

The Programming Guide to
CONVERGENCE
»2009 Edition

The purpose of this Programming Guide is to tell you the where-and-when of things happening throughout the convention weekend. The more condensed **Programming Grid** has been separated out into its own pocket-sized book. You can find more detailed information about our Guests of

Honor, Performers, CONvergence Convention Committee, and our parent organization (The Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy) in our **Souvenir Book**.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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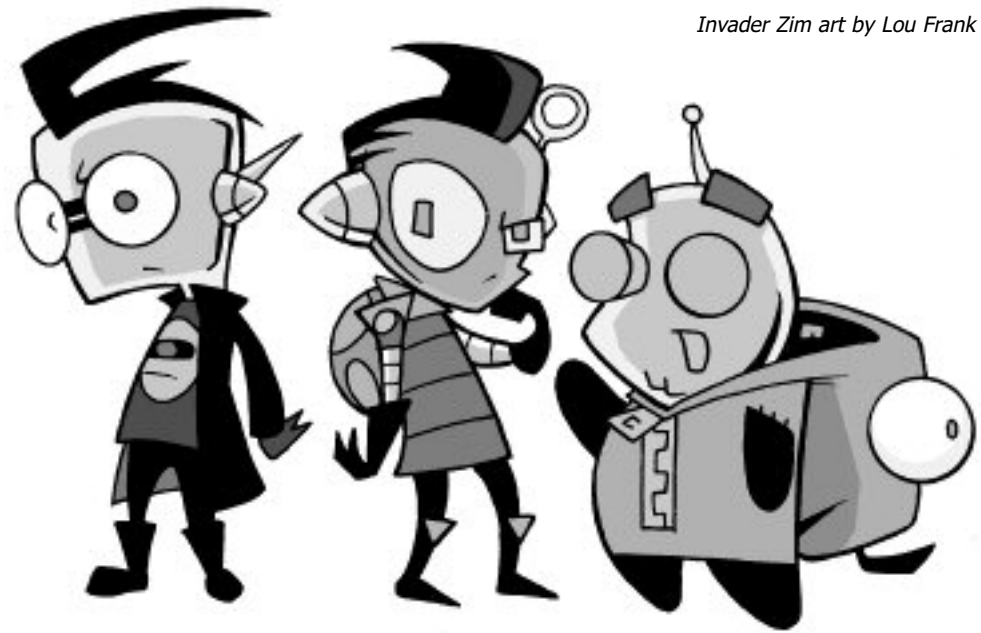
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Invader Zim art by Lou Frank



HOURS OF OPERATION AND LOCATIONS

Registration

(Registration is located near the hotel's front desk in Shipside on the ground floor (across from the Navigator's Lounge).

2009 Registration & Check-in:

Wednesday 3:00pm—6:00pm (Volunteers ONLY)

Thursday 10:00am—11:00pm

Friday 9:00am—11:00pm

Saturday 10:00am—8:00pm

Sunday (2010 Pre-Registration)

11:00am—6:30pm.

After 6:30pm, 2010 Pre-Reg moves to the Operations Bridge (Verandas 6, 8).

After Hours Registration:

Registration is not open 24/7 but there will be After-Hours Registration staff available via the Operations Bridge (Verandas 6, 8) during these hours:

Thursday 11:00pm—1:00am Saturday

Friday 11:00pm—1:00am Saturday

Saturday 8:00pm—Midnight

CONvergence 2010 Pre-Registration:

You can self-register for next year's convention during this year's con and at a special rate too! To pre-register, fill out the 2010 Registration Form, put it in a (provided) envelope with a check and drop it in the treasure chest. The chest will be in Registration during our normal hours and on the Bridge when we're closed.

Volunteer Lounge

It's the Volunteers Station *INSIDE* CONvergence Registration. Anytime Registration is open, you can ask here about how you can become a CONvergence Volunteer.

Operations Bridge

Verandas 6, 8 (2nd Floor)

Open 24 Hours:

Thursday 8:00am—Sunday 6:00pm

You can call the Operations Bridge at x7215.

ASL:

American Sign Language Services

Interpreters available in CONvergence Central (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	Noon—11:00pm
Friday	9:00am—11:00pm
Saturday	9:00am—11:00pm
Sunday	9:00am—4:00pm

Art Show

Plazas 5—6 (North Tower, 1st Floor)

Wednesday	Noon—6:00pm (Artist Check-in ONLY)
Thursday	10:00am—2:00pm (Artist Check-in ONLY) 2:00pm—8:00pm
Friday	10:00am—8:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm 9:00pm (Art Auction – Atrium 4)
Sunday	10:00am—2:00pm (Artist check-out/buyer pickup)

Artists Alley

CONvergence Central (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Friday	10:00am—6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm

Cinema Rex Movie Room

Plaza 4 (North Tower, 1st Floor)

Thursday	3:00pm—4:00am
Friday	10:00am—4:00am
Saturday	10:00am—4:00am
Sunday	10:00am—6:00pm

(See Cinema Rex schedule on page 8)

CoF₂E₂ Free Coffee

Cabanas 115—116 (South Tower, 1st Floor)

Volunteer Training ONLY

Wednesday	5:00pm—8:00pm
Thursday	11:00am—3:00pm

Open 24 Hours

Opens	Thursday 3:00pm
Closes	Sunday 5:00pm

Connie's

Quantum Sandbox

Plaza 3 (North Tower, 1st Floor)

Thursday	4:00pm—7:00pm
Friday	10:00am—7:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—7:00pm
Sunday	11:00am—4:00pm

Connie's Space Lounge

Verandas 1—5 (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	9:00pm—2:00am
Friday	1:00pm—4:00pm, 8:00pm—2:00am
Saturday	1:00pm—4:00pm, 10:00pm—2:00am

ConSuite

Cabanas 214—219 (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Open 24 Hours

Thursday 3:00pm—Sunday 5:00pm

Dealers Room

Grand Ballroom West & Front Center (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	2:00pm—6:00pm
Friday	10:00am—6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm
Sunday	10:00am—4:00pm

Dorian Gray Memorial

Literary Lounge

Room 2201 (South Tower, 22nd Floor)

Thursday	12:30pm—12:30am
Friday	9:30am—12:30am
Saturday	9:30am—12:30am
Sunday	9:30am—4:30pm

Literary Lounge Programming:

(See Literary Lounge schedule on page 16)

Gaming

Gaming Suites (Rooms 2203, 2204, 2206, 2207)

Thursday	5:00pm—12:30am
Friday	9:30am—12:30am
Saturday	9:30am—12:30am
Sunday	9:30am—3:30pm

LAN Gaming (Room 2205)

Thursday	5:00pm—2:00am
Friday	12:30pm—2:00am
Saturday	12:30pm—2:00am
Sunday	12:30pm—3:30pm

Open Gaming (Room 2202, ConSuite)

Opens	5:00pm Thursday
Closes	3:00pm Sunday

Scheduled Gaming:

(See Gaming schedules on page 18)

Harmonic CONvergence

Stevie Ray's Cabaret (South Tower, 1st Floor)

Thursday	7:00pm—Midnight
Friday	Noon—1:00am
Saturday	1:30pm—1:00am
Sunday	Noon—5:00pm

Scheduled Performances:

(See Harmonic CONvergence schedule on page 18)

Hotel Department

Help Desk

Near Sheraton Front Desk (South Tower, 1st Floor)

Thursday	1:00pm—6:00pm
Friday	1:00pm—5:00pm
Sunday	Noon—4:00pm

After Friday, contact the Bridge (x7215) with any CONvergence Hotel Dept. issues.

Krushenko's

Cabana 118 (South Tower, 1st Floor)

Thursday	5:00—6:00pm, 8:00pm—Midnight
Friday	11:00am—6:00pm, 8:00pm—1:00am
Saturday	11:00am—6:00pm, 8:00pm—2:00am
Sunday	11:00am—5:00pm, 7:30pm—Midnight

(See Krushenko's schedule on page 20)

Live Charity Auction

Atrium 4 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

Sunday	11:00am
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MainStage

Grand Ballroom East (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

(See MainStage schedule on page 22)

Masquerade

Sign-up CONvergence Central (2nd Floor)

Thursday	2:00pm—6:00pm
Friday	10:00am—Noon, 2:00pm—6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—11:00am

Performer Orientation MainStage (2nd Floor)

Saturday	11:00am—Noon (Mandatory for performers)
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Technical Rehearsal

Saturday	Noon—4:00pm (Performers will be assigned a 15-minute slot during this time)
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Workmanship Judging

Saturday	3:30pm—6:30pm (Performer judging times will be assigned)
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Performance MainStage (Second Floor)

Saturday	7:00pm—10:00pm(?)
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Merchandise Table

CONvergence Central (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	2:00pm—6:00pm
Friday	10:00am—6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm
Sunday	10:00am—4:00pm

MISFITS Clubhouse

Misfits Room Party: Cabana 114 (South Tower, 1st Floor)

Thursday	9:00pm—1:00am
Friday	9:00pm—1:00am
Saturday	9:00pm—1:00am

Parties

Individual parties have their own schedules and hours of operation as determined by the party hosts. (See Parties listing on page 30)

Programming Ops (Green Room)

Atrium 5 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	1:00pm—5:00pm
Friday	9:00am—5:00pm
Saturday	9:00am—5:00pm
Sunday	9:00am—5:00pm

After hours, please have the Operations Bridge page the Programming Head on duty.

Silent Auction

Atrium 1 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	2:00pm—5:00pm, 8:00pm—10:00pm
Friday	11:00am—5:00pm, 7:00pm—10:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—5:30pm, 8:00pm—11:00pm

Winners may pick up their items from Atrium 1 on Sunday between 10:00am and 4:30pm.

Theater Nippon Anime Room

Plaza 2 (North Tower, 1st Floor)

Opens 5:00pm Thursday
Closes 6:00pm Sunday

(See Theater Nippon schedule on page 26)

Volunteer Den

Cabana 222 (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	Noon to 2:00am
Friday	10:00am—2:00am
Saturday	10:00am—2:00am
Sunday	10:00am—5:00pm

Volunteers Desk/ Information Services

CONvergence Central (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	Noon—11:00pm
Friday	9:00am—11:00pm
Saturday	9:00am—11:00pm
Sunday	9:00am—6:00pm
Monday	11:00am—1:00pm

(Monday hours are for collection of Volunteer Cards. We may be relocating to the West End of the North Tower, 1st Floor for that time.)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Drive for Used Eyeglasses at Registration

Again this year, Registration will be a collection point for used eyeglasses. These glasses will be cleaned, recycled, and hand delivered to individuals in developing countries through **OneSight**, a Luxottica Group Foundation. More information can be found at <http://www.onesight.org/>.

Chen Style Tai Chi Presentation

Thursday 1:00pm–2:00pm / Garden Court–Southwest
Organizer: Jose Figueroa

A demonstration featuring a plethora of Chinese weapon forms, empty hand and two person exercises pertaining to Tai Chi. Jose Figueroa is the owner and operator of Dark Raven Studios, a Martial art school in St. Paul, MN. He's also a film producer/action director of Dark Raven Productions, specializing in Hong Kong-style action.

The Frozen North

Thursday 5:00pm–7:00pm / Garden Court
Organizers: Fey Embers/ Britta Voorhaar

Love medieval times? Enjoy watching reenactments? Interested in learning how to make your own safe weapons? Come meet the Frozen North, a non-profit fighting group that is involved in many national foam fighting events. Come beat someone up today!

Gnome Punting Competition

Thursday 4:00pm–5:00pm / Garden Court–Southwest
Organizer: Kelly Voorhaar. aka Lady Astrianna

Come punt gnomes with the Lords of Lore and Lechery from the Bearded Gnome Tavern and Inn! We are looking for the champion gnome punter! Rewards! Little men in red hats!

Matrix Tag

Thursday 8:00pm–10:00pm / Cabana 101
Organizer: Shannon Green

In Matrix Tag, two teams vie for power over the fate of the human race. Players choose the roles of Agent Smith, Neo, Morpheus, Trinity, Agent and Zionist. Any number of people can play, joining in and leaving at any time. Players are free to attend other programming during the convention, as they seek out Agents and Zionists and gain strength for their team.

Steampunk Fashion Show

Friday 12:00pm–1:00pm / Garden Court–Southeast
Organizer: Steam Century

Don your finest Neo-Victorian outfit for a stately walk down the retro runway. Prizes will be awarded for the most notable outfits. Sign up at Cabana 230 at 11:00am.

Steam Century Clue Room

Friday 6:00pm–Midnight / Cabana 101
Saturday 6:00pm–Midnight / Room 2206

Steam Century Mystery players will be using this space to hunt down clues, bargain for artifacts, and save the world! Come to the Steam Century Party room in Cabana 230 to learn more and join the game.

Cosplay Boffer Association Fighting

Friday 8:00am–Noon, 1:00pm–5:00pm / Garden Court–Southwest
Saturday 8:00am–Noon, 1:00pm–5:00pm / Garden Court–Southwest
Organizer: Cosplay Boffer Association

Have you ever wanted to fight along side your favorite anime character? Ever watch Braveheart and think "I could do that!" Do you not mind being the nerdiest type of athlete? Then we have the game for you. Come swing foam with the Midwest's premier convention boffer group, the Cosplay Boffer Association.

Assassin's Guild Boffer Tournament

Friday 7:00pm–10:00pm / Garden Court–Southwest
Saturday 6:00pm–10:00pm / Garden Court–Southwest
Organizer: Assassin's Guild

Friday: Come and join the Assassin's Guild for practice and preparation for the upcoming tournament. Have an evening of fun and good ol' hitting just like when you were a kid. Even if you are not going to be in the Saturday tourney please come and play with us. Ages 14 & up with parental consent.

Saturday: The battle to end all battles! Join us for fame, fun & martial combat. Bring your friends and destroy them with weapons of foam. Spectate or participate for fun & adventure. Ages 14 & up with parental consent.

Letterpressing Demo

Friday 10:00pm–11:00pm / Garden Court–Northwest
Saturday 10:00pm–11:00pm / Garden Court–Northwest
Organizers: Jessica White, Scott Smith, Heroes and Criminals Press

Come see how letterpress printing is done and get a free CONvergence 2009 souvenir print, made right in front of you.

The Smooch! Project

Saturday 10:00am–6:00pm / CONvergence Central
Organizer: Bonnie Fournier

The Smooch! Project is a personal photographic effort of Minnesota photographer Bonnie Fournier. It's intended to serve as a documentary record demonstrating that all humans, regardless of social, economic, or political barriers, share a joyful willingness to welcome love and affection into their lives. The artist's goal is to collect 10,000 exhibition-quality images. You are invited to "pucker up" and be part of this historic, heartwarming effort. <http://www.thesmoochproject.com/>

USS Nokomis / Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday 11:00am–4:00pm / Sign-up at Main Lobby (First Floor)

The USS Nokomis (a Twin Cities Star Trek Fan Club: www.ussnokomis.org) is once again proud to host a CONvergence blood drive.

- You can save *THREE* lives with your donation.
- It only takes about an hour.
- Almost everyone can donate blood, even if they stayed up late partying on Friday night.

If you haven't pre-scheduled your appointment, you can stop in to the USS Nokomis' room on Friday night to schedule one. You may also stop by the lobby after 11:00am on Saturday to check for open appointments. **Please remember:** You have the ability to be a hero and save lives by doing something very simple. Go boldly to the bus and roll up your sleeve!

Aikido Demo

Sunday Noon–1:00pm / Garden Court–Southwest
Organizer: Mark Tempel

Come see the Shuharikan Aikido dojo present a demonstration of Yoshinkan Aikido. This martial art is required learning for members of the Tokyo riot police and is a practical and powerful defensive art accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Come see how to throw someone twice your size. Come see how to fall and not get hurt. Most importantly, come see how to face the angry hordes without spilling your beer.

ASL: AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

Interpreters available in CONvergence Central (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	Noon—11:00pm
Friday	9:00am—11:00pm
Saturday	9:00am—11:00pm
Sunday	9:00am—4:00pm

CONvergence is proud to announce that this year we will have sign language interpreters once again. We are happy to welcome deaf and hard of hearing fans who will be able to join us in our celebration of Science Fiction and Fantasy. This is just one way that we are reaching out to more fans.

At the convention you will see interpreters at the front of some events and panels. If they ask for space in the front row, please respect such requests. You should also feel free to call on them if you need a hand (or two) to chat with a Deaf or Hard of Hearing fan. If an interpreter is not available, other communication options are available including writing it out.

Please join us in welcoming our deaf fans and interpreters. We look forward to all the new friendships and conversations they will bring.

ART SHOW AND AUCTION

Plazas 5—6 (North Tower, 1st Floor)

Wednesday	Noon—6:00pm (Artist Check-in ONLY)
Thursday	10:00am—2:00pm (Artist Check-in ONLY) 2:00pm—8:00pm
Friday	10:00am—8:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm 9:00pm (Art Auction – Atrium 4)
Sunday	10:00am—2:00pm (Artist check-out/buyer pickup)

Art show will again be located in Plazas 5 and 6, although the entrance has been moved to the opposite end, at the corner of Plaza 6. As always, we'll have artwork of all kinds from across the country for you to browse and buy. There will also be artwork awards that you can vote on.

The Art Auction will start at 9:00pm on Saturday night and will be located in Atrium 4, upstairs and across from the Art Show. Please note that the Auction will start at 9:00pm whether the Masquerade is finished or not.

If you have purchased art, you can come pick it up on Sunday between 10:00am and 2:00pm. If you are an artist, you can come pick up your art during that same time.

Art Show Tour:

Starting Friday at 8:10pm

Tours of the art show will be conducted by artists and knowledgeable collectors for a limited number of people. It's a great opportunity to get more information about artwork on display that you may wish to bid on, as well as to get the perspective of artists or more experienced collectors.

The number of tours is limited based on the number of available tour guides. Inquire with the Art Show staff if you are interested.

ARTISTS ALLEY

CONvergence Central (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Friday	10:00am—6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm

Artists Alley gives CONvergence attendees the chance to meet and greet artists, many of whom sell original works, sketches, and exclusive limited-edition prints and sketchbooks. Artists alleys are a tradition at many other conventions, bringing together artists from print and web comics, literature, and other fan-beloved media in a common location, all for YOU to get to know and experience live! Get something original and unique, perhaps even made before your eyes, direct from the hands of the artists who make it.

During the convention, look for the tables of Artists' Alley on the second floor, near CONvergence Central.

*Munsters art by
Christopher Jones*



CINEMA REX MOVIE ROOM

Plaza 4 (North Tower, First Floor)

Thursday	3:00pm—4:00am
Friday	10:00am—4:00am
Saturday	10:00am—4:00am
Sunday	10:00am—6:00pm

Rex is thrilled to be back for the eleventh year of CONvergence, and excited to keep you laughing with all sorts of genre-based comedies that fall in line with this year's theme.

We've got some great events in Cinema Rex this year, including:

- *Joeseeph Scrimshaw* and *Tim Uren* ripping into the eighties film *Masters of the Universe* on Thursday night
- A "Classic Monster Triple Feature" on Friday night, with more modern versions of *Frankenstein*, *Werewolves* and *Vampires*
- The return of teen filmmaker and former Guest of Honor *Emily Hagins* with more recent footage and shorts on Saturday afternoon
- Four hours of local independent film on Sunday afternoon: *SpookySpookyScaryScary* by *Tim Uren* and *Joseph Scrimshaw*, last year's RPG-themed comedy *THACO* and feature length local film *The Hagstone Demon*

For more information about Cinema Rex, check out the souvenir guide, but here is a brief rundown: Cinema Rex is all about comfort, atmosphere, and great movies. Rex turns his film room into one big cozy living room filled with all the free concessions you can shove in your face and puts the movies on a big screen with a great sound system. In the end, a film room can only be as good as the films it shows. We show a variety of movies: classics that everyone should have seen (but we know some of you haven't), films that are painful to watch on a small screen, films that are fun to see with a crowd, and films from past years' suggestion boxes.

Thanks again to those who filled out comment cards in past years, we appreciate your input and hope to receive more this year. Rex reads every card personally, and your opinions and film suggestions are very helpful.

Thursday

- 3:00pm **The Addams Family** *PG-13 / 1991 / 99 min.*
dir. Barry Sonnenfeld w/Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Christopher Lloyd, Christina Ricci
Barry Sonnenfeld faithfully reworks the *Addams Family* genre from the comics and TV series, making a fun film that is outrageous, silly, dark and just all-around fun.
- 5:00pm **Pee-Wee's Big Adventure** *PG / 1985 / 90 min. / (This showing closed captioned)* *dir. Tim Burton w/Paul Reubens*
Kids and late-night drunks alike... everybody loves Pee-Wee!
- 7:00pm **Big Trouble in Little China** *PG-13 / 1986 / 99 min. / (This showing closed captioned)*
dir. John Carpenter w/Kurt Russell and some other people
Kurt Russell is back and again, he's servin' up Chinese. Well... er... um... at least he's servin' up some trouble.
- 9:00pm **Trailer Park**
See what the future holds as Rex dishes out trailers for hot upcoming releases, as well as some independent shorts and other fun stuff.

10:00pm **Beetlejuice** *PG / 1988 / 92 min.*
dir. Tim Burton w/Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder, Alec Baldwin, Geena Davis

A married couple end up in freak car crash only to find out that they are dead, trapped in their house, and a yuppie couple with a tragically goth teenager have moved in. Antics ensue as they employ an improvising Michael Keaton as a freaky bio-exorcist to get rid of them.

Midnight **Masters of the Universe (with Joseph Scrimshaw and Tim Uren)**
PG / 1987 / 106 min. / dir. Gary Goddard w/Dolph Lundgren, Frank Langella

1987's *Masters of the Universe* is a really stupid movie. Tim Uren and Joseph Scrimshaw could talk about how stupid it is for 106 minutes straight. In fact, they could talk about it while the film is playing. By the power of Grayskull, that's exactly what they're going to do.

2:00am **Slither** *R / 2006 / 95 min. / (This showing closed captioned)*
dir. James Gunn w/Nathan Fillion and some other people who weren't in "Firefly."

Malcolm Reynolds/Captain Hammer fights freakish slimy slugs in this fun and cheesy horror/comedy. Not enough people have seen this creepy, funny film so if you're in that category, attendance is mandatory.

Friday

10:00am **The Princess Bride** *PG / 1987 / 98 min.*
dir. Rob Reiner w/Cary Elwes, Mandy Patinkin, Chris Sarandon, Robin Wright, Christopher Guest, Wallace Shawn

A fairy tale story with a sly, sardonic wit, this also may be one of the most geek-quoted films of all time along with *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, the key difference being that when someone quotes *The Princess Bride* you don't want to punch them in the face.

Noon **Clue** *PG / 1985 / 94 min. / (This showing closed captioned)*
dir. Jonathan Lynn w/Eileen Brennan, Tim Curry, Madeline Kahn, Christopher Lloyd, Michael McKean, Martin Mull, Lesley Ann Warren

Board games are funny too! Based on the omnipresent board game, this film is a who's who of 80s comedic talent. Which ending will Rex show? Come and find out!

2:00pm **Groundhog Day** *PG / 1993 / 101 min.*
dir. Harold Ramis w/Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell, Chris Elliot

Not typically thought of as fantasy or sci-fi, but there are clearly strange forces at work as Bill Murray wakes up to the same damn day over and over. Living in his own personal repeating hell, he struggles to break the cycle with hilarious results.

4:00pm **Ed Wood** *R / 1994 / 127 min.*
dir. Tim Burton w/Johnny Depp, Martin Landau, Sarah Jessica Parker

Shot in beautiful black & white, this great biography film details the trials and tribulations of infamous director Ed Wood as he creates some of the worst sci-fi/horror films ever.

6:30pm **Plan 9 From Outer Space** *NR / 1959 / 79 min.*
dir. Edward D. Wood Jr. w/Bela Lugosi, Vampira, Criswell, Tor Johnson

Shown as a companion piece to the Ed Wood biopic, this is Cult Comedy Camp Horror at its finest.

8:00pm **Young Frankenstein** *PG / 1974 / 106 min. / (This showing closed captioned)*
dir. Mel Brooks w/Gene Wilder, Peter Boyle, Marty Feldman, Cloris Leachman, Teri Garr

The first film in our *Classic Horror Monster Triple Feature*, Mel Brooks' homage to the classic Frankenstein genre is also his best work. Stellar performances highlighted by Gene Wilder and ~~Ray Barone's dad~~ Peter Boyle make this hilarious parody a delight to watch.

Friday (continued)

- 10:00pm **An American Werewolf in London** *R / 1981 / 97 min.*
dir. John Landis w/David Naughton, Jenny Agutter, Griffin Dunne
Part two of our *Classic Horror Monster Triple Feature*: This film wasn't the first to combine horror and comedy, but it broke new ground with its combination of graphic violence, top-notch special effects that still look good today, clever direction and a sharp, biting script (pun intended).
- Midnight **Fright Night** *R / 1985 / 106 min.*
dir. Tom Holland w/Roddy McDowall, Chris Sarandon, William Ragsdale, Amanda Bearse
In a brilliant move, Rex has made the final installment of the *Classic Horror Monster Triple Feature* into part one of the *Roddy Double Feature* which also happens to showcase a wonderful performance by actor Roddy McDowall.
- 2:00am **They Live** *R / 1988 / 93 min.*
dir. John Carpenter w/Roddy Piper, Keith David, Meg Foster
There aren't many dystopian comedies out there but Rex managed to find one. Nothing like making fun of a creepy situation! Although Roddy Piper is no match for Roddy McDowall in the theater, he sure could kick his ass in the ring!

