



CONVERGENCE

EPISODE XIX

TO INFINITY &
BEYOND

2017

CHRISTOPHER JONES

CONVERGENCE

1999 TWENTY YEARS 2018



JOIN US
JULY 5-8, 2018

AS WE CELEBRATE THE FIRST
20 YEARS OF CONVERGENCE!
IT'S MORE FUN AND EXCITEMENT
THAN WE COULD IMAGINE...

IN OUR WILDEST

DREAMS

GUESTS
SCHEDULED TO APPEAR:

ELIZABETH BEAR
(AUTHOR)

LEE HARRIS
(SR. EDITOR, TOR.COM)

PAUL CORNELL
(AUTHOR/SCREENWRITER)

AMAL EL-MOHTAR
(AUTHOR/POET/CRITIC)

KELLY McCULLOUGH
(AUTHOR)

MICHAEL WILSON "KNIGHTMAGE"
(COSTUMER)

AND MANY,
MANY MORE!

AT THE DOUBLE-TREE BY HILTON HOTEL IN BLOOMINGTON, MN

www.CONVERGENCE-CON.ORG

CONVERGENCE

EPISODE XIX

TO INFINITY & BEYOND

2017

Greetings and Welcome to CONvergence 2017: To Infinity & Beyond, a celebration of space operas.

Greetings Earthling!

Welcome to a celebration of space operas and all the travels and tribulations that go along with the ebb and flow of the galaxy. Come along with us as we take Serenity and buzz around in galactic style. We are looking forward to making the Kessel run to ward off the merciless empire on Mongo and rescue a princess. The vastness of the deep lends itself to epic battles and sweeping panoramas of the human condition. We hope you enjoy your journey with Connie, To Infinity and Beyond!

CONvergence is a volunteer-run convention. Our volunteers dedicate a lot of time and effort into putting together this wonderful convention for all members to enjoy. Of course, not every aspect runs as smoothly as we hope or plan. Every year we learn, grow, and work together to change and improve CONvergence for all of its members. We would not be able to achieve success without help from our many volunteers. Whether they volunteer for an hour during the convention, or year-round planning and organizing a department, every volunteer plays an important part in creating CONvergence. If you are interested in volunteering during the convention, please stop by the Volunteers' Station located in DoubleTree Verandas 1, 2, 3, and 4. For year-round opportunities, please visit the "Get involved" section of the CONvergence website: <http://www.convergence-con.org>

Every member of CONvergence contributes to the convention experience. Sharing your stories, engaging in conversation about the things you love, having interesting debates on your favorite shows, books, or movies— all of these things create the wonderful environment that we all get to experience every year at CONvergence.

We always encourage feedback from all of our members. We have a very short survey that we ask our members to fill out to help us collect some quantitative data about our convention. By completing the survey, you'll be providing us with some invaluable information that we can use to help us improve your experience. The survey is available on the website at <http://www.convergence-con.org/about/survey/>. If you would like to contact a department to ask a specific question, the best way to do that would be through the contact form, located on the website under "About/Contact Us".

Thank you for your support of CONvergence, our community, and our partners in our community. "May the Force be with you."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Margaret Eastman
Liz Hernandez
Thomas Keeley
Nadim Khalidi
Amy Mills
Jonathan Palmer
Ishmael Williams

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is a presentation of



Convergence Events

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All times and schedules listed are accurate at the time of printing. For the most current and up-to-date information please visit our online schedule at:
<http://convergence-con.org/at-the-con/schedule/>

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We always welcome feedback and suggestions, and ask that any comments be directed to info@convergence-con.org.

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CONVERGENCE EVENTS

Convergence Events, Inc. was founded in 2009 from the building blocks of the CONvergence directors and convention committee, with the premier activity being CONvergence.

CONVERGENCE EVENTS, INC. MISSION AND VALUES

Mission Statement

Convergence Events, Inc. is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to creating exciting events that connect, enrich and expand our diverse community, and to inspiring each other through creativity, learning, and service.

Core Values

- We believe in treating ourselves, each other, and our diverse community with respect.
- We believe in taking risks, learning from our experiences, and taking responsibility.
- We believe in listening with an open mind and with compassion.
- We believe in providing a culture of openness, inclusivity, and fun.

Convergence Events also supports our community by providing partnership, sponsorship, and grant opportunities as well as sharing our knowledge with other organizations. Some of the groups and organizations to which we have recently provided our community support include Geek Partnership Society (GPS), Anime Detour, and Fearless Comedy.

For more information on our partnership, sponsorship, and grant opportunities, please visit the "Our Community" section on the Convergence Events website <http://www.convergenceevents.org>.

CONVERGENCE EVENTS CORPORATION OFFICERS

Ishmael Williams	President
Margaret Eastman	Vice President
Liz Hernandez	Secretary
Thomas Keeley	Treasurer



The Geek Partnership Society (GPS) is a volunteer-run non-profit dedicated to supporting the incredible diversity and energy of the Twin Cities geek community. We don't run conventions, we produce fun and inspiring events year round, including public outreach with our partners through Twin Cities Pride (**Geeks@Pride**) and Art-A-Whirl, as well as assisting local conventions by providing expertise, equipment, movie licenses, volunteers, and meeting and storage space.

Through our work for the geek community, we provide resources for like-minded geeks of many interests with clubs, events, and programs.

We encourage creativity and interest in science with **Project Lighthouse** (bringing the Raptor Center to CONvergence), the **Writing Contest** (reception panel at CONvergence), and our **Space Camp scholarship** (winner announced at the Opening Ceremony), and the **GPS Arts Initiative**. Look for us at your favorite convention and stop in and say hi—we're probably there!

EVENT HORIZON

Event Horizon is a year-round facility which supports the geek community with storage, office, and meeting space for everything from gaming days to convention planning meetings to Klingon martial arts—with free Wi-Fi in all the rooms. We are continuing to upgrade the facilities and equipment to accommodate growing needs. This popular facility is available for rental. With bookings on the increase, we anticipate that the day is coming when we'll need to add more space! Anyone interested in booking space should contact us at sitescheduling@geekpartnership.org.

FUNDRAISING

How do we fund all this? In addition to grants from organizations like Convergence Events we have our own fundraising efforts. Here during CONvergence check out the **Charity Auction** over in DoubleTree Atrium 8, and our **GPS merchandise** is for sale where you find CONvergence Merch. We also have a Supporting Membership program where you can become a card-carrying geek, and a **Pirate Cruise**, both of which you can sign up for in our clubhouse in DoubleTree Cabana 110.

WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?

Community building: **CLUBS**—Check out one of our clubs; they're all free (or inexpensive), fun, and informal—you'll be glad you did: **Crafty Geek/Make It Sew**, **Read the Book/See the Movie**, **United Geeks of Gaming**, **Black Hat Collective**, **Tsuinshi Anime Club**, **GPS Photography Club**, **Geeks Read**, **MinnSpec Writers Group**, **Geek Physique**, the Twin Cities Steampunk club **DIODES** (Dioscurian Imperial Order of Dreamers, Engineers, and Scientists), and, new this year, the **GPS Movie Appreciation Posse**.

Community building: EVENTS—We have events throughout the year that you are welcome to attend. We foster a sense of community and fun competition with the **Scavenger Hunt**, and provide general forums for nerdy goodness with the **GPS Annual Picnic** and **Ice Cream Social**. The **GPS Movie Night** is our mostly-monthly themed showings that can be partnered with clubs or other organizations. Please stop by our room at DoubleTree Cabana 110 to find out more or to sign up.

Upcoming 2017 events for the year that you can still attend include:

- August 5 Noon–5:00pm | Ice Cream Social at Cherokee Regional Park
- October 14 Scavenger Hunt (psst... put a team together, it's fun!)

If you've never checked out any of these, stop on by or get involved.

Want to talk to us at CON? Stop by DoubleTree Cabana 110 or Atrium 8 to find out more and catch up on all the news going around in the geekiest metro in America. Talk to anyone you see wearing our logo; we'll tell you what we're up to, and you can tell us what you want to see!

STAY CONNECTED

There are many ways to stay connected with GPS, both during the convention and all year round! Follow GPS on Facebook and Twitter.

OFFICIAL HASHTAG: #GEEKPS

Use #geekps with #CVG2017 for all your GPS at CONvergence 2017 tweets, Facebook updates, Tumblr posts, and more, so other GPS fans and members can find you!

"We are a society celebrating imagination, inspiring creativity, and building our community, all through service and education."



GPS AT CONVERGENCE

Our featured partner, the Geek Partnership Society (GPS) has a number of events throughout the convention weekend. We encourage you to check them out.

THE GPS ROOM PARTY CABANA 110

There will be club meetings and guest hosts throughout the weekend.

Thursday 3:30pm–Midnight

- Project Lighthouse 3:30pm–5:00pm
- Crafty Geek 5:00pm–7:00pm
- PARTY HOURS 8:00pm–12:00am
- SPECIAL GUESTS TBA

Friday 12:30pm–Midnight

- Project Lighthouse 12:30pm–2:00pm
- Make It Sew 2:00pm–4:00pm
- PARTY HOURS 8:00pm–12:00am

Saturday 2:00pm–Midnight

- Geeks Read 2:00pm–4:30pm
- PARTY HOURS 9:00pm–12:am

Sunday 11:00am–4:00pm

- TBA 11:00am–1:00pm
- Read the Book, See the Movie 2:00pm–4:00pm

GPS AT CONVERGENCE

Please join GPS as we showcase our year-round clubs and programs throughout the weekend. Whether you like to read books, watch anime or movies inspired by books, do crafty things, write stories, draw comics, or want to stay healthy, we have a club or program for you. Some of them are even meeting in the party room during the convention weekend! Check Cabana 110 for the schedule, as there can be late changes and we have things outside of convention party hours as well.

GPS CHARITY AUCTION

The GPS Charity Auction is a fundraising event with silent and live components that takes place every year at CONvergence for partner organization Geek Partnership Society. The purpose is to raise money for the many educational and community activities that GPS is involved in throughout the year, including the Space Camp Scholarship and Project Lighthouse. Bidding at the silent auction is open Thursday through Saturday, with option for Quick Wins. Items that reach 5 bids go to live auction and can be bid on Sunday morning. Donations may be dropped off by arrangement or any time during open hours, although item placement in this year's auction depends on space available.

GPS SILENT AUCTION

DoubleTree Atrium 8 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday 5:00pm–8:00pm (bidding open)
Friday 11:00am–8:00pm
Saturday 11:00am–7:00pm (bidding closes 7pm)
Sunday 11:00am–2:00pm—PICK UP ONLY

MEET GPS

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Saturday 11:00am–Noon
Convergence Events is a primary supporter for what we do. Come and learn about what that support enables and the latest workings of the Geek Partnership Society and how you can get your geek on the rest of the year. News and updates about our clubs, events, and work in the Geek community. Share your ideas, feedback, and questions. Find out how you can get involved.

GPS WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Friday 9:30am–10:30am
Past winners of the annual GPS Writing Contests read from their winning work. This year's winners are announced.

GPS LIVE AUCTION (for items that hit 5 bids)

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Sunday 11:00am–?

IRON PEN

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Friday 11:00am–Noon

Held this year in Connie's Quantum Sandbox. This is a drabble contest to write a 100-word story based on a surprise prompt item. Entries will be judged during the weekend and the winners announced at the end of the convention. Check DoubleTree Cabana 110 where the winners and some stories will be posted.

U OF M RAPTOR CENTER

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Saturday 9:30am–12:00pm

GPS is once again bringing in the Raptor Center demonstration with live birds of prey, a perennial favorite.



GEEK
PARTNERSHIP
SOCIETY

STAY CONNECTED

There are many ways to stay connected with CONvergence, both during the convention and all year round! Follow CONvergence on Facebook, Twitter, and more!

OFFICIAL HASHTAG

The official hashtag for CONvergence 2017 is:

#CVG2017

Use #CVG2017 for all your CONvergence 2017 tweets, Instagram photos, Facebook updates, Tumblr posts, and more, so other CONvergence members can find your convention coverage!

FACEBOOK

CONvergence Facebook Page: Get official news updates and CONvergence-related content all year round!
[facebook.com/CONvergenceConMN](https://www.facebook.com/CONvergenceConMN)

CONvergence Discussion Group: Talk about CONvergence with our con community!
[facebook.com/groups/CONvergenceCon](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CONvergenceCon)

CONvergence Connections Group: Find CONvergence hotel roommates, car pools, babysitters, memberships for sale, and more!
[facebook.com/groups/CONvergenceConnections](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CONvergenceConnections)

TWITTER

@CONvergenceCon: Get official news updates and CONvergence-related content all year round!

@CONvergenceLive: Live tweets of panels, events, and other fun stuff during the convention from CONvergence social media staff!

@CVG_Reminders: Helpful reminders tweeted during the convention so you can make the most of your weekend!

TUMBLR

CONvergenceCon.tumblr.com: Get official news updates and CONvergence-related content all year round and reblogs of the CONvergence hashtag during the con!

YOUTUBE

CONvergenceTube Channel: Videos of panels and events at CONvergence! [youtube.com/CONvergenceTube](https://www.youtube.com/CONvergenceTube)

CVG-TV Channel: Videos produced for CONvergence & CVG-TV! [youtube.com/CVGTelevision](https://www.youtube.com/CVGTelevision)

Masquerade Channel: Videos of individual Masquerade entries! [youtube.com/CVGmasquerade](https://www.youtube.com/CVGmasquerade)

EMAIL

Social Media not your thing? Simply head to <http://www.convergence-con.org> and sign up for email updates of the latest CONvergence news.

CVG-TV

Starting during the day on Wednesday July 5th and ending on the morning of Monday July 10th, CVG-TV will broadcast almost all MainStage events live on the hotel TV system. During non-MainStage hours, we will re-broadcast footage from this weekend, as well as from past years of CONvergence. Content from previous years can also be found at the CONvergence YouTube channels.

We also plan to provide online streaming video of this feed for those who are not in the DoubleTree. Please visit the CONvergence website for further details.



OPERATIONS/THE BRIDGE

OPERATIONS/THE BRIDGE

The Operations Department directs communications and manages services for the convention, the convention committee, and our attendees. The Bridge is the command center for CONvergence Operations and is the headquarters for the convention while it is in progress. Come to The Bridge to have questions answered, receive "The Talk," and have props peace bound, seek lost items, and deliver items found. The Operations Auxiliary Bridge, AuxBridge, is located in the Sheraton and provides a supplemental location to have questions answered and manage daily Lost & Found for the Sheraton. Flag down Operations Wandering Hosts for assistance, or to radio a message to The Bridge. They can be identified by their purple vests.

OPERATIONS: THE BRIDGE

Located between the DoubleTree Front Desk and the Main Hotel entrance

Wednesday Noon–6:00pm
Open continuously from Thursday 8:00am–Sunday 7:00pm

OPERATIONS: AUXBRIDGE

Located behind and above the Sheraton Garden Court

Thursday 10:00am–8:00pm
Friday 10:00am–8:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–8:00pm
Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm

LOSE SOMETHING? FIND SOMETHING?

CONvergence maintains a Lost & Found on The Bridge, the central operations center for the convention located between the DoubleTree Front Desk and the Main Hotel entrance.

At the Convention

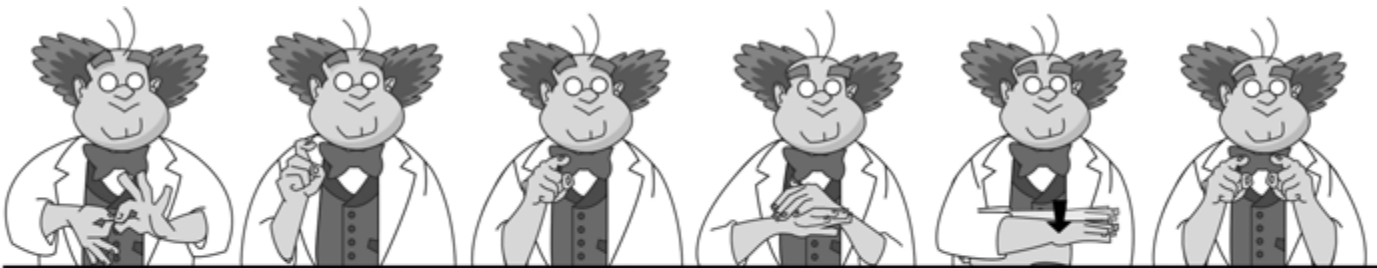
If you lost something during the convention, check with The Bridge. If they do not have the item, they will take your information and contact you if it is found. If you find something likely misplaced by another member, please bring it to The Bridge and Operations will attempt to reunite the item with its owner. You will receive a karmic boost in return.

After the Convention

If you do not realize that you have lost something until after the convention, you can contact Operations@convergence-con.org to see if the object was brought to Lost & Found. Items can be picked up at GPS Event Horizon space, 1121 Jackson Street NE, during the following dates and times. Alternative pickup times can also be arranged.

Lost & Found Days of Retrieval

Sunday July 16	4:00pm–6:00pm
Wednesday July 26	7:00pm–9:00pm
Sunday July 30	1:00pm–3:00pm



INTERPRETER NEED YOU? TABLE ACCESSIBILITY GO.

Do you need American Sign Language Interpretation?

ASL Interpreters are available by request through the Volunteers Table or The Bridge.

CONVERGENCE MEMBER CONDUCT POLICIES

CONvergence is dedicated to providing a safe and inviting convention experience for everyone. These policies support the goal of ensuring that the behavior of any individual or group does not harm other attendees or detract from the Core Values of CONvergence outlined below. Member conduct policies apply to badged attendees, volunteers, members of the ConCom, Invited Participants, Guests of Honor, dealers, vendors, and all other individuals that have gone through official channels in order to participate in convention activities.

CONvergence reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to take such actions as it feels appropriate where any individual or group is found to have breached convention policies. Although we consider our members to be rational and responsible people, we recognize that issues related to the policies may still arise. We will deal with any issues as promptly, efficiently, and fairly as possible.

CONvergence reserves the right to revoke membership and to eject anyone at any time from the convention without a refund.

CORE VALUES OF CONVERGENCE

- We believe in treating ourselves, each other, and our diverse community with respect.
- We believe in taking risks, learning from our experiences, and taking responsibility.
- We believe in listening with an open mind and with compassion.
- We believe in providing a culture of openness, inclusivity, and fun.

CITY, COUNTY, STATE & FEDERAL LAWS

Please remember: whatever applies outside of the convention still applies both inside the hotel and in all convention spaces.

HARASSMENT

Discrimination or prejudiced behavior is not tolerated by CONvergence. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

- Physical assault and/or battery
- Offensive verbal comments
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Unwelcome physical attention
- Intimidation
- Stalking
- Non-consensual photography or recording
- Sustained disruption of panels, signings, or other events

Particularly in relation to identity attributes, including but not limited to:

Race	Color	National Origin
Disability	Gender	Gender Identity
Gender Presentation	Sexual Orientation	Religion
Age	Body Size	Appearance

DEALING WITH HARASSMENT

Anyone can report harassment.

If you feel that you are being harassed or subjected to prejudiced or unwelcome behavior, if you are aware of others being harassed or subjected to prejudiced or unwelcome behavior, or if you notice someone behaving inappropriately (such as violating hotel or convention policies), we respectfully suggest the following:

- If you feel comfortable doing so, point out the inappropriate behavior to the person(s) involved. Often this will solve the problem immediately.
- If you do not feel comfortable talking with the person(s) involved or if talking to them does not resolve the issue, please report the situation immediately to CONvergence Operations. If possible, we ask that you try to provide a name, badge name, badge number, and/or physical description of the person(s) involved to assist with subsequent investigation and follow up.
- Do not feel that it is necessary to craft a complete narrative in order to be heard. It is understood that details of stressful situations can become murky and our procedures take this into account. Report situations to the best of your ability and feel free to provide supplemental reports if needed.
- If you are in a situation that makes you feel unsafe, please seek assistance from CONvergence staff immediately. Find a Wandering Host, leave the situation and come to The Bridge, find anyone on a radio, or text Operations at 651-800-1677 (651-800-1-OPS) and we will come to you.

If someone tells you “no” or asks to be left alone, your interaction with them is over. Do not follow or attempt to disrupt their convention experience in any way. If you continue, against their wishes, to attempt to have contact with people who have said no or have asked that you leave them alone, you may be removed from the premises. If you wish to offer an apology to someone who asked that you not interact with them, please come to The Bridge and CONvergence Operations can assist in relaying your message.

CONFLICTS BETWEEN MEMBERS

CONvergence is not responsible for solving any interpersonal problems that may arise between individual members outside of the convention. In general, we will take no preemptive action to prevent a person from attending the convention unless that person has either made a specific and credible threat toward the convention itself or in light of relevant legal reasons. However, if you are concerned about an individual, we encourage you to contact CONvergence Operations. Although we are unlikely to ban or remove individuals from the convention for actions taken elsewhere, awareness of potential problems assists in providing a safe convention experience for all members.

MINORS

Fans of all ages are welcome at CONvergence. However, CONvergence does not provide childcare, and not all events at CONvergence are appropriate for all audiences. Young fans can experience the convention and explore as their curiosity takes them but, ultimately, parents, guardians, or designated adults are responsible for their child's experience at CONvergence. A designated adult is defined as someone

that is not the legal guardian or parent of a minor, but is over the age of eighteen, a registered convention member, and identified in the minor's registration record as an adult responsible for them at the convention.

It is highly recommended that children under the age of 12 be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or designated adult as they explore the events, activities, and experience of CONvergence.

REGISTRATION

Minors who will be under the age of 16 on the Thursday of the convention are required to provide contact information for a parent, legal guardian, or designated adult when registering and must have a parent, legal guardian, or designated adult with a valid membership provide legal identification at the time the minor picks up their membership badge.

Minors who will be age 16-17 on the Thursday of the convention must provide contact information for a parent, legal guardian, or designated adult when registering. Minors 16-17 years of age may collect their membership badges using their own form of authorized identification.

CURFEW

Bloomington city curfew does not apply within convention spaces. It does, however, apply outside the hotels. The juvenile curfew in the city of Bloomington is:

Ages <12	9:00pm Sunday–Thursday 10:00pm Friday & Saturday
Ages 12–14	10:00pm Sunday–Thursday 11:00pm Friday & Saturday
Ages 15–17	11:00pm Sunday–Thursday Midnight Friday & Saturday

We recommend that members under the age of 13 avoid CONvergence convention spaces after 11:00pm and that teen members generally return to non-convention spaces by 1:00am.

ANIMAL POLICY

Pets are not permitted in convention space. Service Animals, as defined under the ADA, are welcome in all areas of CONvergence.

Distracting a service animal without its owner's permission is a safety hazard and denies another member the benefit of their accessibility aid. Petting, touching, or intentionally distracting a service animal without its owner's permission is not allowed under any circumstances.

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Your convention membership badge is necessary for participation in the convention. It allows you access to the convention and indicates you are a member in good standing. However, CONvergence reserves the right to revoke the membership and hold the badge of any member for any reason, including but not limited to violating the CONvergence Member Conduct Policies or behaving in such a manner as is deemed unsafe or unacceptable.

Attempts to enter badged convention space while failing to purchase and display a valid membership badge will result in being escorted off site.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

Anyone who owes an outstanding balance to CONvergence (outstanding balance on membership payment, Art Room purchase, or Dealers Room table rental, for example), must settle that balance before being permitted to acquire their membership badge.

PROPS

We at CONvergence believe that the convention as a whole benefits from the amazing costumes and props brought, worn, and displayed by our members. In order for CONvergence to remain an enjoyable experience, everyone must agree to a social contract. This contract is simple: If a member agrees to be safe and considerate with their props, CONvergence agrees to let that member carry their props in convention spaces. To ensure that prop-carrying members abide by our social contract, CONvergence Operations provides The Talk and peace bonds props.

THE TALK

If you have a prop that meets any of the following criteria, you must come to The Bridge to receive The Talk and have your prop peace bonded before carrying it in convention spaces:

- Large or unwieldy
- Is capable of emitting a laser beam or any sort of projectile
- Resembles a weapon from any universe
- Uses wheels for other than accessibility purposes

Peace bonding may also be required in other circumstances, at the discretion of CONvergence Operations. When CONvergence Operations gives The Talk, they outline what is expected of you and your specific props, and provide an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. You will receive a badge ribbon reading "I've Had The Talk." This ribbon must be worn visibly when carrying your props to indicate that you agree to our social contract.

PEACE BONDING

Peace bonding is the process of marking a prop so that it may be known to one and all that you agree to be responsible with it. At CONvergence, peace bonding is more about marking that a prop has been inspected and found to be in compliance with CONvergence Operations' safety procedures than an attempt to render the prop inert. Props must be peace bonded on The Bridge with materials provided by CONvergence Operations. Peace bonding does not carry over from year to year.

In some cases, special care must be taken when a prop is peace bonded:

- Metal bladed or pointed items must be secured into a sheath.
- Props normally capable of emitting projectiles or laser beams must be rendered unable to do so.
- Other instances, as determined by CONvergence Operations.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

The following are not permitted in convention spaces:

- Firearms, disabled or otherwise. A MN Permit to Carry is not an exception.
- Explosives/Pyrotechnics
- Tasers/Stun Guns
- Pepper Spray/Chemical Irritants
- Any item deemed unsafe by CONvergence Operations.

We allow the following props:

- Knives/Swords/Daggers
- Bows
- Bats/Clubs/Mallets/Lightsabers
- Toy/Replica/Model Firearms
- Many other nifty props! This list is not comprehensive

MOBILITY AIDS

CONvergence's props policy generally does not apply to mobility aids used for accessibility such as canes, crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs. Unless on the prohibited items list, such devices are explicitly allowed throughout convention spaces and require neither peace bonding

CONVERGENCE MEMBER CONDUCT POLICIES

nor The Talk. Members are welcome to bring their mobility aids to The Bridge to be inspected and receive The Talk and its associated badge ribbon if they would like to do so.

Exception: Sword Canes must be peace bonded as if they were props.

TOOLS

This policy is not intended to cover tools such as pocket knives, multi-tools, glue guns, nail clippers, etc. Unless on the prohibited items list, such items are allowed, provided they are being used as tools. If such items are being carried as props, they fall under the props policy, and must be peace bonded accordingly.

WHEELS

It is not permitted to ride any manner of wheeled recreational transport device such as a bicycle, unicycle, roller skates or blades, skateboard, hoverboard, or motorized mini-vehicle in convention spaces. Strollers and wheeled mobility devices providing accessibility are permitted.

FLYING THINGS

Deployment of any flying object, be it tethered or free flying, powered or unpowered, is not permitted in convention spaces unless advanced authorization is obtained from CONvergence Operations.

PROGRAMMING EXCEPTIONS TO PROPS POLICIES

Peace bonding may be removed, and props drawn, wielded, or brandished when a member is participating in a CONvergence scheduled event at the discretion of the event organizer (e.g. Masquerade, a stage combat demonstration, etc.). Props used in such a manner must be taken to The Bridge to be re-peace bonded before being again permitted in convention spaces. Programming is never an exception to the Prohibited Items list.

COSTUMES/CLOTHING

- Any costume that gives the appearance of being a member of United States military or law enforcement will not be permitted. Exception: genuine military personnel may wear their uniforms.
- Costumes and clothing worn at the convention are still subject to nudity and public decency laws of the city of Bloomington, MN. See the City Code for more details: [http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Minnesota/bloomington_mn/bloomingtonmncitycode?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:bloomington_mn](http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Minnesota/bloomington_mn/bloomingtonmncitycode?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:bloomington_mn)

ALCOHOL

- The legal drinking age in the state of Minnesota is 21. No one under the legal drinking age should be offered or provided with alcohol. IDs should be verified before anything is shared.
- Tampering with food or drinks consumed by others will not be tolerated. Anyone found to have tampered with items consumed by others will be expelled from the convention and may face criminal charges.
- Intoxication, to the point of interfering with other members or becoming a hazard to yourself, will provoke responses from First Advisors and CONvergence Operations and may result in any of the sanctions discussed above.

- If you feel unsafe, regardless of your level of alcohol consumption, please seek assistance. The safety of members is a primary concern of CONvergence. This applies even if you are not of legal drinking age.

SMOKING

The DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington is a non-smoking establishment, per state law. Smoking is permitted only outside of the hotel at a distance of 25 feet from any entrance, preferably in the designated Smokers Paradise area. Smoking areas will be clearly delineated and separate canopied areas may be provided as weather demands and facilities permit (See Smokers Paradise). ConSuite, the cabanas, and shuttle pickup areas are NOT smoking areas. Smoking on the patios and balconies of the rooms is not allowed. Additionally, the DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington does not allow electronic cigarettes within the building. Use of e-cigarettes is restricted in the same manner as traditional cigarettes.

PLANNED "SPONTANEOUS" GROUP ACTIVITIES

(Flash Mobs, Performance Art etc.)

On occasion, parades, moving performances, LARP-style games or other mobile events may occur at CONvergence. These events are welcome in the Garden Court, Smoker's Paradise, or the Central Corridor of the Convention. We ask that you notify and clear these events with Operations and Programming in advance. When engaging in such activities, please avoid the North Tower, Programming Spaces, individual parties (unless invited), the hotel bar and restaurant, and convention spaces such as The Bridge and ConSuite.

TAPE

You may post non-adhesive signs with low-tack tape. The DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington specifies and requires use of Low-Tack Blue Painter's Tape so that surfaces will not be damaged by tape removal. There are no specific brand or model requirements. Any low tack blue tape is allowable. If you do not have acceptable blue tape, come to The Bridge. We have plenty and are happy to share. Neither the convention hotel nor CONvergence will tolerate the application of stickers or high-tack tape to hotel surfaces. Removal of these adhesive substances is damaging to the hotel, and is therefore considered to be unacceptable. Incidents of this kind will be treated as vandalism. Don't break the hotel.

DOUBLETREE POSTER HANGING GUIDELINES

These guidelines apply to all signs other than those sponsored by official CONvergence departments that have been developed in coordination with CONvergence publications and are hung with the approval of the CONvergence Hotel Relations Department.

- The official start time for member sponsored posters to go up is 6:00pm Wednesday. Official Posters from CONvergence Departments may be hung earlier.
- Posters are not permitted on any part of the escalators, particularly the metal strip down the center.
- Posters may not be affixed to room doors or door frames with tape. They may be hung using magnets.

- NO POSTERS IN THE ELEVATORS, OR ON THE ELEVATOR DOORS. This is from the City of Bloomington, not only from the hotel. Posters are permitted on the walls around the elevators.
- NO POSTERS ON THE WALLS OF THE 1st FLOOR LOBBY OR THE 1st FLOOR OF THE NORTH TOWER, except around the elevators in the North (Short) Tower.

For all other locations, all signs must be hung using low-tack blue painter's tape. Specific brand and model requirements are no longer in effect.

NOTE: These rules are subject to change by the hotel at any time. Please contact CONvergence Operations for most current guidelines.

Posters hung in prohibited locations or with unapproved tape will be GENTLY removed by Wandering Hosts and brought to the The Bridge.

LITTER

Please pick up after yourself. There are trash containers around the hotel. It makes a big difference if we try to keep things clean. There are no house elves working for CONvergence.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering for Convergence Events can be a lot of fun and we value each and every one of our volunteers. But, as with everything else, there are always the administrative elements that need to be documented. To that end, please understand that your volunteering for Convergence Events is at-will and no one has the right to force or guilt you into it. We do sincerely encourage you to, and hope that you will, be proud of the time and effort you put in on behalf of Convergence Events, as it is an extremely valuable and highly appreciated gift you provide to our community.

By that same token, when volunteering for Convergence Events, you are agreeing to release and hold harmless Convergence Events from any and all liability, claims, demands, injuries, illness, death, or property damage resulting from your volunteering activities. Convergence Events does not maintain health, medical, or disability insurance coverage for any volunteer or contractor and each volunteer and contractor is expected and encouraged to obtain their own medical and/or health insurance coverage.

We thank you for your assistance in making CONvergence an enjoyable experience for all attendees. CONvergence should be a place where everyone feels welcome!

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION

ACCESSIBILITY TABLE

Located opposite the DoubleTree by Hilton's front desk, the Accessibility Table staff is available to answer your accessibility-related questions and provide resources to make your CONvergence experience great!

Accessibility Table Hours

Thursday	10:00am–9:00pm
Friday	10:00am–9:00pm
Saturday	10:00am–7:00pm
Sunday	Noon–3:00pm

SENSORY BREAK ROOM

The Sensory Break Room is located in Atrium 5 on the second floor of the DoubleTree by Hilton. It is the ideal place to take a break from CONvergence with minimal distractions. Specifically, loud activity and other distracting behavior is discouraged. Sound and light will be filtered. Fidget toys and other activities will be available that visitors can use to quietly reenergize themselves. Napping, eating, and drinking beverages other than water are not allowed in the room.

Sensory Break Room Hours

Thursday	Noon–1:00am
Friday	Noon–1:00am
Saturday	Noon–1:00am
Sunday	Noon–4:00pm

PARENTING LOUNGE

Need a space at CONvergence to feed your infant or toddler, change diapers, or express milk? This is the room for you. It is located in Room 222, right next to ConSuite. Parents and caregivers with infants, young children, or children with special needs, as well as mothers and people who need to express milk, are welcome in the Parenting Lounge.

Parenting Lounge Hours

Thursday	4:00pm–2:00am
Friday	7:00am–2:00am
Saturday	7:00am–2:00am
Sunday	7:00am–2:00am

FIRST ADVISORS ROOM

CONvergence always has First Advisors on duty to assist in the event of medical emergencies. The First Advisors Room is at The Bridge and offers the following resources available free for all CONvergence members who need them.

- First aid supplies including band-aids, over-the-counter pain medication, and ice packs
- A refrigerator to store your medication for the day
- A controlled space to see to your own medical needs

First Advisors Room Hours

Thursday	8:00am–Midnight
Friday	24 Hours
Saturday	24 Hours
Sunday	Midnight–7:00pm

HOURS OF OPERATIONS

REGISTRATION

DoubleTree Verandas 1, 2, 3, and 4 (South Tower, 2nd Floor).

Wednesday 11:00am–6:00pm
9:00pm–Midnight
Thursday 9:00am–Midnight
Friday 9:00am–10:00pm
Saturday 9:00am–10:00pm
Sunday Noon–3:00pm

Registration will accept only cash and credit cards.

OPERATIONS/THE BRIDGE

Located between the DoubleTree Front Desk and the Main Hotel entrance

Wednesday Noon–6:00pm
Open continuously from Thursday 8:00am–Sunday 7:00pm

Contact at Con

- Come directly to The Bridge
- Wandering Hosts: flag down staff wearing purple vests for assistance, or to radio a message to The Bridge
- Hotel Phone: dial "0" for the hotel operator and ask to be directed to The Bridge

Operations/The AuxBridge

Located behind and above the Sheraton Garden Court

Thursday 10:00am–8:00pm
Friday 10:00am–8:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–8:00pm
Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm

ART SHOW

DoubleTree Plaza 6

Wednesday Noon–5:00pm (Artist Setup)
Thursday 10:00am–2:00pm (Artist Setup)
Thursday 2:00pm–7:00pm
Friday 10:00am–8:00pm (Quick Sales Available)
Saturday 10:00am–6:00pm
Saturday 9:00pm–11:00pm
(Live Auction in DoubleTree Atrium 4)
Sunday 10:00am–2:00pm

ARTISTS ALLEY

Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, Chadwick and Bailiff Ballrooms

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

BOOKSWAP

DoubleTree, Cabana 116 Patio

Open continuously Thursday Noon–Sunday 4:00pm

CINEMA REX MOVIE ROOM

DoubleTree Plaza 4

Thursday 3:00pm–4:00pm
Friday 9:30am–4:00am
Saturday 9:30am–4:00am
Sunday 9:30am–6:00pm

COFFEE FREE COFFEE SHOP

DoubleTree Cabanas 114–116

Thursday 3:00pm–Friday 6:00am
Friday Noon–Saturday 6:00am
Saturday Noon–Sunday 6:00am
Sunday Noon–5:00pm

SPACE LOUNGE

DoubleTree Verandas 5, 6, and 8 (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday 9:00pm–2:00am
Friday 9:00pm–2:00am
Saturday 10:00pm–2:00am

CONNIE'S QUANTUM SANDBOX

DoubleTree Plaza 2

Thursday Noon–Midnight
Friday 9:00am–Midnight
Saturday 9:00am–Midnight
Sunday 9:00am–4:30pm

CONSUIE

DoubleTree Cabanas 214–220

Open continuously from Thursday 3:00pm–Sunday 6:00pm

CONVERGENCE MERCHANDISE

CONvergence Central Coat Check (DoubleTree South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday Noon–6:00pm
Friday 10:00am–6:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm

CVG TEEN ROOM

DoubleTree Atrium 3

Thursday 2:00pm–1:00am
Friday 10:00am–1:00am
Saturday 10:00am–1:00am
Sunday 10:00am–6:00pm

DEALERS ROOM

Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, Chadwick and Bailiff Ballrooms

Thursday	2:00pm–7:00pm
Friday	10:00am–6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am–6:00pm
Sunday	10:00am–4:00pm

GAMING

DoubleTree 2201—Virtual Reality Games

Hours of operation will be posted in the online schedule.

DoubleTree 2202—Role-Playing Games

The Gygax-Arneson Suite—Adults only after 10:00pm

Thursday 12:30pm–Sunday 3:30pm (room is open all convention)

DoubleTree 2203—Pathfinder Society

Organized play of Paizo's Pathfinder RPG system

Thursday	12:30pm–12:30am
Friday	9:30am–12:30am
Saturday	9:30am–12:30am
Sunday	9:30am–3:30pm

DoubleTree 2204—Artemis Bridge Simulator

(Hosted by The Royal Manticoran Navy)

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

DoubleTree 2205—CONvergence Partner The Source hosts RPG and Card/Board gaming

DoubleTree 2206—Collectible Card Gaming

Thursday	12:30pm–12:30am
Friday	9:30am–12:30am
Saturday	9:30am–12:30am
Sunday	9:30am–3:30pm

DoubleTree 2207—Open Gaming and Special Events

Open continuously from Thursday 12:30pm–Sunday 3:30pm

DoubleTree 2208—Computer/LAN Gaming

Adults only after 10:00pm

Thursday	11:00am–2:00am
Friday	11:00am–2:00am
Saturday	11:00am–2:00am
Sunday	11:00am–5:00pm

GPS CHARITY AUCTION

DoubleTree Atrium 8 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	5:00pm–8:00pm (bidding open)
Friday	11:00am–8:00pm
Saturday	11:00am–7:00pm (bidding closes 7pm)
Sunday	11:00am–2:00pm—PICK UP ONLY

MAINSTAGE

DoubleTree Grand Ballroom (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

See details outside the MainStage door

MASQUERADE

Participant Sign-up/Registration (in CONvergence Central, outside DoubleTree Grand Ballrooms)

Thursday	3:00pm–6:00pm
Friday	10:00am–1:00pm 2:00pm–6:00pm

Schedule for Participants

Saturday	8:00am–9:00am	Performer Orientation (DoubleTree MainStage—Mandatory for performers)
Saturday	9:00am–4:00pm	Technical Rehearsal (DoubleTree MainStage—Performers will be assigned a 1-hour slot during this time)
Saturday	9:00am–4:00pm	Workmanship Judging (DoubleTree Green Room—Performer judging times will be assigned)

Masquerade Performance, DoubleTree MainStage/Grand Ballroom (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Saturday	5:30pm	House Opens
Saturday	6:00pm	Masquerade Show Begins

Masquerade Art of the Dress

Thursday	3:00pm–6:00pm	Registration
Friday	10:00am–1:00pm	Registration
Friday	4:00pm	Orientation
Friday	5:00pm	Art of the Dress Begins

Masquerade Costume Wars

Thursday	3:00pm–6:00pm	Registration
Friday	10:00am–1:00pm	Registration
Costume Wars takes place in the Sheraton Garden Court		
Friday	2:45pm	Orientation
Friday	3:00pm	Costume Wars Begin

MEMBER ADVOCATES

Thursday	2:00pm–8:00pm
Friday	Noon–8:00pm
Saturday	Noon–8:00pm
Sunday	Noon–4:00pm
On Call:	All Hours (contact through Operations)

SMOKERS PARADISE

DoubleTree East Entrance Outside (Between North and South Towers)

Open continuously Thursday Noon–Monday 8:00am

THEATER NIPPON

DoubleTree Atrium 1 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	2:00pm–3:00am	Friday morning
Friday	7:00am–3:00am	Saturday morning
Saturday	7:00am–3:00am	Sunday morning
Sunday	7:00am–3:00pm	

VOLUNTEERS TABLE

DoubleTree Verandas 1, 2, 3, and 4 (South Tower, 2nd Floor, with Registration)

Wednesday	9:00am–6:00pm 9:00pm–11:59pm
Thursday	9:00am–10:00pm
Friday	9:00am–10:00pm
Saturday	9:00am–10:00pm
Sunday	9:00am–8:00pm
Monday	10:00am–2:00pm

VOLUNTEERS DEPARTMENT

CONvergence is a volunteer-run event and couldn't exist without countless hours of work from hundreds of dedicated fans. That's true from the Department Heads and Staff of the Convention Committee to the at-con volunteer who works a single hour as a badger.

