style skimpy, which provided an awful lot of eye candy for everyone.

[I felt the same way about Anime Evolution 2003. I haven't been an anime fan since the early 1990s, but there was other fun to be had.]

I met the organizer of the Central Canada Comic Con at Anime North...he said that this was the 13th convention of the year for him, promoting CCCC. I hope he makes the convention work. The *Trek* movie continues to do well in the box office, and I think I read it was the first movie of 2009 to cross the \$100 million box office barrier. I've wanted to see it a second time, but there's never enough time to do it. Besides, I want to see the new Pixar movie *Up!*

Wish I could have gone to the Seattle Corflu, but I felt a little on the outside looking in at the Corflu in Las Vegas last year. By extension, I'd like to go to Corflu Cobalt in Winchester, England next year, but that won't happen, unless 6/49 burdens me with untold wealth.

June 2 was my 50th birthday, and I have decided to grow old disgracefully. Got to have something to look forward to. Our next convention will be in about a month; Polaris 23 should be a good time. Again, we will have a table to sell assorted goodies culled from our collection.

All done, and I think that's enough for the moment. I am having some computer problems at home, so good thing I have a Gmail account to fall back upon.

[I'm finding Hotmail unreliable, so my Gmail address is now my primary e-mail address.]

Take care, off this goes to you and my LJ, and see you soon. Have a great summer, everyone.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

From: **Garth Spencer**
garthspencer@shaw.ca

Sunday 14 June 2009

Dear Guys,

I have been thinking about writing a ConComCon 16 report for *BCSFazine* or *The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette* or whoever else is interested, but what I absorbed is kind of sketchy. Didn't see anyone from Reno at all. Did see people from Seattle, but I myself have little idea of the current status of SWOC.

I did notice that the 2010 ConComCon will be held at the SeaTac Marriott, a hotel venue experienced in hosting SF conventions. This is the bid put forward by Danielle Stephens of VCon, and James Stringer of RainFurthest. They were talking about offering memberships on the order of \$40, which would be \$10 less than Bobbie Dufault's bid proposed, but would remain a flat rate for the whole year leading up to ConComCon 17.

(Since I don't have a passport I suppose I will have to get one before I can go to another US convention. Probably the ConComCon 17 website will have a link to the cross-border information online.)

Yours,
Garth Spencer
Vancouver, BC

Calendar

Note to print readers: underlined events have an associated URL. Links included in the PDF version at <http://www.efanzines.com/BCSFA/>.

July 2009

1 July 2009: “Multiple fan groups are having a joint entry in the North Shore Canada Day Parade. Participating groups (so far) are BIFF, *Star Trek* Vancouver, the 13th Colony, the Vancouver *Stargate* Meetup Group, and VCON. To join the contingent or volunteer in other ways, please see the discussion at: <http://www.facebook.com/1/>; <http://arowlf.ning.com/events/north-shore-canada-day-parade>.”—Keith Lim

1 July 2009: “[BC Renaissance Festival](#) will be at the Steveston Salmon Festival.”—Keith Lim

2–5 July 2009: FiestaCon/Westercon 62 at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. Guests of Honor: Artist Todd Lockwood; Author Alan Dean Foster; Editor Stanley Schmidt; Fans Jim & Doreen Webbert; TMs Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden. Rooms (1-800-547-8705, booking code 2T80CO) range from \$119/nite S/D to \$139 Queen. Memberships range from \$30 supporting to \$70 full attending. Write: FiestaCon c/o Leprecon, Inc., PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285, telephone (480) 945-6890 (24-hour home office), e-mail info@fiestacon.org, or see <http://www.fiestacon.org>.

4 July 2009: Third annual [International Free Hugs Day](#). [Reported by Julian Castle]

5 July 2009: [Vancouver Comicon](#). 11 am to 5 pm, Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver, BC. Special Guests: Joshua Middleton (*Superman/Shazam! First Thunder*, *Supergirl*, *Fables*, *NYX*), Rusty Beach (*Outnumbered*), Ken Boesem (*The Village*), Robin Bougie (*Cinema Sewer*), Kelly Everaert (*Jungle Tales*, *Trilogy of Terror*), Andrew Salmon (*Secret Agent X*), Robin Thompson (*Champions of Hell*, *Hemp Island*), Verne Andru, Richard Forg, Heather Frayne, Lydia Fu, Mary Karaplis, Donald King, Carrie McKay, Beth Wagner. Dealer Tables: \$50/centre; \$60/wall. Admission: \$4.00. Kids under 14: free. For more information visit <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact Leonard Wong at lswong@uniserve.com or 604-322-6412.