Saturday

- 10:00am **Galaxy Quest** *PG / 1999 / 102 min. / (This showing closed captioned)*
dir. Dean Parisot w/Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, Alan Rickman, Tony Shalhoub
Certainly one of the best sci-fi comedies ever made, this film manages to simultaneously poke fun at and do homage to original *Star Trek*, its cast, its fan base and conventions all at the same time. More fun than you can shake an Omega 13 device at.
- Noon **The Addams Family** *PG-13 / 1991 / 99 min*
dir. Barry Sonnenfeld w/Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Christopher Lloyd, Christina Ricci
(See Thursday 3:00pm listing for description)
- 2:00pm **Addams Family Values** *PG-13 / 1993 / 94 min.*
dir. Barry Sonnenfeld w/Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Christopher Lloyd, Christina Ricci
Rather than rehashing what was established in the first film, this sequel does a fabulous job of building on that tone and carrying it to new heights. The filmmakers clearly realized Christina Ricci's impact in the previous movie as they expanded her role as Wednesday Addams here, this being part of what may make this film even funnier than the first.
- 4:00pm **Emily Hagins Shorts**
2007 guest of honor and teen filmmaker Emily Hagins joins us again with a few new film shorts as well as an excerpt of her new film, *The Retelling*.
- 5:00pm **Mystery Men** *PG-13 / 1999 / 121 min. / (This showing closed captioned)*
dir. Kinka Usher w/Ben Stiller, William H. Macy, Hank Azaria, Janeane Garafalo, Paul Reubens, Greg Kinnear
You know the names: *The Blue Raja. The Bowler. Mr. Furious. The Spleen. The Shoveler.* Come experience the greatness of these incomparable superheroes again. /sarcasm
- 7:00pm **Last Action Hero** *PG-13 / 1993 / 130 min.*
dir. John McTiernan w/Arnold Schwarzenegger, F. Murray Abraham, Austin O'Brien
Arnold does a great job of poking fun at his typical action flicks in this over the top crazy comedy with a fantasy twist. Loads of laughs, film genre humor, bullets, and let's not forget... Death himself.
- 9:30pm **Trailer Park**
(See Thursday 9:00pm listing for description)

- 10:30pm **The Apple** *PG / 1980 / 86 min.*
dir. Menahem Golan w/a bunch of people you've probably never heard of
What happens when you cross the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* with the stories of Faust and Adam & Eve, then add in a bit of Tommy plus Logan's Run? Whatever it is it can't be good. But it can be hilarious. Trust Rex... you've never seen anything like this!
- Midnight **Fido** *R / 2006 / 91 min.*
dir. Andrew Currie w/K'Sun Ray, Carrie-Anne Moss, Billy Connolly, Dylan Baker
Remember when you were a kid living in a fifties-esque alternate reality where your Mom was Trinity from *The Matrix* and you had a zombie as a domesticated servant/pet? Oh, you don't? Then come to this film and see what happened to you.
- 2:00am **Pee-Wee's Big Adventure** *PG / 1985 / 90 min.*
dir. Tim Burton w/Paul Reubens
(See Thursday 5:00pm listing for description)

Sunday

- 10:00am **Clue** *PG / 1985 / 94 min.*
dir. Jonathan Lynn w/Eileen Brennan, Tim Curry, Madeline Kahn, Christopher Lloyd, Michael McKean, Martin Mull, Lesley Ann Warren
(See Friday Noon listing for description)
- Noon **SpookySpookyScaryScary**
The first episodes of Tim Uren and Joseph Scrimshaw's new comedy about the world's worst cult. Chuck and Dexter know the great god Cthulhu is real, but can they spread the bad word? Kind of like *The Office* with a lower budget and more evil! Plus, post viewing discussion with Tim and Joseph and details on where you can buy the DVD!
- 1:00pm **THACO**
This was a *huge* hit in Cinema Rex last year, and here's your chance to see it again! When three 30-something geeks wait for their perpetually late friend, a gaming session is spent dissecting how RPGs have warped their lives. Is reality really better than fantasy? And what do you need a thirty-sided die for? Based on the sell-out hit play from the 2005 Fringe Festival, *THACO* has been revamped for the screen with new material and a cameo appearance by Neil Gaiman.
- 2:00pm **The Hagstone Demon** *NR / 2009 / 98 min.*
dir. Jon Springer w/Mark Borchart, Nadine Gross, Cyndi Kurtz
Finishing off our afternoon of local film productions, this macabre feature may not have any laughs but its excellent directing and cinematography, supported with a good script and solid acting make it one of the best local films Rex has ever seen!
- 4:00pm **Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home** *PG / 1986 / 119 min.*
dir. Leonard Nimoy w/William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley
Rex almost scheduled this film for the time travel theme year, but finally the time has arrived (pardon the pun) [you see this is the comedy theme year and a pun is a form of comedy] for Rex to show the most comedic of all the *Star Treks*.

CoF2E2 FREE COFFEE SHOP

Cabanas 115—116 (South Tower, 1st Floor)

Opens 3:00pm Thursday
Closes 5:00pm Sunday

Your favorite free java joint is back again for CONvergence 2009; open again for 74 hours straight! Since we know your four-day convention will fly by, CoF2E2 is available to help you keep your eyes open all day and all night.

This year you can again expect all the free coffee and tea related beverages your heart desires (with the purchase of convention admittance, of course). Not only can you achieve your nonstop, caffeine buzz in the form of coffee, espresso, or tea; we also serve a variety of steamers and tisanes (herbal teas) if you desire something more soothing. Looking for something different? This year, keep your eyes out for special Guest of Honor drinks that you can order at the espresso bar! So stop by and see what's new, or just take advantage of the coffee shop atmosphere to hang out with friends and get off your feet for a while. CoF2E2 is here to provide the liquid fuel for you to get the most out of your convention weekend!

The Tick art
by Lou Frank



CONNIE'S SPACE LOUNGE

Verandas 1—5 (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday 9:00pm—2:00am
Friday 1:00pm—4:00pm, 8:00pm—2:00am
Saturday 1:00pm—4:00pm, 10:00pm—2:00am

Why was the thirsty alien hanging around the computer?

He was looking for the Space Bar!

Bad jokes aside, Connie's Space Lounge is the best place this side of Rigel II to chill with a smoothie, get your groove on, and see some out-of-this-world entertainment. Along with the interstellar atmosphere, live music, and smoothie bar you've come to expect, the Space Lounge crew has more special events in store than ever before:

Thursday:

9:00pm—2:00am **Black Light Night:**

A night of neon glow under the black light. Face paints and glowy things to light up your night.

10:30pm—11:30pm **Black Light Fashion Show:**

Got a great outfit that glows under black light? Join us for our first Black Light Fashion Show.

Friday:

1:00pm—4:00pm **Space Craft:**

Geeky sci-fi crafting!

2:00pm signup

Classic Video Game Tournament:

Come compete in our first classic video game tournament on a MAME arcade machine. Do your classic arcade skills rival Flynn's? Be there at 2:00pm to sign up!

8:00pm—2:00am

Live Electronic Music:

Spacey sounds that will get your intergalactic groove on.

Saturday:

1:00pm—4:00pm **Sensor Re:Engine:**

Like to make music? Bring your synths and soundmakers and plug in to our music session of beeps and bleeps.

10:00pm—Midnight **Sci-Fi Cabaret:**

A Circus in the Stars themed cabaret of performers to entertain and amaze you.

All this, and more: *Mini golf! Sci-fi cheerleaders!*

Join us, and help launch the spiciest place on earth into orbit for 2009!

CONNIE'S QUANTUM SANDBOX

Plaza 3 (North Tower, 1st Floor)

Thursday	4:00pm—7:00pm
Friday	10:00am—7:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—7:00pm
Sunday	11:00am—4:00pm

Connie's Quantum Sandbox is for the builders, the creators, the makers of things. The Sandbox is for scientific experiments and art projects. You may join us in drawing robots at one moment, and then the next moment we'll be building one.

In past years we've had a Science Room and a Project Room. We've stuck both into a blender to come up with something new and different. Whether you are six or sixty, feel free to get your hands dirty and do it yourself; build it, make it, draw it, craft it!

Thursday

3:30pm—5:30pm **Exploring Scientific Ideas: Longer Project**
Cool science stuff from a real science teacher! We know you are on vacation, but science is fun - come and see! *Matthew D. Bannerman*

8:30pm—9:30pm **Face Painting: The Cat Version**
Anyone looking for some killer cat makeup should make this panel their first stop before prowling the con in the evening. *Jim Shields*

Friday

9:30am—10:30am **Crayon's Corner**
Children's story hour with Caryn Lengkeek is back. Little ones aren't just welcome, they are the guests of honor. *Caryn Lengkeek*

11:00am—Noon **Dragon Making by Committee**
Julie brings the body parts, you help build him and his personality! The resulting Dragon will be auctioned off in the Art Show. Half of the proceeds to go to charity.

12:30pm—1:30pm **My Lunch Can Beat Up Your Lunch**
How to pack a Bento box. Run by the Bento box queen. Panel will be limited to the first twenty participants. *Tish Cassidy, Tangee Harrison*

2:00pm—3:00pm **Learn to Make Balloon Animals**
Michael McDole will be teaching you how to make your own balloon creations. *Michael McDole*

3:30pm—4:30pm **Exploring Scientific Ideas: Shorter Project**
More real science with a real science teacher. Hands-on fun for all ages. *Matthew D. Bannerman*

5:00pm—6:00pm **Sock Puppets**
We do not expect you to bring your own socks. *Rachael Salisbury, Angie Anderson*

7:00pm—8:00pm **Flip Book Construction**
Animation for beginners. *Matt Waterhouse*

Saturday

9:30am—10:30am **Mini-Dragons**
Julie will be teaching us how to make small lizard-y friends out of chenille stems. *Julie Bowman*

11:00am—Noon **Plastic Beaded Animals**
Mary Reining will be teaching us how to use plastic lace and pony beads to create fun beaded animals. *Mary Reining*

12:30pm—1:30pm **Science Surprise**
We promise you something science based and fun. You'll find out when you get there!

2:00pm—3:00pm **Face Painting and Hair Braiding**
Free Face Painting for everyone! Well maybe not everyone, but now is the time to get that Gelfling you always wanted on your forehead. *Rachael Salisbury, Angie Anderson, Jim Shields*

3:30pm—4:30pm **World of Papercraft**
This is not origami, but it does involve making stuff out of paper. No matches allowed. *Angie Anderson, Jen Manna*

5:00pm—6:00pm **Voodoo Dolls**
We are not in New Orleans. Effectiveness of dolls cannot be guaranteed. *Charlotte Nickerson, Rachael Salisbury, Angie Anderson*

7:00pm—10:00pm **Beaded Animals All Grown Up**
Mary Reining will be teaching us how to use wire and seed beads to create fun beaded animals. This panel is specifically designed for teens and older. *Mary Reining*

Sunday

9:30am—10:30am **Drawing with Christopher Jones**
Drawing Connie is easy. Anyone named Christopher Jones can do it. "Christopher Jones" name tags will be provided. *Christopher Jones*

11:00am—Noon **Fusebeads**
Make your own fusebead Dalek, space shuttle or Connie Head or come up with your own design. Think Davros should have made his master race pink? That can happen. *Angie Anderson*

12:30pm—1:30pm **Science Surprise Sequel**
More Science! Makes you want to go out and hug Stephen Hawking, doesn't it?

2:00pm—3:00pm **Ninja Glitter Globes**
Even we don't know what this is but it will be so completely *awesome!!!!!!*
Angie Anderson

CONSUIITE

Cabanas 214—219 (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Open 24 Hours
Thursday 3:00pm—Sunday 5:00pm

ConSuite is a place where you can get between-meal snacks and soda free with your convention membership. We will be continually serving rice, chips, and candy. There will also be some breakfast food available in the morning, and watch for special treats such as sandwiches, nachos, pizza, and Chinese food. These "special treats" (we call them "Wow Foods") are put out at unannounced times on a first-come, first-served basis, so stop by often. In addition to catching a snack, there's lots of space to hang out and play board games with friends.

Meet and Greet

Friday at 2:00pm in ConSuite, MISFITS is hosting this casual ice-breaker type gathering where attendees can get acquainted with the organization and each other.

DORIAN GRAY MEMORIAL LITERARY LOUNGE

Room 2201 (South Tower, 22nd Floor)

Thursday	12:30pm—12:30am
Friday	9:30am—12:30am
Saturday	9:30am—12:30am
Sunday	9:30am—4:30pm

Welcome to the Literary Lounge, a place for quiet reading, local authors, and panel discussions in an intimate, restful setting. High atop the Sheraton, you can look out over the cityscape of the Twin Cities' Southern Suburbs while resting, reading, and enjoying all things literary.

Thursday

2:00pm—8:30pm **Quiet Reading**

8:30pm—9:30pm **Joel Arnold Reading**

Joel Arnold, author of several short stories including "Seller's Market, October Blizzard" and "Some Things Don't Wash Off" reads from his work. *Joel Arnold*

Friday

9:30am—10:30am **Reading by T.K. Hall**

T.K. Hall, author of the self-published novel *A Perfect World - Tatriel* reads some of her work. *Tes Ingebritson*

11:00am—Noon **Writing Craft: World and the Creatures Within**

How do you create a world with depth and reality apart from our own? Not just magic and tech but creatures and people that populate the place as well. *Sean M. Murphy, EV Baldwin, Adam Stemple, M. Nicholas Almand, Jeannie Holmes*

12:30pm—2:00pm **Poetry Workshop**

A workshop focused on creating fantastic images, using humor and poetry forms and models hosted by poet Sandra Lindow. Written critiques will be available for those who pre-submitted their works but the workshop is open to anyone. *Sandra Lindow (mod.)*

2:00pm—3:00pm **Kelly McCullough Reading**

Join our Guest of Honor as he reads some of his work. *Kelly McCullough*

3:30pm—4:30pm **Dana M. Baird Reading and Reception**

Dana M. Baird's second book (*The Spell Keeper*) has been recently released by Sam's Dot Publishing. Join her for a reading and a reception celebrating her second publication. *Dana Baird (mod.)*

7:00pm—8:00pm **The Apocalypse in Print**

The end of the world doesn't interest us nearly so much as what comes next. Much of science fiction writing takes place in a dark future where the unthinkable has already happened. Talk about different approaches to this common topic. *Joel Arnold, Jennie Catlett*

8:30pm—9:30pm **Storytelling Slam**

Open to all interested storytellers - come and share your short stories in CONvergence's first Storytelling Slam up in the Lit. Lounge. *Rob Callahan (mod.)*

10:00pm—11:00pm **Rob Callahan Reading**

Rob Callahan, author of *Hellbound Snowballs* and *Damaged Goods* reads some of his work. *Rob Callahan*

11:30pm—12:30am **Anna Waltz Reading**

The author of "Swedish Lutheran Vampires from Brainerd" reads from her work. *Anna Waltz*

Saturday

9:30pm—11:00pm **Quiet Reading**

11:00am—Noon **Michael Merriam Reading**

The author of "Shimmers & Shadows" reads some of his work. *Michael Merriam*

12:30pm—1:30pm **Jason Wittman Reading**

Jason Wittman, author of "A Game of Night Court," reads some of his work. *Jason D. Wittman*

2:00pm—3:00pm **Writers Groups: The Secret to Success in Fiction?**

Writing in a vacuum isn't always the best way to produce great (or even good) work. Writing groups can provide new and experienced authors with a sounding board for their work that can prove invaluable. Learn about what makes a writers' group work. *John Shea, Hilary Moon Murphy, Sean M. Murphy, Lyda Morehouse*

3:30pm—4:30pm **Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading**

Members of Broad Universe will read their short fiction. Broad Universe is an international organization with the primary goal of promoting science fiction, fantasy, and horror written by women. *Catherine Lundoff (mod.), Kathy Sullivan, Catherine Schaff-Stump, Lyda Morehouse, Kimberly Long-Ewing*

4:30pm—7:00pm **Open Fiction Writing Workshop**

Jeannie Holmes, author of supernatural suspense & urban fantasy, leads this workshop. This includes open writing exercises for beginner and advanced writers, closed critiques (for work submitted in advance), and a Q&A session. This panel runs 2.5 hours. *Jeannie Holmes (mod.)*

7:00pm—9:30pm **Quiet Reading**

9:30pm—11:00pm **Fireworks Watching on 22nd Floor**

Just because you are in the hotel it doesn't mean you have to miss the holiday. Come up to the 22nd floor for a great panorama of various municipality fireworks displays. Beginning time may vary depending on dusk and start time of various municipalities. *William Crolley (mod.)*

Sunday

9:30am—11:00am **Quiet Reading**

11:00am—Noon **Knowing the Difference Between a Broadsword and Claymore**

Making a medieval setting authentic without wrapping it in burlap. Should you stick with the way it was or adjust the needs of the story? Helping authors decide. *Patrick Rothfuss, Adam Stemple, Sean M. Murphy, Kathy Sullivan*

12:30pm—1:30pm **Writing Workshop for Teens**

Michael Merriam will give some tips and tricks for young writers just getting started. The focus will be on the basics of story and story construction, with some time for Q & A. As the name suggests, this panel is meant for younger attendees. *Michael Merriam (mod.)*

2:00pm—3:00pm **Reading by Jeannie Holmes**

Newly published author Jeannie Holmes will present some of her work in an intimate setting. *Jeannie Holmes*

3:30pm—4:30pm **Open Mic Poetry Reading**

An open forum for all poets to present their work. *Hosted by poet Sandra Lindow.*

GAMING

Gaming Suites (Rooms 2203, 2204, 2206, 2207)

Thursday 5:00pm—12:30am
Friday 9:30am—12:30am
Saturday 9:30am—12:30am
Sunday 9:30am—3:30pm

LAN Gaming (Room 2205)

Thursday 5:00pm—2:00am
Friday 12:30pm—2:00am
Saturday 12:30pm—2:00am
Sunday 12:30pm—3:30pm

Open Gaming (Room 2202, ConSuite)

Opens 5:00pm Thursday
Closes 3:30pm Sunday

MAGIC: THE GATHERING TOURNAMENTS

Magic The Gathering:

Elder Dragon Highlander Constructed Multiplayer Tournament

Friday 11:00am—1:00pm / Room 2207 (South Tower, 22nd Floor)

Using the official EDH rules, we introduce CONvergence to the most popular Casual Multiplayer Format around! See http://csclub.uwaterloo.ca/~geduggan/EDH_rules.html on how to build your very own special 100 card deck to join in the fun!

Magic The Gathering: Seventh Annual Limited Cardpool Event

Friday 8:00pm—12:30am / Room 2207 (South Tower, 22nd Floor)

Once again Rob and his crazy band of Magic Pirates bring forth the popular Friday Night Event! Rob brings the cards, you build the decks! You never know what you'll be using in this winner takes all fun format!

Magic The Gathering: Peasant-Constructed Tournament

Saturday 11:00am—1:00pm / Room 2207 (South Tower, 22nd Floor)

Bring your own 60-card deck using ONLY COMMONS with the exception of 5 uncommons and NO rares! Most current rarity will be used in determining rarity of reprinted cards.

HARMONIC CONVERGENCE

Stevie Ray's Cabaret (South Tower, 1st Floor)

Thursday 7:00pm—Midnight
Friday Noon—1:00am
Saturday 1:30pm—1:00am
Sunday Noon—5:00pm

Harmonic CONvergence is our more intimate venue for live music and entertainment. The space will feature a blend of music and spoken word performances. Each year we look for musicians, comedians and other performers interested in using this space. If you or someone you know are interested in performing at CONvergence, contact us at harmonicconvergence@convergence-con.org.

Thursday

9:00pm—10:00pm **Scott Keever with Orkestar Bez Ime**

10:00pm—Midnight **Mark Time Radio - The Halloween Tree**
Colonial Radio Theater.

Friday

Noon—12:35pm

Mark Time Radio - Waiting for a Window

Finalrune Productions.

12:35pm—1:10pm

Mark Time Radio - The Outpost

Mark Time Award-winning audio programs.

1:30pm—2:30pm

The Mustache Rangers

The Mustache Rangers explore space and beyond. Comedy.

3:00pm—4:00pm

Graham Leathers

Filk music.

4:30pm—5:30pm

Riverfolk

Vocals and guitar by Becca Allen and Chas Somdahl www.riverfolk.net

5:30pm—6:30pm

Damian Sheridan

Damian reads his original stories.

7:00pm—8:00pm

Feng Shui Ninjas

We have a banjo AND an accordian. Either you have a problem with that or you don't.

8:30pm—9:30pm

Beth Kinderman and the Player Characters

Original music about sci-fi /fantasy/gaming and whatever else might sway Beth's muse.

10:00pm—11:00pm

Possible Oscar

Comedy music act that specializes in original and parody music.

11:30pm—12:30am

Triple Depresso

Acoustic-traditional-original music.

Saturday

1:30pm—2:00pm

Shoreview Comedy Magic Sisters

2:30pm—3:30pm

Eli August

Eli August is the solo project of the songwriter/guitarist for the chamber rock band Fermata, combining acoustic guitar, ukulele and voice.

4:00pm—5:00pm

Bramblebush

A Renaissance music band.

5:30pm—7:00

3 Pints Gone

Traditional style celtic folk and sea shanties. www.3pintsgone.com

9:30pm—10:30pm

Reve 'du Faun

Celtic-American folk music. www.revedufaun.com

11:00pm—Midnight

Lemming Malloy

A steampunk band for the 21st century.

12:15am—1:15am

The Dregs

The Dregs pour out the music to stave off the sandman on the last full night of the convention. Sleep is for the weak. Whiskey is for the strong.

Sunday

Noon—1:00pm

Mark Time Radio - The Return of the Bogman Mummy

The Gaiety School of Acting.

1:30pm—12:30pm

Luke Ski

Luke Ski's music comedy is a favorite on *Dr. Demento* and at SF cons across the Midwest.

2:30pm—3:30pm

Adam Stemple

World music veteran—from *Cats Laughing* to *Boiled in Lead*. Adam plays a wide variety of acoustic music.

4:00pm—5:00pm

Opaline Ruse

Dark romantic music inspired by dreams of madness and poetry.

KRUSHENKO'S

Cabana 118 (South Tower, First Floor)

Thursday	5:00pm—6:00pm, 8:00pm—Midnight
Friday	11:00am—6:00pm, 8:00pm—1:00am
Saturday	11:00am—6:00pm, 8:00pm—2:00am
Sunday	11:00am—5:00pm, 7:30pm—Midnight

This Way to Krushenko's!

Inspired by a bistro referenced in Larry Niven's *Ringworld*, Krushenko's has been a place for panels, parties and conversation for over 25 years. Here you will find discussions of Science Fiction and Fantasy in all its forms. Krushenko's connects CONvergence with the other conventions in our area and with the rich traditions of Science Fiction and Fantasy fandom in the upper midwest. From panels to parties, Krushenko's is *accustomed to serving alien guests!*

Thursday

5:00pm-6:00pm Is Our President a Geek?

State your evidence for or against Barack Obama being one step away from cos-playing as Tuvok on the bridge of the Voyager. *Derek Mahr, Daniel Wallace*

8:00pm-Midnight Welcome to Krushenko's Party

Again, four days! Let's pace ourselves and start our lively long weekend of conversation about science fiction, fantasy, science, and related topics.

Friday

11:00am-Noon In Memoriam: Forrest J. Ackerman

Forrest J. Ackerman (Forry to his friends and fans) was Guest of Honor at the first CONvergence. Let's remember this friendly founding member of science fiction fandom and Monster Culture, editor of *Famous Monsters of Filmland*, and lover of horrible puns. *Eric Heideman (mod.)*

12:30pm-1:30pm It came from Bandana Square

The hotel by Bandana Square, St. Paul goes back 18 years with fandom. It hosts *Diversicon*, an SF con, July 31-Aug. 2; *Arcana*, a horror con, Oct. 16-18; and *Con-Sarnit*, a Western con, next spring. We'll talk about the hotel and the cons. *Brian Perry, Eric Heideman (mod.)*

2:00pm-3:00pm Great Authors You've Never Heard Of

Once you are done with Harry Potter, The Lord of the Rings and the Hitchhiker's "Trilogy," we'll give you a list of books and authors that you probably missed. *Hilary Moon Murphy, Jody Wurl*

3:30pm-4:30pm Twilight Zone: 50th Anniversary

You have just crossed over into a dimension of discussion and celebration. You have entered the Twilight Zone panel. Let's talk about master teleplay-writer Rod Serling (1924-1975) and his best known series (1959-1964), still powerful after 50 years. *Tim Lieder, Kelli Pennington, Alexandra Howes*

5:00pm-6:00pm Minnesota Speculative Fiction Writers Meeting

Come learn about this resource for local aspiring science fiction and fantasy writers. *Hilary Moon Murphy, Michael Merriam*

8:00pm-1:00am Tales of the Unanticipated Not-a-Publication Party

Hang out with the staff of and contributors to this 23-year-old fiction anthology, the 30th issue of which will premiere in August or September. See lots of cool back issues!

Saturday

11:00am-Noon The Works of Kelly McCullough

Discussion sponsored by Second Foundation, an SF book-discussion group that has met since 1983, and The Rivendell Group, a fantasy-book discussion group that has met since 1973. *Kelly McCullough, Eric Heideman (mod), David Lenander (mod.)*

12:30pm-1:30pm Disabilities in Science Fiction

Looking at the disabled through the lens of science fiction or: do handicapped Captains get better parking places in space dock? What will we consider to be a disability if blindness is cured ala La Forge's visor? *Michael Merriam, Rebecca Korvo, Betsy Lundsten, Elise Matthesen*

2:00pm-3:00pm Science Fiction in Academia

How Science Fiction and Fantasy are becoming more acceptable as a subject for academic study. *Michael Levy*

3:30pm-4:30pm Whither the Space Program in the Obama Years?

What will replace the Shuttle? What about the Space Station, Hubble Observatory, and the direction of human and robot space exploration in the administration of our new President? *Paul F. Richards (mod.)*

5:00pm-6:00pm SF Writing Groups: The 2009 Scene

This annual gathering allows representatives of writing groups specializing in science fiction and fantasy to report on how their groups function, and gives groups that are looking for new members a chance to put their heads together. *Eric Heideman (mod.)*

8:00pm-2:00am A Party for Readers and Viewers

Sponsored by *Second Foundation*, a Twin Cities speculative and science fiction book-discussion group-some of whose members are also film buffs-that has met regularly since 1983.

Sunday

11:00am-Noon Super Friends: The "Rebirth" of Barry Allen and Hal Jordan

Two splendid, subtle super heroes were best friends Barry (The Flash) Allen and Hal (Green Lantern) Jordan, both scripted by John Broome. Later writers mishandled, then killed them. Now Geoff Johns has brought them back. Let's celebrate. *Eric Heideman (mod.)*

12:30pm-1:30pm The Meaning of Python

For decades Monty Python has been a popular part of Science Fiction and Fantasy fandom. What has led to their appeal?