That's right! You can be a part of the team that makes the convention run by volunteering your time at the convention. Some people spend dozens of hours helping out at con (and more during the year), but you can volunteer for as little as a single hour, and that hour is highly valued. Many essential CONvergence functions—from badging to moving stuff where it needs to go—are carried out by volunteers who are scheduled at the con.

The Volunteer Department places CONvergence members looking to help out at the con where they are needed. Volunteering a single hour gets you a Volunteer Ribbon and an invitation to the Volunteer Party a few weeks after the convention. We also have a super Volunteer Den with a wonderful Massage Room. The times you can enjoy this perk depends on how many hours you volunteer.

15 or more hours of volunteer time earns you a Volunteer t-shirt.

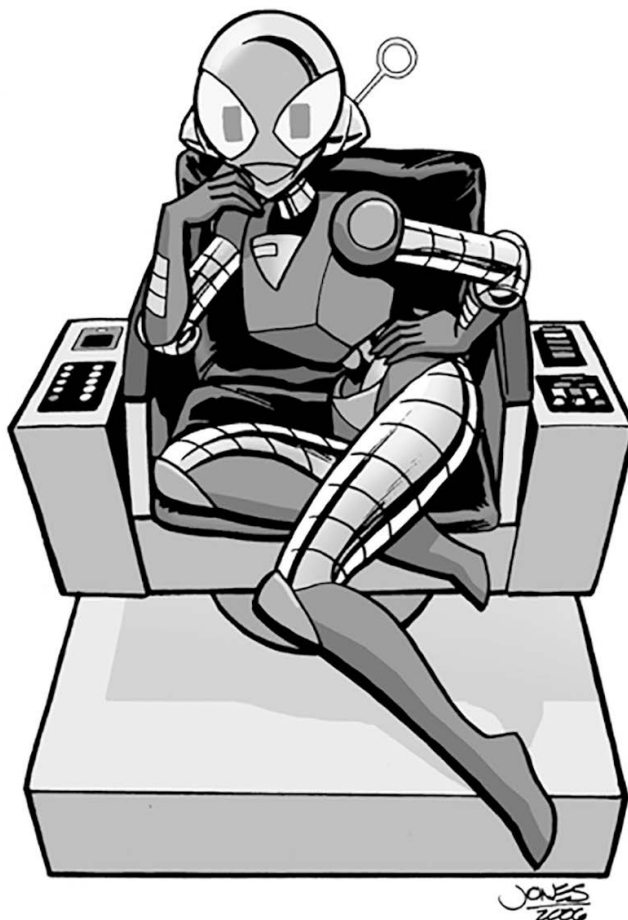
These collectable shirts are unique each year and can't be purchased. You can only get them by volunteering, which to us makes them a badge of honor! Stop by the Volunteer Table on the DoubleTree 2nd floor, Veranda 1, 2, 3, and 4, located in the same space as Registration. They'll tell you where we need your help, how to track your hours, and how to get you started.

VOLUNTEER TABLE

DoubleTree Verandas 1, 2, 3 & 4 (South Tower, 2nd Floor, with Registration)

Wednesday	9:00am–6:00pm and 9:00pm–Midnight
Thursday	9:00am–10:00pm
Friday	9:00am–10:00pm
Saturday	9:00am–10:00pm
Sunday	9:00am–8:00pm
Monday	10:00am–2:00pm

The Volunteer Table is our primary at-con location to coordinate and gather volunteers. The table is located in the same room as Registration. You can also redeem your hours there!



NERF HERDERS

With 6,000 people at CONvergence, we want to get people to the events and places that they want. The Nerf Herder department gets people around the hotel smoothly, and a huge part of that is handling lines for events and elevators.

ELEVATORS AND LINES: HELP US HELP YOU

Many of us ride the elevators throughout the event. Our elevator operators in each car (and outside in the lobbies) help us keep the load down to a level they can handle with ease. Based on past experience, we've found that up to eight people per elevator car is a level they can handle all weekend long. We want to avoid a breakdown. If an elevator car breaks down, then everybody faces longer lines throughout the outage. To help offset the nearly constant use, the hotel does maintenance on the elevators just before the convention. Even with that precaution, moving several thousand people all weekend can stress the decades-old system to the breaking point. It's in all of our interests to keep them running.

Lines at conventions can be epic. There are lines for registration, lines for special events, lines to meet guests, and lines that just appear out of nowhere as an event turns out to be more popular than expected. If there are bright lines of tape on the floor, please line up on them. You might also see Nerf Herder volunteers helping out, usually wearing green smocks. They are there to help organize and manage lines in order to keep the flow of people moving in the correct direction and not blocking traffic.

Accessibility requests can be made to Accessibility & Inclusion (see their section in the program guide) or to any Nerf Herder volunteer. Chairs can be made available for people who can't stand for prolonged periods of time, and MainStage events have early seating available for people with visual, auditory, or mobility impairment.

Doors generally open 15 minutes before a MainStage event, so please make your needs known before then so we can arrange accommodations with the MainStage crew.

As always, we're looking for volunteers. If you'd like to help us manage lines or elevators, please stop by the Nerf Bridge, near the hotel's front desk.

BADGING: MAKE IT PART OF YOUR COSTUME

Each member gets a badge providing access to CONvergence activities and amenities. Your badge gets you into the MainStage events, free coffee and tea from CoF2E2, free snacks from ConSuite, and many more privileges. Only these things aren't really free—they're paid for by each of us, the members of this convention. Your badge marks you as a person who cares about CONvergence, who supports the non-profit organization that makes this weekend possible. So show us your badge! Wear it with pride. Make it a part of your costume, and make sure you show it to every Badger you pass.

It pains us to have to say this, but please don't try to be funny about where you place your badge. We report members who harass our badging volunteers. It's not appropriate to dangle a badge on the front of their pelvis, or thrust their hips suggestively at the badging volunteers. People who do things like this will be reported to Operations.

We're always looking for volunteers. Badging is a great first-time volunteer position, and no prior experience is necessary. Even one shift will entitle you to this year's special Badger patch. If you're interested in being a Badger, please stop by Nerf Central by the hotel's front desk.



DOUBLETREE MAP

CONVERGENCE 2017 DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL

1ST FLOOR PLAZA ROOMS

- Plaza 1 Programming
- Plaza 2 Connie's Quantum Sandbox
- Plaza 3 Programming
- Plaza 4 Cinema Rex Movie Room
- Plazas 5-6 Art Show
- Plaza 7 Photography

1ST FLOOR CABANAS

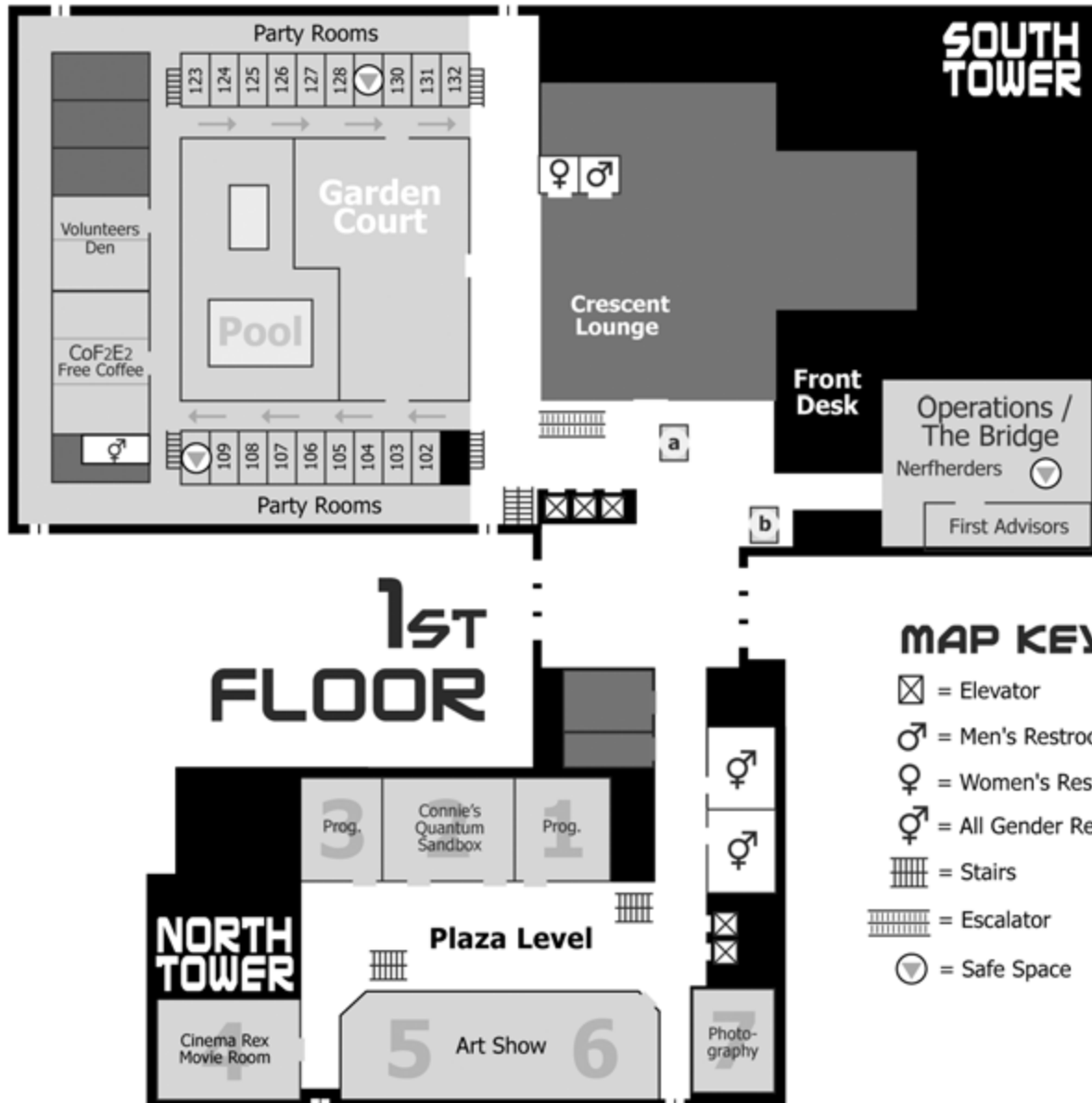
- Cabana 114-115 CoF2E2 Free Coffee Shop
- Cabana 117-118 Volunteers Den

THE BRIDGE (OPERATIONS) 1ST FLOOR NEXT TO FRONT DESK

- Main Room Operations Central
- Platform Nerfherders
- Sub Room 1 First Advisors

2ND FLOOR ATRIUMS

- Atrium 1 Theater Nippon
- Atrium 2 Programming
- Atrium 3 Teen Room
- Atrium 4 Programming
- Atrium 5 Sensory Break Room
- Atrium 6 Programming
- Atrium 7 Programming
- Atrium 8 GPS Charity Auction



SHERATON MAP

SHERATON HOTEL (LOWER LEVEL)



Garden Court and the Dealers Room are on a level slightly below the level of the Quinn and Pond - Ames rooms. The only wheelchair access is the elevator off the Main Lobby at Street Level.




 Indicates Garden Court / Dealers Room level.

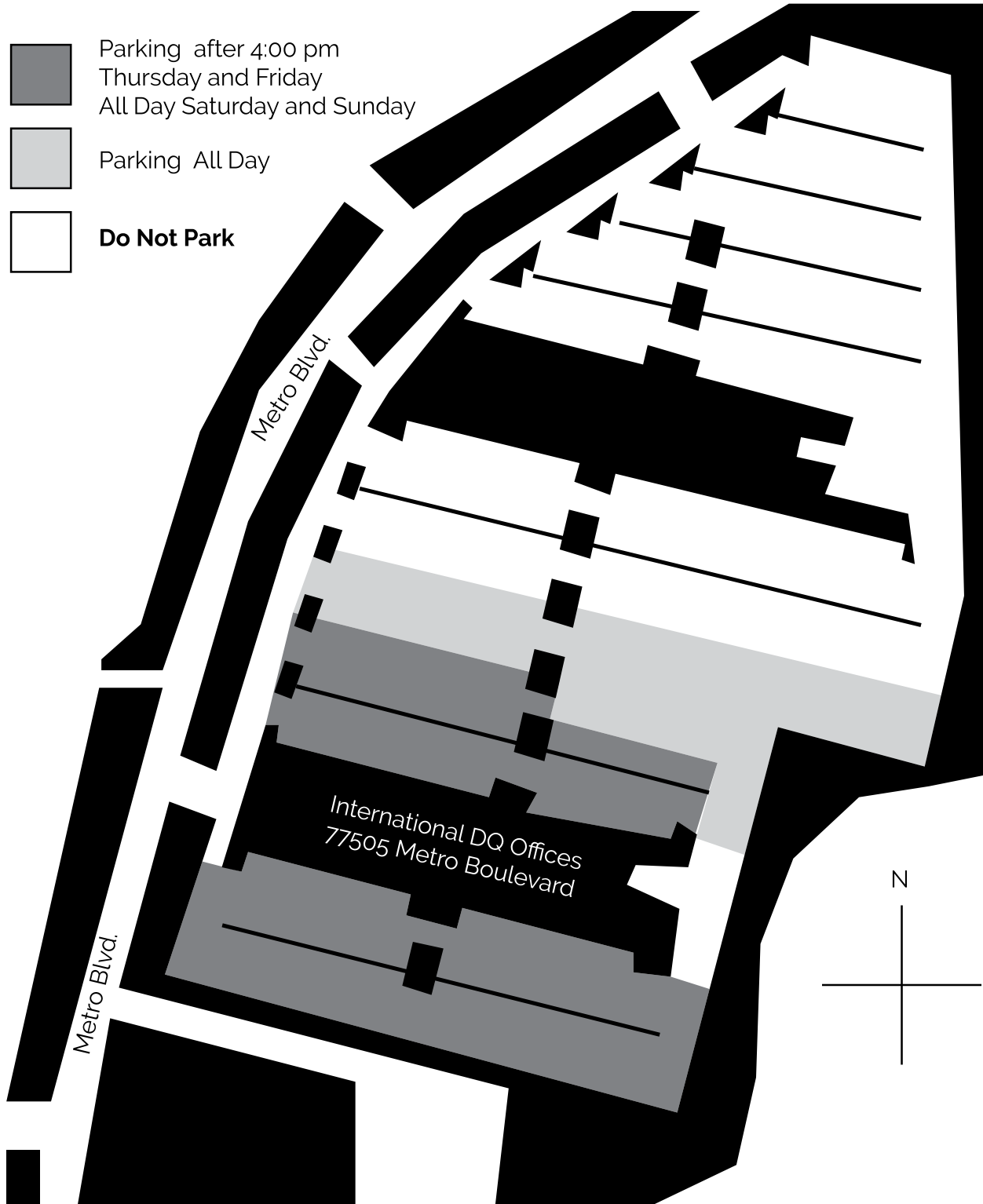
(LOBBY LEVEL)

DAIRY QUEEN PARKING MAP

7505 Metro Blvd., Edina (North of the DoubleTree)

Please check the CONvergence website for parking time updates before the convention

-  Parking after 4:00 pm
Thursday and Friday
All Day Saturday and Sunday
-  Parking All Day
-  Do Not Park



MANTICON

Celebrating Military Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature
May 25 - 27, 2018 in Bloomington, Minnesota
Hilton Minneapolis / St Paul / Mall of America

2018

Honor's 25th Birthday Celebration

Featuring
David Weber
Eric Flint, Marko Kloos
&
Timothy Zahn

Sponsors



20

www.manticon.org

DAIRY QUEEN PARKING MAP

GUESTS OF HONOR



KRISTOPHER CARTER

By Scott Keever

on projects through the film department at school, he decided he should try going into film composition as a career.

After graduating, he ventured off to Los Angeles and managed to get an apprenticeship with the great TV soundtrack composer Shirley Walker (*"Batman—The Animated Series"*). Kristopher credits Shirley with allowing him to get a foothold in the industry and with giving him the opportunities to learn and gain experience in his craft. He says that Shirley was unusual, in that she cultivated a cadre of young composers to follow in her footsteps and allowed them to participate in her process. However, he adds, she was a taskmaster and expected a high level of work from her apprentices, which Kristopher apparently was able to meet. So much so, that it allowed him a chance to score a couple episodes of *"Batman"*, making him, at the age of 22, the youngest person in the soundtrack industry at that time. Through Shirley, Kristopher also met his future creative partners, Michael and Lolita, and since the mid-90s, the three of them have scored projects like *"Batman: The Brave and The Bold"* and *"Ben 10: Alien Force"*, eventually forming their soundtrack company Dynamic Music Partners to great success.

When I was asked to interview composer Kristopher Carter and write his bio for CONvergence, I have to admit that I had only a cursory knowledge of who he was. However, I DID have a pretty thorough knowledge of the soundtracks he has worked on, especially *"Batman: The Killing Joke"* and *"Animated Superman (TV Series)"*. Once I was able to put a name to the music, I became a total fan of his work. As a fellow composer of film and media, I know how much work goes into the craft of writing music for film, and the unusual skills that a composer has to develop to successfully match music to a moving image and a story. It takes imagination and concrete knowledge of how music and instrumentation work to convey meaning and emotion. These are skills and gifts that Kristopher Carter has in abundance.

With a career that spans thirty years and over seventy credits, Kristopher has built an impressive body of work, having composed music for a wide variety of TV shows and films. He has numerous accolades to his name and has even won an Emmy award for his work on *"Batman Beyond"*. Through Dynamic Music Partners, his partnership with composers Michael McCuiston and Lolita Ritmanis, Kristopher has been involved in the musical worlds for a multitude of animated projects, such as *"Justice League"*, *"Teen Titans"*, *"Young Justice"* and *"Marvel's Avengers Assemble"*.

When Kristopher Carter first went to school for music at the University of North Texas, little did he know that his future would involve a life of composing soundtracks. With a focus on composition, he also studied piano and double bass. After working

When I asked Kristopher about his musical influences, he mentioned that when he was younger, his musical heroes were the great Russian composers like Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich and Rimsky-Korsakov. But he also was into heavier industrial music from the late 80s/early 90s such as Nine Inch Nails and Rob Zombie. Later, when he was studying composition, he was also heavily influenced by 20th century modern composers. And when it comes to film composition, he says that he is also greatly influenced by the work of John Williams and Jerry Goldsmith. (In fact, he and I geeked out about Jerry's work for a few minutes.) In our conversation, I eventually observed that in his work on *"Batman Beyond"*, the combination of all these influences becomes pretty evident, and he agreed, saying that it's always great to be able to fit all those musical palettes into one stew and see what happens.

Talking with Kristopher, I got the sense of someone who has such great positivity for his work and has not lost the love of creating music. Even after all these years, he still has great enthusiasm and is excited to talk about it. He says that the work has never stopped being interesting, and he looks forward to the challenges of each new project. Overall, he does want you, the fan, to know that he is One of Us. He says that one of the most exciting things about working on an animated superhero series is that "when I get to see a work print of a project, I often get a fan boy rush of 'Oh man, I get to see this first!'" Needless to say, Kristopher is very much looking forward to experiencing his first CONvergence. So please make him feel welcome. And go find and listen to his music. It's awesome.

GUESTS OF HONOR

NORMAN CATES

By Jody L. Wurl

The effects artist Norman Cates may not be a household name, but his work can be seen in some of the best-known science fiction and a fantasy films out there, beginning with 2001's *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Working with Weta Workshop on the *Lord of the Rings* was a dream come true; in 1999, he started as a special effects makeup artist, then moved to their digital department in 2001 where he became a digital effects artist and compositor. He can tell you all about making elf ears and hobbit feet, as well as the joys of 110-hour work weeks merging live action footage with the work of digital artists into seamless composites that will make your jaw drop.

He's worked on films for directors Peter Jackson (*Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *Hobbit* trilogy, *The Lovely Bones*, *King Kong*); Alex Proyas (*I, Robot*); Brett Ratner (*X-Men: The Last Stand*); James Cameron (*Avatar*); Shane Black (*Iron Man 3*); and Zack Snyder (*Man of Steel*); with many more to be discovered if you look up his IMDB entry. Personally, I want to know more about his work on the short films *Eel Girl* and *Funny Little Guy*. Comparing and contrasting indie filmmaking and big budget filmmaking would be fascinating.

In his own words, "I've been a fan of Science Fiction and Fantasy for as long as I remember. So, when I was about 15 I joined a science fiction club in New Zealand (The Science Fiction Modellers Club). And it was about this time that I realised that what I really wanted to do was create special effects in movies. I started off learning makeup effects, partly from other people, but mostly I was self-taught from books. And I had a great time in the SFMC making props and helping build sets for various video projects. In University I did a Master's degree in Chemistry because a) I liked chemistry (I mean, who doesn't like blowing things up) b) it was useful from a special makeup effects point of view."

After attending his first-ever convention in 1989, he got hooked and volunteers for numerous events. He regularly attends conventions around the world, and in 2004 he was the DUFF [Down Under



Fan Fund] delegate from Australasia for Noreascon 4. Norm was instrumental in the formation of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand (SFFANZ) in 2002. In 2010, he was pushed over a cliff and won (lost?) an auction where he was "required" to run a WorldCon in New Zealand in 2020... And he's been working on it ever since.

His first love is hard science fiction and space opera, and he's a fan of authors like Peter F. Hamilton, Alastair Reynolds, Ian M. Banks, David Weber, Lois McMaster-Bujold, and Dan Simmons as well as media like *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and *Firefly*. He enjoys fantasy as well, and games with strong story arcs. His personal interests include LARPing, acting (he's trained in the Meisner technique), camera work, tropical fish, video editing, sound editing, photography, and scuba diving, and would like to pursue more directing opportunities. His humor and sense of fun will draw you in, and I highly recommend you attend one of his events at CONvergence. He has the soul of an entertainer, and he's definitely one of us.

GUESTS OF HONOR



ERIC CHU

By Tim Wick

... but not THAT *Battlestar Galactica*.

No, it was a show that was one of the very first to be labeled with the one word that strikes paralyzing terror into geekdom: RE-IMAGINING.

With the re-imagined *Galactica*, Eric faced angry fans of the original. Calls for boycotts and protests rose up among those who were old enough to remember the original... none of which actually came to pass. Still, sensitive to the fans' concerns, he addressed them by making himself a sandwich and watching a bit of TV.

Having aided in returning the Cylons to prominence, he turned his attentions to other properties. Currently, he's working on Gerry Anderson's *Firestorm*, a project he promises will feature spaceships, puppets and a grossly inappropriate amount of explosives. Really, what more could you want?

Eric works out of his own company, Paranoid Delusions Inc., which he describes as "a creative studio where ideas are isolated, incubated and bred to wreak mutant havoc on the world."

I'm giving you the technical background of Eric's accomplishments and those are important because what he's done with his life is cool and as geeks, we should celebrate the people, like Eric, who work to produce the cool stuff we love.

But what I found as I researched Eric is a lovely sense of humor and whimsy that clearly informs the work he does. His bio made me want to meet him and not because of his accomplishments but because of who he is. He seems to be a guy who is completely in love with what he does for a living.

He is someone who grew up fascinated by film, loving Science Fiction, and loving the work of Gerry Anderson.

He's living in the world of his childhood fantasies and he is having an impact on the fantasies of the next generation. And their fantasies will undoubtedly look a little bit like the world inside his head: soft and gooey.

And that gooeyness will be with us for CONvergence 2017. I can't wait for him to wreak a little mutant havoc on us all.

According to the official bio on his web page, Eric Chu was born in Hong Kong at an early age. In that way, at least, he and I are the same as I, too, was born at an early age. Incredible coincidence or convoluted conspiracy? (Or simply just a transparent attempt to impress you all that I have something in common with Eric.)

Eric has been a conceptual and storyboard artist for most of his adult life. His earliest credits include such diverse titles as *Jonny Quest*, *Babar*, and the *Beetlejuice* TV series. And oh yes, he worked on *Star Wars*.

... but not THAT *Star Wars*.

Regrettably, he was a layout artist on the animated *Star Wars: Droids...* a show that proudly joins its place beside *The Star Wars Christmas Special* as yet another of George Lucas' failed TV *Star Wars* projects.

Eventually, however, he grabbed hold of our geeky hearts and minds and other various body parts as concept designer for the pilot of a series that was a minor hit with a lot of fans.

You might have heard of it. It was called *Battlestar Galactica*.

GUESTS OF HONOR

TRACEE LEE COCCO

By Jena Young

If you could be on any *Star Trek* series, which would you pick? If you could be any *Star Trek* alien, which would you be? If you could be any ranking officer, which would you choose?

Why pick only one? Tracee Lee Cocco didn't.

Cocco's performed in *Star Trek TNG*, *Star Trek Voyager*, and *Star Trek Deep Space Nine* (not to mention a few movies and video games in the *Star Trek* world). She's portrayed at least 12 different aliens, including Antican, Kobheerian, Ferengi, Borg, Borg Drone, and was even a stand in for the Borg Queen herself ("*Star Trek: First Contact*"). Best known in the *Star Trek* universe as Ensign/Lieutenant Jae, she's been in the background doing character work in "all the colors". And all of this is just the stuff we know about.

What fascinates me about Cocco isn't all her background character work listed above. It's the BACKGROUND background work. The stuff no one knows you did because if you do it right, no one knows it was you. I'm talking about her stunt work. She's done stunt work on over 100 *Star Trek* episodes, and I don't think I have to tell you why I, as a Trekkie, local actor combatant, and fight choreographer whose recent work includes *Klingon Christmas Carol*, thinks this is absolutely the coolest thing ever.

Stunt work can mean anything physical that might harm you. It could be as simple as having things thrown at you, or as complicated as combat scenes and falling out windows. It can also include everything from car chases to car crashes to full body burns.

Putting yourself in harm's way isn't the only aspect, though. You also need to embody the character who's supposed to be doing the action. Often, that character is one that's been established by another actor, so you end up mimicking the look and body movements of another actor as they're playing another character. All while trying not to get hurt. The fact that Cocco has done this on over 100 episodes and the general public has no idea what exactly she did in them is a testament to her abilities.

Another thing that delights me about Cocco is that she got her start modeling for Alberto Mousse and then moved on to acting on "*Baywatch*," eventually winding her way into *Star Trek* and stunt work. When one thinks of "stunt people," they don't always think of glamour and swimsuits. Stunt work is dirty work, and not one that is generally thought of in "attractive female" terms. And Cocco does both with incredible grace and capability.



Also, between the aliens and the modeling, I bet she has an incredibly diverse makeup kit.

Cocco's breadth of ability can be seen in her film and TV credits list. In Sci-fi, she's been involved with "*Demolition Man*," "*Barb Wire*," and "*Virtuosity*." She's worked on comedy action such as "*Bulletproof*." She's done drama with "*Gross Anatomy*" and melodrama with "*General Hospital*." And of course, there is the above referenced "*Baywatch*."

Her credits list doesn't stop at physical acting and modeling. Cocco also has a wonderful voice, and has credits in games, including *Star Trek* video games "*Star Trek: Borg*" and "*Star Trek: Klingon*," the 1995 video game "*Angel Devoid: Face of the Enemy*," and the computer voice for the "*Demolition Man*" pinball game.

With all this variety of work, I'm really excited that Tracee Cocco will be in attendance this year. I want to know how the transition was from modeling to stunt work. I want to know what kind of performance changes she makes between genres and mediums. I want to know about all the bit pieces she did with *Star Trek*, what her worst alien makeup experience was, and what her favorite stunts were. And I'm really glad she's joining us so I have the opportunity to ask.

GUESTS OF HONOR



NAOMI KRITZER

By Lyda Morehouse

It's that last bit that makes a difference, and, I think, why she can write about food blogging during the apocalypse in a way that can make you cry. You don't believe me? Check out "*So Much Cooking*" (*Clarkesworld*, November 2015). She's also written one of the most unusual, caretaking zombie stories I've ever read called "*Zombies in Winter*" (*Persistent Visions*, December 2016) If you want to imagine life as a teenage 'private eye for hire' on a Libertarian seastead, you should check out her *Seastead* stories (in various issues of *Magazine of Science Fiction & Fantasy*). She also won the Asimov's Readers' Award in 2013 for "*The Wall*," a short story that answers that age old question, "If you could go back in time and tell yourself one thing, what would it be?"

Plus, this Naomi is a Hugo winner (that other one only got the nomination--though, of course, they were up for it the very same year.) This Naomi's story about a well-meaning, but meddling A.I. called "*Cat Pictures, Please*" was not only the Hugo winner, but also the Locus Award winner. Rumor has it, that story is going to be the basis for a soon to be a full-length novel published by Tor. You should be sure to stop by the dealer's room and see if they have her collection: *Cat Pictures Please and Other Stories* from Milkwood Press.

Naomi is also famous for her political blogging. Her very, very local political blogging. She covers school board elections and actually does in-depth, investigative journalism, where she checks out the candidates that hardly anyone pays attention to. The Green Party guy running for Soil and Water? Naomi has dissected his blog, read his LinkedIn, found his Minneapolis Issues List posts from 2005, and can give you six reasons he might actually be a good bet. You can check her political posts out at "*Will Tell Stories For Food*." <http://www.naomikritzer.com>.

She also does the occasional bit of science blogging for an online magazine called *Bitter Empire* www.bitterempire.com, where she also goes deep on subjects like 'peanut allergies.'

See what I mean? Fascinating.

Take that, Naomi Novik!

"Novik, you're thinking of Naomi Novik."

Poor Naomi is always getting mistaken for the OTHER Naomi. In fact, previously at cons, as soon as someone said, "Oh, I think I've read you..." they inevitably meant Naomi Novik.

But, trust me, this Naomi is even better.

In fact, forget that other one. Naomi Kritzer is one of the most interesting people you'll meet at con. If I had to do an all-night stakeout, Naomi is the person I'd pick. In fact, I've taken long road trips with her, and I can easily say that she and I talked all the way to Saint Louis, Missouri and back again.

If you have a chance to go to one of her panels, do it. You won't regret it. Naomi is one of those people who listens carefully and does her research, and so she's always got an informed opinion, a new take, or a bit of knowledge you hadn't heard before.

The thing about Naomi Kritzer is, she's not just interesting, she's interested.

GUESTS OF HONOR

SEANAN MCGUIRE

By Elise Matthesen

What can I tell you about Seanan McGuire, first person ever to appear five times on one Hugo ballot? That she loves orange and green, Diet Dr. Pepper, and machetes? That her eyes light up when you mention cornfields?

It's a beautiful, spooky, generous light, because Seanan's generous. She loves things and wants to share them with us. Mermaids. Roller derby. Politics and manners in the courts of Faerie. Diseases. (Interesting and terrifying diseases!) Carnivals. Zombies. Corn mazes. OK, she does say staying out of the corn maze is a Good Idea and she doesn't know why people keep going in there. But Seanan loves and shares some beautiful and terrifying things. Some of them have teeth and venom. Some of them will transform you.

She's also multitasking enough to give the impression of being a shapeshifter herself. Or an army of clones. Maybe both. I wouldn't put both past her.

Someone was doing a thing online called Iron Poet. People offered prompts and she wrote amazing poems. It turned out to be Seanan. (She wrote me a poem about metalworking that still dances in my head.)

Somebody made a webcomic called "With Friends Like These..." It was funny, sweet, and gloriously quirky. Who? Seanan.

At Ohio Valley Filk Fest, an energetic blonde got up on stage with great backup musicians and outstanding lyrics. Yup. Seanan again.

The *SF Squeecast* started winning Best Fancast Hugos. Examine the roster and you'll find Seanan, along with Elizabeth Bear, Paul Cornell, Catherynne M. Valente, Lynne M. Thomas, and Michael Damian Thomas.

Then there are the books. On many, you'll find Seanan's name. But pick up the works of Mira Grant, and hey, that's Seanan too.

It's always a journey. Follow someone through a complicated web of promises and betrayals in both the human and the Faerie worlds. That's the *October Daye* series. Chase a character running parkour over the rooftops of a city, her life divided into hours spent competing on the dance floor and hours spent protecting legendary creatures and humans from each other. That's *Verity Price* in the *InCryptid* series. Follow fairy tales to the *ATI (Aarne-Thompson Index) Management Bureau*, where agents save the world from memetic incursions, despite the dangers the job poses for agents who are themselves part of fairy tales. That's the *Indexing* series. Trace the path of a former child superhero who escaped from an aggressive corporation with killer marketing. That's *Velma Martinez* in the *Velveteen* series.



Sometimes the paths lead places we've avoided. I've never had a thing for zombies, but the *Newsflesh* series grabbed me instantly. (*The Last Stand of the California Browncoats* had me weeping on public transportation.) The *Parasitology* series freaks me out, but it's fascinating.

Besides the novels are stories with carnivals, mermaids, impossible people stubbornly refusing to stay impossible, bringing themselves out into the light (or in some cases, the glorious darkness). Her novella *Every Heart a Doorway* is on the Hugo ballot this year. Without spoilers, I cannot tell you how much I love the characters, but ohhh.

Oh, dear. I haven't even told you about the Aeslin mice. (You'll find them in the *InCryptid* books. You NEED to meet the Aeslin mice. They're, um, memorable. And they'll remember *you* forever, or as long as their chants and traditions endure.) Or the *Birthday Unending*, which is something weird and glorious that grew from Seanan's own birthday. (Find it at <http://thebirthdayunending.tumblr.com/>. Because it's Seanan, along with birthday cakes and conical hats there are blood pits. And glitter pits. Give my regards to the shark, and stay out of the corn maze.)

I'm so glad the world has a Seanan. She loves things with teeth and venom and beautiful ways of turning you into something that's even more yourself, if you're brave. Read her work. Listen to her stories and songs. Let her art change you. You're in for a wonderful ride.

GUESTS OF HONOR



LOIS MCMASTER BUJOLD

By Jody L. Wurl

Born in Ohio in 1949, with an engineer for a father and a love of biology, she devoured science fiction as a child and decided to commit to writing it in 1982. Balancing family life with writing was not easy but she persisted.

Bujold burst onto the writing scene in 1985 with the simultaneous publication of three science fiction novels: *Shards of Honor*, *The Warrior's Apprentice*, and *Ethan of Athos*. It wasn't long before she won her first Nebula Award (in 1988) for *Falling Free*, set in the same universe Miles Vorkosigan lives in but focusing on the story of quaddies, genetically created humans with four hands and no legs, born to work in zero gravity. She started exploring fantasy in 1992 with the publication of a stand-alone novel, *The Spirit Ring*, set in a magical Renaissance-like world where young Fiametta and Thur must face an evil that threatens all they hold dear.

The romantic fantasy quartet "The Sharing Knife" begins with *Beguilement* (2004), and should be read in order to follow the adventures of the star-crossed lovers Dag and Fawn. The fantasy novels and novellas of the World of the Five Gods can be read (more or less) in any order, but the first published was *The Curse of Chalion* (2001), followed by the award-winning *Paladin of Souls* (2004). She is currently working on the Penric novellas set in this world, featuring a young man unexpectedly burdened by a delightful demon from the Bastard god.

You can find out more about these and her other books at her web site, The Bujold Nexus, at www.dendarii.com.

Do you like stories filled with adventure, crackling dialogue, humor, likeable characters and a finely honed sense of romance? Do you want to read something that makes you feel like you won the lottery because for the price of a book you just went on the vacation of a lifetime? Do you want to have your faith in humanity restored? You may want to read the work of Lois McMaster Bujold.

This Minnesota-based author has won 3 Nebula Awards from her writing peers, 5 Hugo Awards from the memberships of various world conventions, 3 Locus Awards, a Mythopoeic Award, a Skylark Award, and a Forry Award (named for Forrest J Ackerman) for Lifetime Achievement. She is one of the most winning of authors, both literally and figuratively.

She is particularly well-known for her character development. Librarian and critic Mary K. Chelton describes Bujold's characters as, "people [who] wear their civilization on the inside." In all of her books, many of these characters care deeply, and act and react to protect those they love. The impulse of Miles Vorkosigan to honor justice as well as humanity in her award-winning Vorkosigan Saga; the exploration of humanity being used as tools of divinity in the World of the Five Gods books; and the cross-cultural romance of Dag and Fawn in the fantasy series the Sharing Knife all illustrate a recurring theme: civilization is built on caring individuals doing the right thing.

GUESTS OF HONOR

JAI NITZ

By Christopher Jones

Jai (rhymes with “eye”) Nitz was born in Oklahoma but his childhood was one of constant change as his family moved often as a result of his father’s job with the Federal Government. One of the consistencies in Jai’s childhood was his love for comic books, in spite of finding few Hispanic, Latino or Mexican characters he could relate to. “Growing up a Hispanic kid with no Hispanic superheroes to root for sucked,” he said.

As a kid, Jai would always race through school assignments finishing before the other students. He remembers his first-grade teacher saying, “You’re not disruptive, but you’re finished, and you can’t just sit there. What do you want to do?”

“I want to create super heroes,” he said.

That was the beginning, and he’s never stopped.

Jai self-published his first comics as part of the anthology *Novavolo* in 2000, but was soon freelancing for publishers including DC and Marvel comics, mostly writing the kinds of short stories and fill-in issues typical of creators first trying to make a name for themselves in the industry.

Early original projects included 2003’s *Heaven’s Devils* with artist Zach Howard, a thriller that won the Bram Stoker Award for Illustrated Narrative. 2005’s *Season of the Witch*, a fantasy adventure drawn by artist Kevin Sharpe followed that up.