5 July 2009: Steveston Writers’ Group at 9:30 a.m. at the Alegria Café, 11251 First Avenue, Richmond. For more information contact Gordon Kibble at north_star_mariner@shaw.ca.

8 July 2009: Aaron Harrison's birthday.

17–19 July 2009: BC RenFest 2009, probably at Aldor Acres. Keep watching <http://www.bcrenfest.com>.

17 July 2009: premiere of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

20 July 2009: Julie McGalliard's birthday.

28 July 2009: Adam Charlesworth and Robin Bougie's birthdays.

31 July 2009: Felicity Walker's birthday.

31 July–2 August 2009: [SpoCon](#)—Spokane, Washington (general SF).

August 2009

6–10 August 2009: Anticipation (67th Worldcon), Palais des congrès de Montreal, Montreal, Canada. GOH Neil Gaiman, Elisabeth Vonarburg, Taral Wayne, David Hartwell, Tom Doherty. Contact CP 105, Succursale NDG, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H4A 3P4. Author Julie Czerneda will be Master of Ceremonies. Artist GOH announced: Ralph Bakshi. Memberships now Can55/\$US55/£30/€35 supp; discounts for site selection voters, presupporters, etc. See <http://www.anticipationsf.ca/>, e-mail: media@anticipationsf.ca or write to: Anticipation—The 67th World Science Fiction Convention, PO Box 105, Station NDG, Montréal, Québec, H4A 3P4.

7–9 August 2009: [Fandemonium](#)—Boise, Idaho (general SF, media and more).

15 August 2009: Fourth annual Vancouver [Zombie Walk](#). Gather at the Vancouver Art Gallery early afternoon. After-parties at various clubs including Club 23. [Reported by Ashton Green]

16 August 2009: [Voltaire](#) concert. [Reported by Ashton Green]

21–23 August 2009: Con-Version 25 in Calgary, Alberta. Hotel venue has been confirmed: the Metropolitan Centre, AKA “The Met,” FKA Calgary Place Cinemas, 333 4 Avenue SW, Calgary; phone 403-266-3876. Guests of Honour are Terry Brooks and Tanya Huff. See <http://www.con-version.org>.

23 August 2009: Comix & Stories, a day of alternative & small press comics, zines, artwork & culture. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver, BC. Creators and publishers in attendance (as of 6/13/09): Kate Beaton (*Hark! A Vagrant*), David Boswell (*Reid Fleming, World's Toughest*

Milkman), Steve Rolston (*Emiko Superstar*), Verne Andru, Robin Bougie (*Cinema Sewer*), Jesse Davidge (*Mathemagick and Mystiphsysics*), Susan Ferguson (*Antic Comics*), James Lloyd (*Other Stuff*), Mike Myhre (*Space Jet*), Simon Roy (*Jan's Atomic Heart*), Jason Turner (*True Loves*), New Reliable Press. Creator Tables: \$30. Publisher tables: \$60. Admission: \$4.00. For more information, contact Leonard Wong at ls Wong@uniserve.com or 604-322-6412.

September 2009

Labour Day Weekend: 3-Day Novel Contest by Anvil Press in Vancouver.

4–7 September 2009: The North American Discworld Convention at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona; a celebration of Terry Pratchett's series. GOH: Terry Pratchett, with Diane Duane, Peter Morwood, and Esther Friesner; more guests TBA. Rooms 1-800-547-8705, booking code 2TC4Y9) range from \$119/nite S/D to \$139 Queen. Memberships range from \$30 supporting to \$80 full attending; pay online with PayPal. Write North American Discworld Convention 2009, c/o Leprecon, Inc., PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285, telephone (480) 945-6890 (24-hour home office), or e-mail info@nadwcon.org. For more information see <http://www.nadwcon.org>.