2:00pm-3:00pm That's not Funny: Cultural Context and Humor

So much humor depends on cultural context. How does humor become inclusive or exclusive? Is universal comedy possible? If so, how? *Christoforo Pasquarette*

3:30pm-4:30pm Cats in Fact, Folklore, Fiction and Film

We continue our series of Bio-Horror panels about scary critters (previously we've surveyed bats, bees, spiders, and many others). This time we'll examine our feline friends and foes, from giant jungle cats to their inscrutable domestic cousins. *Melissa Kaercher (mod), Eric Heideman (mod.)*

7:30pm-1:30am Conventions Party

Co-sponsored by three upcoming cons that will each occur in the Best Western-Bandana Square, St. Paul; *Diversicon 17*, a multicultural SF con (July 31-August 2); *Arcana 39*, a horror con (October 16-18); and *Con-Sarnit 3*, a Western con (to be held next May or June).

LIVE CHARITY AUCTION

Atrium 4 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

Sunday: 11:00am

New for 2009!

In addition to our annual Silent Auction (held in Atrium 1 - North Tower, 2nd Floor), this year we have our newly created Live Charity Auction! Some of the most coveted items from the Silent Auction will move to the Live Charity Auction in much the same way that works from the Art Show move to the Art Auction after a certain number of bids. We'll also have some special surprises that are *exclusive* to the Live Charity Auction!

Come fight it out nose-to-nose with that guy who kept upping your bid all weekend. Come see proof that auctioneers are up before noon. Come and help CONvergence and MISFITS support our year-round programs.

Through club activities, events, and work in the schools MISFITS works year-round with people of all ages, identities, and backgrounds to enhance literacy and build community.

Your donations and purchases at the Silent and Live Auctions go directly to MISFITS' mission. Come add another layer of fun to your support at our Live Charity Auction **11:00am Sunday morning** in Atrium 4!

See page 3 for the Silent Auction's hours of operation. For more information on the MISFITS programs for which these auctions are a fundraiser, see page 24.

MAINSTAGE

Grand Ballroom East (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Once again, MainStage will be home to the biggest events at CONvergence! As always, arrive early in the Ballroom for good seats!

Thursday

6:00pm **Mark Time Radio Show**

"*Jokes in Space*" original sketch comedy on the full range of SF and Fantasy. Parody, take-off and rocket jokes ready for take-off. From the Great Northern Audio Theater. Find more information about past shows and the Mark Time Awards at <http://www.greatnorthernaudio.com/MarkTime/MarkTime.html>

7:00pm **Opening Ceremony**

Time to get started with the convention! Find out what to expect from the weekend's convention schedule, and enjoy the surprise and entertainment at the official launch party of CONvergence 2009! *Michael Lee, Perrin Klumpp, Ishmael Williams, Christopher Jones, Jon Olsen, Patricia Wick, Windy Bowsby*

10:00pm **Retro Rebel Rocket Roadhouse**

We're going to start off our convention dances with our own flavor of dance nostalgia. DJs Dr. Boom and Flashy (and special guests) will start you off in the 70s and 80s, then traverse the musical temporal-verse through shoegazer and early rave music stopping at all the genres you've missed since the end of the 20th century.

Friday

3:00pm **MST3K: Origins and Beyond**

Meet Trace, Joel, Mary Jo, Frank and make up artist Crist Ballas as they talk about the origins and design of MST3K and the evolution of the series from locally owned Channel 23 to national cult phenomenon. *Trace Beaulieu, Frank Conniff, Joel Hodgson, Crist Ballas, Mary Jo Pehl, Bill Stiteler (mod)*

6:00pm **Ka-Baam!!**

Created by Marvel Comics Editor Steve Wacker and directed by Nels Lennes, *Ka-Baam!!* features the improvised origins of three original superheroes, and sends them on a team adventure against a dastardly supervillain!

8:00pm **Geeks Got Talent**

Do you have a special talent? Calling all performers including singers, jugglers, comedians, magicians, acoustic musicians, one-man bands, and sketch comedy. *Emcee: Tim Wick, Judges: Jon Olson, Dayna Wolter, and a surprise guest judge.*

10:00pm **SpookySpookyScaryScary: LIVE**

A live comedy show full of evil! Tim Uren and Joseph Scrimshaw are Chuck and Dexter, two Lovecraft obsessed "Cthultists" desperate to spread the bad word! Compete to become a member of their cult or just win a copy of their DVD! *Tim Uren, Joseph Scrimshaw*

11:00pm **Vilification Tennis**

The show that violated fire codes in Harmonic CONvergence is back and they brought their interpreters with them! Enjoy their offensive insults in fabulous *sign-o-rama(TM)* and learn why they should never, ever, be given microphones. *Tim Wick*

1:00am **Robotnik's Rampage**

Get out your best post-apocalyptic battle gear and come on down to Friday's dance, where we'll be serving shattered visions of human futures and symphonies for after the robot invasion. Seasoned musical cyborgs DV8 and Spleen (and special guests) will assault you with darkwave, industrial, synthpop, edm, and noise until the feeder drones get us all.

Saturday

7:00pm **Masquerade**

Our annual pageant returns for another show full of fabulous costumes and performances. This year following the performances while the judges deliberate, the Masquerade Halftime Show will be the CONvergence version of that old game show favorite: The Match Game! Come watch our celebrity panelists fill in the blanks for fun and laughs!

11:00pm **Rave Revue**

Saturday we put it all together. Starting at 11:00pm (or as soon as we're able to after Masquerade) with an hour of strobe-free science fiction oriented dance music, we'll continue the evening with a full-on assault of all the best we have to offer. Our previous night's DJs will be joined by DJs Nitrogen and Oxygen, as well as soundscape technician Noise as we keep the floor moving until the wee hours.

Sunday

5:00pm **Closing Ceremony**

Time for the convention to wrap up. Say goodbye to our 2009 Guests of Honor and get your first sneak peek at what we have in store for CONvergence 2010! *Perrin Klumpp, Patricia Wick, Thomas Keeley, Ishmael Williams, Jon Olsen, Christopher Jones, Windy Bowsby, Michael Lee, Lex Larson*

THEATER NIPPON ANIME ROOM

Plaza 2 (North Tower, First Floor)

This year Theater Nippon presents a mix of just released and classic anime with a healthy dose of comedy. We've expanded our mix of genres to include everything from hard core action and mecha to comedies, magical girls and BL. Highlights include newer titles such as *Sword of the Stranger*, *D. Gray Man*, *Baccano* and *Ouran High School Host Club* and classic titles such as *Voltron*, *Southern Cross* and *Gundam*. Don't miss our our parody blocks, 11:30pm each night with classic parodies and new "abridged" series. All showings are subject to change.

Ratings Key: **ALL, G:** Generally acceptable for children. No Nudity. Possible mild violence.

12+, 13+, TVPG: May contain violence, brief nudity, and/or mild language. May suggest sexual situations, but no situations are shown. Parental discretion advised.

15+,16+,17+, TVMA: Strong violence and strong language. Prevalent Nudity may be contained within the picture. Mild sexual situations may be shown.

Thursday

- 5:00pm **TO BE ANNOUNCED** (13+, English, Fantasy)
In accordance with our agreement with the license holder, we are unable to announce this title prior to the convention.
- 7:00pm **Ahh My Buddha** (13+, Subtitled, Comedy) *Episodes 1-3*
Ikkou is training to be a priest in a Buddhist temple full of incredibly gorgeous and obviously available priestesses.
- 8:45pm **Fake** (13+, Subtitled, Shonen-ai) *Cinematic movie.*
Dee Latener and his half-Japanese partner Randy 'Ryo' McLane and a couple of detectives in New York's 27th Precinct. Not only does this pair of crime-fighting crusaders chase down criminals, but Dee can't stop chasing Ryo.
- 10:00pm **Baccano** (17+, Subtitled, Action) *Episodes 1-3*
Don't let nobody tell you there's no future in a life of crime, because some rackets can last forever. Mafia turf wars, hoods who can't seem to die proper after catching a bullet or five, Sadistic hit-men and the dames they love, mad bombers going boom, monsters going bump and soul sucking alchemists bootlegging an elixir of eternal life.
- 11:30pm **Parody** (17+, Comedy)
A mix of old and new parodies.

Friday

Crazy Fighter Block!

- 1:00am **Ramen Fighter Miki** (13+, English, Comedy/Action) *Episodes 1-3*
Miki delivers Ramen, and fights. What more do you need to know?
- 2:30am **Bludgeoning Angel Dokuro-Chan** (16+, Subtitled, Comedy/Action) *Episodes 1-3*
The path of nonviolence leads to a fountain of blood, as Dokuro-chan accidentally kills Sakura on an almost-daily basis only to resurrect him moments later.
- 4:00am **School Rumble 2** (17+, English, Comedy/Action) *Episodes 1-4*
How do you take care of school crushes? Rumble!

- 6:00am **Prince of Tennis** (All, Subtitled, Sport) *Episodes 1-4*
He's the 12-year-old son of a famous tennis player and a tennis genius in his own right, with talent in his blood and fire in his eyes.
- 8:00am **Hello Kitty** (All, English, Adventure/Kids)
It's Hello Kitty.
- 10:00am **Voltron** (All, English, Adventure) *Episodes 1-3*
The legend of *Voltron: Defender of the Universe!* A mighty robot, loved by good, feared by evil.
- Noon Closed for Refresh
- 12:30pm **Air** (13+, Subtitled, Drama) *Episodes 1-3*
Yukito is a traveling performer: A wanderer. He survives with only the clothes on his back, a puppet, and a story from his mother: The story of "The Girl in the Sky." He doesn't know who or where she is; only that he must find her.
- 2:00pm **Shinesman** (12+, English, Action/Comedy) *Episodes 1-2*
Little does he know that he's been recruited for a very mysterious department within the company: Special Duty Combat Unit: SHINESMAN—which faces a terrible alien menace unbeknownst to Earthlings.
- 3:30pm **Tsubasa RESERVoIR CHRoNiCLE** (13+, Subtitled, Adventure) *Episodes 1-3*
The fates shine upon young archeologist Syaoran and his life-long love, the Princess Sakura.
- 5:00pm **Gurren Lagann** (13+ , English. Comedy/Action) *Episodes 1-3*
In his skyless cavern of a village Simon toils daily, drilling holes to expand his stifling little world until one day he makes an extraordinary discovery: a small glowing drill-bit and the man-sized mecha it activates.
- 6:30pm **Ouran High School Host Club** (14+, Subtitled, Romance/Comedy) *Episodes 1-3*
Ouran High School. An institution of extravagance and prestige where learning is secondary to luxury. No matter – the Host Club is now open!
- 8:00pm **Sword of the Stranger** (16+, Subtitled, Action) *Cinematic Movie - HDTV*
Hunted by the Ming from China, young Kotaro and his dog meet a nameless samurai ("Nanashi") who is haunted constantly by memories of his past which has led him to avoid drawing his sword ever again. Among the Ming is a fearsome Western fighter named Raro, whose only desire is to find a worthy opponent.
- 10:00pm **TO BE ANNOUNCED** (13+ , English, Action)
In accordance with our agreement with the license holder, we are unable to announce this title prior to the convention.

11:30pm Parody

Saturday

Bad Ass Block

- 1:00am **Shigurui: Death Frenzy** (17+, English, Action) *Episodes 1-3*
Two damaged warriors wear the scars of a twisted and violent past. Bitter rivals for the secrets of their master's sword and the right to his daughter, these samurai inflict wounds on each other that would destroy lesser men.
- 2:30am **S-CRY-ed** (13+, English, Action/Adventure) *Episodes 1-3*
The aftermath of a mysterious environmental catastrophe has left the land in complete desolation! The catastrophe has caused some humans to undergo genetic mutations granting them special powers and abilities.
- 4:00am **Noir** (14+, Subtitled, Action) *Episodes 1-3*
The beautiful and renowned assassin Mireille Bouquet receives a mysterious e-mail beckoning her to "make a pilgrimage to the past, with me."

Saturday (continued)

- 6:00am **TO BE ANNOUNCED** (13+, English, Fantasy)
In accordance with our agreement with the license holder, we are unable to announce this title prior to the convention.
- 7:30am **CLAMP: School Detectives** (All, English, Comedy) *Episodes 1-3*
Nokoru Imonoyama, Student Council President of the Elementary School Division, as well as the Treasurer, Akira, and Secretary, Suoh, are three of the most well-liked and idolized students in school. Nokoru decides that he and his two friends are going to become school detectives.
- 9:00am **Nadia Secret of the Blue** (All, English, Adventure) *Episodes 1-4*
World's Fair, Paris, 1889: Young inventor Jean crosses paths with an enigmatic girl named Nadia and her pet lion, King. Suddenly, they find themselves pursued by a villainous trio intent upon stealing the Blue Water.
- 11:00am **TO BE ANNOUNCED** (All, English – Adventure)
In accordance with our agreement with the license holder, we are unable to announce this title prior to the convention.
- Noon Closed for Refresh
- 1:00pm **Gravitation** (13+, English, Shounen-ai) *Episodes 1-3*
All Shuichi ever dreamed about was following in the footsteps of his pop idol, Ryuichi Sakuma and the band Nittle Grasper.
- 3:00pm **Loveless** (13+, Subtitled, Shounen-a) *Episodes 1-4*
Ritsuka's innocent childhood days came to a bloody end when he lost the one person who understood him. His brother Seimei was always his guiding star, and with out him Ritsuka was lost.
- 5:00pm **Claymore** (16+, English, Action) *Episodes 1-3*
A brutal scourge stalks the land. Yoma, monsters driven by a hunger satisfied by only one quarry: Humanity. The dark breed knows but a singular foe: Claymore. Human-Yoma hybrids of extraordinary strength and cunning, the Claymores roam.
- 6:30pm **Princess Tutu** (13+, Subtitled, Fantasy) *Episodes 1-3*
Gliding as from one dream to another, Princess Tutu continues her search for the shards of her prince's heart. Yet each returned piece plunges her deeper into nightmare, until her nemesis, the raven princess Kraehe, arises.
- 8:00pm **D. Gray Man** (14+, Subtitled, Action/Fantasy) *Episodes 1-4*
Darkness is moving in, and a young exorcist is humanity's greatest hope against the wicked forces conspiring to bring civilization to its knees.
- 10:00pm **Afro Samurai Resurrection** (TVMA, English, Action) *Cinematic movie.*
Samuel L. Jackson, Lucy Liu, and Mark Hamill. Afro Samurai avenged his father and found a life of peace, but the legendary master is forced back into the game by a beautiful and deadly woman from his past.
- 11:30pm **Parody**
It's Gendo!

Sunday

- 1:00am **Green Green** (16+, English, Comedy) *Episodes 1-3*
In ages past, a man and a woman tasted forbidden love. Even though they could not be together, they made a vow that would transcend time. In modern day, Yuusuke, a student at the Kanenone all-boys academy, is one of the reincarnated lovers.
- 2:30am **Puny Puny Poemi** (17+, English, Comedy) *Episodes 1-2*
Banned in New Zealand for bad taste! Beautiful Girls! Naughty Aliens! Dead Fish! When evil aliens kill Poemi Watanabe's parents, she doesn't get mad, she gets even... but first she moves in with the seven crazy Aasu sisters, discovers the magic power of dead fish, and develops a serious crush.
- 4:00am **Excel Saga** (17+, Subtitled, Comedy) *Episodes 1-3*
No anime is safe from the barrage of parodies and "subtle" jokes contained in this episode series. Excel, a female agent for ACROSS (a secret organization whose total membership is 2), deals with all manners of the insane.
- 5:30am **Pani Poni Dash** (13+, Subtitled, Comedy) *Episodes 1-4*
The good news? She's an MIT grad. The bad news? She's an 11-year-old MIT grad. So while Becky Miyamoto may be intellectually able, this MIT prodigy is painfully ill-equipped to deal with a group of temperamental teens - especially THIS group.
- 7:30am **TO BE ANNOUNCED** (13+, Subtitled, Action/Adventure)
In accordance with our agreement with the license holder, we are unable to announce this title prior to the convention.
- 9:00am **Case Closed The Movie: The Time Bombed Skyscraper**
(TVPG, English, Mystery) *Cinematic movie.*
Time Bombed Skyscraper pits Conan against a serial arsonist and a bomber who threatens to destroy several buildings and a train line in Tokyo. Are there links between the criminals that would escape the eyes of a less extraordinary detective?
- 10:30am **Gundam Wing** (Subtitled, 13+, Action)
It's Gundam! 2 Hours Gundam! Feed your Gundam needs!

Magic Girl Block

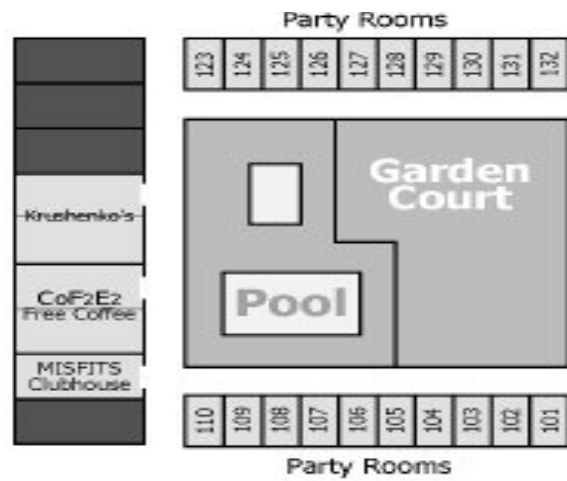
- 12:30pm **Jubi-Chan 2** (13+, English, Magical Girl) *Episodes 1-3*
Life has settled down for middle school student Jiyu, the reincarnation of the legendary swordsman Yagyū Jubei. But Jiyu's in for big trouble when the warring Northern Yagyū clan arrives, seeking to settle their ancient feud with Jubei.
- 2:00pm **Magic Users Club** (TVPG, English, Magical Girl) *Episodes 1-3*
Magic Users Club takes place in a world where the UN's forces have been defeated by a mysterious alien cylinder that has made its way towards Earth. For the last year, it has kept a watchful eye on humanity, doing no harm to any humans.
- 3:30pm **Lucky Star** (13+, Subtitled, Comedy) *Episodes 1-3*
Meet Konata, an athletic and intelligent girl too dedicated to her favorite primetime anime shows to excel in anything but otaku culture; Miyuki, the cute, bespectacled living example of moe with an encyclopedic knowledge of all subjects.
- 5:00pm **TO BE ANNOUNCED** (13+, Subtitled, Action)
In accordance with our agreement with the license holder, we are unable to announce this title prior to the convention.

PARTIES AND CABANAS

(South Tower, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floors)

Parties are always one of the most exciting parts of CONvergence, and this year is no exception! In addition to two floors of poolside cabanas, parties can also be found in our **Satellite Party Zone** on the 4th floor, around the corner and upstairs from poolside. Don't miss them!

Listed below are registered parties on all the party floors, as well as convention functions located in poolside cabanas (such as *ConSuite*, *Krushenko's*, *CoF2E2*, and the *MISFITS Clubhouse/Party Room*). The information presented here reflects what was provided to CONvergence at press time and is subject to change.



"Thank You" to all of our fantastic party sponsors and hosts!

FIRST FLOOR CABANAS

Cabana Party Name and Information

102 **The Witches' Cauldron** (THURSDAY & FRIDAY ONLY)

Thursday 8:00pm—2:00am
Friday 8:00pm—2:00am
Group Twin Cities Pagan Pride

Earth, Air, Fire or Water: Come see which of the four elements you are most aligned with... and sample some of our elemental spirits while you're at it!

102 **Reno in 2011 Worldcon Bid Party** (SATURDAY ONLY)

Saturday 8:00pm—2:00am
Group RCFI

New Frontier! Hitch your ramjet-powered wagon to a star and vote for Reno in 2011. (The Donner Pass is safe, now.) Come party with us and support the Reno in 2011 Worldcon bid.

103 **Midnight at the Oasis**

Friday 7:00pm—2:00am
Saturday 2:00pm—5:00pm, 7:00pm—2:00am
Group Basimah Kamar & ITTSF

Bellydancing and fantasy: What could go better together? Join us in the evening to watch the lovely ladies of Basimah Kamar dance troupe and guests perform hourly shows all night. Daytime more your thing? Join us Saturday afternoon as ITTSF hosts open dancing and water tasting.

104 **Gravediggers**

Friday 8:00pm—Midnight
Saturday 8:00pm—Midnight
Group Gravediggers

The caskets are empty but the casks are full.

105 **A Klingon Nightmare**

Thursday 9:00pm—11:00pm
Friday 9:00pm—1:00am
Saturday 10:00pm—2:00am
Group IKV RakeHell

What could possibly cause a brave Klingon warrior to run screaming in fear? Could it be... *A Klingon Nightmare?*

106 **OmegaCon introduces The Goddess Party**

Thursday Stop by
Friday 8:00pm—Midnight
Saturday 10:00pm—2:00am
Sunday Stop by
Group OmegaCon

The Goddesses will calm your anxious heart, inspire your creativity, and warm your soul. Relax with the Goddesses, and leave happy! Bring your own lovely lady and the Goddesses will inspire. Learn about OmegaCon and Mythology at the same time. This is relaxing at its best. Everyone is welcome.

107 **United Federation of Planets**

Thursday 8:00pm—Midnight
Friday 7:00pm—1:00am
Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am
Group U.S.S. Nokomis

The U.S.S. Enterprise launches again at CONvergence, with some fun new additions. Come aboard; you've always wanted to. Relax with your fellow Starfleet officers and members of the U.S.S. Nokomis. Then, step next door to the Terran Empire.

108 **Terran Empire**

Thursday 8:00pm—Midnight
Friday 7:00pm—1:00am
Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am
Group World Defense Force

Experience the *evil side* of classic *Trek* aboard the I.S.S. Enterprise and choose your poison—*will it be Green or Red?* When you've had your fill, visit the Federation in the next room.

109 **Con of the North**

Friday 7:00pm—Midnight
Saturday 7:00pm—Midnight
Group Con of the North

Stop by the Con of the North room party and play some board, card, and role-playing games! You'll also find out more about Minnesota's best and longest running gaming convention, now in its 18th year!

110 **Vice City**

Thursday 7:00pm—Midnight
Friday 7:00pm—Midnight
Saturday 7:00pm—Midnight
Hosts Jesse Richardson, Ian Whitney

Vice City is all about casual, classic video gaming fun. From Bible Adventures to Tetris Attack to Wizard of Wor, Vice City has your classic gaming needs covered. "WINNERS DON'T USE DRUGS" (William S. Sessions, Director, FBI)

Cabana Party Name and Information

- 114 **MISFITS Clubhouse**
 Thursday 9:00pm—1:00am
 Friday 9:00pm—1:00am
 Saturday 9:00pm—1:00am
 Group MISFITS / Minnesota Society for Interest in SF and Fantasy
- A feature of CONvergence:**
 MISFITS is the year-round collection of clubs, events and programs for which CONvergence is a fundraiser! Find out how to get an expert in robotics, astronomy, raptors, or even an author to present at your child's school.
- Special Clubhouse Events:**
Geeks Read - Saturday 2:00pm
 We will be discussing "In The Name of the Wind" by Patrick Rothfuss. This discussion is open to all.
- Read the Book/See the Movie - Sunday 12:30pm**
 We will be watching "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," and then discussing both the adaptation and the original story by Ambrose Bierce.
 Learn more about what MISFITS will be offering at CONvergence on page 24.
- 115—116 **CoF2E2 Free Coffee Shop**
 Open 24 Hours: Thursday 3:00pm—Sunday 5:00pm
A feature of CONvergence: Free coffee, tea and more.
- 118—119 **Krushenko's**
 Thursday 5:00pm—6:00pm, 8:00pm—Midnight
 Friday 11:00am—6:00pm, 8:00pm—1:00am
 Saturday 11:00am—6:00pm, 8:00pm—2:00am
 Sunday 11:00am—5:00pm, 7:30pm—Midnight
- A feature of CONvergence:** A space for panels, parties and conversation.
 See page 20 for more details.
- 123 **Karaoke Joe's Cafe**
 Thursday 7:00pm—3:00am
 Friday 7:00pm—3:00am
 Saturday 7:00pm—3:00am
 Group Karaoke Joe's Cafe
- We're back, ready to rock your world! Join DJ Dov (made it through Afghanistan!), Ben, Gene and the Karaoke Joe's gang for 3 nights of the longest-running party at the Con! And don't miss the biggest, bestest karaoke contest Saturday night! Come join us and *ROCK THE MIC!*
- 124 **Gojira Party**
 Thursday 9:00pm—2:00am
 Friday 9:00pm—2:00am
 Saturday 9:00pm—2:00am
 Hosts Ben Mueller, Matthew Anderson, Dan Mason
- Come for the monstrous destruction; stay for the party! This is the place to be when the giant lizard of ennui is destroying the Tokyo of your soul.
- 125 **Campaign CONvergence**
 Thursday 8:00pm—2:00am
 Friday 8:00pm—2:00am
 Saturday 8:00pm—2:00am
 Hosts Chris Whiting & Genevieve Woodward
- Where evil masterminds maneuver, manipulate, and murder their way to the presidency. (Just like a real election only not as depressing.) Meet the candidates, win prizes, and cast your vote! Don't forget to attend our panel debate on Friday; election results posted Saturday. Sponsored by The Guild of Calamitous Intent.