I was lucky enough to get to know Jai in 2006 when he wrote the first of several stories for the DC Comics series *The Batman Strikes* for which I was the artist. Jai quickly became one of my favorite contributors to the book with scripts that were clever, fun and character driven, even within the constraints of the book’s 20-page done-in-one story format. I’d later meet Jai in person on the comic book convention circuit, and found him to be as smart and likeable as his writing.

In 2007 Jai took advantage of a visit to the DC Comics offices to pitch the project that would prove to be a game-changer for his career, even if its impact wasn’t fully evident at first. That project was a new, morally challenged Chicano anti-hero incarnation of DC’s legacy character *El Diablo*.

The first *El Diablo* (AKA Lazarus Lane) is described by Jai as a “white-guy Zorro knock-off fighting in the old West.” The second *El Diablo* (AKA Rafael Sandoval) a regular rookie city council member from Dos Rios, Texas seeking justice against a serial insurance arsonist. He was Latino but didn’t have any superpowers and was described by Jai as “kind of lame.”

When given the chance to reinvent *El Diablo*, Jai set out to create his idea of a “cool” Latino superhero. His *El Diablo* was Chato Santana,



a fire-summoning former L.A. gang member seeking redemption for his crimes. The character appeared in a 6-issue series drawn by artist Phil Hester, whose association with Jai goes back to that first *Novavolo* anthology. The series featured elements that are almost a Jai Nitz trademark: Gritty, contemporary crime drama mixed with the fantastic or supernatural. The *El Diablo* series had some fans, but was hardly a break-out hit, and Jai moved on to other projects.

Jai worked on a wide variety of comics for a range of publishers over the next few years with both original properties and popular franchises including *The Green Hornet*, *Tron*, *X-Men*, *Legion of Superheroes*, *Blue Beetle*, *Grimm* and more!

Another major work for Jai was 2013’s *Dream Thief* and its 2014 follow-up *Dream Thief: Escape*, the saga of a thief possessed by vengeful spirits when he sleeps after stealing an Aboriginal mask. Drawn by artist Greg Smallwood, this revenge drama won several awards and honors and ended up on many Top 10 lists.

In 2014, Oscar winner David Ayer was hired to write and direct the *Suicide Squad* film. Having grown up around Latinos in the East Los Angeles community, Ayer based the emotional arc of the movie around a character he recognized and best understood: Jai’s Chato Santana incarnation of *El Diablo*.

This led to a resurgence of DC’s Chicano anti-hero and his 2007 comic book series. “If you introduced me two years ago,” Jai says, “you’d say, ‘This is Jai Nitz. He writes comic books. Now it’s going to be, ‘This is Jai Nitz. He created *El Diablo* from *Suicide Squad*.’ ... That will be bizarre.”

Hopefully he’s getting used to it by now. *El Diablo*’s comic book adventures have been revived as part of DC’s *Suicide Squad: Most Wanted* series, written by Jai.

Personally I can’t wait to see what comes next!

GUESTS OF HONOR



IAN TRUITNER

By Kyle Dekker

you serve in the same unit over a long period of time and grow and bond with that unit. Working on films, Ian often finds himself working with new people. That's where the theater training comes in. Performance and acting prepares you to navigate meetings with executives and financiers, and many of the other minefields you can find yourself navigating while making a movie.

A member of the Asian American Committee of the Directors Guild of America (DGA) Ian is a strong supporter of the DGA's push to make Hollywood executives take more action to promote the hiring of women and minorities for film productions. More than just a man of words, Ian's film *Teleios* (2017) features a very diverse cast and crew with women and minorities working in major roles both in front of and behind the camera. The film has garnered many awards at film festivals across the world including; Best Sci-Fi Feature Film (NY Science Fiction and Supernatural Film Festival), Best Visual Effects (Boston Sci-Fi Film Festival), Best Picture, Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Production Design, Best Costume Design (Los Angeles Movie Awards). *Teleios* is also an official selection of the Artemis Film Festival the first film festival dedicated to honor female action and empowerment.

Ian loves telling stories in the sci-fi genre. The ability to tell a story that informs an audience about important issues and ethical and moral quandaries fascinates him. He is inspired by *Star Trek* and *The Twilight Zone* as those shows found ways around early censorship hurdles to tell stories that related to race relations, the Vietnam War and nuclear proliferation. Ian loves the shows as the first duty a good story serves is to entertain, but it is important that they stay conscious and promote people. Ian is looking forward to sharing his time with you at CONvergence 2017 and will be debuting *Teleios* in Minnesota for our enjoyment.

The winner of two Telly awards for commercial directing, patent holder of interactive media technology and 2017 Alumni of Notable Achievement at the University of Minnesota, I'm happy to present to you this fantastic Guest of Honor, welcome Ian!

Hurry up and wait is a sometimes frustrating truism in the military. Some people may find the prospect of having to be mission ready at the drop of a dime a stressful way to exist. A film set can be a stressful place, but a bad day on a film set can be a cakewalk compared to a bad day in the Army, there are always more production days.

As a U.S. Army combat photographer, filmmaker Ian Truitner learned to have his camera and his rifle ready to go at all times when needed. His training and experience taught him to shoot the right one at the right time. Now he shoots films for the entertainment of others.

Ian furthered his training at the University of Minnesota earning his degree in theater while continuing his military service in the Army Reserves. The contrast of cultures in the military and theater sometimes led to some interesting circumstances that I'm sure he'd happily share with you.

A well-trained soldier with a love for the arts, Ian took his diverse and unique skillset to Hollywood and started forging a career in film. He got his start working for Disney Feature Animation. He also served as the editor of the *Dragonlance* animated movie.

Days on set require early mornings, long days, bad coffee, and learning the unique slang and lexicon of film crews. This mercenary side of filmmaking wasn't much of a culture shock for Ian, as the military shares many of these elements, albeit in a more uniform manner.

One different element of working in the film industry as compared to the military is the continuity of teams and crew. In the military,

GUESTS OF HONOR

SAYMOUKDA VONGSAY

By Bryan Thao Worra

Ancient kingdoms. CIA secret wars. Ghosts. Zombies. Hip Hop. Minnesota.

These are just some of the things that come together in the award-winning work of Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay, a Minnesota-based Lao American writer.

Trying to write a biography about her is an exercise in hitting a moving target. At the beginning of this year alone, she became a Many Voices Fellow with the Playwright's Center, a Spoken Word Immersion Fellow with The Loft Literary Center, a VERVE Spoken Word grant recipient from Intermedia Arts, and a Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Collaboration Grant. This year, she also completed her Master of Liberal Studies, a major accomplishment considering fewer than 15% of Lao successfully graduate with even a bachelor's.

Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay's roots can be traced back to the Laotian civil war that came to a close in 1975 after 20 years. Nearly 30% of Laos was secretly bombed to halt the flow of enemy troops from North Vietnam into South Vietnam, with battles alongside US paramilitary advisors and mercenaries on the Plain of Jars, the sacred mountain Phou Pha Ti, the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and many other locales. At the end of the war, thousands were forced to flee because of their roles in the conflict, including Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay's family.

She herself was born in a refugee camp in Nongkhai, Thailand. Coming to Minnesota in 1984, and as she adapted to life in the United States, most of the world did not have a clear understanding of the war or what brought her community here.

When I first met her in the early 2000s in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood, many wrote her off as just another tomboy hoodrat into volleyball. But I saw she had imagination and character. I knew from the start she would find legendary success as an artist and community builder. And I was just happy to meet anyone who wanted to be a Lao writer. It's hard to believe it today, but at the time there was a tremendously toxic culture of non-expectation for Lao writers and artists after three decades in the US. Now, 13 years later, she's shattered the barriers for the full expression of the Lao imagination, reflecting not only on who we've been but who we can be.

Although she has gained strong recognition for her poetry, over the years she has become increasingly well-regarded as a national figure for her theater work. Her writing is used to amplify the presence of refugee voices with a strong social justice angle and



a concern for voices often pushed to the margins of immigrant narratives. Her experimental, no-nonsense and often transgressive style can be seen in her best-known work, the award-winning play *KUNG FU ZOMBIES VS CANNIBALS* produced by Theater Mu.

Refusing to tell a traditional safe bootstrap immigrant/refugee narrative, *KUNG FU ZOMBIES VS CANNIBALS* is one of the first full-length Lao Minnesotan plays in our history. It presents strong queer protagonists, an unflinching challenge of US policy, history, and traditional Lao beliefs. And adding tons of kung fu zombies, which had never been brought into traditional Lao theater in over 700 years. That's no small feat.

Saymoukda is always working to pass her skills on to the next generation. She has served as a teaching artist with numerous organizations and she's always generous with her time if you're serious about improving your art. She's been recognized as a Change Maker by Intermedia Arts, and the office of Governor Dayton for her contributions and leadership in the state's Lao arts movement. She is co-founder of the Lao American Writers Summit and Symposium, co-founder of The Unit Collective of Emerging Playwrights of Color, and was formerly an event chair of the Twin Cities World Refugee Day festival planning committee. She co-founded the Community Artists Leadership Initiative, an organization committed to increasing the leadership capabilities of marginalized artists through economic development retreats. And she shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.

Saymoukda Vongsay's Fan-Featured Guest Appearance at 2017 is made possible by Twin Cities Geek.

FAN-FEATURED GUEST PROGRAM

The Fan-Featured Guest Program is designed to encourage members of the CONvergence community to promote authors, artists, performers, celebrities and anyone else they would like to appear at CONvergence. These Guests of Honor go through the same vetting process as every other Guest of Honor, and will be treated with the same courtesy, honor, and privileges.

The differences are:

- Because groups funding a Fan-Featured Guest are not bound by the same budgeting constraints as the convention, Fan-Featured Guest funding may cover an appearance fee.
- The group, organization, or individuals bringing in a Fan-Featured Guest will be able to collaborate with the Fan-Featured Guest and CONvergence's Programming department on said Guest's programming and activities during the convention.
- Groups, organizations, or individuals responsible for a Fan-Featured Guest's appearance will be credited in CONvergence publications and web pages.

The individual, group or organization interested in bringing in a Fan-Featured Guest will raise the funds needed to bring in their chosen Fan-Featured Guest by the method of their choice. This can include crowdfunding, fund raising and private donation.

Groups that are interested in featuring a Fan-Featured Guest can apply at <http://www.convergence-con.org/guests/invite-fan-featured-guest/> (or you can look under the "Guests" link on the CONvergence website and click on "Invite a Fan-Featured Guest").

We look forward to bringing more awesome guests to CONvergence with your help. If you have any questions about the Fan-Featured Guest Program, please contact the Guests of Honor department at guests@convergence-con.org.

FORMER GUESTS OF HONOR

CONvergence is a tradition, a ritual, carried out and enjoyed year after year. As part of that ritual, every year we honor certain guests, and we call them... Guests of Honor. So great, so excessive, is the celebration of our Guests of Honor that many of those formerly-honored guests return, and we call them... Former Guests of Honor. Just as we have honored them, so they honor us with their return.

To learn more about these most re-honored of guests, and to get to see the word "Honor" many more times, please visit our website at: <http://www.convergence-con.org/guests/also-appearing/>

Jim Kakalios—Physicist, Professor

Gordon Smuder—Puppeteer

Cam Banks—Game Designer

Christopher Jones—Comic Artist

Denise Garner—Fantasy Artist

Scott Lynch—Author

C. Robert Cargill—Author, Screenwriter

Troy LaFaye—Actor, Filmmaker

Kelly McCullough—Author

Paul Cornell—Author

Lee Harris—Editor

Bridget Landry—NASA Scientist

Emily Hagins—Filmmaker

Brian Keene—Author

Bryan Thao Worra—Poet, Author

Joseph Scrimshaw—Comedian, Podcaster

Vincent Truitner—Animator

Lyda Morehouse—Author

Bill Corbett—Comedian, Writer

Emma Bull—Author

GUEST 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. You can't take over the world without networking, you know? Below is a listing of the panels and appearances scheduled for our 2017 Guests. There will be signing sessions by our Guests of Honor and other attending professionals at our Autograph Table (listed here as Table A or Table B) located across the hall from the Bloomington Room. More may be scheduled than are listed here—please check the schedule posted there for the latest listing of signings.

KRISTOPHER CARTER

Thursday	7:00pm	MainStage	Opening Ceremony
Friday	12:30pm	Edina	Soundtracks in Film
Friday	2:00pm	MainStage	Kristopher Carter: Musical Storyteller
Friday	7:00pm	Plaza 1	Opera in Space: Music and Art of Alien Races
Saturday	12:30pm	Plaza 1	Scoring in Films
Saturday	3:30pm	Edina	Animating Batman Through Music
Sunday	5:00pm	MainStage	Closing Ceremony

NORMAN CATES

Thursday	12:30pm	Plaza 3	Geeky Photography
Thursday	3:30pm	Plaza 3	Quality LARP Props
Thursday	5:00pm	Bloomington	What IS a Space Opera?
Thursday	7:00pm	MainStage	Opening Ceremony
Thursday	8:30pm	MainStage	Smackdown 2017: Robot Rampage
Friday	9:30am	Plaza 3	Listing D&D on Your Resume
Friday	11:00am	Plaza 1	Weta Digital: A Look Behind the Pixel Curtain
Friday	3:30pm	Plaza 1	Space Opera as Serious Literature
Friday	5:00pm	Atrium 4	Props and Practical Effects in Film
Saturday	2:00pm	Bloomington	Movie Year in Review
Saturday	5:00pm	Atrium 4	David Lynch's Dune
Saturday	7:00pm	Plaza 1	Stargate Fan Panel
Saturday	8:30pm	Edina	Subversive Sci-Fi of Paul Verhoeven
Saturday	10:00pm	Plaza 2	Room Full of Nightmares
Sunday	11:00am	Plaza 1	Finding Inspiration in Genre
Sunday	12:30pm	Atrium 4	Mythic/Spiritual Visions in Film
Sunday	3:30pm	Bloomington	I Love Everyone in this Bar: The Good Parts of Being a Fan
Sunday	5:00pm	MainStage	Closing Ceremony

ERIC CHU

Thursday	7:00pm	MainStage	Opening Ceremony
Thursday	10:00pm	Bloomington	Superheroes Rated R
Friday	2:00pm	Plaza 1	Gerry Anderson's Firestorm
Friday	5:00pm	Atrium 4	Props and Practical Effects in Film
Friday	8:30pm	Atrium 4	Story-Driven Spacecraft Design
Saturday	2:00pm	Plaza 1	Funny How? Dissecting the Frog
Saturday	3:30pm	Atrium 4	Battlestar Galactica—Designing for Global Annihilation
Saturday	5:00pm	Plaza 3	Asian Folklore 101
Sunday	11:00am	Bloomington	Martial Arts in Media
Sunday	5:00pm	MainStage	Closing Ceremony

TRACEE LEE COCCO

Thursday	7:00pm	MainStage	Opening Ceremony
Friday	3:30pm	Atrium 6	Star Trek Retrospective
Friday	7:00pm	2204 Artemis	Artemis Bridge Simulator with Tracee Cocco
Friday	7:00pm	2204 Artemis	Artemis Bridge Simulator with Tracee Cocco
Saturday	1:00pm	2204 Artemis	Artemis Bridge Simulator with Tracee Cocco
Saturday	2:00pm	2204 Artemis	Artemis Bridge Simulator with Tracee Cocco
Sunday	12:30pm	Bloomington	Disney's LGBT+ Problem
Sunday	5:00pm	MainStage	Closing Ceremony

NAOMI KRITZER

Thursday	3:30pm	Atrium 7	AI in Science Fiction: From Evil Overlords to Companions
Thursday	7:00pm	MainStage	Opening Ceremony
Friday	2:00pm	Atrium 7	What Else Do You Read?
Friday	2:00pm	Atrium 7	Foresight is 2020: From Speculation to Reality
Friday	3:30pm	Sh Ames	Reading—Naomi Kritzer
Friday	5:00pm	Plaza 1	Writing Near Future Sci-Fi
Friday	5:00pm	Atrium 2	Libertarianism in SF
Friday	8:30pm	Plaza 3	Enterprising Individuals Live! The Wrath of CON!
Saturday	12:30pm	Table B	Signing—Naomi Kritzer
Saturday	12:30pm	Atrium 4	Gaming with Kids
Saturday	2:00pm	Atrium 4	Lois McMaster Bujold FanPanel (Fake?) Science in the News
Saturday	5:00pm	Atrium 6	Truth That's Weirder Than Fiction
Saturday	8:30pm	Plaza 1	From Fan Fiction to Professional Writing
Sunday	11:00am	Plaza 3	I Love Everyone in this Bar: The Good Parts of Being a Fan
Sunday	3:30pm	Bloomington	Closing Ceremony

JAI NITZ

Thursday	5:00pm	Atrium 4	It's Been Written Before
Thursday	7:00pm	MainStage	Opening Ceremony
Friday	11:00am	Atrium 4	Comings Canon
Friday	2:00pm	Table A	Signing—Jai Nitz
Friday	3:30pm	Bloomington	Illlegal Alien Icons
Friday	7:00pm	Atrium 4	Best Indie Comics
Saturday	9:30am	Plaza 1	Latinx Empowerment Through Latinx Heroes
Saturday	12:30pm	Bloomington	Comic Book Writing 101
Saturday	7:00pm	Atrium 6	Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol 2
Saturday	8:30pm	Atrium 2	Spooky Archie Comics
Sunday	12:30pm	Plaza 1	Iconography
Sunday	5:00pm	MainStage	Closing Ceremony

SEANAN MCGUIRE

Thursday	7:00pm	MainStage	Opening Ceremony
Friday	11:00am	Atrium 4	Comics Canon
Friday	12:30pm	Plaza 1	Creating the Perfect Monster
Friday	3:30pm	Atrium 4	Gender Swapping in Movies
Friday	7:00pm	Atrium 4	Best Indie Comics
Friday	10:00pm	Plaza 1	In Conversation with Seanan McGuire
Saturday	11:00am	Edina	I'm Sorry, I Haven't a Clue
Saturday	2:00pm	Atrium 7	Why Dystopia is Not Dead
Saturday	3:30pm	Table B	Signing—Seanan McGuire
Saturday	5:00pm	Atrium 7	Creating Appealing Scientific Subjects
Sunday	11:00am	Plaza 3	From Fan Fiction to Professional Writing
Sunday	12:30pm	Atrium 7	Zombies as Political Metaphor
Sunday	2:00pm	Atrium 7	Overwatch Fan Panel
Sunday	5:00pm	MainStage	Closing Ceremony

LOIS MCMMASTER BUJOLD

Thursday	5:00pm	Atrium 4	It's Been Written Before
Thursday	7:00pm	MainStage	Opening Ceremony
Friday	11:00am	Sh Ames	Reading—Lois McMaster Bujold
Friday	12:30pm	Table B	Signing—Lois McMaster Bujold
Friday	3:30pm	Plaza 3	Building a Religion
Friday	7:00pm	Atrium 7	Romance and Adventure
Saturday	11:00am	Atrium 7	Of a Certain Age
Saturday	3:30pm	Table A	Signing—Lois McMaster Bujold
Sunday	9:30am	Atrium 7	Miles in Charge
Sunday	5:00pm	MainStage	Closing Ceremony

IAN TRUITNER

Thursday	2:00pm	Plaza 3	How Military Experience Influences Storytelling
Thursday	3:30pm	Atrium 6	2016 WTF Movie Review
Thursday	7:00pm	MainStage	Opening Ceremony
Friday	12:30pm	Atrium 4	New Technology in Media
Saturday	11:00am	Plaza 3	How to Storyboard
Saturday	8:30pm	Plaza 3	VR in Movies and Games
Sunday	11:00am	Bloomington	Martial Arts in Media
Sunday	5:00pm	MainStage	Closing Ceremony

SAYMOUKDA VONGSAY

Thursday	7:00pm	MainStage	Opening Ceremony
Friday	5:00pm	Atrium 7	Refugee Lifehacks
Friday	7:00pm	Sh Gibson	CONvergence Poetry Slam
Saturday	12:30pm	Plaza 3	Geeks in the Arts Scene
Saturday	5:00pm	Plaza 3	Asian Folklore 101
Saturday	8:30pm	Atrium 7	The Making of Kung Fu Zombies vs. Cannibals
Sunday	12:30pm	Atrium 7	Zombies as Political Metaphor
Sunday	5:00pm	MainStage	Closing Ceremony

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

CONvergence welcomes many professionals each year, including past Guests of Honor, to our programming, panels, and events. The following list contains these creative icons who will be participating this year. To learn more about them, please visit the CONvergence website at <http://www.convergence-con.org/guests/also-appearing/>

Kool Akiem—DJ

Keane Amdahl—Author

Daniel Berliner—Teacher, Scientist

Ty Blauersouth—Writer, Editor, Jeweler

Roy C. Booth—Author, Playwright, Comic Book Store Owner

Julie Bowman—Artist

Rob Callahan—Author

Taylor Cisco—Author, TV Producer

Haddayr Copley-Woods—Writer

Jon Durmin—DVM, Scientist, Blogger

Anthony Eichenlaub—Author

Matt Gamble—Film Exhibitor, Blogger, Podcaster

Riley Hanson—Software Engineer, Game Developer

John Heimbuch—Writer, Theater Artist, Filmmaker

Amanda Jade—Cosplayer, Media Personality

Evva Kraikul—Executive Director, Creative Director

Aimee Kuzenski—Author

Briana Lawrence—Writer

William Leisner—Author

Tim Liedler—Writer, Publisher

Phillip Low—Author, Playwright, Touring Storyteller

Patrick Marsh—Author

Chris Martinez—Podcaster, Writer

Justine Mastin—Yoga Teacher, Psychotherapist

Elise Matthesen—Artist, Writer, Editor

Michael May—Writer, Podcaster

Vernon McIntosh—Scientist, Science Communicator

PZ Myers—Biologist, Blogger, Author

Harris O'Malley—Writer

Laura Okagaki-Vraspir—Scientist (Microbiology/Medical Mycology)

Melissa Olson—Author

Gregory Orange—Magic: the Gathering Gold Pro Player

Luxander Pickel—YouTuber

Dave Romm—Photographer

Terry Roy—Author, Artist

Catherine Schaff-Stump—Author, Podcaster

Joseph Scrimshaw—Performer, Podcaster

Abra Staffin-Wiebe—Author

Bill Stiteler—Artist

Sharon Stiteler—Author

Kathryn Sullivan—Author

Jason Thibeault—Blogger, Gamer, Technologist

Tex Thompson—Author

Chrysoula Tzavelas—Author

Michael R. Underwood—Author, Podcaster, Publishing Professional

Tim Uren—Theater Artist, Game Developer

Joan Marie Verba—Author

Jessica Walsh—Costumer, Author

Henry Walton—Author

Paul Weimer—Blogger, Reviewer, Critic

Adam Whitlach—Writer

Eric Zawadzki—Author, Writer

Destiny Ziebol—Lab Director (Scientist)

CONVERGENCE SAFE SPACES

What is a CONvergence Safe Space?

Designated CONvergence “Safe Spaces” are locations within the convention that are, or can be made to be, places of heightened physical, intellectual, and/or emotional security. If a member needs or desires help to feel that security, these locations either have volunteers present or will be able to call volunteers to the location to assist anyone who is feeling harassed or threatened. Designated Safe Space locations are a promise that assistance will be provided to anyone who seeks it, without judgment and without expressions of doubt.

Where are CONvergence Safe Spaces?

In the DoubleTree

The Bridge
ConSuite
Registration
Space Lounge
Gaming

Atrium 8: GPS Auction
Cabana 224: Ochaya
Cabana 129: Anime Fusion
Cabana 110: GPS Clubhouse
Cabana 207: Wonderland Tea Party

In the Sheraton

AuxBridge

If you are in a situation that makes you feel uncomfortable, causes you concern, or if something seems off and you feel that Operations should be made aware, please let us know. Find a Wandering Host. Come to The Bridge. Send a text to **651-800-1-OPS (651-800-1677)**.

MEMBER ADVOCATES

Do you have an issue you want to see fixed at CONvergence but don't know who to tell?

Do you have a really good idea but don't know how to get started?

Member Advocates are here to help!

We are ears for CONvergence members and ConCom. We make sure that issues, ideas, and problems are addressed by the right department or, when needed, by the Board.

Stop by our table in the DoubleTree lobby, across from check-in, and next to the Accessibility & Inclusion table. You can also contact us at memberadvocates@convergence-con.org.

You can also request a Member Advocate anytime through Operations.

Hours:

Thursday 2:00pm–8:00pm
Friday Noon–8:00pm
Saturday Noon–8:00pm
Sunday Noon–4:00pm
On Call: All Hours (contact through Operations)



ART SHOW

DoubleTree Plaza 6

Wednesday	Noon–5:00pm (Artist Setup)
Thursday	10:00am–2:00pm (Artist Setup)
Thursday	2:00pm–7:00pm
Friday	10:00am–8:00pm (Quick Sales Available)
Saturday	10:00am–6:00pm
Saturday	9:00pm–11:00pm (Live Auction in DoubleTree Atrium 4)
Sunday	10:00am–2:00pm

The CONvergence Art Show is a silent auction featuring artwork from across the country for you to browse and bid on, as well as a print shop with art available for retail purchase. Come visit the gallery and see what the artists have brought to showcase this year. There are always unique offerings available for a wide variety of artistic tastes! Saturday evening of the convention features a live Art Auction, where artwork that has received sufficient bids in the Art Show's silent auction is then offered for sale in a live auction format. Part of the fun is watching the antics of our auctioneers as they sell some spectacular pieces!

Please note: The Art Show does not censor artwork. Parental guidance is advised

ARTISTS ALLEY

The wonderful Artists Alley is located in CONvergence South in the Sheraton Hotel, next to Dealers Room.

We are back this year, over at the fabulous Sheraton Hotel. Please make sure you come over and see us, because Artists Alley is a great way to talk to artists face-to-face about their work and process, and to get yourself some cool custom art created during the convention. We look forward to seeing you there!

Artists Alley Hours

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

CVG TEEN ROOM

DoubleThree Atrium 3

The Teen Room is a place for people ages 13–20 to hang out and take a break from the rest of CONvergence. Come on over to our new location, the DoubleTree Atrium 3, and meet new friends, reconnect with old ones, and make memories you won't forget! You can grab a couple of fellow teenagers and see a movie at Cinema Rex, go to a panel, or bring a game or two and play with a group of people your own age! Please keep in mind that the Teen Room is a safe space for member ages 13–20 so alcohol is not permitted in the room.

Teen Room Hours

Thursday	2:00pm–1:00am
Friday	10:00am–1:00am
Saturday	10:00am–1:00am
Sunday	10:00am–6:00pm

CONSUIITE

DoubleTree Cabanas 214–220

Open continuously Thursday 3:00pm–Sunday 6:00pm

Plotting to take over the world is a full time job. Still, Connie Mark II (not good ... “better”) has graciously permitted ConSuite staff and volunteers to keep all meat babies supplied with snacks and drinks during CONvergence. In addition to a variety of free snacks and beverages, you’ll also find places to play board games, or just hang out. ConSuite is a great place to spend time during CONvergence.

The Rice Must Flow.

ConSuite runs on volunteers; without them, the rice—and the soup, veggies, snacks, soda, and even water—dry up. You want food. Mark II Wants You.

Welcome to ConSuite

Connie Mark II has decreed that meat babies shall keep ConSuite stocked and clean during their visit. If you see something broken, spilled, empty or otherwise needing attention, please notify a volunteer in the room. If no one is available, go to DoubleTree Cabana 212 (ConSuite staff headquarters) and let someone know (or leave a message with the badger outside the door if no one answers).

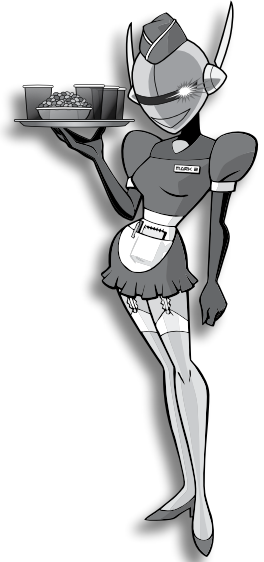
Unattended children are not allowed in ConSuite and staff will track down parents as quickly as possible.

Food in ConSuite

The following foods are just part of the cornucopia available in ConSuite: rice with assorted sauces and toppings, hot soup (vegetarian options are sometimes available), PB&J sandwiches, cookies, fruits, vegetables, chips and dip, sweet candies, milk (2% and chocolate), soda, breakfast cereal, OJ, and pastries (mornings only).

Dead Dog Party

After CONvergence is done on Sunday, the truly dedicated (and the insane) continue to work to make the hotel normal again for Monday. These faithful few are rewarded with a Dead Dog Party Sunday night, after ConSuite and the other departments have a chance to pack and clean up. We intentionally start it well after the Closing Ceremony has ended, so help a CONvergence department get things organized for tear down, and then join the rest of us at ConSuite to relax and enjoy more free food as a reward for all of your hard work!



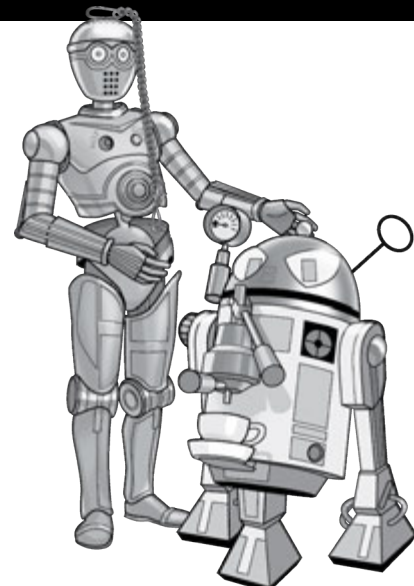
COF2E2

CoF2E2 Free Coffee Shop

DoubleTree Cabanas 114–116

CoF2E2 is your go-to for all things caffeinated (or not)! Volunteer with us, or stop in and try our specialty drinks. This year we will be featuring a new cold press coffee, and T-3PO may even surprise you with some iced tea! Soy milk and creamer are available, as always. Remember: caffeinate. Because adulting is hard.

Thursday	3:00pm–Friday 6:00am
Friday	Noon–Saturday 6:00am
Saturday	Noon–Sunday 6:00am
Sunday	Noon–5:00pm



DEALERS ROOM

The fabulous Dealers Room is located in the Sheraton Hotel Bloomington, Chadwick and Bailiff Ballrooms, next to Artists Alley.

The Dealers Room holds many new and returning vendors selling costumes, gadgets, collectibles, sparklies, books, and many other goodies! You may even spot a Guest of Honor wandering about the aisles. If you don't see what you want, ask for it—I'm sure we can help you find a wonderful keepsake

Hours of Operation

Thursday 2:00pm–7:00pm
Friday 10:00am–6:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm

LIST OF DEALERS

Aja's Katears—etsy.com/shop/AjaKatears
Angelwear—angelwearcreations.com
Angry Robot Books—angryrobotbooks.com
Art by David Lee Pancake—davidleepancake.com
Artemis Leather—Artemisleathers.com
Beadwork By Melissa—beadworkbymelissa.artfire.com
Boar's Head Leather, LLC—boarsheadleather.com
Boudoir Belle Reproductions—boudoirbellereproductions.weebly.com
Crafty Squirrel Designs—CraftySquirrelDesign.etsy.com
Crimson Chain Leatherworks—crimsonchainleatherworks.com
David Christenson Bookseller
DaVinci Scientifica Steampunk—davinciscientifica.com
Dragon Alley Jewelry—facebook.com/dragonalleyjewelry
Dreamers Vault Games Inc—dreamersgames.com
Dryad Tea—dryadtea.com
Emerald's Emporium—emeraldsemporium.com
Frankensweater—frankensweater.com
Funk 'n Fantasy—facebook.com/funknfantasy/
Geekiana—geekiana.com

Geeky Endeavors—facebook.com/GeekyEndeavors
Highland Princess Designs, LLC—facebook.com/highlandprincessdesigns
Highwind Steamworks—highwindsteamworx.etsy.com
Infinite Diversity
KMKDesigns—kmkdesignsllc.com
La Gazza Pazza—lagazzapazza.com
Lady Heather's Fashions—ladyheathersfashions.com
Midwest Makeup Supply—midwestmakeupsupply.com
Mohr Creations—mohr-creations.com
MO'R Designs
Nani?Wear—naniwear.com
Northern Sun Merchandising—northernsun.com
OffWorld Designs, Inc.—offworlddesigns.com
Scoundrelle's Keep—scoundrelleskeep.com
SLR Knives—None.com
The Blonde Swan—etsy.com/shop/TheBlondeSwan
The Celtic Croft, Inc.—kilts-n-stuff.com/
The Heathersmith—theheathersmith.com
The Wizard's Wagon—thewizardswagon.com
Whimsey Winks

CONVERGENCE MERCHANDISE

CONvergence Merchandise offers an array of CONvergence branded products, both new and old. We have at least one new t-shirt design every year, as well as many other fun surprises. We also have gear from past conventions such as shot glasses, keychains, badge holders, lanyards, sweatpants, and polo shirts. Come on down and find out what we have that you just can't live without.

CONvergence Central Coat Check (DoubleTree South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday Noon–6:00pm
Friday 10:00am–6:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm

MAINSTAGE

MainStage returns to its expanded space in the western half of the Grand Ballroom. Our extended seating and large viewing screens mean that there are no bad seats in the house. It also allows you to stay seated from one show to the next (see the map of MainStage for information on where to sit).

THURSDAY

6:00pm–6:50pm

Big Fun Radio Funtime

Big Fun Radio Funtime uses the premise of old time radio shows to play with modern concepts like dragons on airplanes, interstellar bureaucracy, and the naming conventions of dungeon parties. We are happy to return to CONvergence for our third year of audio silliness. Presented by Fearless Comedy Productions. *Angela Fox, Charles Hubbell, Christopher Jones, Dawn Krosnowski, Salsa Sterling, Tim Wick, Windy Bowlsby*

7:00pm–8:00pm

Opening Ceremony

An epic adventure awaits us all and it begins here! We will introduce and welcome our Guests of Honor, recount a tale or two, and celebrate the beginning of another CONvergence. Join your Master of Ceremonies Paul Cornell and, of course, Connie as we strive for an epic tale worthy of song. (Wagner ain't got nothin' on us.) *Dawn Krosnowski, Eric Chu, Ian Truitner, Jai Nitz, Kristopher Carter, Lois McMaster Bujold, Naomi Kritzer, Norman Cates, Paul Cornell, Seanan McGuire, Tracee Lee Cocco*

8:30pm–10:00pm

Smackdown: Robot Rampage

The galaxy's greatest robots challenge each other in robo-a-robo battle to determine which of them has the transistors to triumph! Our panel of experts will parse each pair to determine which robot will reign!

Bridget Landry, Christopher Jones, Joseph Scrimshaw, Kelvin Hatle, Melissa Kaercher, Norman Cates, Shannan Paul, Tim Uren, Tim Wick (mod)

10:00pm–11:30pm

Transvestite Soup Presents: The Rocky Horror Picture Show

Though we've done it before, Rarely Have Participants Savored such a film like this. Raucous Happy People Singing songs about other worlds, a kind of music, and theaters that play two consecutive movies of the science-fiction genre.

11:59pm–5:00am

Time Travel for the Ages (dance)

Our collective of CONvergence DJs jump throughout time to bring you a jumpin' and jivin' night of future retro music, classics, electro swing, remixes, mash-ups, and more!

FRIDAY

2:00pm–3:00pm

Kristopher Carter: Musical Storyteller

Guest of Honor Kristopher Carter will present and perform selections from some of his career highlights including Emmy-winning and Annie-nominated scores from *Batman Beyond*, *Justice League*, *Teen Titans*, *Batman: Brave and the Bold*,

and others, leading the audience not just through the music itself, but how it is transformed to accompany some of the most memorable scenes from the projects. *Kristopher Carter*

5:00pm–6:30pm

Art of the Dress Costume and Couture Show / Cirque Intergalactique

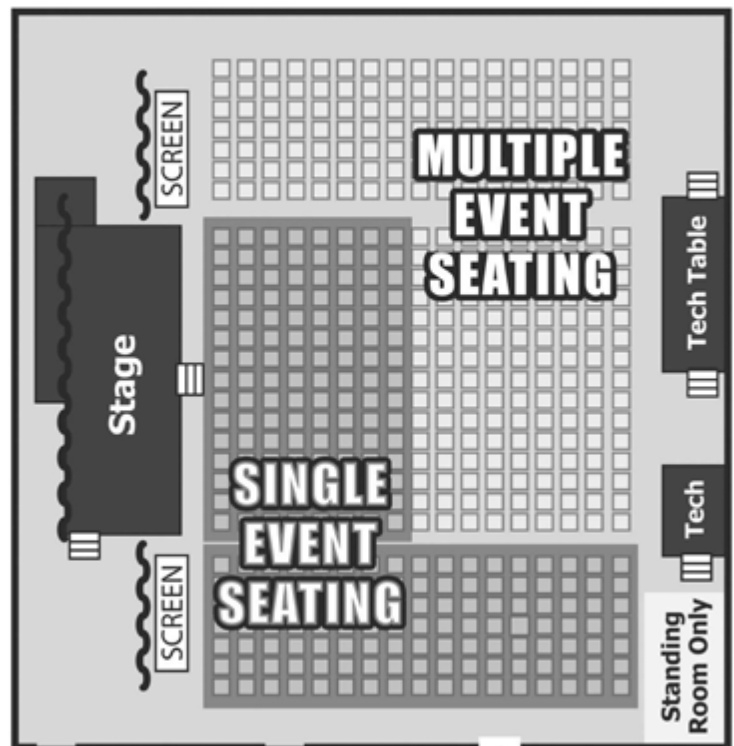
Strap yourself in and prepare for lift off, this variety show will be sure to bring you to infinity and beyond! Witness gravity defying acts by aerial artists and acrobats, as well as many other shooting stars of bellydance, singing, comedy and more! Houston, it would be a problem if you missed this!

7:00pm–8:00pm

Joseph Scrimshaw's ATTACK of the HEADCANON!