4–7 September 2009: [Valhallacon 2009](#): Where Heroic VikingCons Go When They Die, Bellingham Airport Hampton Inn. With Nancy Kress. [Reported by Garth Spencer]

October 2009

2–4 October 2009: VCon 34 at the Marriott Pinnacle in downtown Vancouver. GOHs: Author Tanya Huff, ArtGOH Miles Tweet (SF and fantasy film illustrator). Hotel: [Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown](#), 1128 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6E 4R5, telephone: +1-604-684-1128, toll free: +1-800-207-4150, fax: +1-604-298-1128. Contact information for VCon: Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, BC V5N 5W1; phone: (778) 230-1605; website: <http://www.vcon.ca>.

3 October 2009: [24 Hour Comics Day \(24HCD\)](#). An annual event that started in 2004 “where cartoonists around the world each try to create 24 pages of comics in 24 hours...To help these cartoonists, some [organizations] will host special 24 Hour Comics Day events.” Locations to be determined. [Reported by Julian Castle]

23–25 October 2009: Steamcon at the SeaTac Marriott in Seattle, WA. A convention celebrating “steampunk” (DIY technology-tweaking, but set in the Victorian mechanical age). Writer GOH: Tim Powers (e.g. *The Anubis Gates*, *The*

Stress of Her Regard, On Stranger Tides). For more information see <http://www.steam-con.com>.

30 October–1 November 2009: Central Canada Comic Con (C⁴). Winnipeg Convention Centre, 375 York Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba. GOH Adam West. Julie Newmar, Dirk Benedict, Peter Mayhew, Marv Wolfman, Ivan Brandon, Ken Steacy, Marcus To, and Gordon Purcell. Batmobile photo ops, 60,000 sq. ft. of exhibitors, video rooms, anime rooms, 15,000 sq. ft. of gaming, costume contests, programming, workshops, and over 75 art and comic guests. Weekend pass \$20, Saturday only \$12, Sunday only \$10. For more updates see cccomiccon.com.

November 2009

19 November 2009: Ashton Green's birthday.

27–29 November 2009: [Orycon 31](#)—Portland, Oregon (general SF and the quintessential SF convention in Oregon).

News-Like Matter

Steveston Writers' Group

The next meeting of the Steveston Writers' Group is Sunday, July 5 at 9:30 a.m. at the Alegria Cafe, 11251 First Avenue [Richmond] between Moncton and Chatham Streets. It's a critique-type group so consider bringing a manuscript for constructive feedback.

More information? Don't ask me! I won't answer. Contact Gordon Kibble at north_star_mariner@shaw.ca.

Bill Marles
Sunday 31 May 2009

Radford Twitter Fic Contest at BookViewCafé.com

To celebrate the latest book release from member author, Phyllis Radford, BookViewCafé.com (BVC) will be holding their second Twitter fic contest June 3rd through June 5th. Radford will be joined by BVC members Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff and Madeleine Robins to judge the entries. First prize will be an autographed copy of Radford's book, *Faery Moon*. Second prize will be an autographed chapbook of P.R. Frost's short story "Alien Voices."

Rules are online at <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/BVC-Twitter-Fic-Contest-2>.

The contest will be held at BVC's Twitter site: <http://twitter.com/bookviewcafe/>.

BVC's wildly successful first Twitter fic contest was held in April in celebration of member Pati Nagle's release of *The Betrayal*.

Faery Moon, a Tess Noncoire Adventure by P.R. Frost, is available now from DAW. Order from Powells or Wy'East Book Shoppe and Art Gallery (<http://www.wyeast-online.com/>).

Visit Radford's bookshelf at: <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/Phyllis-Irene-Radford/>.

Sue Lange
Tuesday 2 June 2009

CUFF Voting Now Open

Hello,

I'm writing to announce that nominations for this year's Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF) delegate are closed, and that following an unfortunate delay caused by difficulties with the code I wrote for the ballot website, voting can now begin.

CUFF provides for a Canadian SF fan to travel to the current year's Convention, or Canadian National SF Convention. This year's Convention coincides with Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, being held in Montreal from August 6-10.