- 126 **Xenaversity**
 Friday 8:00pm—Midnight
 Saturday 8:00pm—Midnight
 Group Xenaversity
- The Xenaversity of Minnesota fan club is mixing up some great party plans for our Cabana in 2009! We'll be playing (XENA) games, watching (XENA) videos and episodes, dressing up as (XENA) characters and celebrating our #1 sci-fi love (XENA)! Come join us and become Xena-Fied!
- 127 **SuperCon (THURSDAY ONLY)**
 Thursday 9:00pm—1:00am
 Group SuperCon
- SuperCon is firing up the time machine for free rides back to the golden age of cocktail parties! Who cares that aliens just destroyed the movie house and most of Main Street? We've got vintage cocktailing, B-Movie trivia, munchies for the nuclear family, and those charming housewives from Stepford.
- 127 **Dark Lords & Femme Fatales**
 Friday 9:00pm—1:00am
 Saturday 9:00pm—1:00am
 Group MarsCon 2010
- The darkness is coming. Come, relax and celebrate before it descends. MarsCon 2010 will take place on March 5-7, 2010, at the Holiday Inn Select, Bloomington, Minnesota. Guests will include artist John Garner and scientist Loretta McKibben. Femme fatales and dark lords who visit our party may win fabulous prizes!
- 128 **Anime Detour**
 Thursday 6:00pm—2:00am
 Friday 6:00pm—2:00am
 Saturday 6:00pm—2:00am
 Group Anime Detour
- Come see some of your favorite Anime Music Videos, learn to love new ones, enjoy loud music, great Anime, good food, cold beverages, and better company!
- 129 **Gaylaxicon 2009/Sci-Fab**
 Friday 8:00pm—Midnight
 Saturday 8:00pm—Midnight
 Group North Country Gaylaxians
- Come and celebrate all that is fabulous in sci-fi and fantasy, and support Gaylaxicon 2009, coming to the Twin Cities in October for the first time ever! Enjoy games, snacks, home-made ice cream and our Torchwood lookalike contest! Are you more Captain Jack or Ianto? Gwen or Tosh?
- 130 **House of Toast**
 Thursday 10:00pm—Midnight
 Friday 8:00pm—Midnight
 Saturday 9:00pm—1:00am
 Group House of Toast
- Many years of serving seemingly random combinations of toppings to con-goers have led us to 3 conclusions. 1) Nearly everything goes well on toast. 2) Increased application of alcohol increases willingness to try previously horrifying combinations of toppings. 3) Con-goers increase their application of alcohol every year.
- 131 **Cow Asylum**
 Friday 8:00pm—Midnight
 Saturday 9:00pm—1:00am
 Group The Herd
- "We will be restoring normality just as soon as we are sure of what is normal anyway."

Second Floor Cabanas

Cabana Party Name and Information

201 **The Bearded Gnome Tavern and Inn**

Thursday 8:00pm—2:00am
 Friday 8:00pm—2:00am
 Saturday 8:00pm—2:00am
 Sunday 11:00am—1:00pm
 Group The Lords of Lore and Lechery

Welcome, weary travelers! Rest your feet, quench your thirst, learn your fortune, and try your hand at tavern games! Listen to the stories of bards and seek your own adventures in an ancient time of dragons and dungeons. Rub the Bearded Gnome and raise a toast to fallen heroes!

202 **The Assassins' Guild**

Thursday 8:00pm—Midnight
 Friday 8:00pm—1:00am
 Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am
 Sunday Stop By
 Group The Assassins' Guild

Come and join the Assassins' Guild for mystery, mayhem, merriment & murder. Games? Foam sword boffing? OBVIOUSLY! And even some DDR. Come and join us for refreshment and only light twisted insanity.

203 **Cinema Apocalypse**

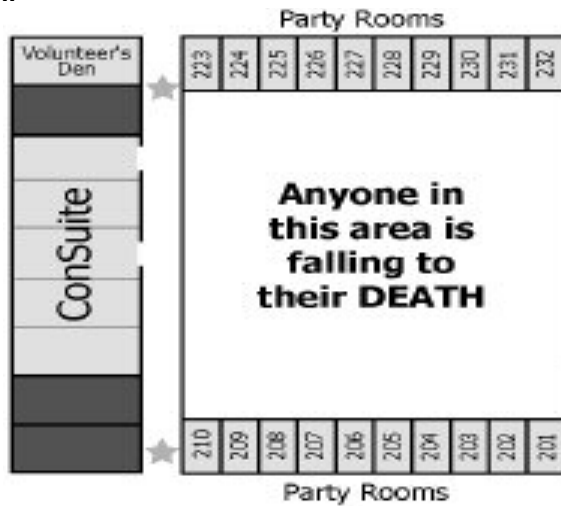
Thursday 9:00pm—5:00am
 Friday 11:00am—5:00am
 Saturday 11:00am—5:00am
 Hosts Scott Williamson, Todd Wardrope

Cinema Apocalypse strives to show the best of the worst of world cinema. From Indonesian black magic and Turkish superheroes to Mexican monsters and Japanese psychedelia. No genre is off limits, taboo, or too dangerous for Cinema Apocalypse. Just keep telling yourself: It's only a movie!

204 **Romulan Consulate**

Thursday 10:00pm—2:00am
 Friday 10:00pm—3:00am
 Saturday 10:00pm—3:00am
 Hosts Brett Kaminski, Noah Lee

Booze from every corner of the galaxy. Beautiful women. Snide, imperialistic hosts. We're still better than you. We came, we saw, we triumphed. 18+.



205 **D-Notice**

Thursday 9:00pm—1:00am
 Friday 8:00pm—2:00am
 Saturday 8:00pm—2:00am
 Group Twin Ports Gaming & Sci Fi

Welcome to D-Notice's party room! Come and celebrate our ten years at CONvergence with our famous Shaktarian steak balls and bio-genetic drinks along with our goth-industrial music. Take a spin on the wheel of misfortune. Don't forget the caution tape!

206 **Minicon**

Friday 6:00pm—2:00am
 Saturday 6:00pm—2:00am
 Group Minicon/MNSTF

Come get to know the other convention in this hotel. Minicon features a combined art/dealers/science room, 24-hour gaming, hall costume awards, and a wide variety of programming items. Stop by for some great food and our famous BLOG.

207 **Poly Paradise and Purgatory**

Thursday 8:00pm—2:00am
 Friday 8:00pm—2:00am
 Saturday 8:00pm—2:00am
 Group Twin Cities Polyamory Discussion Group

Heavenly love, devilish fun! Have your picture taken in Heaven or Hell! Nightly "Otherworldly Creatures" costume contest and Twister Tournament; Heinlein's 102nd birthday party Saturday night!

Friday: 2:00pm—3:00pm

"Sci-Fi Relationships? Polyamory 101" presentation and Q&A.

Saturday: 2:00pm—5:00pm

"CONvergence Cuddle Party" hosted by Candessa of Ms. LaVie's School of Loving Arts.

208 **Captain Kirk's House of Ill Repute**

Friday 8:00pm—Midnight
 Saturday 8:00pm—Midnight
 Group ValleyCon

The party Captain returns! Captain Kirk's House of Ill Repute features the Swingin' 60s Dance Party and much more! Stop by Room 208 to find out how you can meet GEORGE R.R. MARTIN and PETER JURASIK (Londo of Babylon 5)!

209 **Ales from the Crypt**

Thursday 7:00pm—1:00am
 Friday 7:00pm—1:00am
 Saturday 7:00pm—1:00am
 Group WOLF, Inc

Zombies from the Fright Farm are back! Quench your thirst with Embalming Fluid, Zombie Snot, or Brain Hemorrhage! (Mmm, BRAINS.) Are you "Smarter than a Zombie?" Test your Horror Trivia for a chance to win fabulous prizes on "The Wheel of Death." Come for the drinks; stay for the *BRAAAAINS!*

210 **Zombie Arcade**

Thursday 7:00pm—1:00am
 Friday 7:00pm—1:00am
 Saturday 7:00pm—1:00am
 Group Frozen Grafix

That's right: The zombies from the Fright Farm are back!! Kill some time on the GIANT SCREEN GAMES killing Zombies in *House of the Dead* or *Resident Evil*, jam to Guitar Hero, or just chill out in the dungeon. All are welcome, dead and undead alike (especially those with BRAINS).

Cabana Party Name and Information

214—219 **ConSuite**

Open 24 Hours: Thursday 3:00pm—Sunday 6:00pm

A feature of CONvergence: Snacks and beverages and socializing around the clock!

222 **Volunteers Den**

Thursday Noon to 2:00am

Friday 10:00am—2:00am

Saturday 10:00am—2:00am

Sunday 10:00am—5:00pm

Where Volunteers go to relax and chat with other volunteers.

(See the description on page 39.)

223 **Intergalactic Vidastik Space Bar/Photo Funbooth**

Friday 9:00pm—1:00am

Saturday 9:00pm—1:00am

Group l'etoile magazine

Join l'etoile magazine for CONvergence 2009! Hosted by stylish uber-nerds Clement Shimizu, Kate Iverson, Beth Hammarlund, and Hal Schuler. The Intergalactic Vidastik Space Bar will feature live video mixing, a photo fun booth, and wild space-worthy cocktails compliments of UV Vodka.

224 **Serenity Galley**

Thursday 9:00pm—1:00am

Friday 9:00pm—1:00am

Saturday 9:00pm—1:00am

Hosts Heather White, Dre Deutschlaender

Come experience the thrill of Joss Whedon's *Firefly* and *Serenity* 'verse! Sit down in Serenity's galley, enjoy food from the 'verse, games, live music, trivia, and more! Or step into Canton and our tribute to the man they call Jayne!

225 **NFC's Convergence of Holidays**

Friday 8:00pm—Midnight

Saturday 10:00am—2:00pm, 8:00pm—Midnight

Group NFC

This year's Convergence of Holidays features one night each of Halloween and Samhain. Come to our party and try to guess which night is which. There will be Apple Spider and randomly timed games and costume contests with prizes! Find us Saturday morning for French Toast Breakfast (while supplies last).

226 **The Ocha-ya** (THURSDAY ONLY)

Thursday 7:00pm—2:00am

Hosts Cameron Nelson, Amaya Morey

A stylish yet subdued ramen and tea room decorated in Japanese-inspired designs and attended by Traps for a twist. Come for an immersive escape!

226 **Intergalactic Costume Consulting Agency**

Friday 9:00pm—1:00am

Saturday 9:00pm—1:00am

Host Rae Lundquist

Through the fabric of time, you've searched for kindred costumers who understand your burning obsession with prop, trim, and fabric. The Intergalactic Costume Consulting Agency has demos, displays, and a chance to talk shop. Join the Agents as we plot to take over the universe, one thread at a time!

227

Skepchicks at CONvergence

Friday 8:00pm—1:00am

Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am

Host Carrie Iwan

Join this group of smart, skeptical, sexy, and snarky women for a weekend of far too much fun, featuring a pajama party, nerdy entertainment, and plenty of Tang.

228

Tardis Tea Society

Friday 8:00pm—1:00am

Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am

Sunday Noon-Closing Ceremonies

Group Tardis Tea Society

Step through the familiar blue doors and enter the newly upgraded Tardis. We serve tea, ginger beer, English muffins (with jam and butter) and extra goodies found on our adventures. Watch some of your favorite *Doctor Who* episodes and regenerate before you move on to your next galaxy or party.

229

Deadly Delights

Thursday 7:00pm—Midnight

Friday 7:00pm—Midnight

Saturday 10:00pm—2:00am

Hosts Rachel Baldwin, Daniel Rosene, Rachel Simmer

You are cordially invited to the Valentine Mansion to enjoy a complimentary dessert party and the company of some strange guests, and to partake in a tale of souls, transcending history, eternally retold. This year we are featuring specialty cupcakes with a variety of fillings and toppings for any taste.

230

Steam Century Mystery

Thursday 7:00pm—Midnight

Friday 7:00pm—Midnight

Saturday 7:00pm—Midnight

Group Steam Century

Steam Century Mystery is a game based on ideas from *Clue*, LARPs, and *How to Host a Murder* all with a Steampunk theme. The crew act as hosts as well as living clues while the guests try to solve the mystery set up specifically for that convention.

231

Mos Icee Cantina

Friday 8:00pm—1:00am

Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am

Group Minnesota Force

Everyone's favorite hive of scum and villainy is partying in high style with Twi'lek dancers, the Modal Nodes, and, to combat the Twin Suns of Tatooine, an icee machine. Take a break and cool down!

232

VHU: Techs Gone Wild

Thursday 7:00pm—1:00am

Friday 7:00pm—1:00am

Saturday 7:00pm—1:00am

Group VHU

The engineers took over! Masterminding maniacal mayhem, party modding a realm of technological insanity that would make Scotty grab the scotch. Celebrate blinky lights, shiny buttons, and the mad scientist in us all as we learn a valuable lesson about letting engineers be managers... "It's VHU-542!" "They've gone to plaid!"

FOURTH FLOOR SATELLITE PARTY ZONE

Cabana Party Name and Information

402 **Comicoction**

Thursday Stop by
Friday 7:00pm—11:00pm
Saturday 7:00pm—11:00pm
Hosts Kyle Eckmeier, Dan Wolf

A party for viewing and discussing comic book related movies and short films. Will be playing a mix of comic related material with an emphasis on shorts, motion comics, animated rarities, and oddities.

404 **SPIRE: One Thing Or Another**

Friday 9:00pm—1:00am
Saturday 7:00pm—11:00pm
Group Sentience Paradigm Inquiry and Review Enterprise

Now 37% less cult-like! The belief system which bears a suspicious resemblance to plain ol' fandom is back for another evening of games, snacks, and contemplating the mysteries of the universe. We can't promise you'll achieve transcendental enlightenment just by staring at our decorated walls, but it can't hurt.

406 **Milliways: The Restaurant at the End of the Universe**

Friday 8:00pm—Midnight
Saturday 7:00pm—11:00pm
Group Milliways

Milliways, the Restaurant at the End of the Universe, will serve all creatures who happen by. We offer homemade cookies and milk shots (non-alcoholic). We will also be providing dinner entertainment in the form of viewing *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and Vagon Poetry.

Time Bandits
art by
Christopher
Jones



VOLUNTEER DEN

Cabana 222 (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Thursday Noon to 2:00am
Friday 10:00am—2:00am
Saturday 10:00am—2:00am
Sunday 10:00am—5:00pm

Where Volunteers go to relax and chat with other volunteers.

Every year we try to do something new to make things better for you, *our volunteers*. This year we've added a place for volunteers to go to get away from the rush and hubub of the rest of the convention.

All that you need to spend time in the Volunteer Den is a **Volunteer Button**. You get that for spending **ONE HOUR** or more doing any volunteer activity that a Department Head will sign off on for your **Volunteer Card**.

In the past we've had people providing **massages** behind the Volunteer and Information Desk. This year those massages will have a new home in the more secluded location of the Volunteer Den. You'll find us next door to the **ConSuite**. So if you need a bite to eat, it's not that far away. But we're not setting up food here. Use it as a place to meet up with your friends who've also volunteered. Plan out how you're going to organize the best LRP. Spend some time reading that book you picked out of the library in the Literary Lounge. Check in with the Volunteer Staff on duty there to see if there is some way to get a couple of extra hours in to earn that T-shirt.

We would love to have the Volunteers' Den open for the entire convention, but for now we're planning on generally having it open from 10:00am until 2:00am. There may be later hours based on demand, and you can even earn Volunteer Hours by helping us to staff the Volunteer Den beyond those hours.

VOLUNTEER LOUNGE

Shipside (South Tower, 1st Floor)

(Located in CONvergence Registration).

Wednesday 3:00pm—6:00pm
Thursday 10:00am—11:00pm
Friday 9:00am—11:00pm
Saturday 10:00am—8:00pm
Sunday 11:00am—6:30pm

Volunteer at Registration!

You walk up to Registration, and there seems to be a line. Well, several actually. And we know that you love to talk with others registering, but we also know that some of you, well hopefully all of you, are wondering what else is going on at the convention. Perhaps you are looking for ways to volunteer. Well, that's where *Volunteer Lounge* comes in. We've set up a Volunteer Desk at registration, and a small space where we will be happy to chat with you about what is happening and where we need your help.

GUESTS OF HONOR APPEARANCES

We want to make sure that you have every possible chance to meet and enjoy our **Guests of Honor** while they are here at CONvergence. Below is a listing of Guest of Honor panels and appearances. For a more detailed description of these panels, refer to the listing starting on page 46.

There will be signing sessions at our **Autograph Table** across from the Bloomington Room by our Guests of Honor and other attending professionals. Please check the schedule posted there for scheduled signings.

Trace Beaulieu

Writer and comedian; Crow & Dr. Clayton Forrester from *MST3K*.

Friday 3:00pm	MainStage	MST3K: Origins and Beyond
Friday 4:00pm	Autograph Table	Cinematic Titanic Signing #1
Saturday 2:00pm	Atrium 6	Cinematic Titanic
Saturday 5:00pm	Autograph Table	Cinematic Titanic Signing #2

Frank Conniff

Writer and comedian; TV's Frank from *MST3K*.

Friday 3:00pm	MainStage	MST3K: Origins and Beyond
Friday 4:00pm	Autograph Table	Cinematic Titanic Signing #1
Saturday 2:00pm	Atrium 6	Cinematic Titanic
Saturday 3:30pm	Edina Room	Writing for Animation
Saturday 5:00pm	Autograph Table	Cinematic Titanic Signing #2

Joel Hodgson

Creator and star of *MST3K* and *Cinematic Titanic*

Friday 3:00pm	MainStage	MST3K: Origins and Beyond
Friday 4:00pm	Autograph Table	Cinematic Titanic Signing #1
Saturday 2:00pm	Atrium 6	Cinematic Titanic
Saturday 5:00pm	Autograph Table	Cinematic Titanic Signing #2

Brian Keene

Horror Author; *The Rising, Conqueror Worms*

Thursday 5:00pm	Atrium 2	Brian Keene's Adventures in the Comic Industry
Thursday 9:00pm	Atrium 6	Insert Quarter for SMACKDOWN!
Friday 11:00am	Autograph Table	Brian Keene and Mark McLaughlin Signing
Friday 12:30pm	Atrium 8	Brian Keene's Misspent Youth
Friday 2:00pm	Atrium 3	Adapting <i>The Terminal</i>
Friday 3:30pm	Bloomington Rm.	Inserting Humor Into Your Writing
Friday 5:00pm	Atrium 7	MISFITS Writing Contest Reception
Friday 11:30pm	Atrium 4	What Scares Us?
Saturday 3:30pm	Bloomington Rm.	Writing Horror in the Era of <i>Saw</i>
Sunday 2:00pm	Autograph Table	Brian Keene, Dwayne McDuffie and Roy Booth Signing
Sunday 3:30pm	Bloomington Rm.	Distractions and the Creative Process



Kelly McCullough

Author: *Webmage & Cybermancy*

Thursday 5:00pm	Bloomington Rm.
Friday 12:30pm	Bloomington Rm.
Friday 2:00pm	Room 2201
Friday 3:30pm	Bloomington Rm.
Friday 5:00pm	Bloomington Rm.
Saturday 11:00am	Cabana 118
Saturday 12:30pm	Bloomington Rm.
Saturday 2:00pm	Bloomington Rm.
Saturday 3:30pm	Autograph Table
Sunday 3:30pm	Atrium 8

Going from a Poor Unpublished Author to a Poor Published Author
Beta Reading: Relying on the Honesty of Friends
Kelly McCullough Reading
Inserting Humor Into Your Writing
Why Writers Should Archive
The Works of Kelly McCullough
Meet the Wyrdsmiths
Genre Blender
Kelly McCullough Signing
The Twin Cities School



Dwayne McDuffie

Writer for Comics and Animation

Thursday 3:30pm	Atrium 3
Friday 9:30am	Atrium 2
Friday 12:30pm	Autograph Table
Saturday 11:00am	Atrium 2
Saturday 12:30pm	Atrium 6
Saturday 2:00pm	Atrium 2
Saturday 5:00pm	Atrium 2
Sunday 2:00pm	Autograph Table

Diversity in Comics
Finding My Way in the Comics Ind.
Dwayne McDuffie and Patrick Rothfuss Signing
Justice League Past, Present and Future
Live Commentary w/Dwayne McDuffie
Comic Creation Process
Milestone Comics
Brian Keene, Dwayne McDuffie & Roy Booth Signing



Mary Jo Pehl

Writer and comedian; Mrs. Pearl Forrester from *MST3K*.

Friday 11:00am	Edina Room
Friday 3:00pm	MainStage
Friday 4:00pm	Autograph Table
Saturday 2:00pm	Atrium 6
Saturday 5:00pm	Autograph Table

TLC: Learning? or Just Channel?
MST3K: Origins and Beyond
Cinematic Titanic Signing #1
Cinematic Titanic
Cinematic Titanic Signing #2



Patrick Rothfuss

Author: *The Name of the Wind*

Thursday 5:00pm	Bloomington Rm.
Friday 11:00am	Bloomington Rm.
Friday 12:30pm	Autograph Table
Friday 3:30pm	Bloomington Rm.
Friday 7:00pm	Atrium 8
Saturday 12:30pm	Edina Room
Saturday 5:00pm	Bloomington Rm.
Sunday 11:00am	Room 2201
Sunday 12:30pm	Bloomington Rm.

Going from a Poor Unpublished Author to a Poor Published Author
The Name of the Wind
Dwayne McDuffie and Patrick Rothfuss Signing
Inserting Humor Into Your Writing
Tricks of the Trade: How to Publish and Not Perish
Is Joss Whedon a Deity?
How to Screw Up Your Writing Career
Knowing the Difference Between a Broadsword and Claymore
From Good to Great: Tips for Revising Your Story & Making it Shine

ATTENDING PROFESSIONALS

The following is a list of attending professionals from SF-related fields who are expected to be in attendance at CONvergence 2009. Many of them are on panels or will be doing readings or signings during the weekend. Keep an eye out in the listing in this publication and posted around the convention for these talented people. Is there a name that should be on this list and isn't? It's because we didn't know that person was coming or what they did, so make sure we know better in 2010!

Robert Alberti: Author

Bob Alberti is an author and Internet pioneer. His two-volume work *Mitlanyal* is a guide to the religions of M. A. R. Barker's *Tekumel* gleaned from over twenty years in the Professor's gaming group. He co-authored the Internet Gopher protocol (featured in *xkcd comics*) and during the 1980s ran a BBS called *Gambit*.

Genevieve Alberti: Author, artist

Genevieve Alberti is a writer, student and artist whose work has been featured in the *Uptown Press* newspaper and the Uptown Art Fair, and on the cover of a published poetry collection. Despite coming from a long line of nerds, she has been described as "surprisingly effervescent."

Joel Arnold: Author

Joel Arnold's writing has been accepted for publication in over fifty venues, including *Weird Tales*, *Chazine* and *Cemetery Dance*. His collection of sci-fi/horror, *Bedtime Stories for the Apocalypse*, was recently released by Sam's Dot Publishing.

Dana Baird: Author, artist

Dana is a St. Paul visual artist and the author of two young adult fantasy novels: *The Spell Keeper* and *Veil of Whispers*. More information can be found on her website: www.danambaird.com.

Jerrod Balzer: Publisher, editor

Jerrod Balzer is the author of two film novelizations, *William Winckler's Frankenstein Vs. The Creature from Blood Cove* and *Double-D Avenger*, and has a horror serial called *Fear the Woods* coming out this year along with a novella titled *Zombie Bastard*. He also wrote a winning essay that placed his wife, Robin, into the *Dark Horse* comic, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 8*, issue #10. <http://jerrodbalzer.wordpress.com/>

Ruth Berman: Author

Ruth Berman's work has appeared in many science fiction, general and literary magazines and anthologies. <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~d-lena/RuthBermanPage.html>

Cynthia Booth: Theater, writing

Cynthia Booth is a published poet and playwright headquartered out of Hibbing, MN, and was recently the head editor of the *Terminal: The Play* world premiere performance commemorative poetry edition chapbook.

Roy C. Booth: Author, playwright

Roy C. Booth is a published author, poet, and scriptwriter headquartered out of Bemidji, MN with 47 plays published with 600+ productions in 23 countries to date. His more recent projects include collaborating with GoH Brian Keene on a stage adaption of *Terminal* and the release of his latest book, *Theater of the Macabre*, which will be officially launched by Skullvines Press at CONvergence. <http://www.roycbooth.com/>

Rob Callahan: Author

"Rob Callahan is 30% maniac creativity, 25% frantic weirdness, 10% noir-on-acid, 70% linguistic acrobatics, and 26% brilliant bubbles of strangeness. And his writing is pretty interesting, too." <http://www.robcallahan.com/>

Matthew Lee Davis: Author

Jose Manuel Figueroa: Martial artist, actor

Jose Figueroa is the owner and operator of Dark Raven Studios, a Martial art school in St. Paul, MN. He's also a film producer/action director of Dark Raven Productions specializing in Hong Kong-style action.

Louis Frank: Comics creator

Louis Frank is an artist known for his anthropomorphic work as well as his work in the super hero, science fiction, fantasy, and horror genres. He has illustrated a number of tabletop role-playing game books and several board games. <http://www.visi.com/~wom-bat/>

Terry A. Garey: Author, poet

Terry A. Garey is a Rhysling winner and a member of Lady Poetesses From Hell. She's the author of *The Joy of Home Winemaking*.

Andre Guirard: Author

Andre is an author of radio scripts, puppet shows, and short stories, as well as a great deal of non-fiction. He's working on his second novel (the first is not yet sold, but he's still hopeful). <http://home.comcast.net/~aguirard/>

S.D. Hintz: Author, publisher

S.D. Hintz is the Editor-in-Chief of Skullvines Press. His upcoming genre publications for 2009 include: *Charnel Harbor* (novelette - Lyrical Press), *The Starvelings* (short story - *The Devil's Food* anthology). <http://sdhintz.home.att.net/>

Jeannie Holmes: Author

Jeannie Holmes is a Mississippi native currently living in Mobile, Alabama and holds both Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in English. Her debut novel, *Crimson Swan*, a supernatural suspense thriller is the first in the Alexandra Sabian series and will be published by Bantam Dell in early 2010. <http://www.jeannieholmes.com/>

Christopher Jones: Comic Book Creator

In addition to being the creator of the CONvergence mascot Connie, Chris is an artist for DC and Marvel Comics, and is the co-creator of *Dr. Blink Superhero Shrink* with past CONvergence Guest of Honor John Kovalic. <http://www.christopherjonesart.com>

Melissa Kaercher: Comic Book Colorist and Letter

Melissa is the colorist and letterer for *Dr. Blink Superhero Shrink*, and has colored other comics including *Femme Noir*, and comic style artwork for Captstone Press, Green Ronin, and Max Allan Collins' *A Killing in Comics*. <http://www.tinlizardproductions.com/>

Michael Levy: Author, critic

Michael Levy teaches science fiction and children's literature at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He's written several books and hundreds of articles and book reviews on these subjects.