Join comedian Joseph Scrimshaw (Screen Junkies, ForceCenter, RiffTrax) for an hour of geek-flavored comedy about trying to live up to your pop culture heroes. Thrill to tales of action figures purchases gone wrong, bad dating advice from *Twin Peaks*, and drinking *The Doctor's* beer. *Joseph Scrimshaw*

CONVERGENCE 2017 MAINSTAGE



CONvergence
Central

MainStage
Entrance

MAINSTAGE

- 8:30pm–9:30pm **PowerPoint Karaoke**
Four “experts” must each give a PowerPoint presentation with slides they have never seen before, and the slides make no sense! *Andrea Ropella, Bill Stiteler, Derek “Duck” Washington, Joseph Scrimshaw, Melissa Kaercher, Molly Glover, Paul Cornell, Sharon Stiteler, Tim Wick*
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **Vilification Tennis**
Vilification Tennis is exactly the kind of show your parents warned you about. Crude, clever, and crass, it is the ultimate comedy trigger warning. If there is a topic you don’t think is funny, you’re probably right. And we’ll probably make a joke about it anyway. Because we’re horrible people. If you would like to be horrible with us, come watch! *Bob Alberti, Chrys VanDerKamp, Derek “Duck” Washington, Eric Thompson, Gregory Parks, Jena Young, Jessabelle Olmstead, Kelvin Hatle, Molly Glover, Nick Glover, Tim Wick*
- 11:30pm–5:30am **Exploring the Multiverse (dance)**
Tonight we offer musical stylings from several dimensions to get your dance, funk, and groove on.
- 11:30pm **DJ Curium’s Dance for Peculiar Con-goers**
WANTED: Witches, Wizards, Muggles, Tributes, Vampires, Aliens, Monsters, and all other Beautiful Creatures. Be our guest as we step through the looking glass to transverse the fantastical world of soundtracks from shows and movies about all of our favorite Young Adult books. Music for the young and the young at heart.
- 12:30am **DJ Kool AkiEM**
From underground mixtapes in the early nineties and the various Micranots releases, to 2006’s Mixtape Deluxe, DJ Kool Akiem, formerly of the Micranots and DJ for MF DOOM, has been providing a steady diet of funk to the public for years now.
- 1:30am **Symone Smash-It**
Symone Smash It, the symulated space siren, is a vocalist, producer, and performer with 15+ years of experience in music and stage presence. Along with her producer, Eye Dyed, she’s created the electronic space pop album “Symulation;” and is set to claim “the universe” as her stage.
- 2:30am **DJ Nitrogen**
DJ Nitrogen has been a mainstay on the CONvergence MainStage for years and has also opened for dozens of national touring acts. Nitrogen is a seven-time winner at TwinCitiesNightclubs.com annual Twin Cities Best Club DJ contest and has been a resident at many of the top Twin Cities night clubs for well over a decade. Nitrogen will be playing a mix of many different electronic genres with the sole purpose of getting the room moving.
- 3:30am **Matt MacInnes**
Matt MacInnes (aka Machinnes) hails from Sweden and has been a DJ and producer for 20 years. A restrained playing style reveals deep and melodic tunes that often flow between electro, techno, and house; perfect for getting lost on the dance floor. Previous audiences include North Star Roller Girls, First Avenue, and Soundscene warehouse.
- 4:30am **Still awake? We probably are.**
Come ask for some songs and see what we’ll play.



SATURDAY

- 8:00am–9:00am **Masquerade Performer Orientation**
- 9:00am–4:00pm **Masquerade Technical Rehearsal**
- 5:30pm–6:00pm **Masquerade (doors)**
- 6:00pm–9:00pm **Masquerade New Time**
The CONvergence Masquerade is where those friends you used to have who disappeared for seven months in preparation for this convention can finally be seen again. Come see what they locked themselves away for. Showcasing the talents of costumers spanning all skill levels, from beginners to masters, awards are given by judges for both workmanship and presentation. While the judges are deliberating, we will feature a performance by Fearless Comedy Productions!
- 9:30pm–10:30pm **Sci-fi Erotica Read-Aloud: The Drinking Game**
Another year, another carefully curated selection of the...best...in sci-fi erotica, helpfully discussed, deconstructed, and diagrammed by your panel of experts.
Panelists:
Kristina Winn
Katie Rodriguez MacInnes
Kate Cornish
Katherine Affeldt
Scott Raleigh
Windy Bowlsby
Molly Hair
ASL interpreted by Claire Alexander
- 11:00pm–6:30am **To Infinity Minus One... and Back Again! (dance)**
This evening’s dance starts with our traditional 2-hour celebration of science-fiction and geek-related music in all forms. Let’s explore the reaches of the universe as we groove to the classics and rock out to the latest parodies and tributes.
- 11:00pm **Sci-fi music “hour”**
It used to be an hour. Really... but we all love geek music and it’s fun to dance to, so why not make the most of it?

- 1:30am **Feris**
A sonic shapeshifter specializing in the manifestation of electronic sounds ranging from electro, techno, ebm, synth, and new waves.
- 2:30am **dv8**
It should come as little surprise that one of the persons responsible for the wonderful tech behind the CONvergence MainStage is also responsible for some of the most wonderful music. Get ready to bounce to some Euro electro, aggro-tech, and everything within that spectrum.
- 3:30am **noise**
noise has been a mainstay of music at CONvergence since its inception. Favoring fast and spooky music, expect dark beats that journey through worlds of science fiction and fantasy themes. Wearing black-light reactive clothing is highly encouraged.
- 4:30am **DJs Lost in Space**
It's time to find our way back from the brink, and to do so will take the coordinated effort of every one of our performers to navigate back through the chaotic expanse. We're going to party all the way home (or at least until sunrise) and we'd love you to come along for the ride.

SUNDAY

- 1:00pm–2:00pm **Harisen Daiko Drum Group**
Easily the premiere, go-to event for those that aren't still sleeping in Sunday, Harisen Daiko presents CONvergence with a unique interpretation of science-fiction themes via traditional Japanese percussion and performance.
- 3:00pm–4:00pm **Reverend Matt's Monster Science: A Natural History of the Galactic Empire**
As part of his acclaimed series ("Part science. Part comedy. All monsters."), Rev. Matt discusses the zoology of a galaxy far, far away; tauntauns, banthas, acklays, Kowakian monkey-lizards, that horrible pig-like thing drinking water on Jakku, and many more! Plus jokes! *Matt Kessen*
- 5:00pm **Closing Ceremony**
As this chapter of our continuing saga clones to a close, join us as we celebrate our victories, hail our heroes, and say farewell until our next grand adventure. Mistress of Ceremonies Bridget Landry joins Connie in bidding adieu to our Guests (as well as anticipating next year's 20th anniversary!). *Bridget Landry, Dawn Krosnowski, Eric Chu, Ian Truitner, Jai Nitz, Kristopher Carter, Lois McMaster Bujold, Naomi Kritzer, Norman Cates, Saymoukda Vongsay, Seanan McGuire, Tracee Lee Cocco*



PARTIES AND CABANAS

Vote for your favorite party room to win one of three awards: best party, best drink, or best use of theme! Scan this QR to vote online or use a paper ballot, located next to the ballot box in ConSuite.



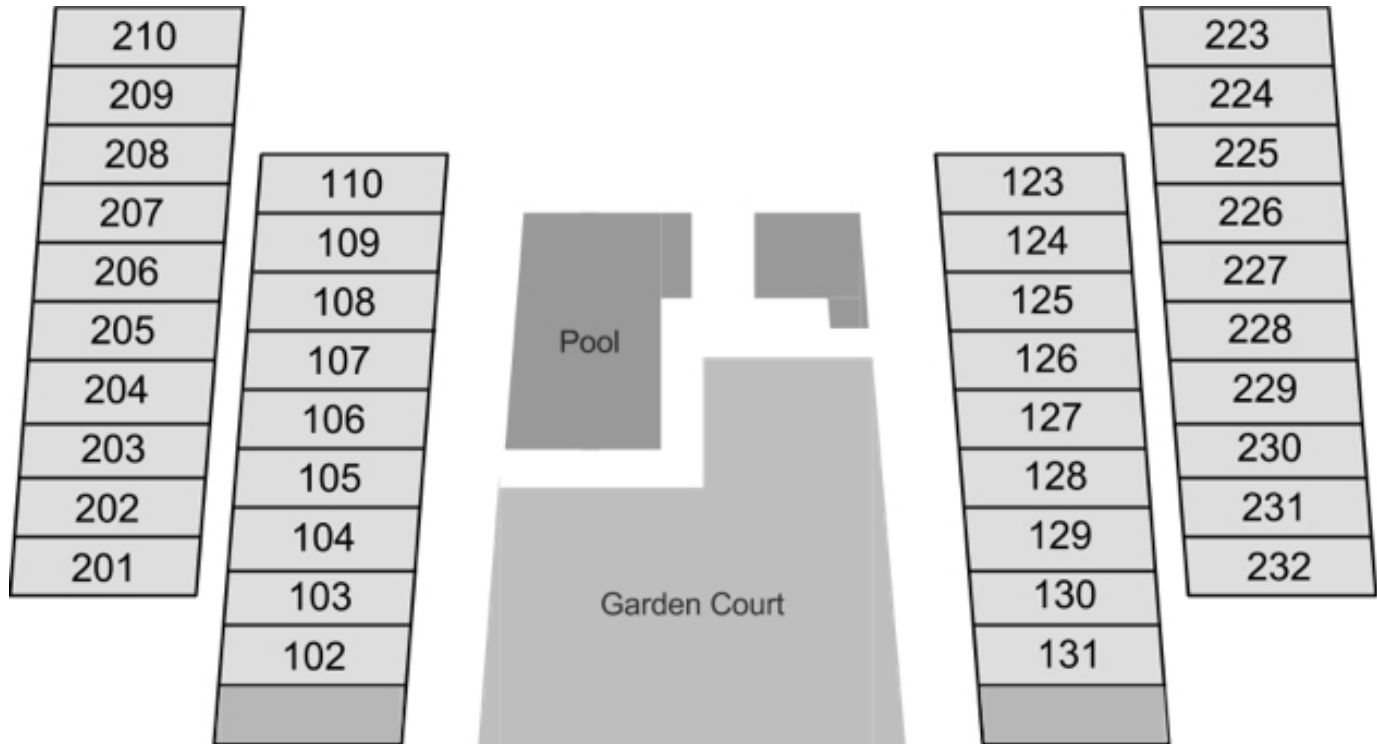
FIRST FLOOR

Cabana Party Name and Information

- 102 Clash of the Wonder Warriors—Presented by the Xenaversity of MN**
 Amazon vs. Amazon. Heroine vs. Heroine. It's Wonder Woman vs. Xena in this amazingly super race! Just complete a scavenger hunt bingo card and you can use that entry to choose who YOU want to win. The ultimate winner will be revealed at 11:00pm on Saturday and prizes will be drawn at random for all entries, including paid registration for 2018 CONvergence! You don't want to miss these Women of Wonder battling for the crown!
<https://www.facebook.com/xenaversity>
 Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight
 Friday 8:00pm–Midnight
 Saturday 8:00pm–Midnight
 Sunday Not Open

- 103 Earworm**
 You must not fear. Fear is the mind killer. Another mind killer are those songs that burrow into your head and get stuck there. That's why we want to celebrate and have a whole weekend of those glorious earworms! Our Earworms are geared to get you dancing to those songs that never leave your brain. You'll never give us up or get us out of your head. For a special treat, join us Saturday at 2:00pm for a Hamilton sing along.
 Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight
 Friday 8:00pm–Midnight
 Saturday 8:00pm–Midnight
 Sunday Not Open

- 104 Rocky Horror Party**
 Unconventional Conventionists! You're invited to witness a breakthrough in party-chemical research! And paradise is to be ours! Join the Twin Cities Rocky Horror cast Transvestite Soup for games, libations, and do the Time Warp again! <http://www.transvestitesoup.org/>
 Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight
 Friday 8:00pm–Midnight
 Saturday 8:00pm–Midnight
 Sunday 11:00am–2:00pm



- 105 Vice City**
Vice City is a celebration of old-style video games and their visions of our future destinations! This is relaxed, social, and non-elitist atmosphere for game-players of all skill levels. Come play anything from Muscle March to Puzzle Fighter, head down memory lane, and just have fun.
Thursday 6:30pm–1:30am
Friday 6:30pm–1:30am
Saturday 6:30pm–2:00am
Sunday Not Open
- 106 The Lillith**
Ahoy, me Hearties! The Lillith is back, but with a little twist this year. Batten down the hatches and come party with pirates, battle the Queen’s navy with our beer pong cannons, and get photographed with a dashing pirate! Savvy?
Thursday 7:00pm–11:00pm
Friday 7:00pm–11:00pm
Saturday 7:00pm–11:00pm
Sunday Not Open
- 107 USS Enterprise**
What better way to explore Infinity than aboard the USS Enterprise? You never know who will be aboard her, and this year has some interesting surprises! Stop by for a visit and a libation with the crew of the USS Nokomis.
www.ussnokomis.org
Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight
Friday 7:00pm–Midnight
Saturday 7:00pm–Midnight
Sunday Not Open
- 108 Dominic Toretto’s House Party**
Modeled after the house party after the race in the first Fast and Furious. We’ll have a supercut of the best scenes playing on loop, a racecar/slotcar track, Coronas and tuna sandwiches (no crust of course), and cosplay of Dom and Brian.
jerseystudios.net
Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight
Friday 9:00pm–1:00am
Saturday 9:00pm–1:00am
Sunday Not Open
- 109 Fandom Scouts**
The Fandom Scouts are back with s’mores and the best blanket fort this side of the galaxy. Stop by to do some coloring, weave a friendship bracelet, and make yourself a merit badge to show just what a good Scout you are!
Thursday Not Open
Friday 7:00pm–11:00pm
Saturday 8:00pm–1:00am
Sunday Not Open
- 110 GPS Clubhouse**
We were born to make poetry! Do you have an inner poet you’d like to let out? Song lyrics stuck in your head? Is a fridge simply not enough space to compose your masterpiece? If you said yes to any of these questions, stop by the GPS party room for giant fridge poetry!
www.geekpartnership.org/
Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight
Friday 8:00pm–Midnight
Saturday 8:00pm–Midnight
Sunday Not Open
- 123 Bilbo Baggins’ Bag End**
Welcome to a little corner of Middle Earth. At Bag End, you can step into a hobbit hole and have a spot of tea, a nibble of seed cake, and a chat with the residents of the Shire. A place for quiet conversation (no alcohol—kid friendly), or just find a place to curl up and read.
The hours between 2–4pm on Friday are scheduled, at the beginning of each hour, for a kids-only ‘birthday party’ celebrating Bilbo’s birthday. Children 10 and under are invited, accompanied by 1 parent /adult. Children must be signed up in advance using the signup sheet on the party room door. Maximum 10 children for each session (at 2pm, and again at 3pm).
Thursday 8:00pm–1:00am
Friday 2:00pm–4:00pm (children’s party)
Friday 8:00pm–1:00am
Saturday 8:00pm–1:00am
Sunday Not Open
- 124 The Iceberg Lounge**
It’s simple: CONvergence is hot; July is hot; and sometimes, it feels like we’re melting. We are the solution. Melting? Come cool off.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChillOutRoomConvergence/>
Thursday 7:00pm–11:00pm
Friday 7:00pm–11:00pm
Saturday 7:00pm–11:00pm
Sunday Not Open
- 125 Campaign CONvergence**
Come vote for your next evil overlord! Meet the candidates, ask your questions, cast your vote, and play games for prizes. Don’t forget, on Saturday night we’ll raise a champagne toast to our victor! (Sponsored by the Guild of Calamitous Intent.) –Vote Early, Vote Often–
<https://www.facebook.com/CampaignCONvergence>
Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight
Friday 8:00pm–Midnight
Saturday 8:00pm–Midnight
Sunday Not Open
- 127 The Bunker**
Family don’t end in blood. Come celebrate your favorite brothers, along with their angel and demon sidekicks. Take a “stab” at slaying a yellow eyed demon, test out your hunter skills by naming the sigel, celebrate Demon Dean in a bout of SPN karaoke or add your own entry in “Dad’s Journal” that will be delivered by your hosts to your favorite Supernatural stars at the 2017 Supernatural Creation Con here in Minneapolis in August! (21+)
Thursday 7:00pm–11:00pm
Friday 7:00pm–11:00pm
Saturday 7:00pm–11:00pm
Sunday Not Open
- 128 The E-Tank**
Come join us for console gaming, game music, Perler giveaways, and 21+ drinks!
Thursday 8:30pm–2:00am
Friday 8:00pm–2:00am
Saturday 8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday Not Open

129 Anime Fusion
Revisit classic anime and discover new favorites with the convention that celebrates both. Whether you're just getting into anime or haven't dusted off those old VHS tapes in years, there's a place for you at Anime Fusion. Stop in, watch some excellent anime, and let us grill you a cheese. <http://www.animefusion.net/>

Thursday 6:00pm–10:00pm
Friday 6:00pm–10:00pm
Saturday 6:00pm–10:00pm
Sunday Not Open

130 Anime Twin Cities
Come and Party with the group that produces Anime Detour! AMV's, anime, and snacks galore!
www.animetwincities.org

Thursday 6:00pm–Midnight
Friday 6:00pm–1:00am
Saturday 6:00pm–1:00am
Sunday Not Open

131 Vault 131
Escape the wastelands in our retro-futuristic lounge, complete with refreshing libations and music inspired by our predecessors' hope for the future and the promises of technology. Don't miss out on our signature drink: The Atomic Blast.

Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight
Friday 8:00pm–Midnight
Saturday 8:00pm–Midnight
Sunday Not Open

SECOND FLOOR

Cabana Party Name and Information

201 The Continental Hotel (Assassin's Guild)
Seated in the lap of luxury this historic establishment offers its comforts and atmosphere to only the most discerning of clientele. This is a place of meeting and professional discourse. As such no business may be conducted on Continental property. All who enter do so as associates and shall meet in peace and civility. Please join us for refreshment, entertainment (movies, music, DDR), games, and pleasant company. Find information on the Guild's events, such as the foam sword combat tournament, or perhaps pick up a contract or two. Here at The Continental, we are all friends.

<http://www.assassins.celticmagicinc.com/>

Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight (or later)
Friday 8:00pm–1:00am (or later)
Saturday 8:00pm–1:00am (or later)
Sunday Open on and off all day and night

202 MacStallions Distillery
Escape to the Highlands for a little Highland Fling! Or maybe you're more traditional and prefer a shot of Scurvy Curing Oral Tonic? The secret ingredient is more RUM! (and juice, and rum and juice and rum and juice and rum...)

Thursday 8:00pm–2:00am
Friday 8:00pm–2:00am
Saturday 8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday Not Open

203 Planet Express
Good news everyone! Futurama won't be canceled this year! The crew of the Planet Express is proud to host you for another exciting CON weekend celebrating Earth Day in 3017! Everyone else asks "What If?" We ask "Why If?"

Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight
Friday 7:00pm–Midnight
Saturday 7:00pm–2:00am
Sunday Not Open

204 Salty Bets
Come for booze, salt, and fighting games. See the premier waifu war simulator and enjoy the newest and classic fighting games.

Thursday 8:00pm–2:00am
Friday 8:00pm–2:00am
Saturday 8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday Not Open

205 The Room of Requirement
Step into the Wizarding World! Visit the Hogwarts Great Hall and Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$. Show your house pride and see Madam Rosmerta for a butterbeer (alcoholic or nonalcoholic) or take a chance with a potion! Even muggles are invited to help us celebrate the 20th anniversary of all things Potter.

Thursday 8:00pm–2:00am
Friday 8:00pm–2:00am
Saturday 8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday 10:00am–2:00pm

206 The Room Room
THIS CON IS TEARING ME APART, LISA! Come hang out and watch the cult classic with us. The 6:00pm showing will be all ages, while the 8:00pm showing will be 21+ and serving drinks! Be advised this movie is rated R.

Thursday 6:00pm–10:00pm
Friday 6:00pm–10:00pm
Saturday 6:00pm–10:00pm
Sunday Not Open

BALLOT BOX LOCATED IN THE CONSUITE
VOTING OPENS THURSDAY 7:00 PM - CLOSSES SUNDAY 1:00 AM



207 Wonderland Tea Party
Once more down the rabbit hole we go. Come and enjoy some unusually strong tea, try your luck at our Plinko board, and watch various renditions of Lewis Carroll's classic tale.

Thursday Not Open
Friday 10:00pm–2:00am
Saturday 10:00pm–2:00am
Sunday Not Open

208 The Daily Bugle
Welcome to the Daily Bugle: New York's number one source for Spider-Man news! Stop by and meet our hard boiled journalists as well as the villains and "heroes" of New York, and have a drink! Badge Ribbons will be rewarded for pictures of Spider-Man!

Thursday 8:00pm–1:00am
Friday 8:00pm–1:00am
Saturday 8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday Not Open

209 The Spartan Armory
THIS. IS. CONVERGENCE.
Where we lay down our arms to see cups filled and spirits lifted! Persians and Athenians welcome.

Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight
Friday 8:00pm–Midnight
Saturday 8:00pm–Midnight
Sunday Not Open

210 Eolian/Legend of Zelda
Eolian Thursday and Friday. Legend of Zelda Saturday. Memes memes memes! Get your memes here! We have the best memes! Made by real humans!
<https://www.facebook.com/Mweep210/>

Thursday 7:00pm–Midnight
Friday 7:00pm–Midnight
Saturday 8:00pm–Midnight
Sunday Not Open

223 The Lodge Room
Solve quizzes using astute resourcefulness. Spend an evening detecting clues, or merely puzzle away some seconds. Travel back in time in this revolving puzzle room where you can hang for a minute, or take your time to solve all of our challenges and earn a badge ribbon!
www.bradenlodge.org

Thursday 7:00pm–1:00am
Friday 7:00pm–1:00am
Saturday 7:00pm–1:00am
Sunday Not Open

224 Ochaya
Ochaya is back again for another year of carefully selected teas, traditional snacks, casual board games, and good conversation. Stay for a minute for a quick break from the chaos or play through a game for an hour or two and meet some new friends. <https://www.facebook.com/Ochaya.partyroom/>

Thursday 7:00pm–Midnight
Friday 7:00pm–Midnight
Saturday 7:00pm–1:00am
Sunday Not Open

225 Secret Organization
SHH, IT'S A SECRET! Come share your memes and conspiracies or listen to music and play games.

Thursday 5:00pm–1:00am
Friday 5:00pm–1:00am
Saturday 8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday Not Open

226 Class E
At Class E it doesn't matter if you are Zarkon or a Prometheus Scientist; everyone is welcome! Stop on by for hors d'oeuvres served all night, and real cocktails after 10:00pm. All ages welcome between 7:00pm–10:00pm. Always remember, as long as you feel classy, you are Class E. <https://m.facebook.com/ClassEconvergence/>

Thursday 8:00pm–1:00am
Friday 8:00pm–2:00am
Saturday 8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday Not Open

227 The Lair
Welcome to The Lair, Secret hideout of super villain team "The Fist!" See one of our previously unseen underground labs in our new webseries, "The Lair," by Friendship Smuggler Productions, streaming on GeekByNumbers and YouTube. There's drinks aplenty, and, if you prove your evil mettle, you can earn a ribbon.
www.geekbynumbers.com

Thursday 9:00pm–1:00am
Friday 8:00pm–2:00am
Saturday 8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday Not Open

228 North Country Gaylaxians/CONSOLE Room
This joint party room will be sponsored by North Country Gaylaxians LGBTQ book club and CONSOLE Room Twin Cities Dr. Who Convention.

Thursday Not Open
Friday 7:00pm–Midnight
Saturday 7:00pm–Midnight
Sunday Not Open



**CONVERGENCE 2017-TO INFINITY & BEYOND
PARTY/AWARDS BALLOT**

BADGE #-: _____ **(BALLOTS WITHOUT BADGE NUMBERS WILL BE IGNORED.)**

Best Party: Room # _____ **Party Name** _____
Best Drink: Room # _____ **Party Name** _____
Best Use of Theme: Room # _____ **Party Name** _____

229 The Royal Manticoran Navy
 The Royal Manticoran Navy proudly requests that you tour the best ship in the fleet. With Honor Harrington, you are really going places. Travel in luxury with various themed drinks, shot roulette, spin and win and tasty snacks. Share your adventures with our friendly crew. The ship is also armed with a full complement of Missile Pod shots. Do it with Honor, and Roll Pods responsibly. trmn.org

Thursday 7:00pm–Midnight
 Friday 7:00pm–1:00am
 Saturday 7:00pm–1:00am
 Sunday Not Open

230 Fearless Comedy- IN SPACE
 Join Fearless Comedy Productions for an adventure at CONvergence! Do a challenge, get a badge ribbon, take a photo in front of our green screen, drink a Fearless drink and so much more! We are a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization bringing comedy to the bathed & unbathed masses! <http://fearlesscomedyproductions.com>

Thursday 8:00pm–1:00am, possibly some daytime hours
 Friday 8:00pm–1:00am, possibly some daytime hours
 Saturday 8:00pm–2:00am, possibly some daytime hours
 Sunday Possibly some daytime hours

231 Mos Icee Cantina
 It can get hot on Tatooine, even at night. Stop by and enjoy a cool Icee. All your favorite characters from the Star Wars universe will be there.

Thursday 8:00pm–Midnight
 Friday 8:00pm–1:00am
 Saturday 8:00pm–1:00am
 Sunday Not Open

232 Rum & Bass
 Party the night away at CONvergence's hottest mini dance festival, featuring live DJs, video game-inspired and traditional dance music (we love our Zeldastep), and free refreshments! Stop in and help us make this a CON to remember!

Thursday 9:00pm–2:00am
 Friday 9:00pm–2:00am
 Saturday 9:00pm–2:00am
 Sunday Not Open

Mobile Parties

Twin Cities Geek Hydration Challenge

Look for Twin Cities Geek roaming the convention in the evenings to take the Twin Cities Geek Hydration Challenge! Spend at least 1 minute drinking a full 16oz glass of water to earn yourself one of three unique badge ribbons, up to one ribbon per day. Collect all three! #TCGh2o



**RETURN
 OF THE
 HEROES**

**REVENGE
 OF THE
 VILLAINS**



CINEMA REX



DoubleTree Plaza 4 / First Floor, North Tower

Well...er...um...this is a bit embarrassing. When the CONvergence board was discussing this year's theme...Rex...kind of nodded off during the meeting. You see, the night before Rex had this big party. Rex's parties are always big productions and as usual he hired a band. When Trent Reznor showed up late to the gig Rex was really angry. To top it off, Trent showed up with his wife, Mariqueen (who Rex used to date) and an altercation ensued. The next thing you know, the cops raided the place and...ah...well...ok never mind the rest. The important thing was that the next day Rex was really tired! He might have dozed a bit during the meeting because in his notes he wrote SPACE and OPERA (not SPACE OPERA). By the time he realized his mistake all the movie rights were in place and it was too late to change the schedule.

So...this year Rex is proud to present a universe full of song and dance and star studded musicals! Maybe in space no one can hear you scream, BUT they can sure hear you sing!

Despite Rex's issues, this year is packed with special events! Returning from taking last year off are Jeremy Stomberg, Bill Stiteler, and Duck Washington to riff Roger Corman's camp classic *Galaxy of Terror*. Rex will also present a musical special event *Epic Rap Battles of History*, short film selections from the popular *Horror Show Hotdog* podcast, and a *Star Wars* Fan Film Festival. As always, there is the Best of the Midwest Film Festival and Trailer Park. Finally, Rex is proud to have Guest of Honor Ian Truitner present the Midwest Premiere of his new sci-fi film *Teleios* along with a Q&A session after the film.

For those of you who are new to CONvergence, Cinema Rex is all about comfort, atmosphere, and great movies. Rex turns his film room into one big cozy living room filled with free concessions and puts the movies on a big screen with amazing sound. Hope to see you there!

THURSDAY

3:00pm

Little Shop of Horrors (director's cut) *PG-13—1986—104m*

Sometimes, being a socially awkward nerd can mean trouble in the romance department. What does one do when the object of your affection prefers another? Feed your rival to a giant man eating space plant while singing about it, of course. Note that this is the director's cut, which restores the original ending of the film! *dir. Frank Oz w/Rick Moranis, Ellen Greene, Vincent Gardenia, Steve Martin*

5:00pm

Phantom of the Opera *NR—1943—92m*

A mysterious masked composer haunts an opera house, looking to replace all he has lost in the form of a beautiful young understudy. Bringing your crush to your creeper cave beneath the streets of Paris isn't the best plan. Next time hit up Rex for some dino-dating advice, *Phantom*. *dir. Arthur Lubin w/Nelson Eddy, Susanna Foster, Claude Rains*

6:30pm

Stargate *PG-13—1994—121m*

There's pizza on that pseudo-Egyptian space planet, and if anyone can help find it, it's Kurt Russell! Go through the Stargate to watch the classic that sparked a whole bunch of nerdy TV that you've probably all watched. (this showing is captioned) *dir. Roland Emmerich w/Kurt Russell and some other people*

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

Moulin Rouge *PG-13—2001—127m*

Because you CAN CAN CAN! *dir. Baz Luhrmann w/Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor, John Leguizamo, Jim Broadbent*

12:30am

Galaxy of Terror *R—1981—81m with live Riff by Duck Washington, Bill Stiteler, and Jeremy Stomberg*

Not the world's worst *Alien* (1979) ripoff, but it's certainly up there. Joanie from "Happy Days," along with My Favorite Martian, Freddy Krueger, and some other schlubs go up against an ancient alien pyramid... and the audience's sanity. Luckily, our crack team of Bill Stiteler, Jeremy Stomberg, and Duck Washington are here to make fun of it. Enjoy the trainwreck! *dir. B.D. Clark w/Edward Albert, Erin Moran, Ray Walston, Robert Englund*

2:00am

Guardians of the Galaxy *PG-13—2014—121m*

Director James Gunn captured a very different feel than most of the MCU with this funny and irreverent film, creating a thrill ride that hit a bullseye with the geek community. You've recently seen the sequel in theaters, it's time to re-watch Volume 1. And remember, we are Groot. (this showing is captioned) *dir. James Groot w/Chris Groot, Groot Saldana, Dave Grootista, Bradley Grooter*

FRIDAY

9:30AM

Treasure Planet *PG—2002—95m*

Finding your place when you feel like everything about yourself goes against the grain of society can be hard. You could always run away and join up with some space pirates! Maybe all of those perceived shortcomings are actually strengths. Just be careful of black holes and back stabbing and uh, maybe don't run away to be a space pirate after all. *dir. Ron Clements w/Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Emma Thompson, Martin Short, David Hyde Pierce*

11:30am

Hidden Figures *PG—2016—127m*

One of the best of 2016, this Oscar-nominated film delves into the little known story of female

2:00pm	<p>African-American mathematicians whose math skills played a key role in the early years of the NASA space program. <i>dir. Theodore Melfi w/Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monae</i></p> <p>Best of 2016 Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival Our usual festival of short films of various geeky genres and styles from Midwestern filmmakers has expanded. This year the Best of the Midwest reached out beyond the Midwest for selections from around the world. Come see some of Rex's favorites.</p>	11:00pm	<p>Horror Show Hotdog Horror Shorts Festival The crew of the locally produced podcast Horror Show Hotdog has curated shorts to be shown at the Twin Cities Horror Festival. They've chosen their favorites from the last two years to be shown in Cinema Rex.</p>
3:00pm	<p>Help, Help, the Globolinks! <i>NR—71m—1969</i></p> <p>Rex loves to find strange and obscure films to share with his CONvergence friends. This is one of the strangest and most obscure! When the earth is invaded by creatures called the Globolinks, only the music of apprehensive German children on a school vacation can defeat them. Part classical opera and part classic acid flashback. Did you bring your piccolo to con? Nein? Sheisse, hopefully HarmCon has our backs. (with English subtitles) <i>dir. Gian Carlo Menotti w/some German people who sing well</i></p>	12:00 AM	<p>Heavy Metal <i>R—1981—86m</i></p> <p>An ultimate, timeless evil! Tasteless, gratuitous animated nudity! A surprisingly amazing score by Elmer Bernstein! Heavy Metal is a cult anthology of short stories threaded together by an orb of ultimate evil and lots and lots of cartoon boobies. Campy, funny, bizarre and sometimes genuinely creepy, this film features incredible voice acting from some genre favorites. Relive your youth of buying tickets to Time Bandits but sneaking into Heavy Metal instead! <i>dir. by lots of people w/ Richard Romans, John Candy, Joe Flaherty, Eugene Levy</i></p>
4:30pm	<p>Europa Report <i>PG-13—2013—90m</i></p> <p>A team of scientists investigating potential life on Jupiter must confront themselves and weigh the consequences of personal sacrifice for the benefit of human knowledge. A documentary and found footage style film, that may or may not have a giant tentacle alien creature. NO SPOILERS! <i>dir. Sebastian Cordero w/Sharlto Copley, Michael Nyqvist, Christian Camargo</i></p>	1:30 AM	<p>Starship Troopers <i>R—1997—129m</i></p> <p>Though this film was panned when it came out, many now consider it to be a masterpiece as parody of right wing, totalitarian propaganda of the 20th century. But Rex knows why you love the film: shooting up bugs, lots and lots of space bugs! And if you're lookin' for a Nazi to punch, there's always Doogie Hitler. <i>dir. Paul Verhoeven w/ Casper Van Dien, Denise Richards, Dina Meyer, Neil Patrick Harris</i></p>
6:00pm	<p>Jesus Christ Superstar <i>G—1973—108m</i></p> <p>Every time I look at you, I don't understand—why you let CONvergence themes get so out of hand—you'd have managed better if Rex helped with your plans—we're showing space and opera films, hope we don't get canned! <i>dir. Norman Jewison w/Ted Neeley, Carl Anderson, Yvonne Elliman, Barry Dennen</i></p>	SATURDAY	<p>Zathura: A Space Adventure <i>PG—2005—101m</i></p> <p>Jumanji in space. Nuff said! <i>dir. Jon Favreau w/ Jonah Bobo, Josh Hutcherson, Dax Shepard, Kristen Stewart, Tim Robbins</i></p>
8:00pm	<p>Solaris <i>PG-13—2002—99m</i></p> <p>What is the nature of memory; how much do they matter? What does it take to let them go? Are you a product of your memories, or are they a byproduct of you? A psychologist who lost his wife to suicide is sent to a space station orbiting the planet Solaris to investigate disturbing reports. A beautiful, thoughtful, hard-hitting film. Rex remembers. Do the infinite memories of Rex mean there are infinite Rexes? If there are infinite Rexes, are there infinite Cinema Rexes? If there are infinite Cinema Rexes does that mean there are infinite sofas? Does that mean we have to clean infinite sofas for infinity? Heck :(<i>dir. Steven Soderbergh w/George Clooney, Natascha McElhone, Ulrich Tukur, Viola Davis</i></p>	11:30am	<p>For the Love of Spock <i>NR—2016—111m</i></p> <p>Started before Leonard Nimoy's death, he and his son Adam initiated work on this documentary looking at the history of Star Trek through the lens of the popularity and cultural influence of Spock as a character. Featuring comments from many actors and creators in the Star Trek oeuvre, this in a must-see for any Trek fan. (this showing is captioned) <i>dir. Adam Nimoy</i></p>
10:00pm	<p>Epic Rap Battles of History Festival It seems pretty much all super late night super inebriated super nerdy conversations eventually drain down into the pit of pseudo-philosophy; the dissection of the meaning of life (we hear it's 42), the seat of human consciousness (the butt seems reasonable), and whether Boba Fett or Deadpool would win in a fight. Epic Rap Battles of History is a popular youtube series pitting pop culture icons against each other. Who won? You decide! (this showing is captioned)</p>	1:30pm	<p>Star Wreck: In the Pirkinning <i>NR—104m—2005</i></p> <p>It sounds like the setup to a bad joke: what do you get when you make a Star Trek-Babylon 5 crossover parody fan film in Finland? But it's for real: this feature length movie not only has wonderful production values, it's just darn funny. And this film was made by the same creative team behind, "Iron Sky," so you know it's awesome. (with English subtitles) <i>dir. Timo Vuorensola w/a bunch of other foreigners</i></p>
		3:30pm	<p>The Return of Captain Invincible <i>PG—1983—90m</i></p> <p>What happens to a beloved American superhero involved in a scandal which brands them as a traitor and strips them of their status and dignity? Apparently, they wash up in Australia as a nihilistic alcoholic who spends their days stumbling across a mountain range singing into the wind. It is the evil scheming of Mr. Midnight (played by a scene stealing Christopher Lee) that serves to bring Captain Invincible from zero to hero, but</p>

recovery is not an easy process. A solid ribbing of comics, musicals, and itself, this is a funny, fun and surprisingly sincere film. *dir. Philippe Mora w/Alan Arkin, Christopher Lee, Kate Fitzpatrick*

5:00pm

Moon
R—2009—97m

Imagine the isolation of working alone for months with only a robot as your companion, as you do necessary drudge work. Is it worth the high paycheck? Is there a subtext for modern society? Nah, couldn't be... And did you know this was directed by David Bowie's son? (this showing is captioned) *dir. Duncan Jones w/Sam Rockwell, Kevin Spacey, Dominique McElligott*

7:00pm

Interstellar
PG-13—2014—169m

Christopher Nolan created this brilliant and moving film about a dying planet, a father's devotion to his daughter, and about the science and magic of interstellar travel. *dir. Christopher Nolan w/Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, Mackenzie Foy, Michael Caine*

10:00pm

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street
R—2007—116m

Johnny Depp seeks revenge for the destruction of his family in this film adaption of Sir Malcom Arnold's 1959 ballad gone Broadway. What is an antagonist? Are vile acts less heinous if they are "justified?" Sweeney Todd explores that fine line—in song! *dir. Tim Burton w/Alan Rickman, Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter*

12:00am

Flash Gordon
PG—1980—111m

How did serious actors even consent to do this film? Fun and embarrassingly bad, this will be your only chance to see full grown men wearing big stupid fake wings in Cinema Rex this year, unless someone in the audience is wearing them. *dir. Mike Hodges w/Sam Jones, Max von Sydow, Topol, Timothy Dalton, Brian Blessed*

1:30 AM

The Fifth Element
PG-13—1997—126m

A highlight of 90s sci-fi, this film is an over-the-top, adrenaline-filled great time. And hey, there's even a bit of opera. Be sure to bring your multi-pass. *dir. Luc Besson w/Bruce Willis, Milla Jovovich, Gary Oldman, Chris Tucker, Ian Holm*

SUNDAY

10:00am

Galaxy Quest
PG—1999—102m

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. (this showing is captioned) *dir. Dean Parisot w/Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, Alan Rickman, Tony Shalhoub*

12:00pm

Star Wars Fan Film Festival

Rex has curated an hour of shorts set in the Star Wars universe for your viewing pleasure.

1:00pm

Teleios
NR—2016—89m w/guest Ian Truitner

In this tense thriller, a rescue mission is sent to try to determine why the entire crew of a mining space ship died. Did they kill each other? What really happened, and could there be an influence on this rescue team? *dir. Ian Truitner w/Sunny Mabrey, Lance Broadway, T.J. Hoban, Christian Pitre, Michael Nouri*

CVG guest of honor Ian Truitner will be on hand to discuss his work directing the film before and after the showing. Don't miss this one!

3:00pm

The Apple
PG—1980—90m

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? Called "the apex predator of bad films," whatever it is it can't be good, but it is hilarious. Trust Rex... you've never seen anything like this! *dir. Menahem Golan w/a bunch of people you've probably never heard of*

4:30pm

Serenity
PG-13—2005—119m

The Firefly saga continues in film, it's the story of... oh never mind. You've all seen it, and you know you want to see it again. (this showing is captioned) *dir. Joss Whedon w/Nathan Fillion, Gina Torres, Alan Tudyk, Morena Baccarin, Jewel Staite*

2016 MIDWEST SCI-FI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Friday 8:30pm
DoubleTree Atrium 6

CONvergence and IPR College of Creative Arts are once again pleased to sponsor the premiere showcase of the best genre short films produced by independent filmmakers from the Midwest and Canada.

Audiences will choose their favorite films, so come watch the festival and vote for the film you love the most! Winners of the Audience Choice Awards will be announced at Closing Ceremonies.

Did you miss last year's festival? No worries, the staff of Cinema Rex has picked the most awesome films just for you! See the Cinema Rex Friday schedule for show times.

New this year: Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival: Other Worlds

Each year the festival receives amazing short genre films that don't fit our geographic criteria and must be turned away. This year, for the first time, we are able to bring you a selection of great films produced outside of the USA and Canada. Thursday 10:00pm in DoubleTree Atrium 6.