This year, there is only one nominee—LeAmber Kensley, of Winnipeg, Manitoba. However, we are still required to vote on whether to name LeAmber as this year's CUFF delegate, or to carry the funds forward to 2010.

There is a \$5 fee to vote; this fee will be deposited into the CUFF bank account, from which it will be sent to the successful delegate in order that they may travel to this year's Convention. For those who may be concerned about PayPal fees, I will personally undertake to pay those fees myself. So vote early and vote often!

The ballot is available online at <http://www.webbspace.ca/cuff/ballot.php>, and will remain online until June 16, after which I will announce the results. That gives everyone two weeks to vote—I know it's not much time, and again, I apologize.

I would like to publicly acknowledge Kristopher Webb, who graciously offered to host the website with this year's ballot and also helped with debugging the interface to PayPal. Thanks, Kris!

Regards,
Lance Sibley
2008 CUFF Delegate

Forwarded by Garth Spencer
Tuesday 2 June 2009

Book View Café Adds Judith Tarr to Line-Up

Book View Café (<http://www.bookviewcafe.com>) is pleased to announce the addition of Judith Tarr to the roster of authors presenting work for free at its website. Tarr will be the second new author Book View Café has invited since its initial launch last November. Alma Alexander was added in May.

Tarr is the author of numerous fantasy and historical novels and stories including *The Hound and the Falcon* trilogy, World Fantasy Nominee *Lord of the Two Lands*, and most recently *Queen of the Amazons* and *Bring Down the Sun*. She also writes as Caitlin Brennan (*The Mountain's Call* and sequels from LUNA) and Kathleen Bryan (*The Serpent and the Rose* and sequels from Tor).

Tarr's first offering at Book View Café will be her short story, "Classical Horses," which [was] posted on Wednesday, June 10. "Classical Horses" was first published in the 1991 DAW anthology, *Horse Fantastic*, edited by Martin and Rosalind Greenberg.

Visit Judith Tarr's Bookshelf at Book View Café: <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/Judith-Tarr-ss-Bookshelf/>.

Sue Lange
Tuesday 9 June 2009

Update on Ray's Norwescon 32 Slide-Show/Video

I don't know, but the guys who run BIFF think it would be more fun to see the *Little House on the Prairie* episode where Laura assists an angel that's really a peaceful alien from many light-years away than my Norwescon 32 slide-show/video. (OK; in real life Pa Ingalls would have blown his brains out and we'd have something much cooler to watch—*Alien Autopsy, 1878 Walnut Grove Edition*.)

So I posted it to YouTube for any member of sci-fi fandom in the known universe to enjoy. Just log onto <http://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicRaySeredin> and enjoy.

On the same site there's also a bit of fun that I made using some old Eadweard Muybridge pictures which contain nudity, so for all you young kids out there, please do not watch it when your parents are around.

Enjoy.

Cosmic Ray Seredin
Monday 15 June 2009

Updated BCSFA.net

Dear Felicity,

News: I have mirrored the BCSFA website at the Vancouver CommunityNet, with some updates about BCSFA executive (you and me, specifically) and about upcoming events from July onwards. Until I renew the

BCSFA.net domain name in August, the URL to go to is <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/gartuan/>.

Garth Spencer
Wednesday 17 June 2009

Media File

Ray Seredin

Holy Smeg, They Are Filming ‘Fringe’ Season Two in Vancouver!

Fringe, the series that many people think will become the next *X-Files*, is moving to the city that made *The Files*’ first five seasons so excellently creepy.

Vancouver, BC!

So you will not be seeing things when you see:

Olivia meeting with William Bell on a BC ferry.

Walter’s old wreck of a car driving over the Burrard Street Bridge.

Peter jogging alongside the SkyTrain line.

Harvard University looking like UBC.

Massive Dynamic’s mountain-top research centre looking like SFU.

ZFT conducting experiments on poverty-stricken people in places that look like Main and Hastings.

The cow finding a new home in the Fraser Valley.

Someone dies of something weird in a place that looks like White Rock, New Westminster, Surrey, Richmond, Delta, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, the Tri-Cities or maybe even Squamish. (Note: Great in-joke here. Make Walter a diehard 43 Man Squamish fan.)