Tim Lieder: Author

Tim Lieder owns Dybbuk Press, an independent publishing company, through which he's published *God Laughs When You Die* by Michael Boatman and *Teddy Bear Cannibal Massacre*. His upcoming projects include *This Other Eden* by Michael Hemmingson and the multi-author short story collection *She Nailed a Stake Through His Head: Tales of Biblical Terror*.

Sandra Lindow: Poet, editor

Sandra Lindow is an award winning poet, a critic and an editor. She teaches part-time at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. <http://www.wfop.org/poets/lindow.html>

Bob Lipski: Comics creator

Bob Lipski is the creator and cartoonist of the comic book "Uptown Girl". Begun in 2003, Lipski recently ended the series with issue 75 to focus on "Uptown Girl" graphic novels and original children's books. <http://www.uptowngirlcomic.com/>

Catherine Lundoff: Author, poet, editor

Catherine Lundoff is a writer, editor and sporadic bon vivant who produces a Smörgåsbord of fiction.

Rebecca Marjesdatter: Author, poet

Rebecca Marjesdatter is the poetry editor of *Tales of the Unanticipated* and a member of the performance group Lady Poetesses from Hell.

Elise Mathesen: Author, editor

Elise Mathesen lives surrounded by beads, metal, words, music, and people she loves. She has a jewelry business, a hearing impairment, fibromyalgia, arthritis, attitude, ingenuity, numerous publication credits, and many pairs of pliers. <http://mango.lioness.net/elise/elise.html>

Jennifer Menken: Puppeteer, writer

"I'm the public collections manager for the Bell Museum of Natural History's Touch and See Room, also known as 'The curator of dead things.' On the flip-side I do fantasy art and support one freaked-out puppeteer husband."

Michael Merriam: Author

Michael Merriam writes urban fantasy, space opera, and supernatural horror, with over 50 short fiction sales to his credit. He lives in Hopkins, MN with his wife and an ordained cat. <http://www.michaelmerriam.net/>

Lyda Morehouse: Author

Lyda Morehouse is the award-winning science fiction writer alter ego of best selling romance author Tate Hallaway. <http://www.lydamorehouse.com/>

Hilary Moon Murphy: Author

Hilary Moon Murphy's work has appeared in *Realms of Fantasy*, *Tales of the Unanticipated*, *PodCastle*, and the anthology *New Writers of Science Fiction*. She also runs MinnSpec -- Minnesota Speculative Fiction Writers--a networking organization for local writers that can be found at <http://www.meetup.com/mnspec>.

Sean M. Murphy: Author

Sean M. Murphy is a writer of speculative fiction and a member of the Wyrdsmiths, a Twin Cities-based writers' group. He is particularly fond of spiritually driven SF, retellings of myths and fairy tales, alternate histories, and complex fantasy-though his single greatest joy is a story told well and lovingly, with deliberate, compelling language. Sean lives in Saint Paul, MN. <http://www.seanmmurphy.com/>

Paul Zachary "PZ" Myers: Author, activist

A biology professor at the University of Minnesota Morris (UMM) working with zebrafish in the field of evolutionary developmental biology (evo-devo). He is a public critic of intelligent design (ID) and of the creationist movement in general and is an activist in the American creation-evolution controversy. He is the author of the science blog *Pharyngula*. <http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/>

Shad Petosky: Comics, animation

Together with Zander Cannon and Kevin Cannon, Shad formed the comic art studio *Big Time Attic* in the fall of 2004. In January 2007 Petosky, along with Vincent "King Mini" Stall and the employees of Big Time Attic, formed a multi-media studio called Puny Entertainment. They have created video games for Cartoon Network and are creating animation for the television show *Yo Gabba Gabba!* <http://www.punyentertainment.com/>

Joseph Scrimshaw: Playwright, comic, actor

Joseph Scrimshaw is a critically acclaimed actor, writer and producer of comedic theater and film. His work (which has appeared in the Twin Cities, New York, Chicago, the UK, Bulgaria and more) as been called "clever and inventive" by the Star Tribune, and "hilarious with a whiff of danger" by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. <http://josephscrimshaw.com/>

Gordon Smuder: Puppeteer, writer

"Gordon Smuder: Accomplished special effects professional, cantankerous puppeteer, collector of things and punker of steam." <http://www.puppetforge.com/>

Adam Stemple: Author, musician

Adam Stemple is a writer, musician, and poker player who has won awards in all three fields. Look for him online at www.adamstemple.com.

Bill Stiteler: Playwright, actor

Bill Stiteler is a local playwright and filmmaker. In 2008 he directed his first film, THACO, which premiered at CONvergence. <http://www.williamstiteler.com/>

Kathryn Sullivan: Author

Kathryn Sullivan writes young adult fantasy and science fiction. She is fond of talking horses, gryphons, talking trees and birdlike aliens as well as strong female characters. <http://kathrynsullivan.com/>

Lynne M. Thomas: Author, editor, archivist

Lynne M. Thomas is the Head of Rare Books and Special Collections at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. She is the co-author of *Special Collections 2.0*, and the co-editor of *Chicks Dig Time Lords*, forthcoming from Mad Norwegian Press in Fall 2009.

Michael D. Thomas: Author

Michael D. Thomas is an Associate Editor and writer for Mad Norwegian Press, a small press that focuses on cult television guidebooks. He is currently co-writing *Fluid Links: The Unauthorized Guide to Doctor Who Novels and Audios*. <http://www.madnorwegian.com/>

Tim Uren: Actor, comedian

Tim Uren's Minnesota Fringe Festival shows have included *10,000 Comic Books*, *Michigan Disasters*, *H.P. Lovecraft's The Rats in the Walls*, *Masks of the Illuminati*. He has also appeared in *Shut Your Joke Hole* as well as 2007's top-selling Fringe show, *Macbeth's Awesome Scottish Castle Party*. <http://www.10000comicbooks.com/>

Joan Marie Verba: Author

Joan Marie Verba is the author of the novels *Action Alert!* and *Countdown to Action!* and the nonfiction books *Boldly Writing* and *Voyager: Exploring the Outer Planets*. <http://www.sff.net/people/joan.marie.verba/>

Daniel Wallace: Author

Daniel Wallace is the author of more than a dozen books, including the *DC Comics Encyclopedia*, *the Marvel Comics Encyclopedia*, *The Art of Superman Returns*, and the New York Times-bestselling *Star Wars: The New Essential Guide to Characters*. His latest book, *Star Wars: The Essential Atlas*, will be released in August.

Anna Waltz: Author

Anna Waltz was a script writer for EverQuest II, where she wrote quest favorites like "Rat Smashing Fun," along with the NPC monologues of Queen Antonia Bayle. As a local writer, she is best known for her book, *Swedish Lutheran Vampires of Brainerd*. Her fanfiction (written under various assumed names) has been floating around the internet since 1997.

Jason Wittman: Author

Jason D. Wittman has published in *SCIFI.COM*, Baen's Universe, and Greatest Uncommon Denominator Magazine. He also has two games published by Steve Jackson games. <http://www.sff.net/people/jasondwittman/>

Stephanie Zvan: Author

Stephanie Zvan edits and contributes to *QuicheMoraine.com* and hosts the Atheists Talk podcast. In her spare time(!), she writes science fiction and fantasy. <http://stephanie.zvan.net/>

Former Guest of Honor appearances

Eleanor Arneson (GoH 2001)

Saturday 12:30pm Bloomington Rm. **Meet the Wyrdsmiths**

Crist Ballas (GoH 2004, 2008)

Friday 3:00pm MainStage **MST3K: Origins and Beyond**

Emily Hagins (GoH 2007)

Saturday 4:00pm Plaza 4 **Emily Hagins Shorts**
Sunday 11:00am Autograph Table **Transylvania TV and Emily Hagins Signing**

Dr. James Kakalios (GoH 2005, 2008)

Friday 2:00pm Plaza 1 **Watchmen - The Movie**
Saturday 11:00am Atrium 6 **The Science of Watchmen**

PANELS AND PROGRAMMING

CONvergence programming operates on a schedule of 60-minute programming slots with 30-minute breaks in between. The break is designed to allow time for our members to finish a panel, chat a bit, visit ConSuite or the restroom, and still make it to the next programming item they want to see.

Panels and events listed in the following section are expected to run for approximately *one hour* unless otherwise indicated.

Programming items are divided into tracks, with an individual room dedicated to each track. At times, we have panels that will take place in a room other than the "home room" for their particular track. Please make sure you double check the room in which your panel will take place.

Programming Track Home Room

Movies	Plaza 1
Connie's Quantum Sandbox	Plaza 3
Art & Comics	Atrium 2
Gaming	Atrium 3
Sci-Fi Hot Dish	Atrium 4
Programming Ops.	Atrium 5
Audio/Visual Room	Atrium 6
Science & Technology	Atrium 7
Sci-Fi Side Dish	Atrium 8
Television	Edina Room
Literature	Bloomington Room

Programming can also be found in:

Krushenko's	Cabana 118
Dorian Gray Literary Lounge	Room 2201

Daily schedules will be posted outside of each programming room and at Programming Schedule kiosks around the convention.

Schedule Changes

CONvergence Publications has worked with all the different parts of the convention to make this Programming Guide as accurate as possible, but since last-minute changes occur, refer to the Programming Update Boards located outside Atrium 5 and in CONvergence Central for updates, as well as the online CONvergence schedule at <http://schedule.convergence-con.org/>.

Programming Schedule

The Programming Schedule follows. For a condensed, pocket sized listing, please refer to the **CONvergence 2009 Programming Grid**.

Thursday July 2

Thursday 3:00 pm

CONvergence Tour

Convention Tour/**Navigators**

If you're new to CONvergence, or just want to get reintroduced, we will walk around the hotel starting just outside Registration. *Christopher Jones*

Thursday 3:30 pm

CONvergence 101

Hot Dish/**Atrium 4**

First time at the convention? Some well-worn veterans will give you advice on how to make the most of your weekend. *Jen Manna, Jay Curry, Dave Benhart, Michael Lee*

Deodorant Is Your Friend

Laugh/**Radisson St. Paul**

A guide to the various brands of underarm deodorant, their purpose, and application for novices. *Pig Pen, Felix Unger, Mr. Clean*

Photoshop Workshop

Audio Visual/**Atrium 6**

Join Melissa Kaercher for an interactive Photoshop workshop. Melissa is an experienced coloring and lettering artist, working on a number of comic and gaming projects including *Troma, Femme Noir*, *Green Ronin*, and educational titles for Capstone Press. *Melissa Kaercher*

Diversity in Comics

Comics/**Atrium 3**

A discussion of how comics address diverse issues like race, gender and sexual orientation. *Dwayne McDuffie, Scott Jamison, M. Nicholas Almand*

Panels and Programming 101: The Meta-Panel

Hot Dish/**Atrium 7**

Being an expert on a topic doesn't mean you know how to talk about it. Come and hear some tips and tricks for giving good panel and how to avoid common pitfalls. Perfect for a first-time nervous panelist or a nice refresher for the seasoned veteran!

Jo Thomsen, Matt Savelkoul, Tim Wick

Don't Judge a Book by its Movie

Literature/**Bloomington Rm.**

A crappy movie should not reflect badly on the source material. Books you should check out but avoid watching the movie at all costs.

Tim Lieder, Paul Harmeyer, Jenny Allen, Rob Jensen, Roger Pavelle, M. K. Melin

Exploring Scientific Ideas:

Longer Project

Connie's Quantum Sandbox/**Plaza 3**

Cool science stuff from a real science teacher! We know you are on vacation but science is fun—come and see! *Matthew D. Bannerman*

Beginning Costuming

Art/**Atrium 2**

Costuming basics from hemming a dress to making sure your seams are straight. Learn shortcuts that turn a hall costume into something special. Duct tape, hot glue and safety pins are just the beginning. *Chrys VanDerKamp, Lisa Conley, Rae Lundquist, Jenna Lindeke, Joanna Carlson, Heather Luca*

ASL: Danger Will Robinson -

Science Ahead (Part 1)

Side Dish/**Atrium 8**

An introduction to observing CONvergence as an interpreter. RID CEU's provided only if you attend both parts. *Becca Justiniano*

Thursday 4:00 pm

CONvergence Tour

Convention Tour/**Navigators**

If you're new to CONvergence, or just want to get reintroduced, we will walk around the hotel starting just outside Registration. *Patricia Wick*

Thursday 5:00 pm

CONvergence Tour

Convention Tour/**Navigators**

If you're new to CONvergence, or just want to get reintroduced, we will walk around the hotel starting just outside Registration. *Michael Lee*

A Brief Survey of Hypnosis in Media

Movies/**Plaza 1**

Once you know a little about hypnosis, you'll see it's everywhere in the media. Dee and comics writer John Seavey discuss some of the most famous examples of hypnosis and mind control in the media. *John Seavey, Dee Bitner*



Thursday 5:00 pm (continued)

Dark Shadows Revisited

Television/**Edina Rm.**

Dark Shadows is complete on DVD—all 1,225 episodes. Share your memories of this gothic horror soap or discover it for the first time. Learn about new full-cast audio dramas & novels set in this universe and the rumored new Johnny Depp theatrical remake!

Matt Savelkoul (mod), Sarah Eichhorst, Nick Larson, Anthony Schuba, Christine Sutherland

How to Throw a Kick-Arse Room Party!

Hot Dish/**Atrium 4**

Learn how to take your room party to the next level, plan for extra guests, a fun theme, and figure out how many ways you can redecorate a 16'x12' Cabana Room.

Amada Marquez, Tangee Harrison, Tish Cassidy, Tod Gelle

Going from a Poor Unpublished Author to a Poor Published Author

Literature/**Bloomington Rm.**

Pat and Kelly have both only recently become published authors. Here is your chance to listen to their stories about how your dreams can be crushed and you can be stronger for it. *Kelly McCullough, Patrick Rothfuss*

Credibility and the Internet

Science & Technology/**Atrium 7**

Just how reliable is Wikipedia, anyway? How often do you use this ever-changing and growing encyclopedia? Will it ever become respected and reliable enough to be cited as a credible source? How involved are you in contributing content to the site?

Terry Garey, Bill Wesen, Robert Alberti, Gerald Nordley, Todd Murray, Scott Stone

Why So Serious:

The "Trickster" in Books, Comics and Film

Side Dish/**Atrium 8**

From Loki to the Joker, the trickster uses humor in his or her relations with the hero.

Christopher Reopelle, Christoforo Pasquarette, M. K. Melin

Filmmaking on the Cheap

Audio Visual/**Atrium 6**

Tips and techniques to make movies on a budget.

David Potter, Troy LaFaye, Rob Withoff, Chris McWethy, Jacob Gulliver, Ken Aiken

First Thing We Do is

Kill All the "Rules Lawyers"

Gaming/**Atrium 3**

The rules don't always make the game more fun. Learn how to put away the books and just roll the damn dice. *Paul Harmeyer, Beth Kinderman, Ed Eastman, Ken Justiniano, Ross Watson, Heather Johnson*

Is Our President a Geek?

Krushenko's/**Cabana 118**

State your evidence for or against Barack Obama being one step away from cosplaying as Tuvok on the bridge of the Voyager. *Derek Mahr, Daniel Wallace*

Brian Keene's Adventures in the Comic Industry

Comics/**Atrium 2**

Brian Keene discusses adapting his novel *The Rising* for comics, as well as his series

Dead of Night: Devil Slayer for Marvel Comics. *Brian Keene, Roy Booth*

Thursday 6:00 pm

Mark Time Radio Show

MainStage/**Grand Ballroom East**

"*Jokes in Space*" Original sketch comedy on the full range of SF and Fantasy. Parody, taekoff and jocket jokes ready for take-off. From the Great Northern Audio Theater. Find more information about past shows and the Mark Time Awards at

<http://www.greatnorthernaudio.com/MarkTime/MarkTime.html>

Thursday 7:00 pm

Opening Ceremony

MainStage/**Grand Ballroom East**

Time to get started with the convention! Find out what to expect from the weekend's convention schedule, and enjoy the surprise and entertainment at the official launch party of CONvergence 2009! (This event may run closer to 90 minutes) *Michael Lee, Perrin Klumpp, Ishmael Williams, Christopher Jones, Jon Olsen, Patricia Wick, Windy Bowlsby, Alex Larson*

The Panel Without Pants

Laugh/**Radisson St. Paul**

We all know pants are overrated so for this panel, absolutely no pants are allowed. Skirts are welcome but only under protest. *Wakko Warner*

Thursday 8:30 pm

Hypnosis 101 What is it? What isn't it?

Hot Dish/**Atrium 4**

When it comes to hypnosis, there's a lot of misinformation out there. Dee explains what hypnosis is and isn't, deconstructing the myths and explaining the realities of one of the most interesting states of consciousness. *Dee Bitner*

Teen Meet-up Thursday

Side Dish/**Atrium 8**

An opportunity for our teenaged members to connect with other teens attending the convention. Adults are boring! We all know that. Ditch your parents and hang out with the cool kids. *Kethry Burke-Scovill, Fiona Burke-Scovill, Tabitha Anderson, Brigette Honaker*

Joel Arnold Reading

Lit.Lounge/**Room 2201**

Joel Arnold, author of several short stories including "Seller's Market, October Blizzard" and "Some Things Don't Wash Off" reads from his work. *Joel Arnold*

Face Painting - the Cat version

Connie's Quantum Sandbox/**Plaza 3**

Anyone looking for some killer cat makeup should make this panel their first stop before prowling the con in the evening. *Jim Shields*

Stage Movement for Masquerade

Art/**Atrium 2**

How do you make use of the whole stage? What are people not used to seeing? Join us for a workshop for people trying to come up with presentation ideas for future (aka not this year) masquerades. *Rhiannon Jones, Deborah Jones, Kate Graham, Lori Fischer, Rae Lundquist*

Online Fandom

Science & Technology/**Atrium 7**

What is the effect of the internet on local fan communities? What happens when you hold a club meeting and no one shows up? *Jo Thomsen, Taylor Kent*

Neil Gaiman, American God

Literature/**Bloomington Rm.**

The closest thing the Science Fiction community has to a Rock Star is Neil Gaiman. His work has been made into movies, TV shows, radio plays, audio books and more. Enjoy the futility of trying to cover his career in an hour.

Matthew Davis, Mark Goldberg

Effects on a Budget

Movies/**Plaza 1**

How local filmmakers can afford to use effects in their films. How you too can blow up a car. *David Potter, Bill Stiteler, Romeo Azar, Rob Withoff, Jack DeFlorin, Matt Waterhouse*

The Horrible Humor of Joss Whedon

Television/**Edina Rm.**

How does Joss Whedon use humor throughout his works, from Buffy to Dollhouse? How does his humor hide the dark edge that is frequently a part of his work? *M. K. Melin, Mia Hagarty, Marguerite Krause, Wayne Bruns, Miriam Krause, Heather Johnson*

Thursday 9:00 pm

CONvergence Tour

Convention Tour/**Navigators**

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Thursday 9:00 pm (continued)

Black Light Night

Connie's Space Lounge/Verandas 1-5

A night of neon glow under the black light. Face paints and glowy things to light up your night.

Insert Quarter for SMACKDOWN!

Audio Visual/Atrium 6

Mario may be able to take down Donkey Kong but Pac-Man could eat ghosts! What happens when the two of them go mano-a-mano in a match free from hammers or power pills? We are going to tally up the 1s and 0s in a smackdown that will set a new high score! (This panel runs approximately 90 minutes) *Tim Wick, Christopher Jones, Joseph Scrimshaw, Brian Keene, Melissa Kaercher, Kelvin Hatle, C. Robert Cargill, Tim Uren*

Thursday 10:00 pm

Retro Rebel Rocket Roadhouse

MainStage/Grand Ballroom East

We're going to start off our convention dances with our own flavor of dance nostalgia. DJs Dr. Boom and Flashy (and special guests) will start you off in the 70's and 80's, then traverse the musical temporal-verse through shoegazer and early rave music stopping at all the genres you've missed since the end of the 20th century.

Tolkien and Pokemon: The Hidden Connection

Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

Sinnoh and Middle Earth are both fictional. In the Pokemon universe and the Tolkien universe there are battles. All Gollum can say is "my precious" and all Pikachu can say is "Pikachu." Coincidence? We think not.

Ask a Freemason Almost Anything

Side Dish/Atrium 8

Come and learn the truth. The secret society is revealed!

John Shea, Brian Etchieson, Michael McDole, Thomas Keeley, Timothy Julin

Torchwood

Television/Edina Rm.

Did the *Children of Earth* mini-series set fandom ablaze? Does your love of Captain Jack know no bounds? Does living on top of a spatial and temporal rift have its inconveniences? *Amanda Hofman-Frethem, Chrys VanDerKamp, Charlie Paulsen, Kelli Pennington, M. K. Melin, Amanda Newman*

When Should Writers Stop?

Literature/Bloomington Rm.

Sometimes a novel is good enough. Publishers like series but are writers trapped into writing popular series when they would be creatively challenged far more if they were allowed to explore other worlds? *Dana Baird, Karl Wolff, Susan Price, Gerald Nordley, Veronica Cummer, Naomi Kritzer*

MI6 Declassified:

Quantum of Solace (Bourne to be Bond)

Movies/Plaza 1

Did *Quantum of Solace* take too much Bond out of itself, or was it the perfect conclusion to *Casino Royale*? A talk about *Quantum of Solace*, James Bond's past and what is coming up for him, as well as everything else James Bond. *Tony Artym, Daniel Mohr, Romeo Azar*

Ikea Hacker

Hot Dish/Atrium 4

New and interesting ways to store your crap. *Jen Manna, Ken Martinez, Sharla Stremski*

Friends of Bill W. #1

Side Dish/Atrium 2

Join other friends of Bill W. for a meeting.

Thursday 10:30 pm

Black Light Fashion Show

Connie's Space Lounge/Verandas 1-5

Got a great outfit that glows under black light? Join us for our first Black Light Fashion Show.

Thursday 11:30 pm

Supernatural: The Panel

Television/Edina Rm.

Angels, demons and Metallica, oh my! Come discuss what's new with the Winchester brothers and speculate on the show's upcoming fifth season. *Heather Johnson, Matt Weinberg, Holly Spotts, Veronica Cummer, Jody Wurl, Jo Thomsen*

Exploring the Tarantino Universe

Movies/Plaza 1

The movies of Quentin Tarantino seem to exist in their own reality, yet they all seem to exist in the same reality. *Bill Stiteler, Melissa Kaercher, Ken Aiken, C. Robert Cargill*

Monty Python Quote-Along Panel

Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

With our theme this year, we know everyone will have clever Monty Pythonisms at the ready. Here's a great opportunity for you to get it out of your system. Who are we kidding? This panel is going to happen everywhere. *Eric Wensleydale, Spiny Norman the Hedgehog, Ethel the Aardvark, Knight with a Chicken*

Southern-Fried Vampires

Literature/Bloomington

A discussion of the *Sookie Stackhouse* books by Charlaine Harris and the *True Blood* HBO series based on them. *Jeannie Holmes, Jenni Klumpp, Wayne Bruns, Michael Kingsley, Katja Amyx*

Friday July 3

Friday 9:30 am

Survival Signs

Hot Dish/Edina Rm.

Did you ever want to learn how to sign "Raiders of the Lost Ark" or "Tribble?" One of our fabulous interpreters will teach you anything you want to know. *Becca Justiniano (mod)*

Reading by T.K. Hall

Lit.Lounge/Room 2201

The author of the self published novel *A Perfect World - Tatriel* reads some of her work. *T.K. Hall*

Crayon's Corner

Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

Children's story hour with Caryn Lengkeek is back. Little ones aren't just welcome, they are the Guests of Honor. *Caryn Lengkeek*

Fannish Vehicles

Side Dish/Atrium 8

Have you ever become more attached to a car/ship/spacecraft than you have a main character? What makes vehicles like the TARDIS, the Black Pearl, KITT, Serenity and others so compelling? Why are they becoming more central to the shows and movies we love? *Lori Fischer, Holly Spotts, Jo Thomsen*

CONvergence Job Networking

Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Given the current economy, we've set aside a room and some time for you to network with other professionals. Note: this panel is un-moderated - just show up and mingle!

Finding My Way in the Comics Industry

Comics/Atrium 2

Dwayne McDuffie talks about getting into the comics business and shares his inspirations and experiences. *Christopher Jones (mod), Dwayne McDuffie*

Voice and Body Actors

Movies/Plaza 1

Just how important is voice and body movement when creating an otherworldly character? Was Abe Sapien better with David Hyde-Pierce's or Doug Jones' voice? Can anybody be in a rubber suit or is there actual talent involved?

Jennifer Menken, Cynthia Booth, David Potter, Gordon Smuder

Friday 9:30 am (continued)

Writing Craft: Creatures and Character Literature/Bloomington Rm.

Writing the human and inhuman in a believable way is tough. Should the story be from the point of view of the Vampire or their significant other? What makes people love or hate a character or creature? *Jeannie Holmes, R. Scott McCoy, Andre Guirard, Catherine Lundoff, Roy Booth, John Shea*

Friday Morning Aerobics Hot Dish/Atrium 4

Join Cleo for a low impact aerobic workout, co-sponsored by MISFITS Geek Physique. You do need to promise to shower afterwards though, we don't want to add to the fan stench! *Amada Marquez*

Free Online Games Worth Playing Gaming/Atrium 3

There are a number of free online flash and browser-based games out there you can waste away the work day with. Which sites carry the best flash games and what are some of your personal favorites? How about non-flash-based games?

Jen Manna, Doug Thorpe, Geoffrey Benson, Ken Justiniano

Friday 11:00 am

TLC: Learning? or Just Channel? Television/Edina Rm.

With shows like "The Man Who Turned Into a Tree" and "900 Pound Mom," what are we actually learning when watching "The Learning Channel?"

Mary Jo Pehl (mod), Sharon Stiteler

CONvergence Tour Convention Tour/Navigators

If you're new to CONvergence, or just want to get reintroduced, we will walk around the hotel starting just outside Registration. *Jon Olsen*

Dragon Making by Committee Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

Julie brings the body parts, you help build him and his personality! The resulting Dragon will be auctioned off in the Art Show. Half of the proceeds to go to charity.