SPACE LOUNGE

DoubleTree Verandas 5, 6, and 8 (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Rebel generals, Federation redshirts, inter-system smugglers, daring adventurers sucked through a wormhole, aging space captains facing the crushing realization that “this planet was Earth all along,” immortals with an over-developed sense of responsibility for what happens to the funny little alopecic apes on that green and blue planet tucked away in a boring corner of the universe, child savants recruited as drone-pilots by the zero-G space marines, unwitting messianic figures who are the last hope to save humankind, descendants of a proud warrior tradition who are just now coming to understand what all of those weaklings mean when they say the word “love,” low-level politicians thrown into positions of unimaginable responsibility by an ill-timed android uprising, megalomaniacal computer programs that have gained sentience (and inconvenient homicidal urges), parents trying to protect their children from confusingly Teutonic murder-borgs sent back in time by a malicious wireless network, ships’ scientists infected by a deadly space parasite—you all have one thing in common: the hassles of a life among the stars can really wear you down. In the Space Lounge we’ve got you covered. Whoever you are, you’re entitled to an all-expense-paid SPACEcation whenever you need one! Drop by for a couple of minutes to connect with other travelers or stay all night to enjoy the fantastical sights and sounds of this legendary paradise in space. While you’re here, you’ll definitely want to visit the bar where smoothies of every color flow like Pandoran waterfalls. Take a well-deserved time out from your adventures, traveler: you deserve a SPACEcation!

General Hours of Regular Lounge Operation

Thursday 9:00pm–2:00am
Friday 9:00pm–2:00am
Saturday 10:00pm–2:00am

(Smoothies only available when available)

Schedule of Special Events

Friday 2:00pm–3:00pm

Just-One-Hour Intergalactic Garden Party Rave!

Pinky fingers up, tentacles down on the Space Lounge dance floor. One hour of high class booty shaking in our intergalactic garden—Raiders, Reavers, Cylons, Cyborgs, Unicorns, Mermaids, and Zombies all welcome. Neon bustles, sun hats, and wrist gloves optional.

Friday 7:00pm–9:00pm Teens Only!

Space Lounge is excited to partner again with the CONvergence Teen Room to create a Teens-Only (ages 13–20) event in space. Make smoothies, DJ, or just have all the awesomeness of the Space Lounge for your teen-self and friends during this two-hour Teen/Space-Lounge cooperative event! Space Lounge never serves alcohol, but during the Teens-Only timeframe, no alcohol will be allowed into the room. Also, non-teens other than Space Lounge staff will not be allowed into the room. Stop by and ask for any Space Lounge head or sub-head with any questions!

Saturday 1:00pm–4:00pm Classic Video Game Tournament
This elimination-style competition on a 2-player glass table-top arcade machine featuring games ranging from the classic to the bizarre. Space is limited. (1:00pm signup, 2:00pm start).

SMOKERS PARADISE & UNFILTERED ACOUSTIC STAGE

Smokers Paradise is located across from the main entrance of the DoubleTree by Hilton, outside the East doors, next to the outdoor patio. You must be a registered member of CONvergence to enter Smokers Paradise.

Smokers Paradise Hours

Wednesday Noon–24HRS
Thursday 24HRS–24HRS
Friday 24HRS–24HRS
Saturday 24HRS–24HRS
Sunday 24HRS–24 HRS
Monday Midnight–8:00am

If you are a smoker, a friend of a smoker, or just like being outside during a summer day to relax on the comfy patio furniture, come on out to the East Courtyard and join us! It’s much more comfortable than crowding around the exits,



and there’s no risk of getting a citation for being too close to the entryway. Truly, this is Smokers Paradise.

Enjoy music at Smokers Paradise’s very own intimate acoustic stage, open daily Thursday through Saturday for 45-minute music, storytelling, and spoken word sets.

UNFILTERED Hours

Thursday 10:00am–10:00pm
Friday 10:00am–10:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–10:00pm

Want to perform at UNFILTERED? Simply stop by Smokers Paradise when you arrive at the convention and sign up for a set time!

Acoustic performances and small, battery-powered Pignose-style amps are welcome. There is no secure storage available for gear or instruments at Smokers Paradise, so plan to keep yours with you before and after your set. Interested in more opportunities to perform at CONvergence? Check out the Musicians/Performers page!

Connie's QUANTUM SANDBOX

(DoubleTree Plaza 2, North Tower, 1st Floor)

HOURS OF OPERATION

Thursday Noon–12:00am
 Friday 9:00am–12:00am
 Saturday 9:00am–12:00am
 Sunday 9:00am–4:30pm

THURSDAY

12:30pm–1:30pm **Craft Smorgasbord**
 Come join the Sandbox staff and try a few make and take crafts, such as bookmarks, barrettes, lanyards, and more. *Angie Anderson, Sandy Darst*

2:00pm–3:00pm **Cosplay Repair Kit**
 Make a repair kit to have on hand for whenever you have a cosplay emergency. *Tom 'Takeo' Moen*

3:30pm–4:30pm **Cardboard Table Top Pinball**
 Be a wizard! A pinball wizard! We will make our own pinball machines out of cardboard. *Renee Petersen*

5:00pm–6:00pm **Sandbox Mystery**
 Stop by and we'll have something fun for you to see and do—maybe it'll be painting, maybe a science project... maybe we'll be playing with dirt! You won't know until you come. So come on by!

7:00pm–9:30pm **Misfits' Toys**
 When you were a child, did you play with your toys like a deranged psychopath? Did you want to? Come create new toy experiences with us.
Jim Shields

10:00pm–12:30am **Cardboard Space Station**
 Join forces to create and build pods and space ships to turn the Sandbox into a mini cardboard space station. We will use this space station for kids and members to cosplay, and maybe unleash their inner aliens Friday morning. *Molly Glover, Nick Glover*

FRIDAY

9:30am–10:30am **Hull Breach**
 Get your kids, get your costumes on, and come cosplay in our miniature cardboard space station. We will have areas to strike a pose, and other areas to destroy the space station and save the day!
Molly Glover, Nick Glover

11:00am–Noon **Iron Pen**
 Stretch your creative muscles by writing a 100-word story based on a surprise prompt item. Entries will be judged during the weekend and the winners announced at the end of the convention. Guests Louis McMaster Bujold and Seanan McGuire will also judge. *Heather Bufkin*

12:30pm–1:30pm **Sci-Girls (and Boys)**
 Come and do some real science at the SciFi convention! Meet Bernoulli, Newton, and other cool scientists and magic makers as you make and take some fun, easy, make and take projects! Once you do it here, you can do it anywhere! Families welcome. *Renee Petersen*

2:00pm–3:00pm

Terraforming 101: How to Form Soil

In a universe of exotic and terrifying worms, the humble red wriggler can be one of your best allies on a new planet. Learn how worms are used to decompose waste, create soil, and make compost to help your terraforming needs on earth or abroad.
Destiny Ziebol, Dylan Martin, Michelle Chmura

3:30pm–4:30pm

1000 Blank White Cards

Come join us to create an imaginative and freeform card game. Everyone makes cards and joins them together with friends for a social and funny game. Watch the gaming schedule for a time to play!
Alicia Beck

5:00pm–6:00pm

How to Draw...

Mice, snowman, robots, and talking dogs...who would have thought these could make millions of dollars. Disney did it! So can you! Come to the Sandbox to learn how to draw some iconic Disney characters from an official Disney employee.
Cory Enriquez

7:00pm–9:30pm

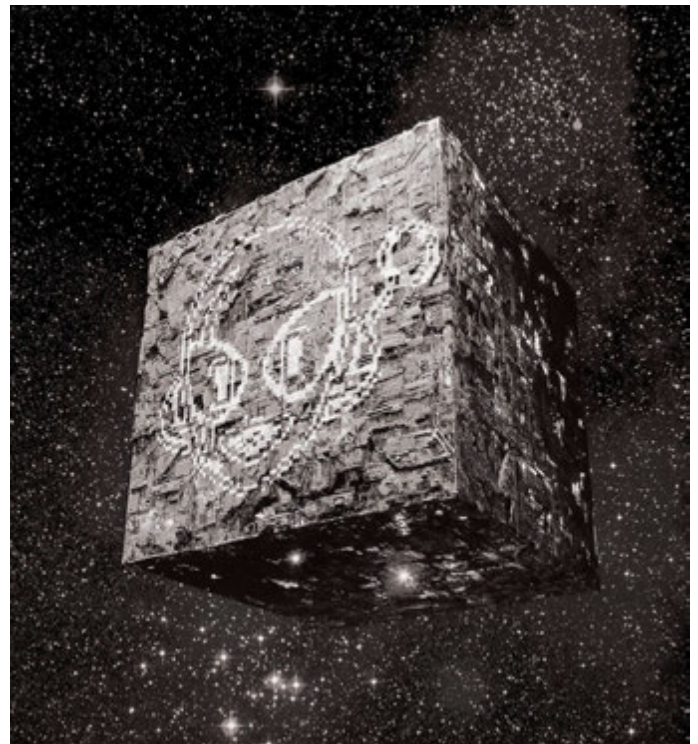
Lasers

Lasers! Sharks with laser beams! Wait, no, there will be no sharks. Just lasers. Come learn about using lasers to cut and engrave cool stuff.
Sean Berry

10:00pm–12:30am

Sandbox After Dark: Art is Skin Deep

Are you pretty? Pretty like a pony? We can paint you like a pony, and you'll be really really pretty like a pony! Come and see! Be a pretty Pony! Or a Kitty! Or.. a Zombie! We paint anything! 18+ Bring ID.
Jim Shields





SATURDAY

- 9:30am–10:30am **Table-top Catapults**
You can't assault your neighbours with large projectiles, but what about marshmallows? Build an assortment of craft stick catapults ranging from a trebuchet to mangonel to a ballista. *Renee Petersen*
- 11:00am–Noon **Nalbinding**
Knit like a viking! Come learn the needlework used by the Egyptians and the Vikings, and which predates knitting and crocheting by 2000 years. All it takes is a piece of yarn and a blunt needle. *Lori Baerg*
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Mini Nebula Jars**
Have you ever wanted your own personal nebula? Now you can make one to wear everywhere! *Nikita Woltersen*
- 2:00pm–3:00pm **Prepare for the Fungal Invasion: Mycology with Spark -Y**
You find them in food, fairy homes and even in your body! Come learn about the roles mushrooms play, get a quick guide to fungi biology and basic culturing techniques. Each attendee will inoculate their own culture to take home and fruit. *Destiny Ziebol, Dylan Martin, Michelle Chmura*
- 3:30pm–6:00pm **Dragon Flyer**
The best way to fly is by dragon. Create your own dragon "marionette" flier. *Nikita Woltersen*
- 7:00pm–8:00pm **Art Journal**
Make an arty journal to keep your arty stuff in. *Kyra Underbakke*
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **Sock Puppets**
Make puppets out of socks!
- 10:00pm–12:30am **Room Full of Nightmares**
Come learn some scary-makeup basics with GoH Norman Cates. *Norman Cates*

SUNDAY

- 9:30am–10:30am **Crayon's Corner**
KIDS!! Bring your parents to this Exciting Story and Activity Hour. Crayon (Caryn Lengeek) leads this wonderful CONvergence staple. *Caryn Lengeek*
- 11:00am–Noon **Steampunk Craft Hour**
The Red Ribbon Society hosts an hour of steampunk-themed crafts. Create a mechanical collage, color your own vintage paper dolls, assemble beads, or build a helium airship! *Kevin Borchers*
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Planet Pendants**
Make your very own planet pendant just like Miles Vorkosigan found, in the book by GoH Louis McMaster Bujold! *Elise Matthesen*
- 2:00pm–3:00pm **OHM my gosh! LED Origami with Spark-Y**
Spark your creativity and begin your electrical engineering journey. Come and learn the basics of how a circuit works, make your first simple circuit, and enjoy the art of origami with an electrical twist. Make and take home your newly lit creation. *Destiny Ziebol, Dylan Martin, Michelle Chmura*
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **Chainmaille 101**
A basic European 4 in 1 chainmaille lesson for those who have always been curious. We will use links that can be worked without tools, so ages 11+ should be able to enjoy themselves. *Carla Mantel*

HARMONIC CONVERGENCE



Harmonic CONvergence is an intimate venue for live entertainment, featuring a blend of music, dance, burlesque, comedy, and spoken word performances. In 2017, HarmCON is thrilled to be moving to a new space in the Gibson Room of the Sheraton Hotel. We hope that this improved and more central location will make it easier for CONvergence members to join the HarmCON audience during the convention. Please drop by to experience everything we have to offer!

For more information about HarmCON's many amazing performers and for the most up-to-date scheduling details, please consult the CONvergence online schedule at <http://www.schedule.convergence-con.org>.

THURSDAY

- 5:30pm–6:30pm **Morgan and Maren: SlytherPuff**
Maren and Morgan: Slytherpuff perform original songs based on their favorite fandoms. Their songs range from party music to heartfelt ballads, based on fandom favorites like Harry Potter, Marvel, *Star Trek*, and more. *Maren Aalgard, Morgan Strickland*
- 7:00pm–8:00pm **The Fandom Menace**
Stepping out of the airlock into the void left by the Nick Atoms, The Fandom Menace brings a new twist to classic SF & fantasy themes from *Rocky Horror*, *Buckaroo Banzai*, *Hitchhiker's Guide*, *Labyrinth*, *Flash Gordon*, *Red Dwarf*, John Williams, and more. *Nick Rezmerski*
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **Karl Brown**
Scatological songs, Atari and toy piano. Karl Brown has been writing comedy songs over the past decade, performing them at MarsCon, FuMPFeST and other venues. Recordings have been heard on the *Dr. Demento Show*, *The FuMP Sideshow*, and *Mad Music*. *Karl Brown*
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE**
MC, Poet, Producer, and Educator performing Boom Bap Xicanx (Chicano) Futurism. Exploring future wastelands and cityscapes full of 'watch bots', sci-fi updated 'chupacabras', and 'chainsaw-handed, fire-eyed peace droids'. *Adam Rangel*
- 11:30pm–12:30am **Lyritics Presents: Geek Nation**
Lyritics (Leer-a-tiks) is a nerd-core hip-hop trio based out of Minneapolis. Opening for Lyritics will be Mr. Rogers & The Make Believe Friends. Hosted by Adam Quesnell. *Adam Quesnell, Lyritics*

FRIDAY

- 11:00am–Noon **Candles Enough**
Female filk and parody duo. We are eclectic in our music and our styles, swinging from as filthy as filthy gets to straight-up pop covers. And then the parodies. We do a lot of parodies. We sing in tight harmonies and perform with a single guitar. *Kelly Reich, Sarah Ravelly*
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Tanya Brody**
Harper-Singer-Songwriter. With the voice of an angel and the heart of a poet, Tanya Brody makes both traditional and original songs come to life and touch the soul. *Tanya Brody*

- 2:30pm–3:30pm **TryForce**
Three piece nerdy pop culture cover band from the Twin Cities. Through drums, bass and saxophone we cover all kinds of video game, movie, TV show, and popular theme songs. *Luis Benavides*
- 4:00pm–5:00pm **Ear Candy**
Female fronted electro pop punk fun!!! Hailing from Minneapolis, these ladies aim to get you on the dance floor! With synthesizers and electric guitars, costumes, and tight-ass choreographed dance routines, each live show is unique. *Carol Cunnington, Dawn Kuehl*
- 5:30pm–6:30pm **Ionosphere Casting Shadows**
High-tech guitar ambience and dream-like interludes. When does a guitar not sound like a guitar? Todd Madson's super relaxing ambient guitar soundscapes appears once more to provide a soothing alternative to the sometimes frenetic con atmosphere. *Todd Madson*
- 7:00pm–9:00pm **CONvergence Poetry Slam**
Nerds have words and we want to hear them! Sign up from 5:30pm–6:30pm at HarmCON—you may be drawn to read two three-minute poems to an audience of strangers, and watch your heart and soul assigned numeric value by our celebrity judges. *Allison Broeren, Brianna Bilyeu, Dan Marlow, Laura Bidgood, Rob Callahan, Saymoukda Vongsay, Tim Uren, Phillip Andrew Bennett Low*
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **Genius Pi**
A masterful music manipulation of epic proportions! Genius Pi, led by Zummy, is a St. Louis based nerdcare band who is always ready to rock your socks while you gawk and squawk! The agenda? Hit every genre of music known to man and beast. *Master K, Mike Zummy Zumwalt*
- 11:30pm–12:30am **Revenge of the Nerdlesque (18+)**
The nerdiest burlesque artists of the Twin Cities return to the HarmCon stage with a vengeance for another round of geek-infused burlesque and cabaret performance art! See characters from con loved movies, tv, books and comics in a whole new light. 18+. *Anjela, Holliedazzle, Killjoy Rider, Mona Montague, Opiumm Hayze, Sinasaurus Vex*

SATURDAY

- 11:00am–Noon **Alabaster Stratocaster with collaborator of 20 years Bless the Machines.**
Enjoy some awesome sci-fi music and a mesmerizingly weird alien dancer. Blend of live acoustic guitar singer-songwriter songs with prerecorded highly produced space operas. *Kevin Campbell, Niles Randolph*
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Boys Don't Make Passes At Girls Who Wear Glasses**
This comedy storytelling dorkfest will tickle you with real life observations from the geek perspective and fog up your glasses with torrid tales of nerd romance. Wait, did we say torrid? We meant awkward, embarrassing and unrequited. *Curt Lund, Laura Bidgood*
- 2:00pm–3:00pm **The Leprechaun Pirates**
Arrgh Begorah! Here be the Leprechaun Pirates! A Folk-punk Renaissance festival band. A merry band of singing pirates cursed to take the form of leprechauns. *Beth Hansen, Justin Hartley, Kent Hansen*

3:30pm–4:30pm	The Faithful Sidekicks Award winning songwriting/performing Acoustic Geek Comedy Rock duo plays funny original songs about the geeky stuff they love, like <i>Star Wars</i> , <i>Star Trek</i> , <i>Stargate</i> , coffee, cats, computers and more. <i>Eric Distad, Jen Distad</i>	8:30pm–9:30pm	Ben San Del Slacker robots, suicidal ghosts, interactive tombstones and disapproving gargoyles? A four-time Minnesota Fringe Festival Audience Pick encore winner performs original stories on these and other near-future/supernatural speculations. <i>Ben San Del</i>
5:00pm–6:00pm	Geek Comedy Showcase (18+) Featuring Aiden (stand-up comedy, not for children) and Peter the Great (stand-up comedy for cosplay conventions) <i>Aiden Milligan, Peter Haugen</i>	0:00pm–11:00pm	StarF Comedy infused nerdcore hip-hop. Come witness the magic of a local performer shouting songs about the internet, video games, taking selfies, and everything in between. <i>Alex Alverson</i>
7:00pm–8:00pm	Feng Shui Ninjas The Feng Shui Ninjas have survived attempted murder, mutilation, attempts to escape, and the Little Mermaid treatment over the past year, and triumphantly return to the HarmCon stage to, um... well, it's likely to surprise us too! <i>Dave Stagner, John Kentner, Justin Hartley, Tami Murck</i>	11:30pm–12:30am	The Dregs The Dregs are a musical comedy act that combines irreverent versions of traditional folk music with their own original songs like 'Pissing off the Geeks' and 'Satan Planted Dinosaur Bones.' <i>Molly Zupon, Paul Score, Rachael Salisbury, Susanne Becker, Tim Wick, Trevor Hartman</i>

At Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, we're looking for a few good volunteers to help us punch out poverty, Professor Poverty that is, scourge of all that's good and geeky.

At Hallie Q. Brown Community Center it is our mission to help improve the quality of life for people in our community. We do that through our programs like our food shelf, clothing closet, early learning center and more and through special initiatives like Project Superhero, Comic Book Clubs, HungerCon, and Superhero Food & Fund Drive.



But we can't do it alone. We need you! If you're looking for a chance to make a difference, check our great volunteer opportunities. We're also looking for a few really brave heroes to help start some new geeky programs. Know how to knit and want to share that skill with some young people? Want to start a D&D or Magic gaming club? Like to share your writing or drawing talent teaching others? Come on over! And get involved.

*www.hallieqbrown.org
270 N. Kent Street
St. Paul, MN, 55102
651-224-4601*

Hallie's Heroes



Visit our website to learn more about the opportunities available, submit your own ideas and find out who Professor Poverty is and how you can help to stop him.

You can make a difference by joining Hallie's Heroes and helping others. Cape optional.



Volunteer in our food shelf, clothing closet, early learning center, administration, etc. or bring your own idea.



GAMING

Gaming Front Desk (DoubleTree 22nd Floor) is open from 9:00am–12:30am each day for questions regarding activities on the floor and for signing volunteer cards.

DoubleTree 2201—Virtual Reality Games

Hours of operation will be posted in the online schedule.

DoubleTree 2202—Role-Playing Games

The Gygax-Arneson Suite—Adults only after 10:00pm

Thursday 12:30pm–Sunday 3:30pm (room is open all convention)

DoubleTree 2203—Pathfinder Society

Organized play of Paizo's Pathfinder RPG system

Thursday 12:30pm–12:30am

Friday 9:30am–12:30am

Saturday 9:30am–12:30am

Sunday 9:30am–3:30pm

DoubleTree 2204—Artemis Bridge Simulator

(Hosted by The Royal Manticoran Navy)

Thursday 12:30pm–12:30am

Friday 9:30am–12:30am

Saturday 9:30am–9:00pm

Sunday 9:30am–3:30pm

DoubleTree 2205—CONvergence Partner The Source hosts RPG and Card/Board gaming

DoubleTree 2206—Collectible Card Gaming

Thursday 12:30pm–12:30am

Friday 9:30am–12:30am

Saturday 9:30am–12:30am

Sunday 9:30am–3:30pm

DoubleTree 2207—Open Gaming and Special Events

Open continuously from Thursday 12:30pm–Sunday 3:30pm

DoubleTree 2208—Computer/LAN Gaming

Adults only after 10:00pm

Thursday 11:00am–2:00am

Friday 11:00am–2:00am

Saturday 11:00am–2:00am

Sunday 11:00am–5:00pm

Artemis Bridge Simulator (DoubleTree 2204)

Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Artemis Bridge Simulator is a cooperative game in which up to 6 players assume the role of different crew members (or "Spacers") on the bridge of a star ship. Engineering, Gunner, Helmsman, Sensor Tech, and Communications Tech each have their specialized station to go along with their role. The Captain, however, has no controls. As the Commanding Officer, it is your job to direct the crew. Together your goal is to successfully defend the sector from Skaran and Karelian invaders before time runs out!

Thursday 12:30pm–Midnight

Friday 11am–Midnight

Saturday 11am–10:00pm

Sunday 11am–3:30pm

STEAM CENTURY EVENTS

Mystery Game

An engineer in a secret project is murdered and has their plans stolen! In this interactive crime mystery, you must find evidence and talk to cast members to identify the culprit(s). Players must start by 3:00pm, answers are due by 4:45pm, and the finale is at 5:15pm.

Friday 12:30pm–5:30pm

Scavenger Hunt

Visit the room parties (we know you will anyway) to complete fun tasks. Return filled-out ballots to the gaming desk for your ribbon. Entries must be turned in by Sunday Noon.

Friday and Saturday starting at 8:00pm

THURSDAY

11:00am–12:30pm **VR Gaming Signups
DoubleTree 2201**

Virtual Reality Gaming Room opens for signups—actual time slots for VR Gaming will start at 12:30pm.

11:00am–12:30pm **Oregon Trail Card Game
DoubleTree 2202 Table A**

You have died of Chuck Norris. Wait, wrong game. Dysentery! That's what you died of! Try to make it to the Willamette Valley in this cooperative take on one of the most iconic games ever. You probably won't make it, but you can try. *Bob Wagner (mod)*

11:00am–3:30pm **Zombicide: Black Plague
DoubleTree 2202 Table B**

Take the zombie apocalypse into a fantastical medieval setting! Necromancers have unleashed a zombie invasion in the age of swords and sorcery, and it's up to your group of straggling survivors to survive, take back the realm and punish those responsible! *Eric R. Peterson (mod)*

11:00am–6:00pm **Battle Fields of Gred'Ak'El
DoubleTree 2202 Table C**

Explore the world of Myrr; create a living story, build your character personalities, and be somewhere else for a while. Bring your imagination and curiosity to this two-day D&D 5th ed. campaign designed for role-players. More info at www.myrr.world.

11:00am–5:00pm **PFS—Ire of the Storm (part 1)
DoubleTree 2203 Table A**

Pridon's Hearth is Sargava's newest colony, pushing the country's borders further south than ever before and attracting treasure-hunters, fortune-seekers, and troubled souls hoping for a fresh start. (Level 1–5) (3-day event)



Steam Century Red
Ribbon Society

11:00am–12:30pm	Bridge Simulator Signups—Artemis / Valkyrie DoubleTree 2204 Sign up to play (and maybe even play right away) on the Artemis / Valkyrie bridge simulators. Each attendee may sign up for one play per bridge per day, and signups are available each morning for that day only.	12:30pm–1:25pm	Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
11:00am–6:00pm	MTG—Casual Magic: the Gathering DoubleTree 2206 Table A Magic: the Gathering room open for casual play / playtesting / deckbuilding, etc.	12:30pm–2:00pm	Dominion DoubleTree 2205 Table B Come play Dominion, the breakthrough board game that created the deck-building genre! We'll have all expansions through Empire available with the revised Second Edition base and Intrigue cards. Setup will be adjusted based on player experience. <i>Carl Patten (mod), Tammy Anderson (mod)</i>
11:00am–6:00pm	MTG—Casual Magic: the Gathering DoubleTree 2206 Table B Magic: the Gathering room open for casual play / playtesting / deckbuilding, etc.	12:30pm–2:00pm	Kitsune: Spirit Chase! DoubleTree 2207 Table C Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! <i>Ian Price (mod), Susan Price (mod)</i>
11:00am–12:30pm	LAN—Open Gaming DoubleTree 2208 Start your CONvergence right—come up to LAN Gaming and check out the new games on the computers!	12:30pm–3:30pm	LAN—League of Legends Tourney DoubleTree 2208 One of the most popular games in the world. Team tournament matches will be held during the morning, with finals on Saturday. Also available for team play during open gaming/late night gaming. PERSONAL ACCOUNT REQUIRED**
11:30am–12:25pm	Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.	1:00pm–1:55pm	Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
Noon–6:30pm	PFS—Quests! DoubleTree 2203 Table C A series of one hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Pathfinder Society play!	1:30pm–2:25pm	Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
Noon–12:55pm	Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.	2:00pm–3:30pm	Exploding Kittens DoubleTree 2202 Table A Mew. BOOM! What's more fun than Russian Roulette? Russian Roulette with exploding cats! Come play the kickstarter phenomenon of cats, explosions and inappropriate humor! <i>Bob Wagner (mod)</i>
12:30pm–9:30pm	Virtual Reality Gaming DoubleTree 2201 Virtual Reality Gaming was an incredibly popular addition to LAN last year. Due to its popularity, VR now has its own room this year—come check it out!	2:00pm–3:30pm	Splendor DoubleTree 2202 Table D Playing the part of a Renaissance Merchant, you attempt to buy gem mines, transportation, shops, etc. The more prestige you have, the more prestige you can acquire! <i>Jennifer Bergk (mod)</i>
12:30pm–2:00pm	Redshirts DoubleTree 2202 Table A "I need volunteers for a mission!" "Is it a suicide mission?" "Dude, look what we're wearing. Of course, it's a suicide mission!" Select a mission. Select a crew. Kill them off. You really do suck as a captain, don't you? <i>Bob Wagner (mod)</i>	2:00pm–2:55pm	Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
12:30pm–2:00pm	Diamond Dust Dreams Game Demos DoubleTree 2202 Table D If you've never had the chance to try out Kitsune: Foxes and Fools or Bad Decisions, this is for you—demos of these two games will alternate on this table TH / SA / SU. If you've already played these two, head to table C for Kitsune: Spirit Chase!		
12:30pm–7:00pm	PFS—Hall of the Flesh Eaters DoubleTree 2203 Table B The Gloomspires have long remained a mystery, but a recent discovery has revealed a brief opportunity to enter and search for the treasure of the pirate Sevenfingers. (Levels 1–5)		

THURSDAY CONTINUED

2:00pm–2:00am	<p>Sword of Air DoubleTree 2205 Table A A spinoff of Sword of Barakus, starting fresh at Level 1—bring characters generated using the 25-point buy model in the D&D 3.5 ed. DMG, *or* play a pre-generated character. All characters must be human or demi-human—no exotics, please! (D&D 3.5 ed) <i>Burl Zorn (mod)</i></p>	3:30pm–5:00pm	<p>LAN—CounterStrike: Global Offensive DoubleTree 2208 Updated version of the classic team-based objective-oriented first-person shooter game by Valve. Round based team gameplay.</p>
2:00pm–3:30pm	<p>Kitsune: Spirit Chase! DoubleTree 2207 Table C Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! <i>Ian Price (mod), Susan Price (mod)</i></p>	4:00pm–4:55pm	<p>Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>
2:00pm–3:30pm	<p>Diamond Dust Dreams Game Demos DoubleTree 2207 Table D If you've never had the chance to try out Kitsune: Foxes and Fools or Bad Decisions, this is for you—demos of these two games will alternate on this table TH / SA / SU. If you've already played these two, head to table C for Kitsune: Spirit Chase!</p>	4:30pm–5:25pm	<p>Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>
2:30pm–3:25pm	<p>Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>	5:00pm–6:30pm	<p>Splendor DoubleTree 2202 Table A Playing the part of a Renaissance Merchant, you attempt to buy gem mines, transportation, shops, etc. The point of the game is to acquire more prestige than your opponents, including those things that only increase your prestige further! <i>Eric R. Peterson (mod)</i></p>
3:00pm–3:55pm	<p>Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>	5:00pm–8:30pm	<p>Para-thulu-zombi-noia! DoubleTree 2202 Table B Trust No One; keep your laser pistol and powder of ibn ghazi ready! Mother computer sends YOU, an elite troubleshooter, on a mission of utmost importance, to help keep at bay the things from beyond space and time. Eat eel-flesh! Guzzle Bubbly Beverage! <i>Robert "Ski" Cudinski (mod)</i></p>
3:30pm–5:00pm	<p>Sheriff of Nottingham DoubleTree 2202 Table A Players are merchants, who see Prince John's visit to Nottingham as an opportunity to make quick profits by selling goods in the bustling city during the Prince's visit! If you can get them through the Sheriff-controlled gates... (age 16+) <i>Eric R. Peterson (mod)</i></p>	5:00pm–6:30pm	<p>Cat-themed Card Games DoubleTree 2202 Table D Come learn to play Exploding Kittens, Kittens in a Blender, and Here, Kitty Kitty. <i>Jennifer Bergk (mod)</i></p>
3:30pm–5:00pm	<p>Fluxx / SushiGo / Roll For It DoubleTree 2202 Table D Come play (and learn) some quick, affordable, travel-sized games (Sushi-Go, Fluxx, Roll For It). Games will be started as folks arrive; no need to stay for the whole block—drop in and out as you please. <i>Jennifer Bergk (mod)</i></p>	5:00pm–10:00pm	<p>PFS—The Twisted Circle DoubleTree 2203 Table A Investigations suggest that ancient magical power is at play in a small country town. Can you uncover the truth while braving the residents' eccentricities? (New & Experienced players welcome. Levels 1–5)</p>
3:30pm–4:25pm	<p>Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>	5:00pm–5:55pm	<p>Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>
3:30pm–5:00pm	<p>Kitsune: Spirit Chase! DoubleTree 2207 Table C Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! <i>Susan Price (mod)</i></p>	5:00pm–10:00pm	<p>Deep Cover DoubleTree 2207 Table A You have been hired to investigate why Krant uses the majority of its Helium rather than shipping it off world. Your employer believes that "Apillian Base," an R&D center located in an ocean below the icy surface, lies at the depths of this mystery. <i>Jeremy Thigpen</i></p>
3:30pm–5:00pm	<p>Diamond Dust Dreams Game Demos DoubleTree 2207 Table D If you've never had the chance to try out Kitsune: Foxes and Fools or Bad Decisions, this is for you! Once you've played the original Kitsune game, head</p>	5:00pm–10:00pm	<p>The Vonumnus Pit DoubleTree 2207 Table B The only bit of civilization on Vonumnus is an abandoned ship that set down here years ago: which you feel is a good thing as you step out of</p>

	your downed escape pod and onto the planet's surface. <i>Jeb Worrall (mod)</i>	7:00pm–Midnight	PFS—Between the Lines DoubleTree 2203 Table B What is at first a routine shopping trip spirals out of control as the PCs uncover the writing's secret past and secret messages. (Levels 1–5. New and experienced players welcome!)
5:00pm–6:30pm	Kitsune: Spirit Chase! DoubleTree 2207 Table C Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! <i>Susan Price (mod)</i>	7:00pm–7:55pm	Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
5:00pm–6:00pm	Diamond Dust Dreams Game Demos DoubleTree 2207 Table D If you've never had the chance to try out Kitsune: Foxes and Fools or Bad Decisions, this is for you! Once you've played the original Kitsune: Foxes and Fools, head to the next table to play Diamond Dust's newest game, Kitsune: Spirit Chase!	7:00pm–8:30pm	Kitsune: Spirit Chase! DoubleTree 2207 Table C Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! <i>Susan Price</i>
5:00pm–6:00pm	LAN—Starcraft DoubleTree 2208 Blizzard's Classic Starcraft is back and available to play. Bot Stomps and Versus modes encouraged.	7:00pm–8:30pm	Diamond Dust Dreams Game Demos DoubleTree 2207 Table D If you've never had the chance to try out Kitsune: Foxes and Fools or Bad Decisions, this is for you! Once you've played Kitsune: Foxes and Fools, head to table C for Diamond Dust's newest game, Kitsune: Spirit Chase!
5:30pm–6:25pm	Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.	7:00pm–10:00pm	LAN—Overwatch DoubleTree 2208 Overwatch ended the crisis, and helped maintain peace in the decades that followed... but, after many years, Overwatch's influence waned, and it was disbanded. Conflict is rising across the world again... are you with us? *PERSONAL ACCOUNT REQUIRED*
6:00pm–6:55pm	Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.	7:30pm–8:25pm	Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
6:00pm–1:00am	MTG—Amonkhet Booster Draft DoubleTree 2206 Table A Booster draft with Amonkhet (newest current) set. Come test your skill against your opponents' on Nicol Bolas' turf. The Will of the Gods may yet be your undoing! (\$15—event tickets at Dreamer's Vault Games Dealer booth).	8:00pm–8:55pm	Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
6:00pm–9:00pm	MTG—Standard Constructed DoubleTree 2206 Table B Standard Constructed Magic: the Gathering. Standard-legal decks only, please. Players are responsible for knowing current banned and restricted lists! (\$8—event tickets at Dreamer's Vault Games Dealer booth)	8:30pm–9:25pm	Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
6:30pm–11:30pm	PFS—Quests! DoubleTree 2203 Table C A series of one hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Pathfinder Society play!	8:30pm–10:00pm	Kitsune: Spirit Chase! DoubleTree 2207 Table C Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! <i>Susan Price</i>
6:30pm–7:25pm	Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.	8:30pm–10:00pm	Diamond Dust Dreams Game Demos DoubleTree 2207 Table D If you've never had the chance to try out Kitsune: Foxes and Fools or Bad Decisions, this is for you! Once you've played the original Kitsune: Foxes and Fools, head to table C to play Diamond Dust's newest game, Kitsune: Spirit Chase!
7:00pm–8:30pm	Roadkill Rally DoubleTree 2202 Table A Gentlemen, start your engines! Pedestrians, watch your @\$es! If you've ever seen either Death Race movie you've got the idea of what Roadkill Rally is about: the size of your gun and the speed of your ride—what's more American than that? <i>Bob Wagner (mod)</i>		

THURSDAY CONTINUED

- 9:00pm–9:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 9:00pm–1:00am **MTG—Chaos Draft**
DoubleTree 2206 Table B
Choose from any 15-card-pack set of Magic: the Gathering, draft, and have some fun. This is a casual limited format. (\$15—event tickets at Dreamer's Vault Games Dealer booth).
- 9:30pm–10:25pm **Valkyrie Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 10:00pm–1:00am **Virtual Reality Gaming: Adult Hours**
DoubleTree 2201
Adult only hours for Virtual Reality Gaming—come have some grown-up fun in the VR Room after the kids are put to bed!
- 10:00pm–11:30pm **Joking Hazard (18+)**
DoubleTree 2202 Table A
Do you like to laugh? Do you make other people wince when you tell a joke or story? Joking Hazard is the game for you! You and your sick friends use cards to try and make the most offensive comic strip possible. (ADULT 18+ ONLY, WITH ID) *Bob Wagner*
- 10:00pm–1:00am **Innuend-oooooh!**
DoubleTree 2202 Table C
Have a dirty mind? Like playing inappropriate games? Come playtest a new game—give clues, draw, and act out decidedly inappropriate words to try to get your teammates to guess them. Enter the drawing for the chance to win a free game!
- 10:00pm–2:00am **Cards Against Humanity (21+)**
DoubleTree 2202 Table D
Anna Katherine Hagen-Heine Memorial game of CAH. Bring your ID, your memories of Anna, your twisted sense of humor, your innocent face, and your own alcohol, and prepare to have a *wonderful* time. (ADULT 21+ ONLY, WITH ID) (Tables D and E). *Joel Gruetzmacher (mod)*
- 10:00pm–10:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 10:00pm–1:00am **LAN—Late-Night Gaming**
DoubleTree 2208
LAN Gaming goes adult-only (18+)—come play your favorite LAN games without “little ears” in the room!
- 10:30pm–11:25pm **Valkyrie Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.

- 11:00pm–11:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 11:30pm–4:00am **Zombies and Life**
DoubleTree 2207 Table A
Zombies are the main theme of the game—you are trying desperately to either find (or destroy) a cure to the Zombie Plague. Expect twists and turns in the plot. 3-day game, with opportunities for repeat players to advance, though new players are welcome. *Quinn Caerwyn (mod)*

FRIDAY

- 9:00am–5:00pm **PFS—Ire of the Storm (part 2)**
DoubleTree 2203 Table A
Pridon's Hearth is Sargava's newest colony, pushing the country's borders further south than ever before and attracting treasure-hunters, fortune-seekers, and troubled souls hoping for a fresh start. (Continues from TH—3-day module)
- 10:30am–Noon **Kitsune: Spirit Chase!**
DoubleTree 2202 Table F
Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! *Susan Price (mod)*
- 11:00am–9:30pm **VR Gaming Signups**
DoubleTree 2201
Virtual Reality Gaming Room is open for signups—actual time slots for gaming will start at 12:30pm.
- 11:00am–12:30pm **Oregon Trail Card Game**
DoubleTree 2202 Table A
You have died of Chuck Norris. Wait, wrong game. Dysentery! That's what you died of! Try to make it to the Willamette Valley in this cooperative take on one of the most iconic games ever. You probably won't but you can try? *Bob Wagner (mod)*
- 11:00am–2:00pm **Power Grid**
DoubleTree 2202 Table C
In this complex Eurogame, your goal is to supply the most cities with power when someone's network gains a pre-determined size; additionally, players can mark pre-existing routes between cities, and then bid against each other to power their cities. *Eric R. Peterson (mod)*
- 11:00am–12:30pm **Settlers of Catan**
DoubleTree 2202 Table D
Come learn and play the classic board game that spawned endless wood-for-sheep jokes—you play a settler, racing through Catan to develop your settlements. *Jennifer Bergk (mod)*
- 11:00am–7:00pm **Battle Fields of Gred'Ak'El**
DoubleTree 2202 Table E
(Day 2) Explore the world of Myrr with its living stories and character development, and be somewhere else for a while. Bring your imagination and curiosity to this two-day D&D 5th ed. campaign designed for role-players. More info at www.myrr.world.
- 11:00am–12:30pm **Bridge Simulator Signups—Artemis / Valkyrie**
DoubleTree 2204
Sign up to play (and maybe even play right away) on the Artemis / Valkyrie bridge simulators. Each attendee may sign up for one play per bridge per day, and signups are available each morning for that day only.