So, if you find yourself somewhere around town this summer and find a *Fringe* location shoot, please quickly grab your cell-phone and call Cosmic Ray @ 604-521-0254 (unless it’s before 4 p.m. Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, because that’s when I’m working at McDonald’s). Heck, I failed to pay attention when I passed an *X-Files* shoot back in 1993; there’s no way I’m going let this pass me by.

‘V’ Returns and It’s Made in Vancouver Too!

Many of us over the age of 35 will remember the excellent 1983/84 mini-series (and the “Oh, my God, did they fuck it up” series) *V*. As with anything remotely cool from the 1980s, it’s being remade—as a full series for ABC that will start airing in early 2010.

This time around the setting will not be Los Angeles, but Seattle, with its northern neighbour, Vancouver, BC, in that role.

OK, I know most of you recall the original mini-series, and are saying “Oh my God, they going to fuck it up again, and moving *V*’s setting from Los Angeles to Seattle (AKA here) is about as crazy as the hosts of *It’s a New Day* marching in the Gay Pride Parade.” Still, many of you said that the remake of *Battlestar Galactica* would never be as good as the original 1970s series back in 2003. Yet in 2009 we all know that the new *Galactica* made the old series look like a rather good episode of *MST3K*. The same folks were also saying the same when the BBC re-launched *Doctor Who* in 2005, and it turned out to be for most series fans as good as or better than the classic series. Then again, we also know there were also two remakes of classic ’70/’80s shows (*Bionic Woman* and *Knight Rider*) that did turn out to be the biggest pieces of shit ever made.

So what I am trying to say “Don’t knock it ’til you see it.” There’s a 50/50 chance that it could turn out to be as good as or even better than the original *V* and that we will go out of our way to watch each episode or start the biggest e-mail-writing campaign when we hear that ABC could be cancelling it. There’s also a 50/50 chance that it could turn out to be the biggest piece of shit ever made and it makes the old *V* series look like *Masterpiece Theatre*, and send tons of e-mail when ABC replaces it with *Melissa Gilbert Repairs Kirstie Alley’s Toilet*, then sends the new series to burn up in the sun. We just won’t know ’til we see the first episode.

Besides, either way, the new series of *V* could be good news to another group I belong to. One of the stories they’re considering takes place at an abandoned railway (or railroad as they call it in the States) yard. If this story goes ahead it will be filmed at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish (best known as the home of the Royal Hudson steam locomotive) and we will get around \$15,000 a day for each day of the use of the site. So even if it turn out to be you-know-what, the money from its film shoot could mean saving pieces of BC railway history for future generations.

‘Doctor Who’ Update

Sorry to fans of *Doctor Who* who tuned into Space on June 20 to find some third-rate 1990s horror flick instead of the Doctor’s adventures on the “Planet of the Dead.” Space has no idea how that date got released, since it sells its commercial space on its programming about two months in advance. The real air-date of the special is July 25 (or a day before it airs in the States, eh?). The new series of its sister show *Torchwood* also starts to air on Space sometime in July.

The next *Doctor Who* special is called “The Waters of Mars” and will likely air on BBC1 around Halloween and sometime in late 2009 on Space.

Meanwhile, in the US, the Doctor has found a new home on BBC America, with the Christmas special “The Next Doctor” airing on June 27 (we got to see it first, eh?) and “Planet of the Dead” July 26. Up ’til now it was the SyFy Channel holding the first broadcast rights to the series in the US, with

BBC America holding the second. It's unclear if *Doctor Who* will air again on SyFy; even though it got somewhat good ratings, it was not as high as its domestically-produced series (that are actually made in Vancouver or Toronto, eh?) in drawing the audience it needs to remain profitable.

Doctor Who joins other British sci-fi series dropped by the SyFy Channel that are now airing on BBC America, including its sister shows *Torchwood* (starting July 20) and *The Sarah Jane Adventures*, season three of ITV's *Primeval*, along with the all new supernatural drama-comedy *Human Being* and the remake of the 1970s Terry Nation sci-fi classic *Survivors*.

Meanwhile, back in Britain, the actor to play the 11th Doctor's companion has been announced. Twenty-one-year-old Karen Gillan will become the latest in the long list of the Time Lord's fellow travellers on his TARDIS. Gillan is no stranger to the Doctor, having played the white-faced Soothsayer in the series four (or series 30) episode "The Fires of Pompeii."