Convention Costuming Survival Guide Art/Atrium 2

What makes a good hall costume as opposed to a masquerade costume? How do masquerades work? What can be particularly impressive on stage and what should you keep in mind when planning to dress in costume all day?

Rhiannon Jones (mod), Mariah Fryer, Angeliq Montag, Deborah Jones

Magic The Gathering: Elder Dragon Highlander Constructed Multiplayer Tournament Card Gaming/ Room 2207

Using the official EDH rules, it's the most popular Casual Multiplayer Format around! See http://csclub.uwaterloo.ca/~geduggan/EDH_rules.html on how to build your very own special 100 card deck to join in the fun!

Brian Keene and Mark McLaughlin Signing Autograph Table

Guest of Honor Brian Keene will be available to sign his work along with fellow horror writer and Bram Stoker Award winner Mark McLaughlin. (*Across from Bloomington Rm.*)

Brian Keene, Mark McLaughlin

The Name of the Wind Literature/Bloomington Rm.

A discussion of Pat Rothfuss' magnum opus by the author. *Patrick Rothfuss*

Growing Up Geek Side Dish/Atrium 8

Find out from teenage fans what it's like to grow up in a geek household and tips on how to survive school. *Tabitha Anderson, Brigitte Honaker, Fiona Burke-Scovill, Kethry Burke-Scovill*

How to Keep a Game or Movie Night Going Gaming/Atrium 3

Keeping a regular geek activity going when kids/jobs/other geek activities are gobbling up your time. *Jacob Gulliver, Robert Alberti, Heather Johnson*

Audio Sci-fi Audio Visual/Atrium 6

From amateur to professional, there has been a boom in audio fiction and audio drama available to the average listener. Come find out what's good, what isn't, and where to find it online and otherwise. Listen to some great examples.

Taylor Kent, Ken Aiken, Jerry Stearns, Jeff Adams

Predicting the Future Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Cell phones and Communicators? How do writers and artists predictably create your reality? Where have they gotten it horribly wrong? *David Walbridge, Naomi Kritzer, Eric Clark, Susan Price, Melissa Gray, Gerald Nordley*

The Art of a Good Screenplay Movies/Plaza 1

A great screenplay can make a bad movie tolerable. A bad screenplay will typically ensure box office success. How to tell the difference. *John Shea, M. K. Melin, Bill True, Stephan Stomberg, Troy LaFaye*

Writing Craft: World and the Creatures Within Lit.Lounge/Room 2201

How do you create a world with depth and reality apart from our own? Not just magic and tech but creatures and people that populate the place as well.

Sean M. Murphy, EV Baldwin, Adam Stemple, M. Nicholas Almand, Jeannie Holmes

In Memoriam - Forrest J Ackerman Krushenko's/Cabana 118

Forrest J Ackerman (Forry to his friends and fans) was Guest of Honor at the first CONvergence. Let's remember this friendly founding member of science fiction fandom and Monster Culture, editor of Famous Monsters of Filmland, and lover of horrible puns.

Eric Heideman (mod)

Remembering the RadisSon of Satan Hot Dish/Atrium 4

10 years ago, CONvergence spent it's first (and so far only) year in a different hotel. You may have heard about it. What was so bad about the hotel that year? Come to this panel and find out why we still shudder ten years later. *Christopher Jones, Tim Wick, Patricia Wick, Perrin Klumpp, Ishmael Williams, Jeremy Stomberg, Windy Bowslby*

Friday 12:30 pm

"Why do I cry when I kill the pixel wolf?" Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

The perils of letting wimps play World of Warcraft or: will PETA come after me for killing a virtual animal? Light refreshments will be served. *Mister T, Leroy Jenkins*

Poetry Workshop Lit.Lounge/Room 2201

A workshop focused on creating fantastic images, using humor and poetry forms and models hosted by poet Sandra Lindow. Written critiques will be available for those who pre-submitted their works but the workshop is open to anyone. *Sandra Lindow (mod)*

Dark Shadows: Barnabas Bloopers! Audio Visual/Atrium 6

Explore the lighter side of Dark Shadows through hilarious outtakes, aired "as-broadcast" bloopers, fan-made music videos, and actor appearances on classic-era game shows. Whether you're an old fan or just curious, you'll find something to laugh about!

Matt Savelkoul (mod)

Friday 12:30 pm

It Came from Bandana Square Krushenko's/Cabana 118

The hotel by Bandana Square, St. Paul goes back 18 years with fandom. It hosts *Diversicon* (an SF con), *Arcana* (a horror con), and *Con-Sarnit* (a Western con). We'll talk about the hotel and the cons. *Brian Perry, Eric Heideman (mod)*

Dwayne McDuffie and Patrick Rothfuss Signing Autograph Table

Your chance to meet two of our guests of honor and get their autograph. (*Across from Bloomington Rm.*) *Dwayne McDuffie, Patrick Rothfuss*

Brian Keene's Misspent Youth Side Dish/Atrium 8

Brian talks about his childhood and his work with troubled youth. *Brian Keene*

When is a Stick Figure Enough? Comics/Atrium 2

We return to the realm of webcomics to discuss the good, the bad, the ugly and the good and ugly. As newspapers become obsolete, the comic strip is going online and thriving. *Jen Manna, Aric McKeown, Malcom Peterson, Daniel Mohr, Jennie Catlett*

The Steampunk Panel Hot Dish/Atrium 4

Why we care and what inspires us in our quest for Victorian science fiction.

Jennifer Menken, Gordon Smuder, Rob Jensen, Heather Luca, Jumi Kassim, Tod Gelle

Beta Reading: Relying on the Honesty of Friends Lit./Bloomington Rm.

Beta readers discuss how to give constructive criticism without discouraging the creativity of the artist. Or: how to hurt someone so good. *Kelly McCullough, Terry Garey, Elise Matthesen, M. K. Melin, Kathy Sullivan*

Why Am I Getting My News from a Comedy Show? Television/Edina Rm.

The Daily Show, Colbert Report, Best Week Ever, David Letterman, Wait Wait Don't Tell Me, and SNL's Weekend Update. Are these your only sources for information? Do they skew news a certain way? Are there others you'd recommend?
Joel Arnold, David Romm, David Walbridge

Gaming Etiquette Gaming/Atrium 3

Do you have to share your Mountain Dew with the GM? Important gaming rules like washing off the Doritos dust before you play cards and learning the appropriate response to a party member who "accidentally" kills you with a fireball spell. *Beth Kinderman, Stephen Miller, Scott Jamison, Ross Watson, Ken Justiniano*

My Lunch Can Beat Up Your Lunch Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

How to pack a Bento box. Run by the Bento box queen. Panel will be limited to the first twenty participants. *Tish Cassidy, Tangee Harrison*

Meet My Invisible Friends Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Are you replacing your real friends with virtual ones? What are the RAMifications of social networking websites? *Annie Lynsen, Naomi Kritzer, Stephanie Zvan*

Why Did They Remake That? Movies/Plaza 1

Did we really need a remake of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*? Is a remake ever a good idea or should they just leave the original alone and come up with a new idea?

Tim Lieder, Taylor Kent, Derek Mahr, Matt Waterhouse, C. Robert Cargill, Romeo Azar

Friday 1:00 pm

CONvergence Tour Convention Tour/Navigators

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Space Craft Connie's Space Lounge/Verandas 1-5

Geeky sci-fi crafting!

Friday 2:00 pm

Kelly McCullough Reading Lit.Lounge/Room 2201

Join our Guest of Honor as he reads some of his work. *Kelly McCullough*

Humor in Doctor Who Television/Edina Rm.

Tom Baker, Catherine Tate, Douglas Adams, *The Romans*, and those great rubber suits. Share your favorite moments from *Doctor Who's* extensive past and humorous present. *Michael Scott Shappe, Kathy Sullivan, Charlie Paulsen, Steve Manfred, Michael Lee*

eBooks, ePublishing & eTours Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Do you use eBooks and a reader? Which readers give you the most bang for the buck? How can you use ePublishing sites to get your name out there? What about eBook tours? *John Debnam, Jumi Kassim, Melissa Gray, Ted Meissner, Jay Curry*

Learn to Make Balloon Animals Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

Michael McDole will be teaching you how to make your own balloon creations.

Michael McDole (mod)

Classic Video Game Tournament Connie's Space Lounge/Verandas 1-5

Come compete in our first classic video game tournament on a MAME arcade machine. Be there at 2:00pm to sign up!

Minnesota Speculative Fiction Signing Autograph Table

(*Across from Bloomington Rm.*) *Dana Baird, Michael Merriam and Joel Arnold*

Adapting The Terminal Literature/Atrium 3

Discussing the process of adapting Brian Keene's novel into a stage play along with a reading of the play. *Brian Keene, Roy Booth*

Comedy Writing for Various Media Hot Dish/Atrium 4

Does a writer's approach to telling a funny story change depending on the medium they are using to tell it? If so, how much? *David Walbridge, David Romm, Shad Petosky*

Great Authors You've Never Heard Of Krushenko's/Cabana 118

Once you are done with *Harry Potter, The Lord of the Rings* and the *Hitchhiker's "Trilogy,"* we'll give you a list of books and authors that you probably missed.

Jody Wurl, Mark McLaughlin, Hilary Moon Murphy

Teens Talk About Good Books Literature/Bloomington Rm.

A panel of teens will talk about the great books they are reading.

Tabitha Anderson, Kethry Burke-Scovill, Brigitte Honaker

Watchmen - The Movie Movies/Plaza 1

We know you saw it. We know Alan Moore doesn't approve. How about you?

Jim Kakalios, Joshua Lynsen, Mark Goldberg, Daniel Wallace, Romeo Azar

Geeks in Greasepaint: Theatre and Fandom Side Dish/Atrium 8

You'd think geeks would be better actors. They seem to think so. Why do geeks have a predisposition to both embrace and recoil from the limelight? Are they compensating on the stage for social skill challenges in real life? *Meredith Gillies, Rob Jensen, Bill Stiteler*

Humor in Superhero Comics Comics/Atrium 2

From Keith Giffen's *Justice League* to *Deadpool*, humor is alive and well with our heroes. What else besides wisecracking sidekicks and absurd villains add to the mix?

Christoforo Pasqualette, Scott Jamison, Christopher Jones

Local Filmmaking Preview Audio Visual/Atrium 6

Local filmmakers present 2-minute trailers and talk about their work.

Troy LaFaye (mod), Rob Withoff, Gordon Smuder, David Potter

Friday 3:00 pm

CONvergence Tour

Convention Tour/**Navigators**

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MST3K: Origins and Beyond

MainStage/**Grand Ballroom East**

Meet Trace, Joel, Mary Jo, Frank and make up artist Crist Ballas as they talk about the origins and design of *MST3K* and the evolution of the series from locally owned Channel 23 to national cult phenomenon. *Trace Beaulieu, Frank Conniff, Joel Hodgson, Crist Ballas, Mary Jo Pehl, Bill Stiteler (mod)*

Friday 3:30 pm

Shiny New Anime

Audio Visual/**Atrium 6**

Learn about the newest anime you may not have heard of from folks who know what you are looking for. The best anime is anime you don't know about yet!

Jessi Silver (mod), Boris Smelov, Jo Thomsen

Dana M. Baird Reading and Reception

Lit.Lounge/**Room 2201**

Dana M. Baird's second book (*The Spell Keeper*) has been recently released by Sam's Dot Publishing. Join her for a reading and a reception in celebration. *Dana Baird (mod)*

Geek Community Center

Side Dish/**Atrium 8**

What would you like in a hypothetical Geek Community Center? Come and brainstorm with us, think big, and who knows - with enough hard work, our community dreams might one day become a reality! *Michael Lee, Charles Piehl, Charlotte Nickerson, Jon Olsen*

This Panel is Cancelled

Laugh/**Radisson St. Paul**

A guide to irony. *Alanis Morissette, James and Della Young, Cyrano de Bergerac*

Exploring Scientific Ideas:

Shorter Project

Connie's Quantum Sandbox/**Plaza 3**

More real science with a real science teacher. Hands-on fun for all ages. *Matthew D. Bannerman*

Advanced Costuming

Art/**Atrium 2**

When duct tape just isn't good enough. Put away the hot glue gun and get it right!

Tish Cassidy, Lisa Conley, Lori Fischer, Angelique Montag, Matt Merfeld, Rae Lundquist

Science Museum Panel

Hot Dish/**Atrium 4**

MISFITS is sponsoring the Science Museum to come teach us about SCIENCE! *Erin Lorenz*

Twilight Zone - 50th Anniversary

Krushenko's/**Cabana 118**

You have just crossed over into a dimension of discussion and celebration. You have entered the *Twilight Zone* panel. Let's talk about master teleplay-writer Rod Serling (1924-1975) and his best known series (1959-1964), still powerful after 50 years.

Tim Lieder, Kelli Pennington, Alexandra Howes

Skepticism 101

Science & Technology/**Atrium 7**

Learn the basic scientific method and how to question everything without being a jerk about it. *Pamela Gay, Melissa Kaercher, Rebecca Watson, Maria Walters*

Not So Special Effects

Movies/**Plaza 1**

Is the explosion of CGI the death of model making and puppetry in film?

David Potter, Gordon Smuder, Romeo Azar, Ken Akin, Rob Withoff, Jen Manna

Smallville

Television/**Edina Rm.**

A near-unprecedented 9th season of *Smallville* is on the horizon. Tom Welling has played the Man of Steel longer than any other actor. When is he going to wear "The Suit?" What about possible spin-offs with Green Arrow, Justice League, or The Legion?

Tony Artym, Doug Trumble, Steven Erickson, Daniel Wallace

Inserting Humor Into Your Writing

Literature/**Bloomington Rm.**

The title isn't very funny because humor is hard. Come learn some tricks to be funny without being forced. *Kelly McCullough, Brian Keene, M. K. Melin, S.D. Hintz, Jerrod Balzer, Patrick Rothfuss*

But I Don't Have 7 Hours for a Tabletop Game!

Gaming/**Atrium 3**

Most of us don't have time for the marathon gaming sessions of our youth, but we don't want to give up gaming. Balancing your life with your need to kill orcs.

Jenni Klumpp, Pete Lane, Rachel Kronick, Dave Benhart

Friday 4:00 pm

Cinematic Titanic Signing #1

Autograph Table

The first of two signings with the cast of *MST3K* and *Cinematic Titanic*. DVDs will also be available to purchase. (*Across from Bloomington Rm.*)

Joel Hodgson, Mary Jo Pehl, Frank Conniff, Trace Beaulieu

Friday 5:00 pm

The Genius of Uwe Boll

Laugh/**Radisson St. Paul**

Discuss the works of the world's greatest working director. Compare and contrast his classic re-working of the zombie genre in *House of the Dead* with his magnum opus, *In the Name of the King*. *Roger Ebert and the late Gene Siskel*

MISFITS Writing Contest Reception

Literature/**Atrium 7**

Join MISFITS as we celebrate with the winners of our Annual Writing Contest.

Charlotte Nickerson, Joel Arnold, Brian Keene, Jody Wurl, Jodie Gustafson (mod)

Humorous Animation on TV

Television/**Edina Rm.**

The Simpsons, Family Guy, Cleveland, American Dad, The Venture Bros, Robot Chicken. Need we continue? What are your favorites and which have run their course?

Jonah Rees, Joe Cote

Graphic Novels as Literature

Comics/**Atrium 2**

Time magazine called *Watchmen* one of the greatest novels of the 20th century. "Novel?" Really? Can something like *Watchmen* be fairly considered as great literature?

Roy Cook, Melissa Gray, Jody Wurl, Romeo Azar

Old Time Radio: Classic SF, Fantasy and Horror

Side Dish/**Atrium 8**

Back in the days before TV, people used to gather around the radio to listen to shows like *X-1, The Mysterious Traveler, and Dark Fantasy*. Most of these shows are now in the Public Domain. Come learn about these shows and where you can find them.

Taylor Kent, Jeff Adams, Scott Jamison, David Gustafson, Ken Aiken

Why Writers Should Archive

Literature/**Bloomington Rm.**

You will be appreciated after you are dead. Preserving the writing process for posterity and posthumous publication. *Kelly McCullough, Meredith Gillies, Elise Matthesen, Lynne Thomas*

Licensed Games: As Seen on the Big Screen

Gaming/**Atrium 3**

Why are licensed games (based on television or films) so universally panned by critics? Why do they sell relatively well with the gaming public? Are there any licensed games that aren't rushed to tie in with a film's release date that are worth playing?

Tod Gelle, Clay Lamkin, Stephen Miller

48-Minute Films

Audio Visual/**Atrium 6**

Devise, shoot, and edit a scene in an hour. *David Justin, Troy LaFaye*

Minnesota Speculative Fiction

Writers Meeting

Krushenko's/**Cabana 118**

Come learn about this resource for local aspiring science fiction and fantasy writers.

Hilary Moon Murphy, Michael Merriam

Friday 5:00 pm (continued)

M. Night Shyamalan Intervention Movies/Plaza 1

Never has a director gone from "A-List" to "WTF" List so quickly. It's time to show Night some love - TOUGH LOVE! *Tim Wick, Perrin Klumpp, Melissa Kaercher, Windy Bowsby*

Sock Puppets Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

We do not expect you to bring your own socks. *Rachael Salisbury, Angie Anderson*

Open Puppetry Auditions Hot Dish/Atrium 4

So you want to be a puppeteer? The producers of *Transylvania Television* are trolling for undiscovered local puppet talent. You may bring your own puppet but it is not required.

You WILL be video-taped of our reference. You can also just come and watch.

Jennifer Menken, Gordon Smuder

Friday 6:00 pm

Ka-Baam!! MainStage/Grand Ballroom East

Created by Marvel Comics Editor Steve Wacker and directed by Nels Lennes, *Ka-Baam!!* features the improvised origins of three original superheroes, and sends them on a team adventure against a dastardly supervillain!

Friday 7:00 pm

The Apocalypse in Print Lit.Lounge/Rm. 2201

The end of the world doesn't interest us nearly so much as what comes next. Much of Science Fiction writing takes place in a dark future where the unthinkable has already happened. Talk about different approaches to this common topic. *Joel Arnold, Jennie Catlett*

Tweet Mystery of Life Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

Bring your iPhones and Crackberries because this panel's entire discussion will take place on Twitter. No talking allowed! *Dexter Douglas*

British People are Funnier than American People Television/Edina Rm.

Or do we just get the good stuff across the pond? What are your favorite British shows... *The Office, I.T. Crowd, Look Around You?* Share your appreciation and get some recommendations. *Pete Lane, Michael Thomas, Craig A. Finseth, Tod Gelle*

Congratulations, Dr. President Audio Visual/Atrium 6

Evil vs. Evil! Come ask your nefarious questions and pledge your fealty to your future leader in this debate. Weapons allowed for candidates only. *Tonya Nall, Dr. Strangelove, Genevieve Woodward, Dr. Evil, Dr. Horrible, Brian LaBounty*

Raising Your Teens "Geek" Hot Dish/Atrium 4

Are you active in the fan community and raising your teens there? Meet other parents so you can share ideas and support, especially when it comes to participating in conventions and clubs. *Angie Anderson, Sonya Honaker, Kris Kester, Kate Graham, Liz Burke-Scovill, Susan Price*

Flip Book Construction Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

Animation for beginners. *Matt Waterhouse*

Podcasts 101 Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Wondering what a podcast is? Or how to listen to one? What is the difference between online radio and podcasting? Come find out what you need to find and listen to all the great podcasts lurking on the interwebs. *Taylor Kent, Aric McKeown, Jeff Adams*

Tricks of the Trade:

How to Publish and Not Perish Side Dish/Atrium 8

Being a good writer doesn't mean your book will ever make it. Come listen to some advice from successful writers. *Patrick Rothfuss, Catherine Lundoff, Mark McLaughlin, Scott Lynch, Lyda Morehouse*

The Joy of Bad Movies Movies/Plaza 1

What movies are so bad they are good? Uwe Boll does serve a purpose. *Jenni Klumpp, James Spurrier, Kelvin Hatle, C. Robert Cargill, Melissa Kaercher, Paul Harmeyer*

Console Wars III: Where Do Wii Go from Here? Gaming/Atrium 3

Our panel examining the merits and software of the current-generation of video game consoles continues in its third year. With the Wii a clear market-share victor, is there room for the PS3 and 360? What about the PSP and DS? *Andrew Davies, Joe Cote, Matt Everhart*

Give Those Nymphs Some Hooters! Art/Atrium 2

Can you really slay a dragon in heels or fly a starfighter in a bikini? A discussion of the feminine figure as portrayed in genre art and imagery. *Jen Manna (mod), Alexandra Howes, Mariah Fryer, Christopher Reopelle, Laura Thurston, Christoforo Pasquarette*

It's Greek To Me Literature/Bloomington Rm.

A discussion of how the Greek pantheon has been recast in science fiction and fantasy. *Michael Levy, Rebecca Korvo, Kathy Sullivan*

Friday 8:00 pm

Geeks Got Talent MainStage/Grand Ballroom East

Do you have a special talent? Calling all performers including singers, jugglers, comedians, magicians, acoustic musicians, one-man bands, and sketch comedy. *Jon Olsen, Tim Wick (mod)*

Live Electronic Music Connie's Space Lounge/Verandas 1-5

Spacey sounds that will get your intergalactic groove on.

Magic The Gathering: 7th Annual Limited Cardpool Event Card Gaming/Rm. 2207

Once again Rob and his crazy band of Magic Pirates bring forth the popular Friday Night Event! Rob brings the cards, you build the decks! You never know what you'll be using in this winner takes all fun format!

Friday 8:30 pm

Michael Jackson Karaoke Power Hour Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

Nothing but singing the hits of the undisputed king of 80's pop before he went bug nuts crazy. Do the Thriller Zombie dance! Insist that the kid is not your son! Tell us how bad you are! No Weird Al parodies allowed. *The Gloved One (mod)*

Mythology of the Future Hot Dish/Edina Rm.

Like the ancient myths that help explain our past, sci-fi not only entertains, but also serves to prepare us for our future. Join a professional Futurist in an interactive session to explore how SF mentally prepares us for several possible futures. *Bruce Glasrud*

10 Years of Evercrack Gaming/Atrium 3

Ten years ago, Everquest was the online drug of choice. Even as *World of Warcraft* has taken over the collective psyche, Everquest is still out there and still has devoted followers. Come discuss this and other MMORPGs. *Matthew D. Bannerman*

Librarians on Parade Side Dish/Atrium 8

Who cares about Pink Elephants? Come learn why librarians have become Geek Chic and why they are totally made of awesome-sauce. *Michele Monson, Terry Garey, Meredith Gillies, Kathy Sullivan, Jody Wurl, Jenni Klumpp*

CONvergence Short Film Festival Audio Visual/Atrium 6

Local filmmakers show off excerpts of their short films. *David Potter, Troy LaFaye (mod)*

Friday 8:30 pm (continued)

The Funniest Book I've Ever Read Literature/Bloomington Rm.

Discuss the books that make you laugh. *Matthew Davis, Ruth Berman, David Gustafson, Susan Price, Heather Johnson*

Does Bigfoot Really Live in Georgia? Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Join us for a skeptical exploration of mythmaking in the media.
Karl Wolff, Charlotte Nickerson, Maria Walters

Puppets! They Aren't Just for Kids Hot Dish/Atrium 4

It's time to play the music, it's time to light the lights. We all know that Yoda was better before he got stuffed into a computer instead of a drawer. The history and future of puppetry. *Jennifer Menken, Gordon Smuder, Jen Manna*

Manga & Graphic Novels: East meets West Comics/Atrium 2

Discuss the origins, similarities, and differences between graphic novels originating in the West and their manga predecessors in the East. How have the two forms of expression influenced each other over time and are they still distinct entities?
Joe Cote, Scott Jamison, M. Nicholas Almand, Ken Justiniano

Storytelling Slam Lit.Lounge/Room 2201

Open to all interested storytellers - come and share your short stories in CONvergence's first *Storyteller Slam* up in the Lit Lounge. *Rob Callahan (mod)*

The Marvel Masterplan Movies/Plaza 1

With the obvious exception of *The Dark Knight*, Marvel is winning the super hero war at the box office. How does DC close the gap? *Daniel Wallace*

Friday 10:00 pm

Hypnosis Induction Demo/Relax and Unwind!

Group Hypnosis Session Hot Dish/Atrium 4

One of Dee's most asked-for sessions, the Induction Demo and group hypnosis sessions give you a chance to experience hypnosis for yourself! To participate, please be 18+ for legal consent reasons but anyone can watch. *Dee Bitner (mod)*

Rob Callahan Reading Lit.Lounge/Rm. 2201

Rob Callahan, author of *Hellbound Snowballs* and *Damaged Goods* reads some of his work. *Rob Callahan*

Zombie Survival Hot Dish/Atrium 3

If you are ready for zombies, you are ready for anything. This lecture will ensure you are completely prepared to handle any kind of zombie outbreak and the inevitable post outbreak problems that will arise. *Erik Pakieser, Michael Spaulding*

Normal / Paranormal Television/Edina Rm.

Discuss the flood of paranormal-themed television shows currently on the air and your favorites from seasons past. *Romeo Azar, Stephan Stomberg, Jody Wurl*

Friends of Bill W. #2 Side Dish/Atrium 2

Join other friends of Bill W. for a meeting.

Meet the Skepchicks Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Well, meet them! Braaaains! *Carrie Iwan, Rebecca Watson, Bug Girl, Maria Walters*

Hong Kong Funny Movies/Plaza 1

Kung Fu Hustle, Shaolin Soccer and other Hong Kong films that aren't by Stephen Chao. Kicking butt and tickling funny bones. *Jacob Gulliver*

Fan Fiction Literature/Bloomington Rm.