11:00am–11:55am **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.

11:00am–Noon **MTG—Amonkhet Booster Draft**
DoubleTree 2206 Table A
Booster draft with Amonkhet (newest current) set. Come test your skill against your opponents' on Nicol Bolas' turf. The Will of the Gods may yet be your undoing! (\$15—event tickets at Dreamer's Vault Games Dealer booth).

11:00am–12:30pm **MTG—Casual Magic: the Gathering**
DoubleTree 2206 Table B
Table open for casual CCG play—playtesting, commander, casual standard games, etc. Next event on this table starts at 12:30 pm.

11:00am–12:30pm **LAN—Open Gaming**
DoubleTree 2208
Start your day by blowing up pixels—come up to LAN Gaming and check out the new games on the computers!

11:30am–12:25pm **Valkyrie Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.

Noon–1:30pm **Kitsune: Spirit Chase!**
DoubleTree 2202 Table F
Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! *Susan Price*

Noon–12:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.

12:30pm–1:30pm **Virtual Reality Gaming**
DoubleTree 2201
Virtual Reality Game Slots begin for Friday—come find out why folks look like they're shadow-boxing in 2201!

12:30pm–2:00pm **Exploding Kittens**
DoubleTree 2202 Table A
Mew. BOOM! What's more fun than Russian Roulette? Russian Roulette with exploding cats! Come play the kickstarter phenomenon of cats, explosions and inappropriate humor!
Bob Wagner (mod)

12:30pm–2:00pm **Takenoko**
DoubleTree 2202 Table D
Cultivate, irrigate, and grow one of 3 species of bamboo with help from the Imperial Gardener. Warning: The Sacred Panda is VERY hungry—she who best manages her plots and grows the most bamboo, while feeding the delicate appetite of the Panda, wins. *Jennifer Bergk (mod)*

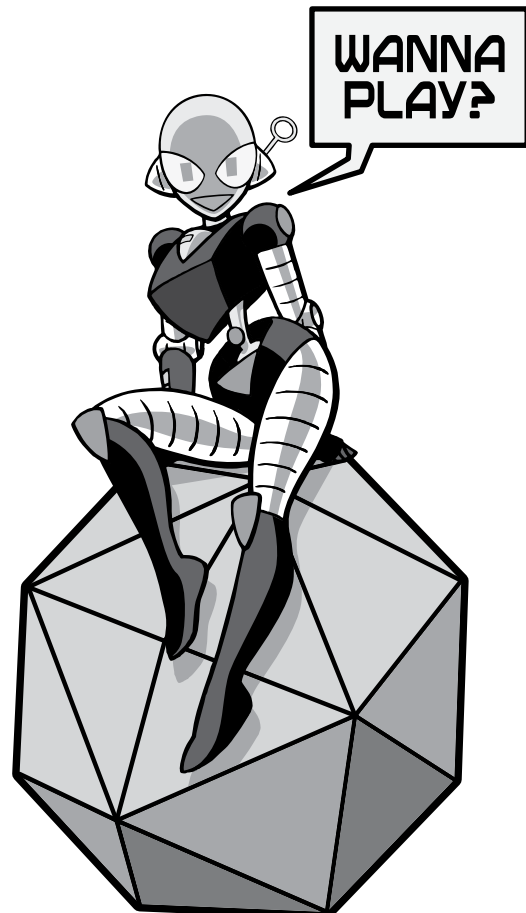
12:30pm–5:00pm **PFS—The Consortium Compact**
DoubleTree 2203 Table B
It's up to the PCs to navigate Diobel—a proud town run by cutthroat smugglers: earn a defector's trust, and deal a telling blow to their Aspis foes. (Levels—New and experienced players welcome!)

12:30pm–5:00pm **PFS—Quests!**
DoubleTree 2203 Table C
A series of one hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Pathfinder Society play!

12:30pm–1:25pm **Valkyrie Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.

12:30pm–2:00pm **Galaxy Tracker**
DoubleTree 2205 Table B
Welcome, Trucker! Build your ship in real-time out of whatever parts you can grab, then race the other truckers to deliver it and hope your ship survives! Those sewer pipes won't fly themselves!
Carl Patten (mod), Tammy Anderson (mod)

12:30pm–5:30pm **Steam Century Mystery**
DoubleTree 2207
An engineer in a top-secret project is murdered and plans stolen! In this interactive crime mystery, you must find evidence and talk to cast members to identify the culprit(s). Must start by 3:00, answers due by 4:45, and the finale is at 5:15.



FRIDAY CONTINUED

12:30pm–3:30pm	<p>LAN—League of Legends Tourney DoubleTree 2208 One of the most popular games in the world. Team tournament matches will be held during the morning, with finals on Saturday afternoon. Also available for team play during open gaming/late night gaming. PERSONAL ACCOUNT REQUIRED**</p>	2:00pm–2:55pm	<p>Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>
1:00pm–1:55pm	<p>Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>	2:00pm–2:00am	<p>Sword of Air DoubleTree 2205 Table A A spinoff of the legendary Sword of Barakus, this episode starts at Level 1—players bring characters generated using the 25-point buy model in the 3.5 DMG, *or* can play a pre-gen. All characters must be human or demi-human, no exotics, please. <i>Burl Zorn (mod)</i></p>
1:00pm–5:00pm	<p>MTG—Standard Constructed DoubleTree 2206 Table B Standard Constructed Magic: the Gathering. Standard-legal decks only, please. Players are responsible for knowing current banned and restricted lists! (\$8 event tickets at Dreamer's Vault Games Dealer booth)</p>	2:30pm–3:25pm	<p>Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>
1:30pm–2:25pm	<p>Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>	3:00pm–3:55pm	<p>Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>
2:00pm–8:30pm	<p>Vampires Don't Sparkle DoubleTree 2202 Table A Something weird's going on. Your cousin Kirk suspects Mole People; you suspect his mom drank oven cleaner while pregnant. Gilmore Girls meets the best-selling Monster Hunters Int'l books! Evil looms. Cowboy Up. Kill It. Get Paid. Coffee at Luke's. <i>Bob Wagner (mod)</i></p>	3:00pm–7:00pm	<p>MTG—Chaos Draft DoubleTree 2206 Table A Choose from any 15-card-pack set of Magic: the Gathering, draft, and have some fun. This is a casual limited format. (\$15—event tickets at Dreamer's Vault Games Dealer booth).</p>
2:00pm–5:00pm	<p>Para-thulu-zombi-noia! DoubleTree 2202 Table B Trust No One; keep your laser pistol and powder of ibn ghazi ready! Mother computer sends YOU, an elite troubleshooter, on a mission of utmost importance, to help keep at bay the things from beyond space and time. Eat eel-flesh! Guzzle Bubbly Beverage! <i>Robert "Ski" Cudinski (mod)</i></p>	3:30pm–5:00pm	<p>Fluxx / SushiGo / Roll For It DoubleTree 2202 Table D Come play (or learn) some quick, affordable, travel-sized games (Sushi-Go, Fluxx, Roll For It). Games will be started as folks arrive; no need to stay for the whole block—drop in and out as you please. <i>Jennifer Bergk (mod)</i></p>
2:00pm–5:00pm	<p>Marvel Legendary DoubleTree 2202 Table C Deck Building Game set in the Marvel Comics Universe. Battle other players with heroes, villains, and if you're strong enough, take on the Mastermind! Age 16+ <i>Eric R. Peterson (mod)</i></p>	3:30pm–5:00pm	<p>Kitsune: Spirit Chase! DoubleTree 2202 Table F Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! <i>Susan Price (mod)</i></p>
2:00pm–3:30pm	<p>Splendor DoubleTree 2202 Table D Playing the part of a Renaissance Merchant, you attempt to buy gem mines, transportation, shops, etc. The point of the game is to acquire more prestige than your opponents, including things that only increase your prestige further! <i>Jennifer Bergk</i></p>	3:30pm–4:25pm	<p>Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>
2:00pm–3:30pm	<p>Kitsune: Spirit Chase! DoubleTree 2202 Table F Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! <i>Susan Price (mod)</i></p>	3:30pm–5:00pm	<p>LAN—Counter Strike: Global Offensive DoubleTree 2208 Updated version of the classic team-based objective-oriented first-person shooter game by Valve. Round based team gameplay.</p>
		4:00pm–4:55pm	<p>Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>

4:30pm–5:25pm	<p>Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>	5:30pm–6:25pm	<p>Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>
5:00pm–8:30pm	<p>Terran Revenge Fleet DoubleTree 2202 Table B They came for Earth but left the job half done. Earth rebuilt, unified by a single thought: REVENGE! Come join us for one of possibly the best Con games around, Terran Revenge Fleet! An amazing system will have you playing a character within 30 seconds. <i>Robert "Ski" Cudinski (mod)</i></p>	6:00pm–6:55pm	<p>Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>
5:00pm–8:30pm	<p>Firefly Board Game DoubleTree 2202 Table C Start with a captain and a ship, hire and equip a crew, travel the 'Verse to complete jobs and get paid while avoiding Reavers, Alliance patrols and rival captains who may be pirates. (Also on 2202d; All experience levels welcome, age 13+)</p>	6:30pm–8:00pm	<p>Kitsune: Spirit Chase! DoubleTree 2202 Table F Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! <i>Susan Price</i></p>
5:00pm–6:30pm	<p>Kitsune: Spirit Chase! DoubleTree 2202 Table F Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! <i>Susan Price (mod)</i></p>	6:30pm–7:25pm	<p>Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>
5:00pm–10:00pm	<p>PFS—The Night March of Kalkamedes DoubleTree 2203 Table A A Pathfinder is sleepwalking, traveling through the dark night alone. A team of Pathfinders must escort him to his destination and find the cause of the strange phenomenon. (Levels 1–5)</p>	7:00pm–7:55pm	<p>Artemis Bridge Simulator with Tracee Cocco DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot. <i>Tracee Lee Cocco</i></p>
5:00pm–10:00pm	<p>PFS—Ungrounded but Unbroken DoubleTree 2203 Table B Pathfinders join the Ungrounded, a mercenary squad on the Plane of Earth, knowing that a few months' service could enhance the Society's reputation in this distant realm. (Levels 1–5)</p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Mysterium DoubleTree 2205 Table B A group of psychics are conducting a séance to solve a mysterious murder. The ghost (one of the players) can only give clues in the form of images. Run out of time and the ghost vanishes for a year (try again at CONvergence 2018!) <i>Carl Patten (mod), Tammy Anderson (mod)</i></p>
5:00pm–10:00pm	<p>PFS—Quests! DoubleTree 2203 Table C A series of one hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Pathfinder Society play!</p>	7:00pm–11:00pm	<p>MTG—Amonkhet Booster Draft DoubleTree 2206 Table A Booster draft with Amonkhet (newest current) set. Come test your skill against your opponents! in a world very much like Ancient Egypt. The Will of the Gods may yet be your undoing! (\$15—event tickets at Dreamer's Vault Games Dealer booth).</p>
5:00pm–5:55pm	<p>Artemis Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Artemis Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>	7:00pm–11:00pm	<p>MTG—Commander / EDH Group Games DoubleTree 2206 Table B Bring your EDH / Commander deck and come play! Commander-legal decks only, please. Players are responsible for knowing banned / restricted lists for the format. (\$10—event tickets at Dreamer's Vault Games Dealer Booth)</p>
5:00pm–7:00pm	<p>MTG—Modern Constructed DoubleTree 2206 Table B Modern Constructed Magic: the Gathering. Modern-legal decks only, please. Players are responsible for knowing current banned and restricted lists! (\$8 event tickets at Dreamer's Vault Games Dealer booth)</p>	7:30pm–8:25pm	<p>Valkyrie Bridge Simulator DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.</p>
5:00pm–8:30pm	<p>LAN—Overwatch DoubleTree 2208 Overwatch ended the crisis, and helped maintain peace in the decades that followed... but, after many years, Overwatch's influence waned, and it was disbanded. Conflict is rising across the world again... are you with us? *PERSONAL ACCOUNT REQUIRED*</p>	8:00pm–9:30pm	<p>Kitsune: Spirit Chase! DoubleTree 2202 Table F Those foxes are at it again! During an innocent prank, they let evil spirits loose from the shrine. Help them catch the spirits before the Elder Kitsune finds out! <i>Susan Price (mod)</i></p>

FRIDAY CONTINUED

- 8:00pm–8:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator with Tracee Cocco**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
Tracee Lee Cocco
- 8:30pm–9:25pm **Valkyrie Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 8:30pm–11:30pm **Trivia: To Infinity and Beyond!**
DoubleTree 2207
We're back again with trivia and this time it is space opera flavored! Bring a good friend (or someone who knows more than any human should about space operas) to be your partner. Put your knowledge to the test! Eat candy! Win prizes*!
Alicia Beck (mod)
- 8:30pm–10:00pm **LAN—Open Gaming**
DoubleTree 2208
Play any of our games, but be warned—those under 18 will be asked to move on at 10:00 PM so that grownups can play grown-up games!
- 9:00pm–9:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 9:30pm–10:25pm **Valkyrie Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 10:00pm–1:00am **Virtual Reality Gaming: Adult Hours**
DoubleTree 2201
Adult only hours for Virtual Reality Gaming—come have some grown-up fun in the VR Room after the kids are put to bed!
- 10:00pm–11:30pm **Joking Hazard (18+)**
DoubleTree 2202 Table A
Do you like to laugh? Do you make other people wince when you tell a joke or story? Joking Hazard is the game for you! You and your sick friends use cards to try and make the most offensive comic strip possible. (ADULT 18+ ONLY, WITH ID)
Bob Wagner (mod)
- 10:00pm–1:00am **Innuend-oooh!**
DoubleTree 2202 Table C
Have a dirty mind? Like playing inappropriate games? Come playtest a new game—give clues, draw, and act out decidedly inappropriate words to try to get your teammates to guess them. Enter the drawing for the chance to win a free game!
- 10:00pm–1:00am **FIASCO!**
DoubleTree 2203
Inspired by cinematic tropes, Fiasco is a group storytelling game in which character ambitions run high, impulse control is low, and chaos reigns supreme. Co-hosts Lauren Sindt and Robert “Ski”

Cudinski keep the game going and the laughs rolling! *Lauren Sindt (mod), Robert “Ski” Cudinski (mod)*

- 10:00pm–10:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 10:00pm–2:00am **LAN—Late Night Gaming**
DoubleTree 2208
LAN goes adult-only for late-night gaming, so grown-ups can play grown-up games (and sometimes use grown-up language) without worrying about “little ears” in the room!
- 10:30pm–11:25pm **Valkyrie Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 11:00pm–11:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 11:30pm–4:00am **Zombies and Life**
DoubleTree 2207 Table A
Zombies are the main theme of the game—you are trying desperately to either find (or destroy) a cure to the Zombie Plague. Expect twists and turns in the plot. 3-day game, with opportunities for repeat players to advance, though new players are welcome. *Quinn Caerwyn (mod)*

SATURDAY

- 9:30am–3:30p **PFS—Ire of the Storm (part 3)**
DoubleTree 2203 Table A
Pridon's Hearth is Sargava's newest colony, pushing the country's borders further south than ever before and attracting treasure-hunters, fortune-seekers, and troubled souls hoping for a fresh start. (Continues from TH / F) (Levels 1–5)
- 11:00am–11:55am **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 11:30am–12:25pm **Valkyrie Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.

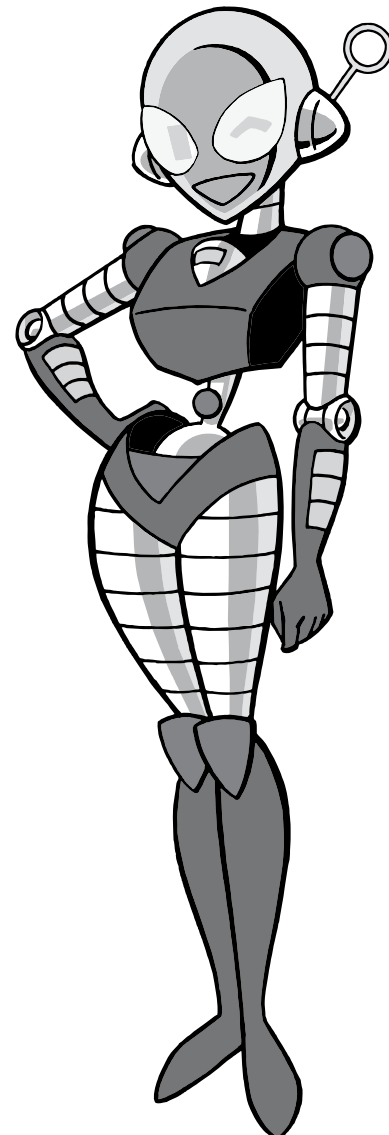
SATURDAY CONTINUED

- 8:00pm–8:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
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DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
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DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
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- 1:30pm–2:25pm **Valkyrie Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 2:00pm–2:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
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SUNDAY

- 11:00am–11:55am **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 11:30am–12:25pm **Valkyrie Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- Noon–12:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 12:30pm–1:25pm **Valkyrie Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Valkyrie
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Valkyrie Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Valkyrie, it does not reserve you for the time slot.
- 1:00pm–1:55pm **Artemis Bridge Simulator**
DoubleTree 2204 Artemis
Come play in our two unique and customized bridges for the Artemis Bridge Simulator! Physical sign-up sheets will be available in the room daily. The online Sched system is for interest in playing Artemis, it does not reserve you for the time slot.



THE WORLD IS COMING BACK TO THE BAY!

WORLD CONTE SAN JOSE 2018

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**PIERRE & SANDY
PETTINGER**

**BOB
WILKINS**
(GHOST OF HONOR)



**EDGAR
PANGBORN**
(GHOST OF HONOR)



**CHELSEA
QUINN
YARBRO**



**SPIDER
ROBINSON**



Make the Future

The McEnery Convention Center
San Jose - California - August 16-20, 2018

THEATER ANIME ROOM

Come join us in DoubleTree Atrium 1 for classic anime of yesterday and today, gallons of chai latte, and plenty of Japanese snacks. Remember to enter the prize drawing, then show up after Evangelion Redeath, a little after midnight on Saturday night, for your chance to win fabulous prizes!

DoubleTree Atrium 1 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday Noon–3:00am Friday morning
 Friday 7:00am–3:00am Saturday morning
 Saturday 7:00am–3:00am Sunday morning
 Sunday 7:00am–3:00pm

THURSDAY

- 11:30am–12:30am **Nescaflowne**—*R Parody Dub*
 Meet Hitmi, an average Japanese high-school girl who finds herself whisked away to the magical world of Java, where conflict is brewing between the kingdom of Folgeria and the Starbach Empire. Could it be that Hitmi has the power to save the day? If you don't know the answer to that, you probably haven't seen much anime.
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Nescaflowne**—*R Parody Dub*
 Meet Hitmi, an average Japanese high-school girl who finds herself whisked away to the magical world of Java, where conflict is brewing between the kingdom of Folgeria and the Starbach Empire. Could it be that Hitmi has the power to save the day? If you don't know the answer to that, you probably haven't seen much anime.
- 1:30pm–2:30pm **Nescaflowne**—*R Parody Dub*
 Meet Hitmi, an average Japanese high-school girl who finds herself whisked away to the magical world of Java, where conflict is brewing between the kingdom of Folgeria and the Starbach Empire. Could it be that Hitmi has the power to save the day? If you don't know the answer to that, you probably haven't seen much anime.
- 2:00pm–4:00pm **The Boy and the Beast**—*PG-13 Subtitled*
 Nine-year-old Ren runs away to the mean streets of Shibuya, where he gets lost in a maze of alleyways and finds himself in the strange land of Shibuten, the beast realm. There, he meets Kumatsesu, a fierce warrior who is feared but not especially liked or respected. Each has much they can teach the other, but with their equally stubborn prides nothing is going to be easy.
- 4:00pm–5:30pm **Mass Effect: Paragon Lost**—*R Dubbed*
 James Vega leads an elite squad against a mysterious alien threat known as The Collectors. Stationed at a colony in a remote star system, Vega and his soldiers must protect the civilians from a ruthless invasion trying to capture them for unknown purposes.
- 5:30pm–7:30pm **Iria: Zeiram the Animation**—*R Subtitled*
 Iria is apprenticed to her older brother, a veteran bounty hunter. They head out on a rescue mission to a hijacked spaceship. The hijacker is a seemingly indestructible alien called Zeiram, who broke out of the cargo hold during transit and began to massacre the crew.
- 7:30pm–9:30pm **Knights of Sidonia**—*R Subtitled*
 After the destruction of the Earth, the remnants of humanity flee across the galaxy aboard giant seed ships. In the year 3394, Nagate Tanikaze surfaces from his lifelong seclusion deep within the seed ship Sidonia in search of food on the upper levels.
- 9:30pm–11:30pm **Vision of Escaflowne**—*PG-13 Dubbed*
 Meet Hitomi, an average Japanese high-school girl who finds herself whisked away to the magical world of Gaea, where tensions are rising between the kingdom of Fanelia and the Zaiabach Empire. Could it be that Hitomi has the power to save the day? If you don't know the answer to that, you probably haven't seen much anime.
- 11:30pm–12:30am **Nescaflowne**—*R Parody Dub*
 Meet Hitmi, an average Japanese high-school girl who finds herself whisked away to the magical world of Java, where conflict is brewing between the kingdom of Folgeria and the Starbach Empire. Could it be that Hitmi has the power to save the day? If you don't know the answer to that, you probably haven't seen much anime.

FRIDAY

- 12:30am–2:30am **Overlord**—*R Subbed*
 The final hour of the popular virtual reality game Yggdrasil comes at midnight. Momonga, a powerful wizard, decides to spend the last few moments before the servers shut down in the game. When the clock strikes midnight, Momonga awakens as his character and, moreover, the non-player characters appear to have developed personalities of their own!
- 7:00am–9:00am **Arcadia of My Youth**—*PG-13 Subtitled*
 Two pilots pledge a bond of eternal friendship during World War II. In the 30th century, their descendants must fight for the freedom of humanity when the Earth is conquered by an alien empire.
- 9:00am–11:00am **Crest of the Stars**—*PG-13 Subtitled*
 Jinto Lynn's family gave their planet to the conquering Abh in exchange for a high position in Abh society, and Jinto was raised as Abh nobility. On his way to military school to further his education, he finds himself in the middle of a war between human rebels and the Abh.
- 11:00am–12:30pm **Chi's New Address**—*G Subtitled*
 Chi is an adorable kitten with a loving family. Now that the Yamadas have moved to an apartment that allows pets, Chi can have all sort of new adventures!
- 12:30pm–2:30pm **Toward the Terra**—*PG-13 Subtitled*
 When 14-year-old Jomy begins to question the way his seemingly utopian society is run, he becomes a target for both the government and the Mu, an outcast race who have been fighting the government for generations. Now, each group is determined to hunt him down.
- 2:30pm–4:00pm **Mobile Suit Gundam**—*PG-13 Dubbed*
 In the year 0079, humanity has colonized space. One colony declares war on the Earth Federation and uses humanoid robots to quickly gain the upper hand. Nine months into the conflict, Earth has developed its own mobile suits, and a civilian suddenly finds himself thrown into the conflict against the enemy's ace pilot.
- 4:00pm–6:00pm **The Big O**—*PG-13 Dubbed*
 Roger Smith is a professional negotiator in the mysterious Paradigm City. With his loyal butler, a snarky android and a gargantuan mecha known as Big O, Roger slowly discovers the truth about a calamity that befell the city 40 years ago.
- 6:00pm–8:00pm **Outlaw Star**—*R Dubbed*
 Gene Starwind always dreamed of piloting his own ship, and he finally gets his chance when he takes a job from a treasure-hunting outlaw. Tasked with protecting the mysterious girl Melfina, Gene and his ragtag crew encounter bounty hunters, Taoist mages and catgirls in search of answers about her past.
- 8:00pm–9:30pm **Gunbuster 2: Diebuster**—*R Subtitled*
 As intergalactic war with the space monsters continues, Earth's only hope lies in the hands of an elite group of young pilots in possession of giant robots called Buster Machines. Rookie pilot Nono wants to become the best pilot and win the approval of ace Lal'C. Nono looks up to Lal'C as a "big sister," but Lal'C wants nothing to do with her.
- 9:30pm–11:30pm **Cowboy Bebop**—*R Dubbed*
 In the year 2071, humanity has colonized several planets after fleeing the uninhabitable surface of Earth. Bounty hunters called Cowboys fill in the gaps where the law can't reach, but there is a very fine line between Cowboy and criminal.

11:30pm–12:30am **Fanboy Bebop**—*R Parody Dub*
All Keanu and Ash wanted was to have a good time at ASUX (the largest anime convention in the known universe). If they knew the fate of the con would end up in their hands, they probably would've stayed home.

SATURDAY

12:30am–2:30am **Excel Saga**—*R Dubbed*
Excel wants nothing more than to please her lord Il Palazzo, and Il Palazzo wants to take over the planet, so that's what Excel does. At least, she tries very hard. Excel's partner Hyatt does her best to contribute, but usually only succeeds in dying a lot.

7:00am–9:00am **Galaxy Express 999**—*PG-13 Subtitled*
At the last stop of the Galaxy Express 999, you can get an immortal mechanical body for free. Tetsuro Hoshino wants one to take revenge against his mother's murderer, and a mysterious woman offers him a free boarding pass if he agrees to travel with her.

9:00am–11:00am **Angelic Layer**—*PG-13 Dubbed*
12-year-old Misaki Suzuhara just discovered Angelic Layer, a battling game using electronic dolls called angels. Even as a newbie, Misaki shows advanced skills as she meets new friends and enters tournaments to fight the greatest Angelic Layer champions in Japan.

11:00am–1:00pm **Bodacious Space Pirates**—*PG-13 Subtitled*
Marika is a first year high school student. One day she finds out that her recently deceased father was once the captain of a space pirate ship. More importantly, only a direct descendent can inherit the captain's title—meaning that Marika is next in line to become a pirate captain.

1:00pm–3:00pm **Martian Successor Nadesico**—*PG-13 Dubbed*
Akito would rather cook than pilot mecha. When his home on Mars is destroyed and he is somehow transported instantly to Earth, he ends up enlisting on the battleship Nadesico as their cook and backup pilot. The crew seems like misfits, but they were actually hand-picked to avenge Mars.

3:00pm–5:00pm **Locke the Superman**—*R Subtitled*
Locke the Superman has appeared at various times throughout the history of the galaxy. His powerful esper abilities are much sought after, so he uses them to keep himself young in order to avoid being handed responsibilities.

5:00pm–6:15pm **Lily C.A.T.**—*PG-13 Dubbed*
The Syncam Corporation has sent the Saldes and its crew of thirteen (plus one cat) out into deep space to explore a newfound planet 20 years away. Once they awaken from stasis, however, the crew find that not everyone is who they seem, and the mission becomes a struggle for survival.

6:15pm–8:00pm **Space Adventure Cobra**—*R Dubbed*
Notorious space pirate Cobra is enlisted by bounty hunter Jane to rescue her sister from the strange being known as Crystal Boy. Cobra soon finds himself drawn into a complex struggle over the fate of a mysterious wandering planet.

8:00pm–10:00pm **Space Dandy**—*PG-13 Dubbed*
He's a dandy guy... in space. Dandy, his friend Meow, and his robot QT are trying to find rare and valuable aliens so they can afford dinner. Along the way, they die, get trapped in other dimensions, become zombies, and encounter the best ramen in the universe.

10:00pm–11:30pm **Evangelion: 3.0 You Can (Not) Redo**—*PG-13 Subtitled*
Fourteen years after the Third Impact, Earth is a post-apocalyptic wasteland. Shinji is recovered from space to find that his enemies are no longer Angels, but his former comrades. He soon learns that the past truly cannot be undone.

11:30pm–12:30am **Evangelion Redeath**—*R Parody Dub*
It doesn't bother Shinji that his father (who might be a pimp) thinks giant robots are babe magnets. It doesn't bother him that he shares an apartment with a strangely masculine German girl. It doesn't even bother him that the world may be coming to an end thanks to a Prince song. The only thing on Shinji's mind is the nookie, whatever that is.

SUNDAY

12:30am–2:30am **FLCL**—*PG-13 Subtitled*
Naota Nandaba goes from a life where nothing ever happens to sprouting giant robots from his forehead, all thanks to a Vespa-riding, bass guitar-wielding maniac who runs him over and hits him in the face. From space.

7:00am–9:00am **Crusher Joe**—*R Subtitled*
A routine mission escorting a cryogenically frozen heiress goes awry when the girl goes missing, and Joe and his team are left holding the bag. The Crushers don't take kindly to being set up as patsies by space pirates. Space dogfights ensue.

9:00am–11:00am **Sgt. Frog**—*PG-13 Dubbed*
Keroro, the leader of the Space Invasion Army Special Tactics Platoon, infiltrates the home of the Hinata family to establish a headquarters for world domination, but the family's children destroy his cover. In other news, Keroro is a frog.

11:00am–12:30pm **Captain Earth**—*PG-13 Subtitled*
One night, Manatsu Daichi sees a round rainbow floating in the sky and goes to check it out. He arrives at the same time as robotic intruders from Uranus. Daichi is asked if he is a captain. A giant robot battle ensues.

12:30pm–2:30pm **Glass Fleet**—*PG-13 Dubbed*
The People's Army opposes the rule of the self-declared Holy Emperor, but they are no match for the Imperial Army. The rebel leader seeks help from the legendary, undefeatable Glass Fleet. Unfortunately, the Fleet is in decline.

2:30pm–3:30pm **Mighty Space Miners**—*PG-13 Subtitled*
In the mid-21st century, the Planet Catcher Corporation has pioneered capturing asteroids for resources. Nanbu Ushiwaka was born into the company, and when an accident during an operation triggers a nuclear meltdown, he might just die for it, too.

3:30pm–5:30pm **Irresponsible Captain Tylor**—*PG-13 Dubbed*
Justy Ueki Tylor thought a career in the United Planets Space Force would give him an easy life: Quiet, boring comfort in a desk job. No sooner does he take the qualifying exam than war breaks out with the Raalgon Empire, and circumstances quickly conspire to land this volunteer off the street in command of the cruiser Soyokaze.

MASQUERADE

CONvergence Masquerade is one of the premiere events of the convention, showcasing the talents of costumers spanning all skill levels, from beginners to masters. Awards are given by the judges for both workmanship in the construction of the costumes and performance in the presentation.

The Masquerade takes place on Saturday evening of the convention 6:00pm on CONvergence MainStage, in the Grand Ballroom of the DoubleTree. The CONvergence Masquerade is also broadcast live on CVG-TV, available on all TVs inside DoubleTree hotel rooms.

Participate in the Masquerade

All entries in the CONvergence 2017 Masquerade must sign up online and then come to the Masquerade Registration Table during the convention to confirm their spot in the show. Attendance at tech rehearsal and workmanship judging is also mandatory. Entries will also be taken at the Masquerade Registration Table during the convention.

Tech rehearsal and workmanship judging will take place Saturday 9:00am–4:00pm. Entrants will be scheduled into an hour slot during that time and will do both an on-stage run through and workmanship judging within the scheduled hour. Note that the tech rehearsal and workmanship judging times are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis and there is a limit to the number of entries that will be scheduled into a given hour time slot. If you have time restrictions, be sure to schedule your hour at the Masquerade Registration Table early.

Masquerade Registration Table

The Masquerade Registration Table is located in CONvergence Central just outside of CONvergence MainStage. The hours for the Masquerade Registration Table are:

Thursday 3:00pm–6:00pm
Friday 10:00am–1:00pm and 2:00pm–6:00pm Masquerade Orientation

Masquerade Orientation is mandatory and takes place Saturday 8:00am–9:00am in the CONvergence MainStage. There will be no exceptions, regardless of how many times you have participated in previous Masquerades. If you have any difficulty with mobility, in costume or not, please inform us during Orientation.

Additional Details

See the web page for additional details about the CONvergence Masquerade or stop by the Masquerade Registration Table.

Art of the Dress

Art of the Dress Costume and Couture Show gives all CONvergence members a chance to show off their costumes, ensembles, and unique fashions on stage without the pressure of competition!

Art of the Dress Costume and Couture Show takes place Friday 5:00pm on CONvergence MainStage, in the DoubleTree Grand Ballroom. Art of the Dress is also broadcast live on CVG-TV, available on all TVs inside Double Tree hotel rooms.

Participate in the Art of the Dress

To participate in Art of the Dress Costume and Couture Show, you must register before Friday 1:00pm. You may do this online or at the Art of the Dress Registration Table (Same place as the Masquerade Registration Table).

Art of the Dress Registration Table

The Art of the Dress Registration Table is located in CONvergence Central just outside of CONvergence MainStage. The hours for the Art of the Dress Registration Table are:

Thursday 3:00pm–6:00pm
Friday 10:00am–1:00pm

The number of participants is limited, so register early to guarantee yourself a spot.

Art of the Dress Orientation

There will be a short mandatory orientation for Art of the Dress participants Friday 4:00pm in CONvergence MainStage.

Additional Details

See the web page for more information about the CONvergence Art of the Dress Costume and Couture Show, or stop by the Art of the Dress Registration Table.

Costume Wars

Costume Wars is a timed event in which teams are provided with a sack of unknown and somewhat random materials. Teams are then expected to make something wonderful out of the items in just one hour.

Each team will consist of two persons, with an optional third non-participating person to act as a model/dressmaker's dummy only. The third person cannot help build the costume but can and should be dressed in the newly-created attire and show it off. A third person is not required and if one is not present then one or both of the two builders will need to wear the creation.

Costume Wars takes place Friday 3:00pm in the Sheraton Garden Court.

Participate in Costume Wars

To participate in Costume Wars, you must register before Friday 1:00pm at the Masquerade Registration Table. The number of participating teams in Costume Wars is strictly limited to 20, so register early to guarantee your team a spot. A waiting list will be made available if there is additional interest.

Costume Wars Registration at the Masquerade Registration Table

Registration for Costume Wars will take place at the Masquerade Registration Table located in CONvergence Central just outside of CONvergence MainStage. The hours for Costume Wars registration at the Masquerade Registration Table are:

Thursday 3:00pm–6:00pm
Friday 10:00am–1:00pm

Additional Details

All participating teams in Costume Wars must check in at the Sheraton Garden Court no later than Friday 2:45pm for a short orientation, or your spot in Costume Wars may be given away to a team on the waiting list.

See the web page for additional details about CONvergence Costume Wars or stop by the Masquerade Registration Table.

PANELS AND PROGRAMMING

Audience participation is an important part of most CONvergence panels. Please feel free to (respectfully) ask questions.

You are welcome to bring food and drink into the programming rooms and to re-arrange the chairs (assuming the room isn't too full), but please put chairs back and take care of your trash. There are trash receptacles located in each room (usually by the doors). There are no magic fairies to clean up the rooms: just CONvergence volunteers.