Gillan went to acting school at Telford College in Edinburgh, before joining the cast of *The Kevin Bishop Show* and playing alongside James Nesbitt in the movie *Outcast*.

Quoting the series' new executive producer and chief writer Steven Moffat, "We saw some amazing actresses for this part, but when Karen came through the door the game was up. Funny, and clever, and gorgeous, and sexy. Or Scottish, which is the quick way of saying it. A generation of little girls will want to be her. And a generation of little boys will want them to be her too."

Gillan is just as excited about joining *Doctor Who*, stating, "I am absolutely over the moon at being chosen to play the Doctor's new companion. The show is such a massive phenomenon that I can't quite believe I am going to be a part of it. Matt Smith is an incredible actor and it is going to be so much fun to act alongside him—I just can't wait to get started!"

Sorry, I have no word on the character that Gillan will play when the Matt Smith Doctor era of the series starts in the spring of 2010. Still, Steven Moffat has whispered the new Doctor will face his best-known enemies (hint: *Ex-ter-min-ate!*) in his initial series.

The 10th or David Tennant Doctor will show up on *The Sarah Jane Adventures*. Sarah Jane and the Time Lord will team up once again in an episode that will air later this year on Children's BBC. The story will take place between "Planet of the Dead" and "Waters of Mars" so it's likely that the Doctor will be traveling on the TARDIS solo. Elisabeth Sladen, who plays Sarah Jane, is besides herself on the idea of David showing up on her show, saying "When I heard the news that David was going to be joining us I was absolutely over the moon. Not only has it made my day but it will also make the viewers' day."

As most *Doctor Who* viewers know, Sarah Jane Smith was the long-time companion of both the Jon Perwee and the Tom Baker Doctors back in the 1970s, as well as meeting the Patrick Troughton, Peter Davidson and First (though played by a different actor) Doctors, in "The Five Doctors." She already

did two stories (“School Reunion” and “The Stolen Earth”/“Journey’s End”) with the David Tennant Doctor.

As many of you know, Nicholas Courtney also took part in *The Sarah Jane Adventures* in series two’s “Enemy of the Bane,” playing Brigadier Sir Alistair Gordon Lightbridge-Stewart. The Brigadier was a huge part of *Doctor Who*, starting with Patrick Troughton, for most of the Jon Perwee era (when he also got to meet the real William Hartnell Doctor), and part of the first two seasons of the Tom Baker Doctor as the head of UNIT’s (United Nations Intelligence Taskforce) British forces. The Brigadier later showed up with the Pater Davidson and the Sylvester McCoy Doctors after his retirement from the Taskforce.

One of the best-known web-sites for *Doctor Who* universe fans is shutting down at midnight July 31st. The US-based Outpost Gallifrey has been running since early 1996, starting with the latest information on the locally-produced FOX network TV-movie, then in 2001 adding a series forum (which was used by the BBC and other British press to gauge viewers’ reaction to the series since its return in 2005), and since growing to be one of the largest fan-run *Doctor Who* sites on-line. OG’s owner/operator Shaun Lyon, who gave up the day-to-day operation of the site in 2007, wants to move on to the next chapter of his life.

As a fan of both the *Doctor Who* universe and Outpost Gallifrey, I just want to thank Shaun for doing such a excellent job running this site and providing me with a great source of series news that I passed on to my fellow series viewers living in BC through the pages of *BCSFAzine*.

Doctor Who viewers, do not worry. I have already found a new site over in Great Britain, *Doctor Who Online*, that will take over from Outpost Gallifrey as my chief provider of the latest news of the series and its spin-offs.

That’s all for now. See you next time with the latest on series five (or 31) of *Doctor Who* as it starts production this month. ’Til then be seeing you.

Cosmic Ray Seredin

‘Terminator Salvation’

Reviewed by Ryan Hawe

“I knew it was coming...but this is not the future my mother warned me about. And in this future, I don’t know if we can win this war.”