Is Fan Fiction a waste of creative ability? Is it the best thing since sliced bread? Do you invest time in reading, seeking out, or writing fanfic? Should this medium get greater respect? *Veronica Cummer, M. K. Melin, Anna Waltz, Brett Thompson, Daniel Wallace*

A Guide to Sarcasm Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

This is going to be a great panel. Seriously. You are going to love it. We can't wait to see you there. It will be the best panel at the con. *David Spade (mod)*

SpookySpookyScaryScary: LIVE MainStage/Grand Ballroom East

A live comedy show full of evil! Tim Uren and Joseph Scrimshaw are Chuck and Dexter, two Lovecraft obsessed "Cthultists" desperate to spread the bad word! Compete to become a member of their cult or just win a copy of their DVD!
Tim Uren, Joseph Scrimshaw

Geek Haiku Side Dish/Atrium 8

Come to this panel - Express your geek through haiku - Nerd serenity.
Betsy Langowski, Windy Bowlsby, Jon Olsen, Sandra Lindow

Friday 11:00 pm

Vilification Tennis MainStage/Grand Ballroom East

The show that violated fire codes in Harmonic CONvergence is back and they brought their interpreters with them! Enjoy their offensive insults in fabulous sign-o-rama (TM) and learn why they should never, ever, be given microphones. *Tim Wick*

Friday 11:30 pm

The Adult Side of Hypnosis Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Yes, people actually use hypnosis to improve their, er, relationships. Dee Bitner talks a little bit about how the mind and the body can work together to make adult activities more fun.
Dee Bitner (mod)

Video Game Slash Fiction Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

Link/Zelda is pretty obvious. How about Mario/Sonic or Solid Snake/Master Chief? Pac-Man/Pinky? Or Q*Bert/Space Invaders? Or even about Burger Time Chef/Marble Madness Marble?
Mario Mario, Lara Croft

Anna Waltz Reading Lit.Lounge/Rm. 2201

The author of *Swedish Lutheran Vampires from Brainerd* reads from her work.
Anna Waltz

Dr. Horrible Sing-Along Audio Visual/Atrium 6

The first half of our *Dr. Horrible* double feature will allow our audience to get into the Evil league of Evil chorus. If you've watched *Dr. Horrible* as many times as we know you have, you won't need a libretto.

The Lighter Side of Lovecraft Literature/Bloomington Rm.

Did H.P. Lovecraft have any sense of humor he was aware of? He may not have had much of a sense of humor, but his readers did. Discuss how generations of Lovecraft fans have made a mockery of the Elder Gods.
Craig A. Finseth, Mark McLaughlin, David Gustafson, Melissa Kaercher

What Scares Us? Hot Dish/Atrium 4

Are there certain types of movies or books that you are too scared to watch or read? Are you missing out on some great horror stories by avoiding the genre entirely? What are some good entry points for the timid among us?
Brian Keene, Tim Lieder, Windy Bowlsby, Taylor Kent, Joel Arnold

Friday 12:30 am

The Rocky Horrible Picture Show

Audio Visual/Atrium 6

Because singing along with *Dr. Horrible* isn't enough, our second helping of *Dr. Horrible* will take it to a new level of audience interaction. We know you have the costumes and you know all the moves. Join the Evil League of Evil!

Friday 1:00 am

Robotnik's Rampage

MainStage/Grand Ballroom East

Get out your best post-apocalyptic battle gear and come on down to Friday's dance, where we'll be serving shattered visions of human futures and symphonies for after the robot invasion. Seasoned musical cyborgs dv8 and Spleen (and special guests) will assault you with darkwave, industrial, synthpop, ebm, and noise until the feeder drones get us all.

Saturday July 4

Saturday 9:30 am

Mini-Dragons

Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

Julie will be teaching us how to make small lizard-y friends out of chenille stems.
Julie Bowman

The Humor of "Watchmen"

Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

One of the main characters is called The Comedian. How much more obvious can it get? And the squid? Hy-freakin-sterical. *Steven Wright*

Blogging Skeptically

Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Tips, tricks, and pointers from skeptical bloggers, as well as suggestions for untapped wells to explore in your new skeptical blog. *Karl Wolff, PZ Myers, Maria Walters, Rebecca Watson, Pamela Gay*

Young Adult Fiction

Literature/Bloomington Rm.

Books that kids will love. Books that parents will love. Titles in the Young Adult section other than *Twilight*. *Sarah Eichhorst, Michael Levy, Naomi Kritzer, Meredith Gillies, Jody Wurl, Kathy Sullivan*

The Death of Saturday Morning Cartoons

Television/Edina Rm.

What happened? We lost a great time-slot but gained a network. Is there anything left worth watching in an infomercial wasteland? *Ken Martinez, Paul Harmeyer*

Sandman at Twenty

Comics/Atrium 2

With the release of the Absolute Sandman collection, the comic masterpiece is recognized as a classic. Many of us grew up with Sandman so it is time to look back and see how this book influenced our lives. *Alexandra Howes, Daniel Mohr, Miriam Krause*

Honestly, It's for Reference!

Side Dish/Atrium 8

Do you feel ashamed stalking the hallways of Toys R Us for that elusive Star Wars figure? Do you display your action figure collection in your house? How do you justify these purchases and more importantly, how do you display and maintain them? *Jeannie Holmes, Anna Waltz, Steve Fuchs, Steven Erickson, Michael Thomas, Jeremy Stomberg*

Martial Arts Workout

Hot Dish/Atrium 4

Get your kicks off of Route 66! Join us on Saturday morning for a fun and stress-relieving workout! Wear your ninja jammies or comfortable clothing! And please shower afterwards. thanks! *John Shea (mod)*

Saturday 11:00 am

Michael Merriam Reading

Lit.Lounge/Rm. 2201

The author of *Shimmers & Shadows* reads some of his work. *Michael Merriam*

Want to Hear About My 50th Level Magic User?

Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

One full hour devoted to our panelist telling you about his favorite player character. You won't believe the Magic Items she has! She could frag a Turquoise Dragon without breaking a sweat!

Plastic Beaded Animals

Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

Mary Reining will be teaching us how to use plastic lace and pony beads to create fun beaded animals. *Mary Reining*

The Works of Kelly McCullough

Krushenko's/Cabana 118

Discussion sponsored by Second Foundation, an SF book-discussion group that has met since 1983, and The Rivendell Group, a fantasy-book discussion group that has met since 1973. *Kelly McCullough, Eric Heideman (mod), David Lenander (mod)*

Magic The Gathering:

Peasant Constructed Tournament

Card Gaming/Rm. 2207

Bring your own 60-card deck using ONLY COMMONS with the exception of 5 uncommons and NO rares! Most current rarity will be used in determining rarity of reprinted cards.

Lyda Morehouse Signing

Autograph Table

Lyda Morehouse, the author of *Archangel Protocol* will be at the autograph table to sign her work. (*Across from Bloomington Rm.*) *Lyda Morehouse*

Spicing up a Science Curriculum

Science & Technology/Atrium 7

How can teachers use sci-fi examples in education (at various age levels) to illustrate and inspire? *Jennifer Menken, Michael Kingsley, Andy Anda, Gerald Nordley, Susan Price, Matthew D. Bannerman*

This is No Laughing Matter, Mr. Bond

Movies/Plaza 1

Spy spoofs are as old as the genre. We will talk about everything from the near camp of some Roger Moore Bond films to spoofs like *Our Man Flint*, Maxwell Smart and *Austin Powers*. *Romeo Azar, Ken Aiken, Tony Artym*

Current State of Audio Theatre

Side Dish/Atrium 8

Audio drama is far from a dying art form. Where can you find current plays, even if most of them aren't being broadcast on the airwaves anymore. *Jeff Adams, Craig A. Finseth, Jerry Stearns, Taylor Kent*

Copyright Debate

Hot Dish/Atrium 4

What constitutes "fair use"? Argue your heart out, we know you'll disagree with whatever the panelists say and they'll disagree with you. Get your aggressions out! *Jenni Klumpp, Eric Hopper, Derek Mahr, Stephen Miller, C. Robert Cargill*

The Science of Watchmen

Audio Visual/Atrium 6

Why So Blue, Dr. Manhattan? Join Dr. James Kakalios as he illustrates basic physics principles with examples from comic books and other media. Dr. Jim has specially tailored his annual talk with examples from *Watchmen* this year. *Dr. James Kakalios*

Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles

Television/Edina Rm.

Some fans of Terminator view this series as the true continuation of T2 and James Cameron's vision and legacy. Have you been watching Summer Glau and Shirley Manson kick ass? Discuss this provocative series and its impact on the franchise as a whole. *Matt Savelkoul (mod), Jo Thomsen, Dave Benhart, Charlotte Nickerson, Matt Everhart*

Saturday 11:00 am

The Collaborative Process Literature/Bloomington Rm.

What does it take for two or more creators to work together?
Rob Callahan, Shad Petosky, Mark McLaughlin, Adam Stemple, Hilary Moon Murphy

Justice League Past, Present and Future Comics/Atrium 2

From its first appearance in 1960 to its fractured present, how has the Justice League changed over time? Can it's origins be traced even further back? *Dwayne McDuffie, Daniel Wallace, Scott Jamison, Moira Cross, David Gustafson, W. Scott Patterson*

Solo Action: Games You Can Play By Yourself Gaming/Atrium 3

Get your mind out of the gutter! There's a lot more you can do with yourself once you are done playing Solitaire. *Doug Thorpe, Andrew Davies*

Saturday 12:30 pm

Meet the Wyrdsmiths Literature/Bloomington Rm.

GoH Kelly McCullough and other successful Twin Cities Writers talk about their experiences with this local writer's group. *Kelly McCullough, Eleanor Arneson, Naomi Kritzer, Sean M. Murphy, Lyda Morehouse*

Twilight for Teens Hot Dish/Atrium 4

Talk about the *Twilight* series of books and the recent film with teen fans.
Brigette Honaker, Dana Rademacher, Kethry Burke-Scovill

Live Commentary w/Dwayne McDuffie Audio Visual/Atrium 6

Join Guest of Honor Dwayne McDuffie as he provides live commentary on animated episodes of *Static Shock* and *Justice League Unlimited*. There will also be time for Q & A following the two commentaries. *Matt Savelkoul (mod), Dwayne McDuffie*

Jason Wittman Reading Lit. Lounge/Rm. 2201

The author of *A Game of Night Court* reads some of his work. *Jason D. Wittman*

Star Trek at the Movies Movies/Plaza 1

With a new reboot in the theatres and Khan in the great starship in the sky, let's take a look at the *Star Trek* films and figure out if they should boldly go or just go away.
Joan Marie Verba, Michael Scott Shappe, Tim Wick, Tony Artym, Michael Lee, Romeo Azar

Best and Worst Video Games of All Time Gaming/Atrium 3

Donkey Kong, Metal Gear, Halo. Which are the most endearing franchises, what are the most hyped but ultimately most disappointing games, and which games should never have left the drawing board? Join our panel as they debate these and other topics!
Joe Cote, Clay Lamkin, Stephan Stomberg, Matt Everhart

Disabilities in Science Fiction Krushenko's/Cabana 118

Looking at the disabled through the lens of science-fiction or: do handicapped Captains get better parking places in space dock? What will we consider to be a disability if blindness is cured ala La Forge's visor? *Michael Merriam, Rebecca Korvo, Betsy Lundsten, Elise Matthesen*

Science Surprise Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

We promise you something science based and fun. You'll find out when you get there!

Is Joss Whedon a Deity? Television/Edina Rm.

Is the cult of Whedon weakening? How has Dollhouse fared? Will there be a Dr. Horrible sequel? Don't hang up your brown coat just yet! *Patrick Rothfuss, Mia Hagarty, Michael Thomas, Wayne Bruns, Jody Wurl*

Robotics Panel Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Domo Arigato, Mr. Roboto! Come find out where the latest developments in robotics and A.I. are at. How close are we to Sky Net coming online? Should you be worried about what your Roomba gets up to when you aren't home? *William Crolley*

Comics You've Never Heard Of Comics/Atrium 2

Discussion of small press comics. *Hank Luttrell, Jen Manna*

Empowering Female Role Models in Sci-Fi Side Dish/Atrium 8

Lets use positive language and focus of what is right and should be encouraged in Sci-Fi instead of pointing out how "wrong" it is to be pretty or strong.
Amada Marquez (mod), Sandra Lindow, Andre Guirard, Beth Kinderman, Kathy Sullivan

R. Scott McCoy Signing Autograph Table

(Across from Bloomington Rm.) *R. Scott McCoy*

Saturday 1:00 pm

Sensor Re: Engine Connie's Space Lounge/Verandas 1-5

Like to make music? Bring your synths and soundmakers and plug in to our music session of beeps and bleeps.

Saturday 2:00 pm

Joseph Scrimshaw and Tim Uren Signing Autograph Table

A live signing full of evil! Tim Uren and Joseph Scrimshaw are Chuck and Dexter, two Lovecraft-obsessed "Cthultists" desperate to spread the bad word! A wonderful signing and greeting opportunity! You can even buy a DVD! (Across from Bloomington Rm.)
Tim Uren, Joseph Scrimshaw

Genre Blender Literature/Bloomington Rm.

Blending genre elements or staying within the lines.
Kelly McCullough, Jeannie Holmes, Matthew Davis, S.D. Hintz, Dana Baird, Jerrod Balzer

Face Painting and Hair Braiding Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

Free Face Painting for everyone! Well maybe not everyone but now is the time to get that Gelfing you always wanted on your forehead. *Rachael Salisbury, Angie Anderson, Jim Shields*

Geeks Read MISFITS Clubhouse/Cabana 114

The MISFITS Club "Geeks Read" is having their July meeting and is discussing the novel *The Name of the Wind*. *Peter Verrant, Jodie Gustafson, Ange Straatmeyer*

Science Fiction in Academia Krushenko's/Cabana 118

How Science Fiction and Fantasy is becoming more acceptable as a subject for academic study. *Michael Levy*

So You Want to Be a Game Master? Gaming/Atrium 3

Getting your character killed is easy. Killing someone else's character is hard. Making the transition from player to GM is not as easy as it seems. *Beth Kinderman, Dave Benhart, Ross Watson, Stephen Miller, Rachel Kronick*

Star Trek: An Episode Presented in Mime Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

Join us for a rousing performance as we pay tribute to Ricardo Montalban's passing with a silent interpretation of the classic *Space Seed*. No ASL Interpreters will be provided.
Marcel Marceau

Women in Skeptical Activism Science & Technology/Atrium 7

The title says it all. *Maria Walters, Bug Girl, Rebecca Watson*

Saturday 2:00 pm (continued)

Cinematic Titanic

Audio Visual/Atrium 6

Making fun of movies for fun and profit. Cast members discuss the job we all wish we had. *Joel Hodgson, Frank Conniff, Mary Jo Pehl, Trace Beaulieu*

Farewell David Tennant!

Television/Edina Rm.

David Tennant's final series has aired. His feature-length specials continue, yet the 11th Doctor and the Moffat-era is waiting in the wings. Celebrate the 10th Doctor and speculate on the future. *Michael Scott Shappe, Lynne Thomas, Steve Manfred, Kathy Sullivan, Matt Savelkoul, Michael Thomas*

You're Not Paid to Geek Out!

Side Dish/Atrium 8

What are the perils of being an out geek in the workplace? Do you open yourself up to ridicule? Is there a glass ceiling for people with action figures on their desk? *Rob Callahan, Meredith Gillies, Rebecca Korvo, Anna Waltz, Ken Akin*

The Best Movies You've Never Seen

Movies/Plaza 1

The works of Lucky Mckee, films from other countries and genre movies that don't end up at the local multiplex. *C. Robert Cargill, Eric Clark, Romeo Azar, Stephan Stomberg, Sybil Smith, Gene Stoneman*

Raptor Center

Hot Dish/Atrium 4

The Raptor center will bring you up close and personal with some of the most amazing birds you will ever encounter. Sponsored by MISFITS. *Erin Lorenz*

Writers Groups: The Secret to Success in Fiction?

Lit.Lounge/Rm. 2201

Writing in a vacuum isn't always the best way to produce great (or even good) work. Writing groups can provide new and experienced authors with a sounding board for their work that can prove invaluable. Learn about what makes a writers group work. *John Shea, Hilary Moon Murphy, Sean M. Murphy, Lyda Morehouse*

Comic Creation Process

Comics/Atrium 2

What goes into creating a comic book? How to translate an idea into a full-fledged publication. *Dwayne McDuffie, Melissa Kaercher, Christopher Jones, Bob Lipski*

Saturday 3:30 pm

Writing for Animation

Television/Edina Rm.

Come hear about Frank Conniff's experiences writing for Nickelodeon's *Invader Zim* and Disney's *Twisted Fairy Tales*. Frank will also chat about his latest live show/webcast series, a children's show parody entitled *Cartoon Dump*. *Frank Conniff*

Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading

Lit.Lounge/Rm. 2201

Members of Broad Universe will read their short fiction. Broad Universe is an international organization with the primary goal of promoting science fiction, fantasy, and horror written by women. *Catherine Lundoff (mod), Kathy Sullivan, Catherine Schaff-Stump, Lyda Morehouse, Kimberly Long-Ewing*

Star Wars: When Did Your Fandom Die?

Movies/Plaza 1

When did St. George finally lose you? Was it the *Ewok TV Movies? The Droids Animated Series? Was it Jar Jar? Did you manage to hang on through the Clone Wars movie? Are you still in denial? Get it off your chest. You are among friends. James Spurrier, Timothy Buemer, Mariah Fryer, Jeremy Stomberg, Adam Stemple, Romeo Azar*

Sci-fi/Fantasy Improv

Audio Visual/Atrium 6

Watch and participate in a series of extremely geek-oriented improv games. Will Captain Picard and Pikachu successfully mow the lawn? Or will it result in a rift in the time-space continuum? You may never know unless you attend this panel. *Lori Fischer, Holly Spotts, Jo Thomsen*

Kelly McCullough Signing

Autograph Table

Guest of Honor Kelly McCullough will be available to sign his work. *(Across from Bloomington Rm.) Kelly McCullough*

Retro Classics & Weird Video Games

Gaming/Atrium 3

Instead of throwing it away, learn how to save your classic game console from the trash heap or salvage its spirit through building a MAME console. Also, we'll discuss the oddest and most bizarre video games you've had the good fortune to come across. *Stephan Stomberg, Jesse Richardson*

Renaissance Faires and the Renaissance

Side Dish/Atrium 4

Mass delusion and enjoyment of fantasy. Ren Fest has absolutely nothing to do with the reality. You'd probably enjoy it less if it were real. *David Walbridge, Dana Baird, Ed Eastman, M. K. Melin, Tim Wick, Tim Lieder*

World of Papercraft

Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

This is not origami but it does involved making stuff out of paper. No matches allowed. *Angie Anderson, Jen Manna*

Comic Book Villains Heath Ledger

Could Have Played If He Were Still Alive Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

The Joker was only the tip of this Thesbian's cinematic iceberg. Had his life not been tragically cut short, would he have been Galactus? Bizarro? The Vulture? Help us mourn what could have been. *The Watcher, The Monitor*

Whither the Space Program in the Obama Years?

Krushenko's/Cabana 118

What will replace the Shuttle? What about the Space Station, Hubble Observatory, and the direction of human and robot space exploration in the administration of our new President? *Paul F. Richards (mod)*

Science Online

Science & Technology/Atrium 7

What is the role of the internet in communicating science to the public? *PZ Myers, Bug Girl, Pamela Gay*

Writing Horror in the Era of Saw

Literature/Bloomington Rm.

Can you really write good gore porn? Do you really want to? How do you scare people when every Halloween the bloodbath continues? *Brian Keene, R. Scott McCoy, Mark McLaughlin, Jerrod Balzer, S.D. Hintz*

Saturday 4:30 pm

Open Fiction Writing Workshop

Lit.Lounge/Rm. 2201

Jeannie Holmes, author of supernatural suspense & urban fantasy, leads this workshop. This includes open writing exercises for beginner and advanced writers, closed critiques (for work submitted in advance), and a Q&A session. This panel runs 2.5 hours. *Jeannie Holmes (mod)*

Saturday 5:00 pm

SF Writing Groups: The 2009 Scene

Krushenko's/Cabana 118

This annual gathering allows representatives of writing groups specializing in science fiction and fantasy to report on how their groups function, and gives groups that are looking for new members a chance to put their heads together. *Eric Heideman (mod)*

Hypnosis and Roleplay

Gaming/Atrium 3

Want to add new dimensions to your gaming? Dee Bitner explains how adding hypnosis to the mix means more fun for everyone, including a discussion of safety concerns. *Dee Bitner (mod)*

Saturday 5:00 pm (continued)

How to Screw Up Your Writing Career Literature/Bloomington Rm.

Pro writers share their stories about mistakes they've made or they've known others to make as newly published authors. *Patrick Rothfuss, Catherine Lundoff, Kathy Sullivan*

Cinematic Titanic Signing #2 Autograph Table

Your last chance to get an autograph from Joel, Trace, Mary Jo and Frank. DVDs will be available for sale as well. (*Across from Bloomington Rm.*)
Joel Hodgson, Trace Beaulieu, Mary Jo Pehl, Frank Conniff

Battlestar Galactica and Caprica Television/Edina Rm.

Battlestar Galactica has ended its epic journey. Still, the universe continues with *The Plan* TV movie and the Caprica prequel. Come together and discuss the momentous series finale. Were you happy with how it all turned out & where should it go next?
Michael Scott Shappe, Jody Wurl, Scott Smith, Beth Kinderman

Evolution 101 Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Learn the basics of Evolution, what Charles Darwin was really saying, and how to identify common misconceptions. *PZ Myers, Matthew D. Bannerman, Melissa Kaercher, Bug Girl*

Voodoo Dolls Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

We are not in New Orleans. Effectiveness of dolls cannot be guaranteed.
Charlotte Nickerson, Rachael Salisbury, Angie Anderson

Breaking Crap with Scrimshaw and Friends Hot Dish/Atrium 4

Learn the dark arts of comedy in theory and practice in this panel/workshop led by professional funny-people. Step into Freud's joking envelope! Hit a panelist to see if other people's pain really is funny! Learn how to do it wrong the right way!
Joseph Scrimshaw (mod), Tim Wick, Tim Uren

Silent Movies Worth Your Time Movies/Plaza 1

Film is a visual medium. Learn about movies that don't need to be heard to be appreciated. *Tim Lieder, Paul Harmeyer, David Gustafson, Rob Jensen, Sybil Smith, David Romm*

Web Design for Geeks Audio Visual/Atrium 6

Website design is often overlooked and extremely important. This talk will focus on well-designed sci-fi websites to work as a springboard for your own ideas. *Richard Mueller*

In the Palm of Your Hand Hot Dish/Atrium 8

Learn about the techniques of palmistry, tarot and other forms of divination as well as discuss various forms of divination from the mundane to the bizarre.
Betsy Langowski, Rebecca Korvo, Elizabeth Tuckwood

Milestone Comics Comics/Atrium 2

Discussion of Milestone Comics by its founder, Dwayne McDuffie.
Christopher Jones (mod), Dwayne McDuffie

Saturday 7:00 pm

Masquerade MainStage/Grand Ballroom East

Our annual costume contest followed up by the *Match Game!*

Beaded Animals All Grown Up Connie's Quantum Sandbox/Plaza 3

Mary Reining will be teaching us how to use wire and seed beads to create fun beaded animals. This panel is specifically designed for teens and older. *Mary Reining*

Make Your Own TARDIS Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

Experts in the field of temporal physics will help you construct your own device for traveling through time and space. Don't worry, it doesn't have to look like a Police Box. Starter coral samples provided. *Rassilon, Omega, The Other*

The Mega Panel

Hot Dish/Edina Rm.

Looking for an alternative to the Masquerade? Join us for the returning Mega Panel - it's so broad, so deep, and so potentially controversial that it requires not one but two slots! Anything science fiction or fantasy related can and will be discussed!
Romeo Azar (mod), Derek Mahr, C. Robert Cargill, Daniel Wallace,

Saturday 8:30 pm

Felling a Panel Laugh/Radisson St. Paul

If a panel is in the program book and no-one attends, does it really take place?
Plato, Jean-Paul Sartre, Friedrich Nietzsche, Rene Descartes, Emmanuel Kant

Saturday 9:00 pm

Art Auction Hot Dish/Atrium 4

Your chance to bid on all pieces from the Art show that have gone to voice auction. A lot of fun to watch but even more fun to participate! *Melissa Kaercher, Charles Piehl*

Saturday 9:30 pm

Fireworks Watching on 22nd Floor Hot Dish/Vista Suite

Just because you are in the hotel it doesn't mean you have to miss the holiday. Come up to the 22nd floor for a great panorama of various municipality firework displays.
William Crolley (mod)

Saturday 10:00 pm

Sci-Fi Cabaret Connie's Space Lounge/Verandas 1-5

A Circus in the Stars themed cabaret of performers to entertain and amaze you.

Teen Meet-up Saturday Side Dish/Atrium 8

An opportunity for our teenaged members to connect with other teens attending the convention. Adults are boring! We all know that. Ditch your parents and hang out with the cool kids. *Kethry Burke-Scovill, Fiona Burke-Scovill, Tabitha Anderson, Brigitte Honaker*

Chicks Dig Time Lords Television/Edina Rm.

There is a (perhaps erroneous) perception that there weren't many women in *Doctor Who* fandom before the New Series, particularly in the United States. Do women approach and experience their *Doctor Who* fandom differently than men? *Lynne Thomas (mod), Kathy Sullivan, Jo Thomsen, Jennifer Stavlo*

The Next Big Thing? Literature/Bloomington Rm.

Steampunk is the hot new subgenre in town. What will be the next direction SF literature takes? *Matthew Davis, Andre Guirard, Jody Wurl*

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Dungeon Gaming/Atrium 3

It's all fun and games until the hobbit stubs his toe. Then it's hilarious. Share your funny gaming stories. *Beth Kinderman, Ed Eastman, Ross Watson, Jon Olsen*

How Facebook Got Me Out of Going to My Class Reunion... Science & Technology/Atrium 7

Discuss ways to avoid going to your class reunion, how people look now, why photos can lie, and the best excuses for avoiding your reunion. *Eric Clark, James Spurrier*

Friends of Bill W. #3 Side Dish/Atrium 2

Join other friends of Bill W. for a meeting.

Saturday 11:00 pm

Rave Revue

MainStage/**Grand Ballroom East**

Saturday we put it all together. Starting at 11:00pm (or as soon as we're able to after Masquerade) with an hour of strobe-free science-fiction oriented dance music, we'll continue the evening with a full-on assault of all the best we have to offer. Our previous nights DJs will be joined by DJs Nitrogen and Oxygen, as well as soundscape technician noise as we keep the floor moving until the wee hours.