If you want to send us comments on a panel, a form is available at <http://www.convergence-con.org/panel-evaluation>. You can also use the following QR code to get there:



If you have a suggestion for next year's CON (CONvergence 2018), a form is available at <http://www.convergence-con.org/get-involved/panels/panel-suggestion-form/>. You can also use the following QR code to get there:



THURSDAY

- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Based on Science**
DoubleTree Atrium 2
 How does worldbuilding differ in worlds based on hard science (Pern) vs soft science (Star Wars)?
Aimee Kuzenski, Anthony Eichenlaub, Joseph Jay-Dixon, Peter Larsen (mod), Sara McAtee
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Invasive Species**
DoubleTree Atrium 4
 When, if ever, is it possible to bring a species into a new environment? What are the potential consequences. Let's discuss the outcomes of historical examples.
Jen Dixon, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir, PZ Myers, Renate Fiora (mod), Vernon McIntosh
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Beyond the Magical Girl**
DoubleTree Atrium 6
 Is female empowerment in anime real or just a story line? Which titles have female characters that are active heroes and which just have events happen to them?
Brian Casey, Briana Lawrence, J.C. Horvath, Meredith Gillies, Michael Grimm (mod)
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Creating Inclusive Fan Spaces**
DoubleTree Atrium 7
 Nerd clubs are great, but membership tends to be monochromatic. How can organizers encourage diversity and make all kinds of geeks feel welcome?
AlyssaRose Jordan, Dave Stagner, Hal Bichel, Josie Browning, Shannan Paul (mod)
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Black Panther's Origin and History**
DoubleTree Bloomington
 T'Challa (Black Panther) was created by Stan Lee & Jack Kirby in 1966 and is considered to be one of the most intelligent characters in the Marvel universe. How does the history of this character and the fictional nation of Wakanda reflect world history?
Jonathan Palmer, Lathan Murrell, Sam Stiles (mod)

- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Weaponry in Cinematic Sci-Fi & Fantasy**
DoubleTree Edina
 Weapons & warfare have played an iconic and powerful role in sci-fi/fantasy films. Explore the use of weaponry in sci-fi/fantasy in cinema from the Highlander's sword to the Klingon bat'leth. We'll watch fight scenes, view replicas, & demonstrate tech.
Amanda Day, Jason Hilton, Lee Fillingsness, Nick Krekeler (mod)
- 12:30pm–4:30pm **ChessWerks**
DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast
 Play chess with oversized pieces in the Garden Court.
Chairman deBoard
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Geeky Careers You've Not Thought About**
DoubleTree Plaza 1
 How does one take a geeky hobby and make it a career? Composers and the like need to start somewhere.
Ben Ellis, Dan Stiglich, Harris O'Malley, Sherry Johnson (mod), Tania Richter
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Geeky Photography**
DoubleTree Plaza 3
 What are the best ways to photograph conventions and fandom? Lighting? Background? Posed vs. candid?
D.L. Fitzwater (mod), Danielle McKay, Norman Cates, Roger Pavelle
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **End of Empires**
Sheraton Ames
 Why do we keep putting the Roman Empire into our stories?
Elizabeth Bear, Michael Carus, Mitchell Faas, Niles Schwartz, Tim Lieder (mod)
- 12:30pm–1:30pm **Breaking into YouTube**
Sheraton Whalon
 How do you start your own YouTube channel? We'll talk about everything from making your own videos and starting a YouTube channel to getting subscriptions and more.
Kat Surth, Luxander Pond (mod), Nicholas Boden, Squall Charlson, Steve Sylvestre
- 2:00pm–3:00pm **Geeky Small Businesses**
DoubleTree Atrium 2
 Strategies for starting and running a geeky small business. The discussion will include funding strategies, selling online, involvement with local conventions & festivals, developing unique creations, testing the market, and working with fellow artisans.
Aric Stewart (mod), Dorianne Jarchow, Mitchell Faas, Squirrel "Beth" Jankowski, Tania Richter
- 2:00pm–3:00pm **Religion in the Future**
DoubleTree Atrium 4
 How will current religions evolve as time progresses? What new variants will arise? What about completely different religions that may come from encounters with aliens?
Hertzey Hertz, Lana Rosario (mod), Lathan Murrell, PZ Myers, Samantha Bitner
- 2:00pm–3:00pm **Doctor Strange Fan Panel**
DoubleTree Atrium 6
 Marvel now has a superhero whose powers come from magic: let's discuss.
Bryon Stump, Christopher Jones, Jacob Gulliver, Joseph Peterson, Michelle Farley (mod)

THURSDAY CONTINUED

2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>LGBT+ People in Utopian Societies DoubleTree Atrium 7 “Utopia” from the Greek words for “not” and “place.” While LGBT+ utopias of today usually refer to isolated places without discrimination from the straight world, where do LGBT+ people fit in utopian societies of the future? <i>Donald Kaiser (mod), Jamie Riedesel, John Till, Kendra Akin, Lee Blauersouth</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>The Cosmic Perspective DoubleTree Atrium 4 Neil deGrasse Tyson refers to the “cosmic perspective” when it comes to managing anxiety about day-to-day life. Scientists share and discuss the many facts about the universe that make modern earthly problems feel insignificant. <i>Dan Berliner, Luxander Pond (mod), Melanie Galloway, PZ Myers</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>CONvergence for the Socially Anxious DoubleTree Bloomington CONvergence can be an intimidating experience for even the most seasoned and social geeks. Thousands of people, mostly strangers, often loud. Stimulation overload of all of the senses. How do those who struggle with social anxiety deal with it? <i>Aimee Kuzenski, Ben San Del (mod), George Miller, Grace Ulak, Michael Zecca</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>2016 WTF Movie Review DoubleTree Atrium 6 In the spirit of 12 Angry Men, the panel deliberates over what went wrong with genre films of 2016. Sure we had Deadpool, Star Trek Beyond, and Doctor Strange, but we also had Suicide Squad, Batman v. Superman, and Independence Day: Resurgence. WTF 2016? <i>Ian Truitner, Jacob Gulliver, Jonathan Palmer, Niles Schwartz (mod), Tim Lieder</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Storytelling Podcasts DoubleTree Edina Night Vale. Limetown. The Black Tapes. Tanis. Doorway To The Hidden World. So many podcasts now are exploring audio drama, especially in fantasy and magical realism. What do they have in common? What’s different? What other podcasts are out there? <i>Dee Bitner, Jerry Stearns (mod), Molly Glover, Sam Stiles</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>AI in Science Fiction: From Evil Overlords to Companions DoubleTree Atrium 7 There is a diversity of AI in writing and film, from benevolent to malevolent. How does an AI become good or evil? Are they just programmed that way? <i>Eric Zawadzki, Jamie Riedesel (mod), Lathan Murrell, Lyda Morehouse, Naomi Kritzer</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Non-Compliant Geek’s Guide to Self Care DoubleTree Plaza 1 Geeks are experts at re-imagining the world around us. So, let’s question society’s body shaming narrative on wellness, commit the radical act of self-acceptance, and reclaim our heroic destiny. Your non-compliant journey starts now. <i>Justine Mastin</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Can Fandom Change the World? DoubleTree Bloomington Have you ever wondered what would happen if we geeks/nerds/fans could combine our energy into one project? If we could change the world even in a little way, for the better? Should we be promoting other conventions, mentoring artists? <i>Hal Bichel (mod), Michael Lee, Patrick Marsh, Renate Fiora</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>How Military Experience Influences Storytelling DoubleTree Plaza 3 Do soldiers spin the best yarns? Join a panel of storytellers including filmmakers, writers, and game masters for a discussion on the ways in which their training and experiences serving in the military influence their storytelling. <i>Bowie Sessions, Ian Truitner, Kyle Dekker (mod), Paula Merns, Sara McAtee</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Ready, Steady, Flash! DoubleTree Edina Four pro writers are given a phrase, around which they must each write a piece of flash fiction. Live, in front of the audience. They have 5 MINUTES in which to write it. At the end of each round the the audience votes on the best. <i>C. Robert Cargill, Joseph Scrimshaw, Lee Harris, Monica Valentinelli, Paul Cornell</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Speculative Fiction Against Colonialism Sheraton Ames Colonialism pervades much of speculative fiction. But post-colonial literary movements rejecting this worldview, including Afrofuturism and Indigenous futurism, are gaining more steam in the genre. We will examine these works and their significance. <i>Gabriela Santiago, Rob Callahan (mod)</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Healthy Relationships in the Geek Community DoubleTree Plaza 1 We believe geek relationships are the best ones, but they will fail without some important philosophies. Discuss friendships to romance, the spectrum of possibilities therein, and the importance of concepts like honesty, openness, and acceptance. <i>Briana Lawrence, Dorianne Jarchow, John Heimbuch, Lara Richardson, Michelle Farley (mod)</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Dealing with the Aftermath Sheraton Whalon Traumatic events happen and repercussions can endure for a long time. How do comics, TV series, etc. deal with the effects? <i>Elizabeth Bear (mod), Kellee Isle, Maggie Schultz, Nicole LaBat</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Quality LARP Props DoubleTree Plaza 3 How do you create quality LARPing props without breaking the bank or spending hours on Pinterest? Come get ideas from our panelists. <i>Norman Cates, Tyler Reich</i></p>
3:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Art of the Dress Registration DoubleTree CONvergence Central B Register for Art of the Dress</p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Reading—Elise Matthesen Sheraton Ames <i>Elise Matthesen</i></p>
3:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Costume Wars Registration DoubleTree CONvergence Central C</p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Alton Brown Fan Panel Sheraton Whalon If you have to ask, you don’t watch the Food Network.... <i>Adam Poetter, D.L. Fitzwater (mod), John Seavey, Nicole LaBat, Stephan Stomberg</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>How to Fail Gracefully DoubleTree Atrium 2 Everybody makes mistakes sometimes. Maybe you’ve worded something poorly or were misinformed on a topic. Maybe you didn’t think a decision through and something went the wrong way. It happens. But how we react in these situations is what matters most. <i>Gabriela Santiago, Jennifer Manna, Marguerite Krause (mod), Sara McAtee</i></p>		

5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>It's Been Written Before DoubleTree Atrium 4 Writing is hard. Many works fall back on the tropes and cliches that are common in the field. How do writers break out of those patterns, or at least freshen them up? <i>Emma Bull, Jai Nitz, John Seavey, Lois McMaster Bujold, Monica Valentinelli (mod)</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Late to the Party Podcast Sheraton Whalon A live recording of the popular nerd-splaining podcast Late to the Party, along with a panel discussion on how to create and maintain a podcast on a budget, even if that budget is practically zero. <i>Bernadette Jones, Joe Weinberg, Robb Hollyday (mod)</i></p>
5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Apocalyptic Plagues: Threat or Ghost? DoubleTree Atrium 6 Are we overdue for the next pandemic? Will we ever face the motaba virus or plagues like it? How have we overcome the plagues of the past. <i>Kris Coulter, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir, PZ Myers, Tim Lieders (mod), richard hurley</i></p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Friends of Bill W DoubleTree Atrium 2</p>
5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Movies and the Problem of Evil DoubleTree Atrium 7 An emboldened Us vs. Them divisive cultural discourse sets the stage for investigating evil in movies and TV, from space operas and superhero sagas to the more banal and everyday. What do these figures represent culturally & psychologically to viewers? <i>Justine Mastin, Melissa Olson, Michelle Farley, Niles Schwartz (mod)</i></p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>GeekFit DoubleTree Atrium 4 Panel for geeks who like to work out, run, swim, cycle, or anything else. Discuss what works and what doesn't, gyms that are supportive of geek culture, etc. Maybe find a group of fellow geeks to both run marathons and marathon Netflix with? <i>Adam Poetter, Elizabeth Bear, Jon Durmin (mod), Lara Richarson, Vernon McIntosh</i></p>
5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>What IS a Space Opera? DoubleTree Bloomington Many stories take place in space, but what makes a space opera? In this panel, we'll talk about what criteria add or exclude a story from the genre. <i>Edward Eastman, Garrick Dietze, Jerry Stearns (mod), Norman Cates</i></p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Star Wars Rebels Fan Panel DoubleTree Atrium 6 Let's talk about season 3. <i>Jen Riehm, Keane Amdahl, Michael Carus</i></p>
5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Legends of Tomorrow DoubleTree Edina Dr. Who meets DC Comics, it's the show about time-traveling superheroes. Let's discuss the newest comics-based show to come out of the CW. <i>Anna Besmann, Geoffrey Hofman-Frethem, Josie Browning, Lee Harris, Mark Goldberg (mod)</i></p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>This Year in Board Games DoubleTree Atrium 7 What board games hit your table this year? What new titles delivered the hype or disappointed? What classics still hold dear to your play group? Whether you're new to table top board gaming or a veteran, join the annual board gaming conversation! <i>Hertzey Hertz, Kyle Dekker (mod), Pat Harrigan, Satish Jayaraj, Scott Holm</i></p>
5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Matrix Tag DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast Players choose the roles of Agent Smith, Neo, Morpheus, Trinity, or play an Agent or Zionist. Any number of people can play, joining in and leaving at any time. <i>Shannon Green</i></p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Westworld Fan Panel DoubleTree Bloomington Let's gather to discuss Westworld. A Wild West-themed amusement park populated by android hosts. Westworld caters to high-paying guests, who may indulge in whatever they wish within the park, without fear of retaliation. <i>Geoffrey Hofman-Frethem, Grace Ulak (mod), Laura Okagaki-Vraspir, Michelle Farley, Squall Charlson</i></p>
5:00pm–6:45pm	<p>Cassini: End of an Era DoubleTree Plaza 1 Cassini has been in orbit around Saturn for 13 years, gathering info about the planet and its environs. The mission ends shortly by plunging into the planet itself, in a fiery end to an amazing mission, presented by a former member of the flight team. <i>Bridget Landry</i></p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Feminist Icons in Comics DoubleTree Edina Which female characters truly inspire? Should we discount the early history of some (ex. Wonder Woman)? What makes a character feminist? <i>Jennifer Manna, Josie Browning, Kristina Halseth</i></p>
5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Volunteering at CONvergence DoubleTree Plaza 3 Interested in getting involved at CONvergence, but unsure of how to start or where you'd like to volunteer? Come learn about how it operates, the types of available volunteer opportunities, and what it's like to be a part of the volunteering community. <i>Heather Zastera, Hope Christiansen, Justin Ropella, Lauren Sindt</i></p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Gaming as a Gateway Drug DoubleTree Plaza 1 How does gaming spur your interest in other topics? Did they get you into studying history, politics, technology or were you really going to pick up the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire for fun anyways? <i>David Rust, Eric Zawadzki, Kenneth Justiniano, Monica Valentinelli (mod)</i></p>
5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Reading—phillip andrew bennett low Sheraton Ames Against legal counsel and common sense, writer and internationally touring storyteller phillip andrew bennett low presents excerpts from his political humor collection, 'Indecision Now! A Libertarian Rage.' The title is not ironic, except for when it is. <i>phillip andrew bennett low</i></p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Computer FAQ DoubleTree Plaza 3 Computers. We all know what they are. Or do we? Come ask some experts anything you want to about these inventions. <i>Anthony Eichenlaub (mod), Dave Stagner, James Renken, Jason Dean, Raychel Benson</i></p>
		7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Science Education: The Next Generation Sheraton Ames Many states have attempted to improve their science education standards by adopting the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). What are NGSS's strengths and weaknesses? With Minnesota's science standards up for review, will NGSS be the best choice? <i>Dan Berliner, Michelle Kennedy Cadieux, Peter Larsen (mod), Renate Fiora</i></p>

THURSDAY CONTINUED

- 7:00pm–8:00pm **Geeky Spending**
Sheraton Whalon
 How do you justify your geeky spending habits? How do you limit your budget to make sure the rent still gets paid?
Ben Ellis, Greg Orange, Patrick Marsh (mod)
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **Soul of Wit**
DoubleTree Atrium 2
 Short story and flash fiction authors discuss their writing techniques and provide tips on how to make the most of a limited word count.
Abra Staffin-Wiebe, Aimee Kuzenski, Ben San Del, Elizabeth Bear (mod), Roy C. Booth
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **State of Science**
DoubleTree Atrium 4
 It's 2017 and science is moving at a roaring pace. Let's talk about the greatest breakthroughs this year, including both corporate and academic hits that my not get as much press. From front page to popular only within that discipline, come get inspired.
Dan Berliner, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir, PZ Myers, Peter Larsen (mod), Vernon McIntosh.
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **Don't Go There: Taboo Topics and Triggers In Art**
DoubleTree Atrium 6
 PC critics and enthusiasts alike debate where the line should be drawn when it comes to potentially offensive topics in film, TV, literature, and live comedy. What is an artist's responsibility to those who are easily triggered? Is any topic off limits?
Derek "Duck" Washington, Emma Bull, Jennifer Manna, Jonah Rees, phillip andrew bennett low (mod)
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **Rick Riordan Worlds of Young Adult Adventure and Mythology**
DoubleTree Atrium 7
 From Percy Jackson to House of Cain, he uses mythology as a backdrop for his Young Adult stories. Talk about what makes this work compelling.
Echo Martin, George Miller, Kathryn Sullivan (mod), Raederle Sterling, Samma Johnson
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **Speculative Fiction as a Guide for Resisting Fascism and Autocracy**
DoubleTree Bloomington
 From Star Wars to Hunger Games; from V for Vendetta to Handmaid's Tale; from Fahrenheit 451 to The Moon is a Harsh Mistress, speculative fiction is full of resistance to fascism and autocracy. What can we bring from these works into our everyday lives?
Bri Donovan, Gabriela Santiago, Jen Riehm, Kristin Tipping, Scott Lynch (mod)
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **The Expanse Fan Panel**
DoubleTree Edina
 Set in a future where humanity has settled our solar system but is unable to leave, life changes for everyone when an alien molecule is found. Covering six books, five short stories, and now a series on the Syfy Channel.
Eric Zawadzki (mod), Kris Coulter, Maggie Schultz, Rick Ellis
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **Squirrel You Know It's True**
DoubleTree Plaza 1
 The Squirrel Girl fan panel! Let's discuss our favorite super hero. What makes her so compelling? Will she ever get her own movie?
Elise Muellerleile, Michael R Underwood, Nicole LaBat, Sarah Barsness (mod), Squirrel "Beth" Jankowski
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **Old Man's War Series**
DoubleTree Plaza 3
 What would it be like to be young again? How far can you modify the human form and still be human? Let's talk about the John Scalzi series.
Adam Whitlatch, Dave Margosian, Jody Wurl (mod), Sarah Molasky, Vetrnita Anderson
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **Art Show Meet Up**
DoubleTree Plaza 6
 Join us for a meet and greet at the Art Show. Take a guided tour through the Art Show as we put faces to the art. Stick around afterward for some refreshments and conversation. All are welcome.
Aric Stewart, Christine Mitzuk
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **Aro/Ace Relationships**
Sheraton Ames
 Come talk about topics related to identities that fall on the asexual or aromantic spectrums. Share your experiences and insight or ask questions if you're unsure. Discuss representation and share recommendations. Meet others like you here at Con.
Charlene Holm, Graham Barr, Rory Ni Coileain, Ryan Alexander, Susan Willson (mod)
- 8:30pm–9:30pm **ASL 101**
Sheraton Whalon
 Come learn about ASL. Bring your questions.
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **Philosophies of Dune**
DoubleTree Atrium 2
 "Dune" is a deep work that grapples with not only sci-fi concepts, but those of philosophy and morality. There's even a book on the subject. Let's talk about eugenics, the dangers of AI, and the Fremen, among other things.
Cetius d'Raven (mod), Eric Rinn, Karl Wolff, Michael Carus
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **Fantasy TV**
DoubleTree Atrium 4
 Emerald City, The Magicians, Lucifer, Preacher, Outcast, Grimm, 11.22.63, Outlander, the Time After Time remake, and more. What is good and bad in the television landscape right now?
Kristina Halseth, Laura Bidgood, Lauren Wells (mod), Melissa Olson, Sam Stiles
- 10:00pm–12:30am **2017 Foreign Sci-Fi Short Film Festival**
DoubleTree Atrium 6
 Back for 2017, MSFSFF present the Out-of-This-World Sci-Fi Short Film Festival featuring the best in genre short films produced by filmmakers from outside around the Pale Blue Dot. VOTE for your favorite films in the Audience Choice Awards!
Troy LaFaye
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **Women of Color in Comics: Race, Gender and the Comic Book Medium**
DoubleTree Atrium 7
 Even though mainstream comics has finally admitted women are definitely reading as many (if not more) comics than men, there still are not that many female writers and editors. This panel explores the changing face of comics and how far we have to go.
AlyshaRose Jordan, Bri Donovan (mod), Morgan Strickland
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **Superheroes Rated R**
DoubleTree Bloomington
 With the release of Watchmen and Deadpool, will Hollywood continue expanding the number of superhero movies with an R rating? What about going even further?
Aaron Coker, Eric Chu, Jonathan Palmer, Matt Gamble, Sean Casey (mod)
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **Cleavage Optional: Gender, Cosplay, and Genderbending Cosplay**
DoubleTree Edina
 How is the cosplay experience different for women and men? Why is gender bent cosplay so popular? What fans aren't doing it and what characters aren't being gender bent? What does this mean for trans and non-binary characters and fans?
Anna Besmann, Bess Stuvencoxend, Dana Baird (mod), Grace Ulak, Lara Richarson

10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Avoiding Tokenism in Comics & Sci Fi Characters DoubleTree Plaza 1 Creating actual diversity requires a great effort to avoid unintentionally tokenizing your characters. Tokenism, even when unintentional, is what leads adding “diversity” for the sake of diversity. How do we engender true diversity in Sci Fi/Comics? <i>Aaron Frale, Jim Soos, Justin Grays, Kerry Peterson, Nat Morse-Noland</i></p>	11:30pm–12:30am	<p>Ask a Submariner: Foul-Mouthed Sailor Edition DoubleTree Edina Approximating life in a starship crew, learn about day-to-day life on a submarine from those who have lived it! All audience questions will be answered with varying degrees of dignity. No Recording. This panel may contain mature content and mature scotch. <i>Andrew McKay, Christopher Baye, Dan Stiglich, Doug Kirks, Kyle Dekker (mod)</i></p>
10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Becoming a Scare-Actor DoubleTree Plaza 3 Wonder who’s behind the makeup when running for your life in a haunted house? How can YOU get such a killer job? What do owners look for when hiring? Local haunt owners & scare-actors will discuss how to get hired & what to expect from the job. <i>Elise Muellerleile, LauraJean Krueger, Squall Charlson, Todd Murray</i></p>	11:30pm–12:30am	<p>Star Wars Holiday Special DoubleTree Plaza 3 November 11, 1978—a day that will live in fan infamy. The day that Bea Arthur, Harvey Korman, and other 70’s TV staples joined the cast of Star Wars for Life Day. What motivated this abomination of schlock trash and why can’t we stop watching? <i>Amanda Fineran, Kevin Eldridge, Philip Glover, Teresa Bolwerk, Todd Murray</i></p>
10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Trumped Art Sheraton Ames Historians and pop culture enthusiasts look back over the last 100 years of presidential administrations and how they and their day’s politics influenced entertainment. What does a Trump term mean for film, music, games, and books in the years to come? <i>Allyson Cygan, Jordan West (mod), Tim Lieder</i></p>	11:30pm–12:30am	<p>How to Properly Measure for Costumes Sheraton Ames Buying a costume or altering a pattern for costume construction, only to find that it doesn’t fit, can be heartbreaking. Learn how to properly take measurements. Participants are asked to wear tight clothes. Measurement sheets will be handed out. <i>Amy Dekker, Kath Dimmich Mahaffy, Melissa Sowers, Michelle Farley (mod), Sara Spookystitch</i></p>
10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Gaylaxians Book Discussion Update Sheraton Whalon North Country Gaylaxians read 10 to 12 books with positive portrayals of GLBT+ situations and characters or from GLBT+ authors in a year. This panel will give an update on the books we’ve read, which we thought were good, which we disliked, and why. <i>Claudia Slovacek, David Lenander, Donald Kaiser (mod), Kendra Akin</i></p>	11:30pm–12:30am	<p>Fandom Through the Ages Sheraton Whalon Panelists discuss the origins of media fandom and its different phases over the years, as well how fandom has changed during panelists’ fannish lives. <i>H. Savinien, Jeanne Mealy, Jordan West (mod), Michael Lee</i></p>
11:30pm–12:30am	<p>New Anime DoubleTree Atrium 2 What are the new titles that you should know about? <i>J.C. Horvath, Jen Riehm, Michael Grimm, Nick Stoner, Sam Stiles (mod)</i></p>	<h1>FRIDAY</h1>	
11:30pm–12:30am	<p>The Post Apocalyptic Worlds of Mad Max, Oblivion & The Book of Eli DoubleTree Atrium 4 The post-apocalyptic genre has exploded of late and the worlds of these narratives are just as fascinating as the stories themselves. This panel will look at these unique post-apocalyptic worlds & the things that make them up to ignite conversation. <i>Adam Whitlatch, Craig Smith, Matt Gamble (mod), Michael Carus, Niles Schwartz</i></p>	9:30am–10:30am	<p>Get Paid: Contracts & Copyright DoubleTree Atrium 2 Being a genius is the easy part. How do you get paid for your work? That’s the challenge. Come get insight on getting paid, keeping your rights, and other cool stuff. <i>Dave Walbridge, J. Boone Dryden, James Renken, Mitchell Faas (mod), Troy LaFaye</i></p>
11:30pm–12:30am	<p>Current Events Affecting Comics DoubleTree Atrium 7 When they adapted Luke Cage for TV, they put him in a hoodie to reflect current events. What are other examples and do they work? <i>Jonathan Palmer, Josie Browning, Luxander Pond, Patrick Marsh (mod), Sean Casey</i></p>	9:30am–10:30am	<p>Bridget Landry’s Kids Science Corner DoubleTree Atrium 4 You’re never too old to learn, and you’re certainly never too young. JPL scientist Bridget Landry is on hand to answer all the burning questions of our youthful panelists about space travel, parallel universes, Mars rovers, and if Santa lives on the moon. <i>Brendan Johnson, Bridget Landry (mod), Gillian Chan, Signe Joy Frethem, Teddie Bowlsby</i></p>
11:30pm–12:30am	<p>Pan Galactic Gargle Blasted with Douglas Adams DoubleTree Bloomington In our continuing “[drinks] with [author]” series, we celebrate the life and works of Douglas Adams, who created the Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy while lying around drunk in a field. Who can make the best Pan Galactic Gargle Blaster? Let’s find out! <i>Dawn Krosnowski, Jerry Belich, Matt Kessen, Melissa Kaercher, Pat Harrigan, Tim Uren</i></p>	9:30am–10:30am	<p>Rogue One DoubleTree Atrium 6 Ever wonder how the Rebels got the Death Star plans? Now we know. Let’s talk about the 2016 Star Wars film. <i>Dani Indovino Cawley, Eric Zawadzki, Michael Carus, Nick Krekeler (mod)</i></p>
		9:30am–10:30am	<p>Podcasting 101 DoubleTree Atrium 7 Our panel of experienced podcasters will give you tips on and answer questions about all areas of podcasting. Yes, you can do it, too! <i>Jerry Stearns (mod), Kevin Eldridge, Kyle Dekker, Shannan Paul, Sharon Stiteler</i></p>

FRIDAY CONTINUED

9:30am–10:30am	<p>How Real is that Magic? DoubleTree Bloomington Magic is a staple of fantasy and sci-fi, but what do actual pagans and those who study magic think of its portrayal? We will discuss how magic is used in media and how it stacks up to real practices. <i>Jen Dixon, Joseph Peterson, Kenneth Justiniano, Lis Morton, Melissa Olson (mod)</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>Alternative Sports and Geek Culture DoubleTree Atrium 6 Whirlyball, roller derby, martial arts, wrestling and even Quidditch leagues are thriving! Let's explore the wide range of different alternative sports that intersect with geek culture and talk about why they appeal to us. <i>Chris Stockton, Dani Indovino Cawley (mod), Heather Dickinson, Lathan Murrell, Windy Bowlsby</i></p>
9:30am–10:30am	<p>Costuming on a Budget DoubleTree Edina Costuming has the potential to become an expensive hobby, but it doesn't have to break your budget. We will discuss where to get low-/no-cost materials and taking advantage of networking/bartering/trading. Show off your thrifty creations! <i>Adam Poetter, Dorianne Jarchow, Kath Dimmich Mahaffy (mod), Lara Richarson, Michelle Farley</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>Fatness and Fandom DoubleTree Atrium 7 Fat bodies are everywhere in real life and fan communities, yet fat representation is sorely lacking in the media we consume & often what we ourselves create as fans. Come discuss this issue and what we can do to make our works and spaces more inclusive <i>Ben Ellis, Briana Lawrence (mod), Echo Martin, Jordan West, Nick Glover</i></p>
9:30am–10:30am	<p>Astroculture: Farming for Space Farers DoubleTree Plaza 1 It's been said that we have the capacity to feed the entire world. But will we be able to feed the next one or even the journey to get there? Join our panelists for a discussion of how we can produce enough food during extended space travel. <i>Jon Durmin (mod), Joseph Jay-Dixon, Kourt Remund, Michelle Kennedy Cadieux, Vernon McIntosh</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>Signing—Harris O'Malley DoubleTree Autograph Table A <i>Harris O'Malley</i></p>
9:30am–10:30am	<p>Listing D&D on Your Resume DoubleTree Plaza 3 How can you include your geeky pursuits on your resume? Doing so can help you stand out from the crowd. <i>Bess Stuvonoxend, Cetius d'Raven (mod), Kristin Daley, Norman Cates</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>Celebrating the Coen Brothers DoubleTree Bloomington Minnesota's own Coen Brothers have been making films for 32 years. This is a panel to talk about all things Coen and Coenesque--their techniques, influences, common themes, and everything else that makes them such an enduring force in cinema. <i>Lara Richarson, Nathan Anderson, Niles Schwartz, Skazka 9000, Tim Lieder (mod)</i></p>
9:30am–10:30am	<p>Reading—Aimee Kuzenski Sheraton Ames <i>Aimee Kuzenski</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>The Odd-Numbered Star Trek Curse DoubleTree Edina Star Trek: The Motion Picture, III: The Search for Spock, V: The Final Frontier, Generations, Insurrection--these films are considered the red-headed step children of the film canon. We're going to look into why and why they deserve to be re-evaluated. <i>Aaron Coker, Garrick Dietze (mod), Kris Coulter, Michael Shappe, William Leisner</i></p>
9:30am–10:30am	<p>Old Farts Of Cosplay Sheraton Whalon Cosplay isn't just a hobby for the younger generation. Some of us have been at it a long time or found cosplay later in life. Let's talk about how the hobby has changed through the years and the joys and challenges of being an old fart who cosplays. <i>Dirk Ykema, Kristina Halseth, LauraJean Krueger, Rae Lundquist, Bill Hedrick</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>YogaQuest Presents Star Wars: The Original Trilogy Abridged DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest We're headed to a galaxy far, far away in this narrated yogic adventure! No previous yoga experience, special clothing, or mats necessary (lightsabers are optional). Come as you are and pose nerdy with us! May the Force be with you. <i>Justine Mastin</i></p>
10:00am–1:00pm	<p>Art of the Dress Registration DoubleTree CONvergence Central B <i>Register for Art of the Dress</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>Weta Digital: A Look Behind the Pixel Curtain DoubleTree Plaza 1 Norman has been working at Weta Digital for the last 16 years, on films from Lord of the Rings, all the way up to the upcoming Valerian. He'll have some behind the scenes videos to show and can also answer questions (if he can). <i>Norman Cates</i></p>
10:00am–1:00pm	<p>Costume Wars Registration DoubleTree CONvergence Central C</p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>Gravity in Fact and Fiction DoubleTree Plaza 3 What books/movies/TV shows treat gravity right rather than assuming that it just works. <i>Craig A. Finseth, Maggie Schultz, Michael Zecca, Patrick Marsh, Renate Fiora (mod)</i></p>
11:00am–Noon	<p>Kirby's Fourth World DoubleTree Atrium 2 Jack Kirby's space opera, "The Fourth World" was cut short and cancelled before its planned conclusion. But his work changed the comic book industry and created DC big bad, Darkseid. <i>Edward Eastman, Jesse Haller, Jon Durmin (mod), Kevin Eldridge, Sean Casey</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>Reading—Lois McMaster Bujold Sheraton Ames Guest of Honor Lois McMaster Bujold will be reading her work. <i>Lois McMaster Bujold</i></p>
11:00am–Noon	<p>This Canon is Fired: Redefining the "Must Reads" of SF/F and Comics Canon DoubleTree Atrium 4 Lists of genre greats often include lots of white men and not much else. What works and creators are being left off of these lists? Who's on the lists that shouldn't be? What do the new canons look like? <i>Dana Baird, Jai Nitz, Kath Dimmich Mahaffy, Seanan McGuire, Shannan Paul (mod)</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	

11:00am–Noon	<p>Plug-in Electric Vehicles Sheraton Whalon Considering a Plug-In Electric vehicle or curious to learn more? Panelists will share their experiences and enthusiasm for EV-related topics including 2nd gen. 200+ mile range vehicles, deployment of fast charging infrastructure in Minnesota, and more. <i>Birch Hansen, Erik Haggstrom, John Fagnant, Kevin McCormick, Michael Bearfoot</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Fire the Head Canons DoubleTree Atrium 7 This ain't no slash-fic! We're talking Fan theories that elevate and enhance the canonical stories, characters, and properties and why the digital age--particularly with mainstream outlets like Amazon Worlds--is the best time to be a superfan. <i>Dave Stagner, Renate Fiora, Taylor Cisco</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>I Want To Be Ms. Frizzle: Using Sci-fi and Fantasy as Teaching Tools DoubleTree Atrium 2 Everyone wanted to be in Ms. Frizzle's class as a kid (well, except Arnold). Now that we're teachers, how can we use fantastical elements in our classrooms to encourage our students and drive their learning? <i>Dan Berliner, Jen Dixon, Michael Zecca (mod), PZ Myers, Peter Larsen</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Signing—Kathryn Sullivan DoubleTree Autograph Table A <i>Kathryn Sullivan</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>New Technology in Media DoubleTree Atrium 4 Not just for geeks, technology has dramatically changed how we make and watch popular entertainment. Let's discuss some significant advances from recent years. <i>Ian Truitner, Kyle Dekker</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Signing—Lois McMaster Bujold DoubleTree Autograph Table B Guest of Honor Lois McMaster Bujold will be available to sign her work. <i>Lois McMaster Bujold</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>American Gods DoubleTree Atrium 6 Compare and contrast the television adaptation of American Gods with the novel written in 2001. How do themes from both the show and the book resonate in today's society? <i>Dani Indovino Cawley, Kristin Daley, Laura Bidgood (mod), Lauren Wells, Severina Hein</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Diversity, Class Systems, and Equality in Science Fiction DoubleTree Bloomington When writing sci-fi, the world shifts. Examples of acceptable democratic societies or functional systems in real life are sometimes reversed or broken down. Is this simply not trying hard enough? Shock value? Does diversity matter in a sci-fi setting? <i>Emilie Peck, Justin Grays, Lana Rosario (mod), Lara Richarson, Peregrine Johnson</i></p>
		12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Soundtracks in Film DoubleTree Edina What are the best movie and TV soundtracks, from classic to current? What makes a soundtrack good? How well it fits the story? How objectively good the music is? A combination? <i>Dave Margosian (mod), Jonah Rees, Kristopher Carter, Nat Morse-Noland, Scott Keverer</i></p>

Fearless Comedy Monthly Shows

Double-Blind
 3rd Thursday **Improv**
 7:30 pm @ Honey in Mpls
 \$5

POWER POINT KARAOKE
 3rd Friday
 Starting in October
 \$8, discount with CONvergence badge

FEARLESS LAB
 2nd Tuesday
 7:30 pm @ Honey in Mpls
 Pay what you can

1st Wednesday
 r/ what the improv
 7:30 pm @ Honey in Mpls
 \$5

Visit WWW.FearlessComedyProductions.Com for details!
And stop by Party Room 230. We have True Stone coffee from 8am to noon!

FRIDAY CONTINUED

12:30pm–4:30pm	<p>ChessWerks DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast Play chess with oversized pieces in the Garden Court. <i>Chairman deBoard</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Signing—Jai Nitz DoubleTree Autograph Table A Guest of Honor Jai Nitz will be available to sign his work. <i>Jai Nitz</i></p>
12:30pm–3:00pm	<p>Electric Cars Up Close DoubleTree Outdoors Don't just talk about electric cars, get up close and personal! Sit in one, talk to the owners and be part of the future! Play your cards right, maybe get a ride in an electric car! Sheraton parking lot. <i>Birch Hansen, Erik Haggstrom, John Fagnant, Kevin McCormick, Michael Bearfoot</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Signing—Adam Whitlatch DoubleTree Autograph Table B <i>Adam Whitlatch</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Creating the Perfect Monster DoubleTree Plaza 1 What makes a visually interesting monster in story or art? What real world examples and total flights of fancy float your boat? <i>Anna Besmann, Ansley Grams, Holly Chamas, Patrick Marsh (mod), Seanan McGuire</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Firefly At 15 DoubleTree Bloomington Joss Whedon's space western turns 15 this year. Is it shiny or would you toss it out an airlock? Come discuss the full canon: series, movie, and comics. <i>Cetius d'Raven (mod), Mark Goldberg, Monica Valentinelli, Sean Berry, Tex Thompson</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Is Anyone There? Searching for Life on Mars with the 1976 Viking Landers DoubleTree Plaza 3 In 1976, two Mars landers tested for life in its red soil. The tiny gadgets aboard weren't perfect and suffered from huge design compromises. How did they work? And what did they REALLY find? Come see what promises to be an engaging and informative talk. <i>Jay Gallentine</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Take a Pew, Pew, Pew! Organized Religion in SciFi/Fantasy DoubleTree Edina Beyond "The Force", how do creators deal with organized religion (and disbelief) in science fiction and fantasy? What do they get right, wrong, and what do they reveal in their thinking? <i>Bill Stiteler (mod), Caroline Symcox, Lyda Morehouse, Tim Wick</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Reading—Adam Whitlatch Sheraton Ames <i>Adam Whitlatch</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Sword Masters Live DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest Korean sword art Haidong Gumdo demonstration. See dynamic performances by trained students from White Tiger Martial Arts! Watch, be wowed, and ask questions. Discover your inner warrior today! <i>Alex Bolton, George Richard, Heather Sigstad, Kayla Curtiss, Mark Wurdeman, Melanie Galloway, Sarah Wurdeman, Simon Gibson, Stephen Poeschl, Bill Hedrick</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>So You Want to Build an Arcade Machine? Sheraton Whalon Dive into an informational session about building your own arcade machine, a stand-up cabinet that can play thousands of types of games. <i>Grayson Malinowski, Jesse Homa, Sean Berry</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Gerry Anderson's Firestorm DoubleTree Plaza 1 Tired of CGI blockbusters? Long for the days of models, miniatures, and REAL explosives? Concept Illustrator Eric Chu presents a sneak peek into a new project from the mind of Thunderbirds/Space 1999 creator Gerry Anderson. Things blow up good—REAL GOOD <i>Eric Chu</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Introduction to Hip-Hop as Literature DoubleTree Atrium 2 Join an exploration of hip-hop's role as a modern literary movement, including recommendations for artists and works (both local and worldwide) to get started in the genre. <i>Bri Donovan, DJ Kool Akiem, Heather Dickinson, Rob Callahan (mod), SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Return of Mystery Science Theatre 3000 DoubleTree Plaza 3 It was back for Thanksgiving. Are we thankful? What did we like about the reincarnation? <i>Brian Watson-Jones, Dee Bitner, John Seavey, Kristin Daley</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>99 Problems But a Pitch Ain't One DoubleTree Atrium 4 So you've got a great idea, shot a video, wrote a comic/novel...now what? Join this panel of industry professionals and learn about prepping, packaging, and presenting your content to the right people, at the right outlets, in the right way. <i>Catherine Schaff-Stump, Lee Harris (mod), Madeleine Vasaly, Michael R Underwood, Taylor Cisco</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Reading—Briana Lawrence Sheraton Ames <i>Briana Lawrence</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Ladies of Star Wars DoubleTree Atrium 6 A tribute to the royal and rebellious women of the Star Wars universe. Our favorites, our frustrations, and a moment of silence for our beloved Princess. <i>Alison Anderson, Dani Indovino Cawley (mod), Katarina Larsen, Kris Heding, Peregrine Johnson</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Beginning Robotics Sheraton Whalon What is the difference between a slot car motor and a belt drive motor? Is it feasible to make a walking robot as a hobbyist, like big dog/little dog? This panel will introduce you to basic robotics for hobbyists. <i>Aric Stewart (mod), Michelle Kennedy Cadieux</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Foresight is 2020: From Speculation to Reality DoubleTree Atrium 7 Of all the inventions, ideas, behaviors, and discoveries imagined in science fiction and satire, which have come to pass? Which stories and authors had the clearest foresight? Who comically missed the mark? What do today's speculative tales foresee next? <i>Anthony Eichenlaub (mod), Naomi Kritzer, Renate Fiora</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Indie Tabletop Games DoubleTree Atrium 2 Scythe, Tak, Secret Hitler: there's been a boom in independent and crowd-funded tabletop games. Designers and fans alike talk about the best indie tabletop games on the market now, what's to come, and how indie games impact the mainstream industry. <i>Scott Holm, Susan Price (mod)</i></p>

3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Gender Swapping in in Movies <i>DoubleTree Atrium 4</i> Several recent movie remakes have changed the genders of the characters, including Ghostbusters, Ocean's 8, Roadhouse, and Splash. How has this change affected the movies and what is the greater social impact? <i>Allyson Cygan, Dani Indovino Cawley, Jordan West (mod), Matt Gamble, Seanan McGuire</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Siege Engines and You <i>Sheraton Whalon</i> Want to know how to attack a castle? Well then you're in luck. Not just siege engines but strategy, castle design, usurpers, how the use of magic changes things, and why wars used to take winters off. <i>Dave Walbridge (mod), Geoff Wessendorf, H. Savinien</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Star Trek Retrospective <i>DoubleTree Atrium 6</i> Let's look back over the past 50 years... <i>Aaron Coker (mod), Bridget Landry, Taylor Cisco, Tracee Lee Cocco, William Leisner</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Convergence Events Open Meeting <i>DoubleTree Atrium 2</i> Get an update on the latest with the organization that runs CONvergence with members of the Convergence Events Board of Directors. <i>Amy Mills, Ishmael Williams, Jonathan Palmer, Liz Hernandez, Margaret Eastman, Nadim Khalidi, Thomas Keeley</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Thunderbirds Are Go Fan Panel <i>DoubleTree Atrium 7</i> Thunderbirds Are Go is an excellent modern reboot of the 1960s Gerry Anderson puppet series, using CGI and modelwork, but retaining all the charm (and one of the cast!) of the original. Its now into its second series and even on Netflix. <i>Craig A. Finseth, Edward Eastman (mod), Joan Marie Verba, Paul Cornell</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Props and Practical Effects in Film <i>DoubleTree Atrium 4</i> What are the processes behind creating props and practical effects in Hollywood? What are the benefits of practicals over CGI? <i>Eric Chu, Norman Cates</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Signing—Briana Lawrence <i>DoubleTree Autograph Table A</i> <i>Briana Lawrence</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Stranger Things Fan Panel <i>DoubleTree Atrium 6</i> THIS is the Stranger Things fan panel. <i>Adam Whitlatch, Courtney Azar, Kiah Nelson, Michael Carus (mod), Renate Fiora</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Illegal Alien Icons <i>DoubleTree Bloomington</i> A presentation of how race has shaped the world of superheroes since 1938. <i>Jai Nitz</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Refugee Lifehacks <i>DoubleTree Atrium 7</i> Guest of Honor Interview: Saymoukda Vongsay shares the life skills she learned growing up as a refugee and how they've informed her approach to writing and a career as an artist. <i>Rob Callahan (mod), Saymoukda Vongsay</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Dark Tower Fan Panel <i>DoubleTree Edina</i> Steven King created it. And did you really read that last chapter, even though he told you not to? <i>Charlene Holm, Craig Smith, Geoffrey Hofman-Frethem, Melissa Duhn (mod), Molly Glover</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Signing—Anthony W Eichnlaub <i>DoubleTree Autograph Table A</i> <i>Anthony Eichenlaub</i></p>
3:30pm–6:00pm	<p>Assassin's Guild Boffing Practice <i>DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest</i> Are you not feeling particularly competitive and just want to hit friends, loved-ones, or other con-goers with foam padded weapons? Feel free to do so in this practice event. No need to feel intimidated, relax, and have fun fighting! <i>D Alex Nicol</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>What to do When They're Watching You <i>DoubleTree Bloomington</i> Science fiction writers have long been concerned about a surveillance state, but recent technologies have made this fear more and more realistic. What technologies are watching us and what does science fiction tell us to do about it? <i>Abra Staffin-Wiebe, Craig A. Finseth, Dave Walbridge, Eric Zawadzki (mod), Jamie Riedesel</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Space Opera as Serious Literature <i>DoubleTree Plaza 1</i> Particularly since the development of so-called "new space opera" (Benford, Brin, Bear in the US; Banks, McAuley, McLeod in the UK), it's clear that the sub-genre has taken on new seriousness as a place for writers with literary and intellectual ambition. <i>Aimee Kuzenski, Dave Margosian, Kathryn Sullivan (mod), Norman Cates</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Queering the Epic <i>DoubleTree Edina</i> Let's talk about LGBT+ representation--or possible representation--in our favorite epics: Star Wars (Poe and Finn, Chirrut and Baze), Star Trek (rebooted Sulu), Marvel Cinematic Universe (yo, Deadpool!), DC (Wonder Woman), and other favorites. <i>Haddayr Copley-Woods, Kris Heding, Nathan Anderson (mod), Rory Ni Coileain, Skazka 9000</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Building a Religion <i>DoubleTree Plaza 3</i> When gods get involved, adventure happens. Whether riffing off of pantheons familiar to readers, or creating new ones as they build new worlds, writers face a challenge when they incorporate religion into their stories. What works and what doesn't? <i>Eric Zawadzki (mod), Jon Olsen, Joseph Peterson, Lois McMaster Bujold, Michael Carus</i></p>	5:00pm–6:45pm	<p>Matrix Tag <i>DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast</i> Players choose the roles of Agent Smith, Neo, Morpheus, Trinity, or play an Agent or Zionist. Any number of people can play, joining in and leaving at any time. <i>Shannon Green</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Reading—Naomi Kritzer <i>Sheraton Ames</i> Guest of Honor Naomi Kritzer will be reading her work. <i>Naomi Kritzer</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Writing Near Future Sci-Fi <i>DoubleTree Plaza 1</i> If you're world-building 600 years in the future, you have a lot of latitude in what sort of a world you're making. But what if you're setting a story or RP 50 years or 20 years in the future? What will tech and culture look like? <i>Lana Rosario, Naomi Kritzer, Tyler Tork (mod), Will Shetterly</i></p>

FRIDAY CONTINUED

5:00pm–6:00pm

The Not-So-Silent Planet: A Speculative Podcast
DoubleTree Plaza 3

Welcome to the Twin Cities' very own podcast dedicated to original speculative fiction! Join us for a live recording, featuring special guests the Scrimshaw brothers, and have your jaded chuckles recorded for posterity.