—John Connor (Christian Bale),
from the first trailer



If there’s one series of films that are both simple and complex at the same time, it’s the *Terminator* saga. Combin-

ing gun-toting chase action with increasingly recursive musings on the complications of time travel, navigating the tangle of rights to make another film—especially given the disappointing performance of the third installment (*Rise of the Machines*) would seem too much challenge for too little chance of success.

Thankfully, director Joseph McGinty Nichol (“McG” to you and me) is not afraid to make some hard decisions. Throwing out the whole Arnold-goes-back-in-time-from-the-future plot, he instead tells a comparatively straight-up future war saga. I say “comparatively” because there is a fair bit of evidence that all the time travel from the earlier films has mucked around with the current timeframe, and there’s a fair bit of tying up loops in that John Connor is searching for the boy who will grow up to be the man who goes back in time to become his dad....

Whew.

We start off in 2003, where a man named Marcus Wright (Sam Worthington) is on death row. On the day that he is to be executed by lethal injection, he is persuaded by cancer-stricken scientist Serena Kogen (Helena Bonham Carter) to donate his body to science. A close-up on the papers reveals that Cyberdyne is acquiring the remains....

We get a brief text synopsis of the setting (Skynet becomes self-aware, launches nukes, builds killer robots, yadda yadda), and then it’s off to 2018, and a pitched battle between the machines and the human resistance. What isn’t taken out by A-10 strikes gets blown up by a Skynet booby trap, leaving only two survivors—John Connor (a key figure in the Resistance, but not yet its leader), and Marcus Wright. Wait, what?

Marcus wanders through the wilderness that California has now become, making his way to the ruins of Los Angeles, where he is saved from a hulking, rag-clad, minigun-toting T-600 by a 16-year-old named Kyle Reese (Anton Yelchin, channeling Edward Furlong, which makes sense if you think about it). Kyle tells Marcus “Come with me if you want to live,” and a curious road trip begins.

Meanwhile, John has learned that Kyle (who will, remember, go back in time to become John’s father) has made the top of Skynet’s priority target list. He has four days to find and save Kyle, before the Resistance commits every asset on a massive strike on what used to be San Francisco, aided with an override signal (which is tested twice at Connor’s insistence). Might this be a trap? And just how does Marcus’s apparent resurrection tie into all this? Whose side is he on, and does he know it?

Next question, the one you really need answered: Was this film worth its star’s infamous on-set tirade? Answer: Yes. There’s a lot of pulse-pounding action in this one, and more than a few surprises. I was impressed by not only the effects (quite a bit of which was done mechanically rather than with computers), but by the performances. Much will be said about Bale’s intensity, but Worthington also gives us much in the way of confused anguish as his quest to

find out just what happened to him becomes more and more of a nightmare, even by the standards of a nightmarish dystopia...

And, as much as they abandoned the old formula, there's a lot of care taken to give nods to What Has Gone Before where appropriate: the classic Aerial Hunter-Killers, a half-blown-up T-600 crawling after a wounded John, and my favourite—a scene in which John lures an HK-cycle (or “Moto-Terminator”) into a trap by playing a Guns 'n' Roses song on a deserted stretch of wreckage-strewn highway. You can guess which song.

All in all, I quite liked this story. Lots of thrills, lots of drama, and even when you feel you know your future history, you still want to see how it plays out, in case the tapes missed something important.

Random Fiction

Thee Gravedigger

There was a sound that I can only describe as not being completely unlike the sound of a tinfoil phonebook being ripped in half and a flash of a color that reminded me of lime green tuxedo I'd worn to a costume party once. As my vision returned, I realized my couch was now on fire.

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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- ___ You're a giant leech.
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- ___ You're a beatnik.
- ___ You're a fire maiden of outer space.
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- ___ You're a hand of fate.
- ___ You're a warrior of the lost world.
- ___ You're a swamp diamond.
- ___ You're a secret agent super dragon.
- ___ You're a gunslinger.
- ___ You're a teen-age strangler.
- ___ You're an alien from LA.
- ___ You're an outlaw of Gor.
- ___ You're a teenage cave man.
- ___ You're a headhunter.
- ___ You're a creeping terror.
- ___ You're a skydiver.
- ___ You're a starfighter.
- ___ You're a kitten with a whip.