Saturday 11:30 pm

Guest of Honor Cage Match

Laugh/**Radisson St. Paul**

Which one of our guests is the biggest bad ass? There is only one way to find out! We are going to toss them in a cage lined with barbed wire in an all out brawl to determine which guest is the best. Eight guests enter, one guest leaves!

Patrick Rothfuss, Kelly McCullough, Trace Beaulieu, Frank Conniff, Brian Keene, Joel Hodgson, Mary Jo Pehl, Dwayne McDuffie

Ecology of Silly Monsters

Science & Technology/**Atrium 7**

If Silly Monsters like Puff the Magic Dragon and Mr. Snuffleuphagus existed in the real world, how would they interact with their environment? Come up with crazy scientific explanations and ecological impact statements for these new creatures.

Jennifer Menken, Lori Fischer, Craig A. Finseth, Michael Kingsley

The Pun-El

Hot Dish/**Bloomington Rm.**

Join Ed Eastman and others for the annual blast to the ears that is the infamous Pun-el.

Ed Eastman (mod), Robert Alberti, Boris Smelov

Killer B's Spectacular Improv Movie Show

Audio Visual/**Atrium 6**

Returning for its third year, we will give new life to those crappy B-movies of yesteryear. In front of your eyes, our team of experts will create brand new dialogue (and a new Theramin score!) for some of the worst film clips ever placed on celluloid!

Melissa Kaercher, Jerry Belich, Tim Uren, Kelvin Hatle, Amanda Schuckman, Joseph Scrimshaw

Saturday Midnight

Your Future Lies In Space

Connie's Space Lounge/**Verandas 1-5**

Connie's Space Lounge is still open for your late night fun.

Sunday July 5

Sunday 9:30 am

Using Spiritual Gifts in Your Writing

Literature/**Bloomington Rm.**

Can gifts in other areas help? Discuss how spirituality can affect your writing.

T.K. Hall, Taylor Kent, Tim Lieder, Veronica Cummer

Recreating Costumes from Media Sources

Art/**Atrium 2**

Let's breakdown the steps of going from a costume in a movie, anime, or book cover to creating a fan replica. What are the limitations based on the type of media? What are good sources for reference images? What about proportion, fit, drape, & color?

Rhiannon Jones (mod), Melissa McConnell, Lori Fischer, Angeliq Montag, Deborah Jones

Duct Tape: Is There Anything It Can't Do?

Laugh/**Radisson St. Paul**

Duct tape panel! PANEL! Throw back a bottle of beer. Duct tape panel! PANEL! Pull a comb through your coal-black hair! (BYOB). *Red Green*

Drawing with Christopher Jones

Connie's Quantum Sandbox/**Plaza 3**

Drawing Connie is easy. Anyone named Christopher Jones can do it. "Christopher Jones" name tags will be provided. *Christopher Jones*

Sunday Morning Yoga

Hot Dish/**Atrium 4**

Join Cleo for a relaxing and exhilarating hour of yoga, co-sponsored by the MISFITS geek physique group. *Amada Marquez*

Evolution of the Romantic Comedy

Movies/**Plaza 1**

It may have happened one night, but when Harry met Sally, he still didn't learn What Women Want. *Jenny Allen, Jody Wurl*

Mythbusters

Science & Technology/**Atrium 7**

Have they jumped the shark? Literally? Are they busting myths or has skepticism run completely amok? *Miriam Krause, Susan Price, Jonah Rees*

Cream of Mushroom Soup and Tater Tots

Side Dish/**Atrium 8**

Most of us are from the Midwest, let's share our favorite recipes for Hot Dish and Casserole. *Terry Garey, Tangee Harrison, Christopher Reopelle, Tish Cassidy, Jumi Kassim*

Sunday 11:00 am

At-Con Post Mortem

Side Dish/**Atrium 8**

The CONvergence Directors and members of the concom gather to listen to you tell them what went right and what went wrong with this year's convention. Tim and Jeremy won't be there. Nyahh. *Michael Lee, Perrin Klumpp, Windy Bowsby, Jon Olsen, Lex Larson, Patricia Wick, Thomas Keeley, Christopher Jones, Ishmael Williams*

Talk Like a Pirate Panel

Laugh/**Radisson St. Paul**

Arr mateys! Here be the only panel where ye can discuss booty and boatswains! So come on you scurvy dogs and heave anchor. There be squalls on this panel and ye just may end up in Davy Jones' Locker! *Edward Teach, Captain Jack Sparrow*

Super Friends:

The "Rebirth" of Barry Allen and Hal Jordan

Krushenko's/**Cabana 118**

Two splendid, subtle super heroes were best friends Barry (The Flash) Allen and Hal (Green Lantern) Jordan, both scripted by John Broome. Later writers mishandled, then killed them. Now Geoff Johns has brought them back. Let's celebrate. *Eric Heideman (mod)*

Crafty Geek

Art/**Atrium 2**

Join us as MISFITS presents Crafty Geek. A great time to work on some crafting projects, learn about our monthly club for craft-minded folks, and just an all-around fun group to hang out with! *Jodie Gustafson (mod)*

The Funny Frontier: Humor in Star Trek

Television/**Edina Rm.**

Tribbles, Q, space hippies, and Spock's brain. Humor is a part of Trek. Share your favorite funny moments! *Michael Scott Shappe, Tony Artym, Steve Erickson, Sharla Stremski, Susan Price, Rob Jensen*

Transylvania Television and Emily Hagins Signing

Autograph Table

Meet the cast and crew of Transylvania Television, including Gordon Smuder, Lazlo Nemesi, Michael Heagle, Charles Hubbell and Troy La Faye for free autographs and flyers. Former Guest of Honor Emily Hagins will be at the table as well.

(Across from Bloomington Rm.) Gordon Smuder, Emily Hagins, Troy LaFaye

Knowing the Difference Between a Broadsword and Claymore

Lit.Lounge/**Room 2201**

Making a medieval setting authentic without wrapping it in burlap. Should you stick with the way it was or adjust the needs of the story? Helping authors decide. *Patrick Rothfuss, Adam Stemple, Sean M. Murphy, Kathy Sullivan*

Sunday 11:00 pm (continued)

Fusebeads Connie's Quantum Sandbox/**Plaza 3**
Make your own fusebead Dalek, space shuttle or Connie head or come up with your own design. Think Davros should have made his master race pink? That can happen. *Angie Anderson*

Tieflings are Not a Player Race! Gaming/**Atrium 3**
We are up to the 4th edition of D&D. Is it better or just an excuse to buy the Player's Handbook *again*? *Tod Gelle, Ross Watson, Stephen Miller, Paul Harmeyer*

Judging a Film Before We See It Movies/**Plaza 1**
Can a trailer actually be better than the movie it promotes? Can a movie be better than it's trailer? Is it fair to judge a movie based on two minutes cut together by someone who didn't even help make it? *Jennifer Menken, Romeo Azar, Jason D. Wittman, Derek Mahr, Ken Aiken*

Charity Auction Hot Dish/**Atrium 4**
We're starting a new tradition on Sunday morning! We'll turn the silent auction into a full auction in hopes of raising more money for MISFITS! *Melissa Kaercher, Charles Piehl*

Pillars of Science Fiction Comedy Writing Literature/**Bloomington Rm.**
Douglas Adams, Harry Harrison, Terry Pratchett and more. Discussing the authors that made Science Fiction really really funny. Don't forget your towel. *Matthew Davis, Taylor Kent*

Blogs and Other Independent Media Science & Technology/**Atrium 7**
As newspapers become obsolete, the means by which we get information are expanding exponentially. Learn about where all this information is, where it is coming from, and what is worth your time. *C. Robert Cargill, Bill Wesen*

Noise in Space: What DOES a Spaceship Interior Sound Like? Audio Visual/**Atrium 6**
Old and new sounds in science fiction film and audio. Some are instantly recognizable (like *Star Trek's* transporter, or the TARDIS), and some aren't (why mention some; you wouldn't recognize them anyway.) Warning: Examples will be played. *Brian Price, Craig A. Finseth, Jeff Adams, Jerry Stearns*

Sunday 12:30 pm

The Art of Living in Your Parents' Basement Laugh/**Radisson St. Paul**
What's the best way to carve out your own personal space and turn a dark, musty cave into a geek paradise? How can you booby-trap the basement *Home Alone*-style to keep nasty parents at bay?

Read the Book / See the Movie MISFITS Clubhouse/**Cabana 114**
An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge is the 1962 Academy Award winning short based upon the Ambrose Bierce story published in 1891. Prior to our discussion, copies of the story will be available in the Clubhouse starting Friday for as long as they last. *Peter Verrant, Mary Bertelson, Jodie Gustafson, George Richard, David Kingsley*

Writing Workshop for Teens Lit.Lounge/**Room 2201**
Michael Merriam will give some tips and tricks for young writers just getting started. The focus will be on the basics of story and story construction with some time for Q & A. As the name suggests, this panel is meant for younger attendees. *Michael Merriam (mod)*

Science Surprise Sequel Connie's Quantum Sandbox/**Plaza 3**
More Science! Makes you want to go out and hug Stephen Hawking, doesn't it?

From Good to Great: Tips for Revising Your Story & Making it Shine Literature/**Bloomington Rm.**
A good first draft can be a great story if you are able to look at your story and figure out the parts that don't work. Eliminating parts you are in love with is a necessary part of the writing process. *Patrick Rothfuss, Jeannie Holmes, John Shea, Joel Arnold, Dana Baird*

Kathy Sullivan and Rob Callahan Signing Autograph Table
Kathy Sullivan will be at the signing table along with Rob Callahan. Kathy has written *Talking to Trees* and Rob is the author of *Hellbound Snowballs* and *Damaged Goods*. (*Across from Bloomington Rm.*) *Rob Callahan, Kathy Sullivan*

Remakes vs. Continuations Television/**Edina Rm.**
It seems everything old is new again. We've seen remakes or continuations of such series as *Knight Rider, Battlestar Galactica, Dr. Who, "V", Bionic Woman*, and many others. What works, what fails, and why? *Michael Scott Shappe, Romeo Azar, Cetius, Jennifer Stavlo*

I'm a Spoiled Brat Movies/**Plaza 1**
Discuss the role of spoilers in modern culture. Do we really need to know every twist and turn ahead of time? Why do some people get pleasure from ruining it for others? *Jen Manna, Jason D. Wittman, Heather Johnson*

Video Games & Downloadable Content Gaming/**Atrium 3**
Did you know you have access to over 400 classic games on your Wii? Did you know many games on your Xbox have content you can download to alter gameplay? Share your favorite downloadable content for PS3, PSP, DSi, Wii, and Xbox 360. *Clay Lamkin, Matt Everhart (mod)*

Big Brother: Advent of 1984 Science & Technology/**Atrium 7**
Is privacy as we know it gone? How does privacy work in this connected age? *Craig A. Finseth, Stephanie Zvan*

The Meaning of Python Krushenko's/**Cabana 118**
For decades Monty Python has been a popular part of Science Fiction and Fantasy fandom. What has led to their appeal?

Epic Storyline Fatigue Comics/**Atrium 2**
From *Infinite Crisis* to *Final Crisis*, *52 to Countdown*, the *Civil War* to *Secret Invasion*, comic publishers feel the need to up the stakes each year with massive story arcs. Are readers becoming numb to the apocalypse-of-the-week? *Daniel Wallace*

Iron Artist Audio Visual/**Atrium 6**
Come watch as our very own Iron Artists battle to bring life to the Secret Ingredient. They will be given a scene and an hour to bring their creation to life, engaging in a frenzied battle to win acclaim forever. Who's art scene will reign supreme? *Perrin Klumpp, Matt Waterhouse, Christopher Jones, Gordon Smuder, Jennifer Menken, Melissa Kaercher, Lou Frank, Eryn Hildebrand, Amanda Schuckman, Kelvin Hatle*

ASL: Danger Will Robinson - Science Ahead (Part 2) Side Dish/**Atrium 8**
A discussion of your observations at CONvergence. RID CEU's provided only if you attend both parts. *Becca Justiniano*

Sunday 2:00 pm

That's Not Funny: Cultural Context and Humor Krushenko's/**Cabana 118**
So much humor depends on cultural context. How does humor become inclusive or exclusive? Is universal comedy possible? If so, how? *Christoforo Pasqualette*

Reading by Jeannie Holmes Lit.Lounge/**Rm. 2201**
Newly published author Jeannie Holmes will present some of her work in an intimate setting. *Jeannie Holmes*

Sunday 2:00 pm (continued)

Self Publication

Literature/**Bloomington Rm.**

If you can't find a publisher, there is always the option of self publication. Some authors who have taken this route talk about their experiences. Learn from what they did right and wrong. *T.K. Hall, Joan Marie Verba, Jerrod Balzer, S.D. Hintz, Bob Lipski*

Indie Computer Game

Development & Level Editing

Gaming/**Atrium 3**

In a parallel to the independent film movement that produced the IFC and the Sundance Film Festival, game enthusiasts have begun their own fledgling movement of indie game development. Learn how to write the game you would want to play!

Doug Thorpe, Mariah Fryer, Matt Waterhouse

Brian Keene, Dwayne McDuffie and Roy Booth Signing

Autograph Table

Join Guests of Honor Brian Keene and Dwayne McDuffie for a signing session. Also joining them will be Roy Booth, who has been working on an adaptation of *The Terminal* with Brian. (Across from Bloomington Rm.)

Dwayne McDuffie, Brian Keene, Cynthia Booth, Roy Booth

TV Shows on DVD and Blu-Ray: Season Eight

Television/**Edina Rm.**

Our yearly review of the best & worst releases on Shiny Disc continues. What were your favorite TV on DVD or Blu-Ray releases this past year? Which companies delivered the special feature goods and what are some holy grails you can't wait to see released?

David Margosian, Matt Savelkoul (mod)

YouTube Revolution:

New Ways of Distributing Your Work

Movies/**Plaza 1**

Is YouTube viable as a means of distributing your work? By posting your latest short film online, can you hurt yourself later in DVD sales? Are there other digital distribution methods that can earn you money and fame? *Gordon Smuder, Rob Withoff, Jacob Gulliver, Shad Petosky*

Geek Swap Meet

Hot Dish/**Atrium 4**

Got stuff you want to get rid of or trade for other stuff? Come here and get your geek on! Note: this panel is un-moderated - just show up, bring your stuff, and browse!

Deconstructing the Paranormal

Science & Technology/**Atrium 7**

A step-by-step look at an open-minded scientific approach to investigating paranormal claims. *Pete Lane, Stephanie Zvan, Rebecca Watson*

Teen Anime and Manga

Side Dish/**Atrium 8**

Teen Anime and Manga fans talk about their favorites on a panel intended for our younger members. *Kethry Burke-Scovill, Brigitte Honaker, Fiona Burke-Scovill*

Comedy and Audio Theatre

Art/**Atrium 2**

Face it, Orson Wells was just playing a joke on everyone. Why wasn't anyone laughing? Learn about the history of audio comedy from the early days of radio to today's podcasts. *Aric McKeown, Jeff Adams*

Ninja Glitter Globes

Connie's Quantum Sandbox/**Plaza 3**

We don't even know what this is but it will be so completely awesome! *Angie Anderson*

Sunday 3:30 pm

The Twin Cities School

Side Dish/**Atrium 8**

The Cities have produced a lot of professional writers. Is there something in the water? Is it the great fans and built-in audience? Is it Dreamhaven and Uncle Hugo's? The Loft? What? Join area writers as they talk about the local SF & F scene.

Kelly McCullough, Hilary Moon Murphy, Michael Merriam, Ruth Berman

Open Mic Poetry Reading

Lit.Lounge/**Rm. 2201**

An open forum for all poetry writers to present their work. Hosted by poet Sandra Lindow.

Cats in Fact, Folklore, Fiction and Film

Krushenko's/**Cabana 118**

We continue our series of Bio-Horror panels about scary critters (previously we've surveyed bats, bees, spiders, and many others). This time we'll examine our feline friends and foes, from giant jungle cats to their inscrutable domestic cousins.

Melissa Kaercher (mod), Eric Heideman (mod)

Combating the Geek Physique

Side Dish/**Atrium 3**

We want to ensure you are able to attend many more CONvergences well into the future. Come learn about good eating habits, fun ways to incorporate geeky pursuits into your exercise, and share stories of challenges you've faced and inspiring successes.

Laurie Richardson, Michele Monson, Caitlin Holmstrom, Amada Marquez, Chad VanVorst

Ultimate Home Theater

Television/**Edina Rm.**

Don't know HDMI from Blu-Ray? Plasma vs. LCD vs. Projection? Slingbox or Apple TV? What's the perfect universal remote? 7.1 or 5.1? DTS or Dolby? Learn answers to these and many other home theatre questions in this ultimate Q & A session! *Drew Youngdahl*

THACO, Joseph Scrimshaw and Tim Uren Signing

Autograph Table

Meet the cast and crew of THACO, buy a DVD and get it signed! What could be better? How about another chance to meet Chuck and Dexter and pick up their DVD?

(Across from Bloomington Rm.) *Bill Stiteler, Tim Uren, Joseph Scrimshaw*

Skepticism and the Internet

Science & Technology/**Atrium 7**

The rise of Fact Check and Snopes have become instant lie detectors. But who's checking the checkers? *Jen Manna, Robert Alberti, Karl Wolff*

Forgotten Heroes

Hot Dish/**Atrium 4**

The Phantom, The Shadow, Doc Savage, The Spider - many heroes of fiction past have disappeared from the common psyche. Which ones should be resurrected and which ones have been brought back to life (some of which should be lost again)?

Gordon Smuder, Christopher Jones, Jennifer Menken

What's Wrong with the Japanese?

Audio Visual/**Atrium 6**

Face it, most Americans don't *get* Japanese culture. Let's explore the stranger aspects of an entertainment culture we have struggled to understand.

Alexandra Howes, Anna Waltz, T.J. Hara, Joe Cote, Scott Jamison, Christoforo Pasquarrette

Producing and Distributing Your Own Work

Art/**Atrium 2**

Who needs a label? You can make a CD in your garage. You can publish a book in your den. You can sell art on eBay. Traditional methods of production and distribution are no longer the only way to reach potential fans.

Elise Matthesen, Shad Petosky, Bob Lipski, Hank Luttrell, Tim Wick

Distractions and the Creative Process

Literature/**Bloomington Rm.**

Writing with a new child in the house, or just too many old ones. Keeping your focus when there are too many distractions to count. *Brian Keene, Joel Arnold, Jeannie Holmes*

Blood-Sucking Celluloid

Movies/**Plaza 1**

The history of the cinematic vampire from Nosferatu to Edward Cullen.

Jody Wurl, M. K. Melin, Nick Larson, Sybil Smith, Jason D. Wittman, Heather Johnson

Sunday 5:00 pm

Closing Ceremony

MainStage/**Grand Ballroom East**

Time for the Convention to wrap up. Don't worry though, we'll be back next year!

Perrin Klumpp, Patricia Wick, Thomas Keeley, Michael Lee, Lex Larson, Christopher Jones, Windy Bowlsby, Ishmael Williams, Jon Olsen

CONVERGENCE MAPS

These maps are provided to help you find your way around CONvergence at the Sheraton Bloomington. There are similar maps posted around the hotel and at the Programming Kiosks.

First Floor Plaza Rooms

- Plaza 1 Movies Programming
- Plaza 2 Theater Nippon Anime Room
- Plaza 3 Connie's Quantum Sandbox
- Plaza 4 Cinema Rex
- Plazas 5—6 Art Show

First Floor Cabanas

- Cabana 114 MISFITS Clubhouse
- Cabana 115—116 CoF2E2 Free Coffee Shop
- Cabana 118—119 Krushenko's

Second Floor Atrium Rooms

- Atrium 1 Silent Auction
- Atrium 2 Arts & Comics Programming
- Atrium 3 Gaming Programming
- Atrium 4 SF Hot Dish Prog./Art Auction
- Atrium 5 Programming Ops
- Atrium 6 A/V Programming Room
- Atrium 7 Science & Technology Prog.
- Atrium 8 SF Side Dish Programming

Second Floor Cabanas

- Cabanas 214—219 ConSuite
- Cabana 222 Volunteer Den

Between North & South Towers

- Edina Television Programming
- Bloomington Rm Literature Programming

Verandas

- Verandas 6, 8 Operations Bridge
- Verandas 1—5 Connie's Space Lounge

Grand Ballrooms

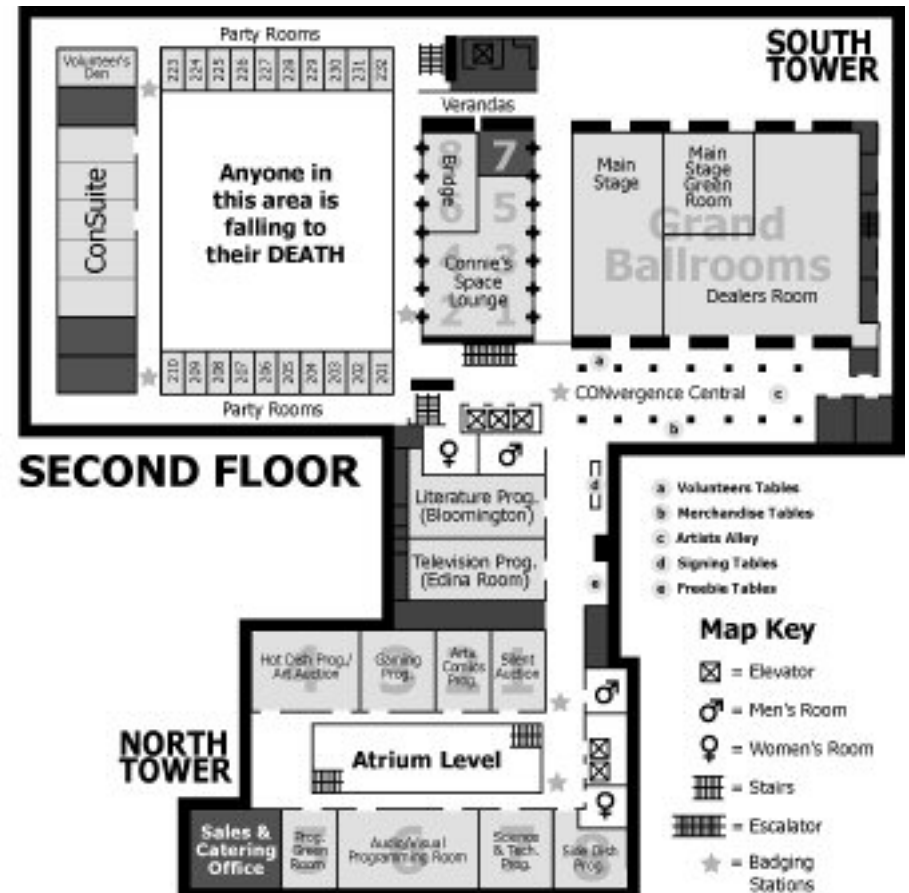
- Ballroom West & Center Front Dealers Room
- Rear Center Green Room
- Ballroom East Main Stage

South Tower Upper Floors

- (Not pictured)
- 4th Floor Satellite Party Floor
- 22nd Floor 2201 Dorian Gray Memorial Literary Lounge
- 22nd Floor — 2203, 2204, 2206 and 2207 Gaming Suites

CONvergence Central

- Artist Alley, Merchandise Table, Volunteers Table/Information Services

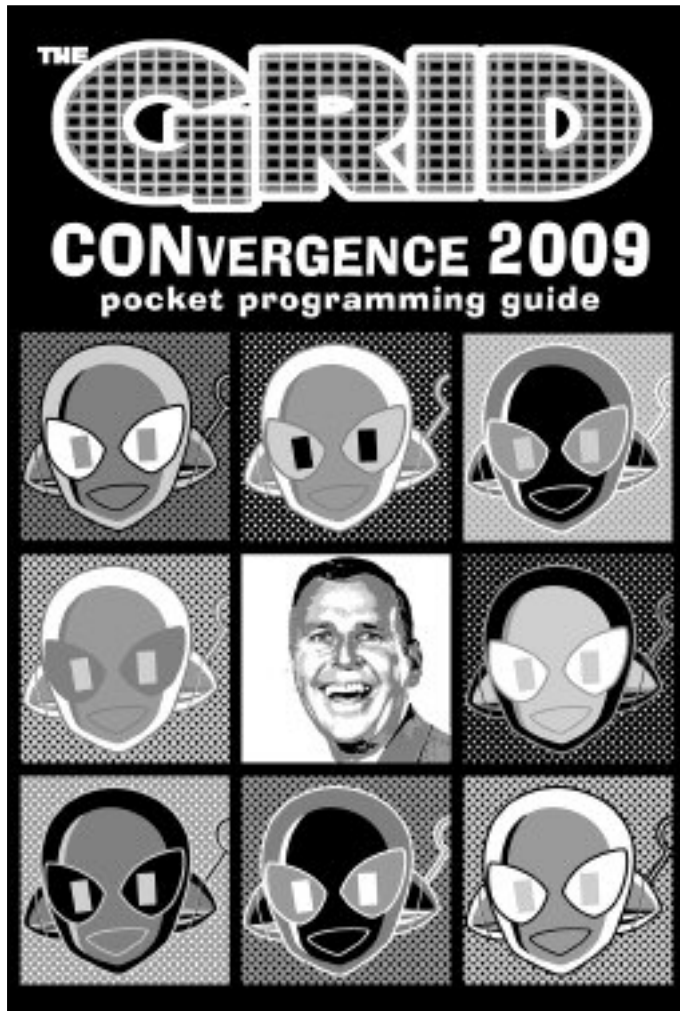


We hope you enjoy all the events and activities to be found at CONvergence 2009.

We've done our best to make this Programming Guide accurate and error free, but not only do mistakes happen, sometimes changes occur after the guide goes to press. Please check out schedules posted with our official con signage and outside panel rooms around the hotel for updates.

Remember, a condensed, grid-form version of this schedule is available in your **Pocket Programming Guide** (see below). Carry it with you so you're sure not to miss out on any of the great panels and events to be found at CONvergence 2009.

Also, the CONvergence schedule can be found online at <http://schedule.convergence-con.org/>



(actual size)