Ben San Del, Joseph Scrimshaw, Joshua Scrimshaw, Phillip Andrew Bennett Low

5:00pm–6:00pm

Reading—Michael R. Underwood
Sheraton Ames

Michael R Underwood

5:00pm–6:00pm

Starry Room
Sheraton Whalon

What's in the night sky besides stars that you can see with the naked eye? (Assuming that you're not in a city.)

Dan Berliner, Michael Zecca (mod), Sean Berry

7:00pm–8:00pm

Friends of Bill W
DoubleTree Atrium 2

7:00pm–8:00pm

Best Indie Comics
DoubleTree Atrium 4

It's a large comics universe out there, and there are many great comics published outside the Marvel and DC Universes. Hear what other titles our panelists would recommend and feel free to offer your own suggestions.

Garrick Dietze, Jai Nitz, Sean Casey (mod), Seanan McGuire

7:00pm–9:30pm

2017 Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival
DoubleTree Atrium 6

Since 2008, the Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival has been bringing you the best in genre short films produced by filmmakers around the midwestern USA and Canada. VOTE for your favorite films in the Audience Choice Awards!

Troy LaFaye (mod)

7:00pm–8:00pm

Romance and Adventure
DoubleTree Atrium 7

Science fiction and fantasy focus on adventure but the best make you care about the characters. How do writers create characters that readers invest in? When love, particularly romantic love, is a motivation, how do they make that believable?

Jody Wurl (mod), Lois McMaster Bujold

7:00pm–8:00pm

Judging a Book by Its Cover
DoubleTree Bloomington

Two competing teams of "literary experts" explain the plot of a book, based only upon the cover art they see on the screen.

Dawn Krosnowski, Jerry Belich, Melissa Kaercher, Molly Glover, Nick Glover, Tim Wick (mod)

7:00pm–8:00pm

Marvel on Netflix
DoubleTree Edina

We'll be talking about Marvel's shows on Netflix. What do you think of the direction the shows have taken? Do you like the darker tone or would you prefer the lighter tones of the MCU? What shows have been your favorite? How is the future looking?

Catherine Schaff-Stump, Keane Amdahl, Lee Harris (mod), Severina Hein, Tim Lieder



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7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Opera in Space: Music and Art of Alien Races DoubleTree Plaza 1 From infamous Klingon Opera to the Star Wars Cantina band, music and art of alien races adds tapestry to a developed fictional universe. Let's talk about what works in these imagined intergalactic cultures and what just doesn't. <i>Dave Stagner, Jonathan Killstring (mod), Kristopher Carter, Lana Rosario, Scott Keever</i></p>	8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Fantastic Beasts Movie Fan Panel DoubleTree Edina The first movie in the proposed five part series came out last year. What did we think? How did it expand the canon of the Harry Potter universe? What are you hoping for in the rest of the series? <i>Allyson Cygan, Bryon Stump, Catherine Schaff-Stump, Meghan McManus, Windy Bowlsby</i></p>
7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Pixar's Story Writing Rules DoubleTree Plaza 3 Pixar has published 22 rules to aid in writing stories. Which ones work? Do any NOT work? <i>Abra Staffin-Wiebe, Dave Walbridge, John Heimbuch, Melissa Olson (mod), Tex Thompson</i></p>	8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>The Magic and Mythology of My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic DoubleTree Plaza 1 An examination of the interesting implications about the world of Equestria and the magic therein based on the TV show, including cutie marks, destiny, history, the pony life cycle, and princesses. <i>Chrysoula Tzavelas, Destiny Ziebol, George Miller (mod), Samantha Bitner, Willson Borchert</i></p>
7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Tactics in Space Sheraton Ames How would a military spaceship "hide" in space? How would a spaceship appear to sensor systems in various wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum (e.g. infrared, ultraviolet)? What gravitational methods can be used to search for spacecraft? <i>Christopher Baye (mod), Dan Berliner, Geoff Wessendorf, Sean Berry</i></p>	8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Enterprising Individuals Live! The Wrath of CON! DoubleTree Plaza 3 Revenge is a dish best served cold, but nostalgia is best consumed immediately! Join us as a panel of Star Trek authors and fans discuss Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan for a live taping of the Enterprising Individuals podcast! <i>Aaron Coker, Christopher Jones, Naomi Kritzer, Patrick Tomlinson, William Leisner</i></p>
7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Skylarks and Lensmen, The Classic Space Opera of E.E. "Doc" Smith Sheraton Whalon E.E. "Doc" Smith created many of the basic themes of what would become "space opera" in his Skylark and Lensman series of novels—both for good and for bad. Learn about the founder of space opera in this panel. <i>Edward Eastman (mod), Scott Jamison, Scott Lynch</i></p>	8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>To Infinity Sheraton Ames Mathematicians, physicists and philosophers help you wrap your head around the concepts of eternal time and infinite space, of calculus conundrums and unfathomable quantities, of the science behind the things that have no beginning and no end. <i>Dan Berliner (mod), Jon Olsen, Renate Fiora, Sean Berry</i></p>
8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Slash Panel DoubleTree Atrium 2 Buckle your seatbelts, it's time for the annual panel about same-sex shipping! From Yuri on Ice!!! to married space monks, let's talk State of the Slash Union 2017. (This is an 18+ panel; talkin' about the porn is definitely on the table.) <i>Bess Stuvinoxend, Jo Thrace, Kes S, Lyda Morehouse (mod), Skazka 9000</i></p>	8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Writing about Time Travel Sheraton Whalon I know, "been there, done that." Are you tense about creating fiction that flirts across the boundaries of the space/time continuum? Come and hear how solve plot problems like Jimmy's clock paradox? <i>Dave Walbridge, John Heimbuch, Rory Ni Coileain, Tyler Tork</i></p>
8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Story-Driven Spacecraft Design DoubleTree Atrium 4 How do the needs of the story drive spacecraft design? From the ark ships of "When Worlds Collide" to the X-wings of Star Wars, what parts of the design are needed for the story and what parts are open to interpretation? <i>Alex Musial, Eric Chu, Kyle Dekker (mod), Michael Carus</i></p>	10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Shipping and Anti-Shipping DoubleTree Atrium 2 The idea that a fictional relationship is too controversial to be accepted isn't new to fandom, but the rise of organized anti-shippers exploded in 2016. Can we set community standards for anti-shipping so that it doesn't ruin fandom for everyone? <i>Bess Stuvinoxend, Graham Barr, Josh Sadoff, Scott Jamison (mod), Susan Willson</i></p>
8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>50 Shades of Blackface DoubleTree Atrium 7 The desire for realism is high in the cosplay community, but when does it go too far? Is it okay to change skin tone to emulate a character of a different race? Is it necessary? What is the difference between looking like another race and another species? <i>Charlene Holm, Justin Grays, Morgan Strickland, Sarah Molasky, Stephanie Stensland (mod)</i></p>	10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Walking Dead Fan Panel DoubleTree Atrium 4 Discuss the latest seven seasons of the popular series. What works, what could be better? What are story lines that should be explored in season eight? <i>Cat Choy (mod), Kris Coulter, Kristina Halseh, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir</i></p>
8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Buffy the Vampire Slayer: 20th Anniversary Panel DoubleTree Bloomington Buffy the Vampire Slayer premiered 20 years ago. In this panel we'll revisit Sunnydale, our favorite slayer and all of her friends and discuss what we loved (and hated), what holds up (and what doesn't) and how the show influenced TV and fandom. <i>David Brennan, Jenn Jensen, Keane Amdahl (mod), Lauren Wells, Severina Hein</i></p>	10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Drinking with Geeks DoubleTree Atrium 6 Geeks discuss and imbibe alcohol. 21+. <i>Bill Stiteler, C. Robert Cargill, Jerry Belich, Joseph Scrimshaw (mod), Laurie Richardson Sweep, Melissa Kaercher</i></p>
		10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Xenobiology 101 DoubleTree Atrium 7 Given the vast diversity of life on Earth, how might life from other worlds (real and imagined) have evolved differently? Why do tauntauns smell so bad? Is Superman an invasive organism? Where do baby tribbles come from? <i>Darren Abbey, Jon Durmin (mod), Vernon McIntosh</i></p>

SATURDAY CONTINUED

- 10:00pm–11:00pm **The Dick Grayson's Butt Fan Panel**
DoubleTree Bloomington
 Seriously, why is Dick Grayson's butt such a big deal? These panelists are happy to tell you.
Christopher Jones, Jen Riehm, Jimmy LeDuc (mod), Sam Stiles
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **Doctor Who This Season and Beyond**
DoubleTree Edina
 What do we think of the new series so far? What do we hope of a new Doctor?
Alison Anderson, Ben Ellis, David Brennan (mod), Michael Lee, Tim Lieder
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **In Conversation with Seanan McGuire**
DoubleTree Plaza 1
 Join McGuire for a Q&A session with a twist. She'll answer any question you ask her--anything--but the answer you get may not be the one you expect. Strong language and adult concepts are virtually guaranteed.
Seanan McGuire
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **Medicine and Star Wars**
DoubleTree Plaza 3
 The objective of this panel presentation is to elucidate and discuss the multifaceted components of the Star Wars films that have relevance to medical care in a galaxy far, far away and how it correlates to modern medicine and biomedical science on earth.
Caleb Schultz
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **Transgender 101**
Sheraton Ames
 Trans and gender nonconforming people have become far more visible, in society and in the geek community. What's the deal with pronouns? What is gender identity & how is it different from sexual orientation? What is and isn't appropriate to ask?
Adam Hochberg, Samantha Bitner
- 10:00pm–11:00pm **A Play in Klingon? How Do You Do That?**
Sheraton Whalon
 Panel discussion of how a show like A Klingon Christmas Carol is brought to life. This includes pronunciation and language lessons, stage combat, Klingon culture, blocking and costuming. May also include short character exchanges in Klingon.
Angela Fox, Lana Rosario (mod), Meredith Gillies, Tim Uren
- 11:30pm–12:30am **Robert Heinlein's Works**
DoubleTree Atrium 2
 Heinlein was a very successful and very prolific writer from science fiction's golden age. He wrote books, short stories, and even a fantasy novel. Come discuss his works and methods.
Bridget Landry, Dave Walbridge (mod), Paul Weimer, Sean Berry, Tim Lieder
- 11:30pm–12:30am **The Arrowverse**
DoubleTree Atrium 4
 DCCW has a TV universe that rivals Marvel in the form of what's commonly referred to as the 'Arrowverse' (Arrow, The Flash, Legends of Tomorrow, Supergirl). What makes these shows work and where do they need improvement? Is there room for more growth?
Jon Olsen, Keane Amdahl (mod)
- 11:30pm–12:30am **Killer B's Improv Movie Show**
DoubleTree Atrium 6
 As clips of strange movies play onscreen, a team of voice actors and musicians create a whole new soundtrack... without ever seeing the movies before! It's film, improv comedy, and live music all in one, plus a 75% chance of rubber-suit monsters!
Jerry Belich, Joseph Scrimshaw, Kelvin Hatle, Melissa Kaercher (mod), Molly Glover, Salsa Sterling, Scott Keever, Tim Uren

- 11:30pm–12:30am **BDSM: So You Want to Enter the Kink Community?**
DoubleTree Atrium 7
 In recent years, kink and BDSM have become a bigger part of society. But how do you go about breaking in? Come learn about the Twin Cities Kink Community, rules and guidelines about behavior, and how consent plays a major role in what we do.
Kendra Akin, Michael Carus, Rakhi R (mod), Samantha Bitner, Susan Willson
- 11:30pm–12:30am **The Pun-el**
DoubleTree Bloomington
 The Tradition Returns (or is that regurgitates...)! People sitting in a big room throwing puns at each other without fear of flying fruit! (Named for the great Kryptonian comedian...)
Brian LaBounty, Edward Eastman, Margaret Eastman
- 11:30pm–12:30am **Twin Peaks**
DoubleTree Edina
 As the TV sensation returns 25 years later, we discuss its current status in a long-form TV landscape it pioneered, old & new cast members, the place of Mark Frost's book, and the unprecedented creative control Showtime is giving director David Lynch.
Adam Lueck, Garrick Dietze (mod), Niles Schwartz, Pat Harrigan
- 11:30pm–12:30am **Menstruation Representation in Post Apocalyptic, Dystopian, and Futuristic Media**
DoubleTree Plaza 3
 Discussion on the lack of representation of menstruation in post-apocalyptic, dystopian, and futuristic media including fiction, television, and film productions.
Alee Ellingsberg, Heather Rand-McKay (mod), Jessica Silk
- 11:30pm–12:30am **Relaxing in the Future**
Sheraton Ames
 How do people relax in the future? Syntheloh? Death Chips? BTL chips? Holodecks? New drugs?
Chrysoula Tzavelas (mod), Hertzey Hertz, Marina Challeen
- 11:30pm–12:30am **Living the Gimmick Life**
Sheraton Whalon
 Local Minnesota wrestlers talk about their life in wrestling, being on the road, training, their inspirations and goals.
Arik Cannon, Terry Fox

SATURDAY

- 9:30am–10:30am **The Life of a Mermaid**
DoubleTree Atrium 2
 Some Mermaids at CON will bring their tails for all to see in person. We will discuss the good, the bad, and the ugly about being a mermaid; discuss different tail types and artists; answer any questions our guests may have; and more!
Alyssa Adair, Ashley Falenschek, Tanja Page
- 9:30am–10:30am **Logan Movie Fan Panel**
DoubleTree Atrium 6
 Logan was the Wolverine movie we have been waiting for since Hugh Jackman first popped his claws in 1999. We'll discuss and celebrate the character's complete run, with emphasis on how Logan delivered on a promise 17 years in the making.
Satish Jayaraj, Severina Hein (mod)
- 9:30am–10:30am **How to Attract an Audience**
DoubleTree Atrium 7
 Marketing professionals and artists with a proven track record for generating buzz share their dos and don'ts when it comes to marketing art and convincing potential audiences to pick up your book, attend your show, or follow your podcast.
Anj Olsen, Echo Martin, Harris O'Malley, Michael R Underwood, Tania Richter

9:30am–10:30am	<p>Law in Science Fiction DoubleTree Bloomington Panelists discuss the role of law and government in various sci-fi properties. Possible topics could include anything from Robocop, Judge Dredd, and Minority Report to Star Wars, District 9, and V for Vendetta. <i>David Stegora, Derek "Duck" Washington, J. Boone Dryden (mod), J.C. Horvath, Jamie Riedesel</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>I'm Sorry, I Haven't a Clue <i>DoubleTree Edina</i> This is a British radio game show: basically an excuse for four panelists and the host to play childish games for an hour. Come watch our panelists play Mornington Crescent and One Song to the Tune of Another! <i>Caroline Symcox, Lee Harris, Paul Cornell, Seanan McGuire, Tim Wick</i></p>
9:30am–10:30am	<p>Modern Treknology DoubleTree Edina Which century is this? We have communicators, we can 3D print objects, we have practical applications for antimatter, and our computers talk back to us! Join us to discuss the ways that Star Trek has influenced the development of tech in our world. <i>Heather Dickinson, Ib Jensen, Jen Riehm, Madeleine Vasaly, William Leisner</i></p>	11:00am–11:30am	<p>Harisen Daiko Preview DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast A quick preview of the thundering taiko drums that await in Harisen Daiko's Sunday performance on MainStage (home of the Taiko Sci Fi medley!). Stop by the garden court to get a taste of Harisen BRINGING THE BOOM! <i>Steve Sylvestre</i></p>
9:30am–10:30am	<p>Latinx Empowerment Through Latinx Heroes DoubleTree Plaza 1 Latinx characters like Suicide Squad's El Diablo, Rogue One's Cassian Andor, Young Avengers' America Chavez, & MCU's Claire Temple provide a heroic mirror for the Latinx community to see ourselves and our culture. Let's talk about why that's so important. <i>Andrea Peraza, Bri Donovan (mod), Clarissa Goldsmith, Jai Nitz, SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>Superman: The Golden Age DoubleTree Plaza 1 Award-winning playwright Phillip Low has created an adaptation of Superman's earliest appearances! Come listen to a full-cast reading of Jerry Siegel's eccentric two-fisted street justice, dispensed by the ultimate interstellar immigrant. <i>Dawn Krosnowski, Joshua Scrimshaw, Kelvin Hatle, Tim Uren, Phillip Andrew Bennett Low</i></p>
9:30am–10:30am	<p>Pokemon Go Fan Panel DoubleTree Plaza 3 Let's discuss the whole impact of this game. <i>Dirk Ykema, Rachel Pollack (mod)</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>How to Storyboard DoubleTree Plaza 3 A how-to session on the art of storyboarding for visual media. <i>Ian Truitner, Kyle Dekker (mod), Sean Berry, Vanessa Horrocks</i></p>
9:30am–10:30am	<p>Reading—Anthony W. Eichenlaub Sheraton Ames <i>Anthony Eichenlaub</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>Reading—Roy C Booth Sheraton Ames <i>Roy C. Booth</i></p>
9:30am–10:30am	<p>Giant Lizard Theater: Infinity Edition Sheraton Whalon From ancient dragons and dinosaurs to roaring atomic kaiju, anything goes in this open space panel on speculative poetry with the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association, exploring the themes of infinity and more! Bring your creativity! <i>Bryan Thao Worra, Lathan Murrell, Sandra Lindow (mod)</i></p>	11:00am–Noon	<p>Honorverse Sheraton Whalon David Weber's series is a well-regarded space opera. Come talk about what makes it a great story. <i>Garret Bitker, Kevin Horner (mod), Michael Carus, Michael Shappe, Scott Lynch</i></p>
11:00am–Noon	<p>Meet Geek Partnership Society DoubleTree Atrium 2 The local nonprofit GPS exists to support our local fan community. Find out how they can connect you to your fandoms and grow partnerships. Learn about their events and activities. <i>Ann Roubik</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Universal Design Principles IN SPACE! DoubleTree Atrium 2 What features and amenities would a space ship have to be designed with to be universally accessible for humans with disabilities? Let's imagine, and plan out, a truly accessible space ship. <i>Adam Poetter (mod), Alisha Srock, Echo Martin, Heather Dickinson</i></p>
11:00am–Noon	<p>LEGO Batman DoubleTree Atrium 6 Did they get the LEGO world right? Did they get Batman right? How are things in the brick world going? <i>Christopher Jones, Geoffrey Hofman-Frethem, Meghan McManus, Michael Zecca (mod), Samantha Bitner</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Cold-blooded Mythology DoubleTree Atrium 4 Curious about scaly, creepy, crawly critters? Join members of the Minnesota Herpetological Society for a hands-on presentation of their native and exotic cold-blooded companions. <i>Anna Toenjes (mod)</i></p>
11:00am–Noon	<p>Of a Certain Age DoubleTree Atrium 7 What stories feature older characters as the hero? How do these stories hook readers? What can you learn from them when the storyteller does the job well? <i>Lois McMaster Bujold, Lyda Morehouse (mod)</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Beyond Creation: Diversity in Media DoubleTree Atrium 6 They say that if you want more diversity, you should go out and create it yourself, but that's just part of what needs to be done. We'll discuss all the important factors of being more inclusive in the media we create and consume. <i>Briana Lawrence, Jessica Walsh, Morgan Strickland, Patrick Marsh (mod), Sara McAtee</i></p>
11:00am–Noon	<p>Signing—Jessica Walsh DoubleTree Autograph Table A <i>Jessica Walsh</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Internet of Things (In)Security DoubleTree Atrium 7 We're buying and installing them at a furious pace. What are we creating? <i>Cary Christopherson, Craig A. Finseth, Ib Jensen, James Renken (mod), Sean Berry</i></p>
11:00am–Noon	<p>Avoiding Cultural Appropriation in World Building DoubleTree Bloomington Whether designing a game or writing a story, it's important to avoid appropriating cultures and perpetuating stereotypes of real-world peoples. We will examine common pitfalls, and discuss how to create truly original and authentic fictional worlds. <i>Cam Banks (mod), Jen Riehm, Joseph Jay-Dixon, Kenneth Justiniano, Morgan Strickland</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Signing—Naomi Kritzer DoubleTree Autograph Table B Guest of Honor Naomi Kritzer will be available to sign her work. <i>Naomi Kritzer</i></p>

SATURDAY CONTINUED

12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Comic Book Writing 101 DoubleTree Bloomington How and why most creative writing classes stink when it comes to comics. <i>Jai Nitz</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Why Dystopia is Not Dead DoubleTree Atrium 7 There is something about the dystopian/post-apocalyptic genre that keeps readers, TV, and movie fans coming back for more. What is it about the end of the world fiction that keeps us coming back? Is there an end in sight? <i>Anthony Eichenlaub, George Miller (mod), J. Boone Dryden, Monica Valentinelli, Seanan McGuire</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Orphan Black in Review DoubleTree Edina Now that the final season of Orphan Black has aired, discuss how the conspiracy played out, the complexity of family dynamics, the science behind the plot, and the extraordinary craft that went into making the sestras. <i>Alison Anderson, Grace Ulak (mod), Jennifer Paulus, Jody Wurl, Kiah Nelson</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Signing—Cynthia Booth DoubleTree Autograph Table A <i>Cynthia Booth</i></p>
12:30pm–4:30pm	<p>ChessWerks DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast Play chess with oversized pieces in the Garden Court. <i>Chairman deBoard</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Signing—Roy C Booth DoubleTree Autograph Table B <i>Roy C. Booth</i></p>
12:30pm–3:15pm	<p>Assassin's Guild Boffing Tournament DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest Welcome to the 12th annual Assassin's Guild Boffing Tournament! Compete against your fellow con-goer by hitting each other with foam padded weapons! Trophies will be awarded to the top combatants! <i>D Alex Nicol</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Movie Year in Review DoubleTree Bloomington From indie darlings to foreign films to big-budget blockbusters, let's discuss everything from the last year of film. <i>Alex Musial, Matt Gamble, Melissa Kaercher, Michael May (mod), Norman Cates</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Scoring in Films DoubleTree Plaza 1 What makes an iconic film score? What makes one forgettable? How do directors use score to effect the story? Let's talk sound design. <i>Dave Stagner, Kristopher Carter, Matt Gamble, Nathan Anderson (mod), Scott Keever</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>It's a CONspiracy: Our Abduction DoubleTree Edina For the fourth year running, Molly Glover, Jeremy Stomberg, Tim Wick, and Nick Glover bring you The Truth (tm) about REAL and TOTALLY NOT FAKE things going on in the world around you... and also lizard people. <i>Jeremy Stomberg, Molly Glover, Nick Glover, Tim Wick</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Geeks in the Arts Scene DoubleTree Plaza 3 Let's talk about being a geek in more traditional art scenes. From installations, exhibitions, and performance art with speculative fiction and geeky themes to attitudes and cultural trends, where do we fit in? <i>Holly Chamas, Jen Riehm, Kristin Tipping, Meredith Gillies, Saymoukda Vongsay</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Funny How? Dissecting the Frog DoubleTree Plaza 1 Why are some things funny? Has any single theory of comedy emerged as the best predictor of what makes people laugh? How the hell do you write a good joke? Comedy writers/performers discuss these and other questions about the elusive nature of humor. <i>Ben San Del, Eric Chu, Meghan McManus, Shannan Paul (mod), phillip andrew bennett low</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Reading—Cynthia Booth Sheraton Ames <i>Cynthia Booth</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Educational Apps DoubleTree Plaza 3 We had Oregon Trail. What has it grown into? What are the new ones that we should be looking into? <i>Chrysoula Tzavelas, Katarina Larsen, Kerry Peterson, Peter Larsen, Sharon Stiteler (mod)</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Anime on the Rocks Podcast Live Sheraton Whalon Podcasting about anime and alcohol-fueled nonsense doused with a little bit of intrigue and comedy. This episode we intend to jump into anime's place within intergalactic drama, adventure, horror, and sexiness. Join us for our second ever live recording! <i>Alfonso Maldonado, Jeff Henry, Michael Grimm, Ryan Sparks</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Reading—Jessica Walsh Sheraton Ames <i>Jessica Walsh</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>VR: Fad or Staying? DoubleTree Atrium 2 A lot has happened in VR in the last year. New viewers, platforms, and applications continue to arrive. What are the best uses of the technology? Will it be around in a few years or just have been a passing fad? <i>Allyson Cygan, Luxander Pond, Ross Conklin (mod)</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Ancillary Justice Sheraton Whalon Ancillary Justice is a about a ship, in human form, getting justice for its murder. Come discuss the trilogy. <i>Haddayr Copley-Woods, Michael Shappe, Paul Weimer, Sarah O'Connor (mod)</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Lois McMaster Bujold Fan Panel DoubleTree Atrium 4 Discuss Bujold's writing, your favorite characters and story lines. <i>Kristina Halseth, Marguerite Krause (mod), Naomi Kritzer, Sean Berry</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Why Do We Game? DoubleTree Atrium 2 Tabletop games have become the cool new hobby for adults. What is it about tabletop gaming that draws us in? Let's talk about why we game, how we game, what games we play and what all that says about us as gamers and people. <i>Kerry Peterson (mod), Rebecca Kludy, Sam Stiles, Scott White, Wil Kludy</i></p>
2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Star Wars 40th Anniversary DoubleTree Atrium 6 It's been 40 years since that courier ship first appeared on the screen. Let's look back and talk about the best--and worst--of the phenomenon. <i>Bess Stuvencoxend, Courtney Krautbauer, Niles Schwartz (mod), Todd Murray</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Battlestar Galactica—Designing for Global Annihilation DoubleTree Atrium 4 Eric Chu recounts his experiences working on SyFy's Battlestar Galactica and the design challenges he went through bringing the world of evil murderous robots and explosive space battles to life. <i>Eric Chu</i></p>

3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Geeks Without God Live DoubleTree Atrium 6 The Geeks Without God podcast began at CONvergence exactly five years ago. Over two hundred and fifty podcasts later, they return for another live recording with special guests! <i>Joseph Scrimshaw, Molly Glover, Nick Glover, Tim Wick</i></p>	3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Punk Variations and Space Opera Sheraton Whalon A discussion of how the various punk sub-genres cross-over (or the potential for) with space opera. The Victorian/Edwardian and American Gilded Age fascination with space and the planets beyond lends itself well to retro-future space opera. <i>David Stegora, Jonathan Killstring (mod), Roy C. Booth, Ty Blauersouth, Tyler Tork</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Jodorowsky's Dune DoubleTree Atrium 7 Come talk about the documentary, which details Alejandro Jodorowsky's attempt to film "Dune" in the 70s. Many genre projects owe their existence to the failed film and we'll talk about why. <i>Aaron Coker, Ben Ellis, Garrick Dietze, Melissa Kaercher (mod), Michael Carus</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Creating a Story with Tarot Cards DoubleTree Atrium 2 Demonstration and audience participation. The attendees will create a story line in the panel. A little imagination can take you a long way. Let's see if we can come up with the next great sci-fi or fantasy novel. Using tarot cards we will create a story. <i>Elise Matthesen, Holly Chamas, John Heimbuch (mod)</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Signing—Lois McMaster Bujold DoubleTree Autograph Table A Guest of Honor Lois McMaster Bujold will be available to sign her work. <i>Lois McMaster Bujold</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>David Lynch's Dune DoubleTree Atrium 4 What did Lynch get right and what did he get wrong in his filmed version of the Frank Herbert Classic? Let's talk about it. <i>Kris Coulter, Michael Carus, Norman Cates, Paul Weimer, Scott Lynch (mod)</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Signing—Seanan McGuire DoubleTree Autograph Table B Guest of Honor Seanan McGuire will be available to sign her work. <i>Seanan McGuire</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>(Fake?) Science in the News DoubleTree Atrium 6 How do you know when to trust a news report about the latest fantastic discovery? What should you consider before clicking? <i>Anthony Eichenlaub (mod), Dan Berliner, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir, Naomi Kritzer, Vernon McIntosh</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>How Do You Blow Up a Space Cruiser? DoubleTree Bloomington Space opera is full of heroic, last-ditch battles between enemy space ships, searing laser beams, and exploding antimatter bombs! Come find out about our panelists' favorite space-based sci-fi weapons and whether or not they could ever really exist. <i>Adam Poetter, Christopher Baye, Samantha Bitner, Steven Theiss (mod)</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Creating Appealing Scientific Subjects DoubleTree Atrium 7 Is a plasma reactor (like the one on Enterprise) realistic? There are so many sci-fi shows today, how do you know what is realistic science and what isn't. Authors have to be creative, but follow a certain code when it comes to their novels. <i>Jerry Stearns (mod), Seanan McGuire</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Animating Batman Through Music DoubleTree Edina Guest of Honor Kristopher Carter will take you through a tour of the music scoring the various animated incarnations of the Caped Crusader, from Batman: The Animated Series to Batman: Return of the Caped Crusaders and everything between. <i>Kristopher Carter</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>The Great Beyond: Discussing Death in Popular Culture DoubleTree Bloomington Is death in pop culture becoming more prevalent? If so, what does it mean for modern TV and film? What does it say about our times? Is this Joss Whedon's fault? When is death used to best effect? Will a Marvel character ever stay dead? <i>Emilie Peck, Emma Bull, Gabriela Santiago, Jonah Rees, Justine Mastin, Monica Valentinelli (mod)</i></p>
3:30pm–5:00pm	<p>Group Signing DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest This signing is for Invited and other Participants to sign their work. <i>Adam Whitlatch, Anthony Eichenlaub, Axel Kohagen, Briana Lawrence, Harris O'Malley, Jessica Walsh, Joan Marie Verba, John Heimbuch, Michael R Underwood, Taylor Cisco, Tex Thompson, William Leisner</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Wonder Woman Movie Fan Panel DoubleTree Edina Amazon princess Diana meets American military pilot Steve Trevor when he is washed ashore. After learning from him about the ongoing events of World War I, she leaves her home to end the war. <i>Alexandra Howes (mod), Geoffrey Hofman-Frethem, Severina Hein, Taylor Cisco, Phillip Andrew Bennett Low</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Eye in the Martian Sky: Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter DoubleTree Plaza 1 MRO not only observes Mars, but it also supports landed missions by scouting landing sites and relaying their data once they arrive. Come hear a former member of MRO's operations team speak about how we study Mars and the vast amount we have learned. <i>Bridget Landry</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Pie Eating Contest DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast Join Dean and Amara in the garden court for a pie feeding frenzy. You better bring your appetite. <i>Chris Pederson</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Dungeon Apprentice: How to be a Great Dungeon Master DoubleTree Plaza 3 Ever wanted to run your own D&D game but never dared take on the role of Dungeon Master? Experienced dungeon masters will provide beginner tips for hosting a great night of D&D and share their stories of how and why certain campaigns went terribly wrong. <i>Brian Casey, Kenneth Justiniano, Kristin Daley, Michael May (mod), Nat Morse-Noland</i></p>	5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Group Signing (cont) DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest This signing is for Invited and other Participants to sign their work. <i>Adam Whitlatch, Axel Kohagen, Briana Lawrence, Catherine Schaff-Stump, Harris O'Malley, J. Boone Dryden, Jessica Walsh, Joan Marie Verba, Michael R Underwood, Roy C. Booth, Tex Thompson, William Leisner</i></p>
3:30pm–4:30pm	<p>Reading—Catherine Schaff-Stump Sheraton Ames <i>Catherine Schaff-Stump</i></p>		

SATURDAY CONTINUED

5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>PTSD Representation in Geeky Media DoubleTree Plaza 1 In every form of media, PTSD has been used as a plot device or character development. This disorder is shrouded in mystery and seems misunderstood by both writers and audience. Panelists with first-hand PTSD experience discuss the nuances of our disorder <i>Amy Fischer, Haddayr Copley-Woods, Luxander Pond, Michael Spaulding (mod), Skazka 9000</i></p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Anime for the Sci-Fi Fan DoubleTree Plaza 3 Sci-fi fan? There's anime for that! Let us introduce you to some anime that you might like to watch which we promise probably won't involve tentacles or a socially awkward teenager collecting a harem. Probably. <i>Bob Johnson (mod), Bolt Vanderhuge, Gristle McThornbody, Penguinu Hansen, Punch Rockgroin</i></p>
5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Asian Folklore 101 DoubleTree Plaza 3 We all (sort of) know about the various flavors of European folklore, but most of us don't know about what's from Asia. Come and learn. <i>Bryan Thao Worra, Eric Chu, Patrick Marsh (mod), Saymoukda Vongsay</i></p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Ingress—Augmented Reality Cat-Herding Sheraton Ames Ingress preceded Pokemon GO as Niantic Lab's first foray into geolocation augmented reality gaming. As Ingress nears Year 4, experienced players talk about localizing a global community, lone-wolf vs. team play, and burnout in years-long game play. <i>Dan Schmidt, Peter Leppik, Taylor Bilotta, Vanessa Krake</i></p>
5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>The Dark is Coming Sheraton Ames There's a total solar eclipse coming August 21. Here! In the US! How are you going to see it? <i>Christopher Baye, Michael Kingsley (mod), Michael Zecca, Sean Berry</i></p>	7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Storytelling, Slam Poetry, and Spoken Word Artists Sheraton Whalon Tradition states that, millennia ago, Homer and Ovid performed their works before live audiences. Can David Sedaris and Russell Simmons be considered their heirs? <i>Ben San Del (mod), Elise Matthesen, Sam Stiles, Satish Jayaraj, phillip andrew bennett low</i></p>
5:00pm–6:00pm	<p>Meteorites! Coming to a Planet Near You! Sheraton Whalon Meteorite collecting is a lifelong exploration into both history and science. Come see a collection of hundreds of specimens and a comprehensive presentation on the topic. Stay after for a chance to hold a piece of The Moon and Mars! <i>John Shea</i></p>	8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Spooky Archie Comics DoubleTree Atrium 2 The Archie comic characters have changed with the new titles, moving to more horrific and disturbing themes. Come talk about this trend and whether it will spread to other comics. <i>Harris O'Malley, Jai Nitz</i></p>
7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Friends of Bill W DoubleTree Atrium 2</p>	8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Game of Thrones Fan Panel DoubleTree Atrium 6 Come talk about the show and our expectations now that it's ahead of the books. <i>Craig Smith, Eric Zawadzki, Meghan McManus, Michael Carus (mod), Sean Berry</i></p>
7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol 2 DoubleTree Atrium 6 Spoiler Alert—we're going to talk about the new movie, which has been out only a couple weeks. Our lovable band of rogues are having another adventure. Will Quill get with Gamora? Will we ever see anything as cute as baby Groot again? Let's dance! <i>Aaron Coker (mod), Alexandra Howes, Dave Margosian, Jai Nitz, Samantha Bitner</i></p>	8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>The Making of Kung Fu Zombies vs. Cannibals DoubleTree Atrium 7 Join the team behind the breakout play, Kung Fu Zombies vs. Cannibals, to learn about the ideas on racial identity, colonialism, religion, and politics that went into this story. With Saymoukda Vongsay, DJ Kool Akiem, Bryan Thao Worra, and Rob Callahan. <i>Bryan Thao Worra, DJ Kool Akiem, Rob Callahan (mod), Saymoukda Vongsay</i></p>
7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>The Exorcist Comes to TV DoubleTree Atrium 7 The Exorcist Universe descended on TV this season. How has the television version expanded the story started in the movies? Is it an improvement or just a different facet of The Exorcist? How does the television show present the modern Catholic Church. <i>Ann Laabs, Axel Kohagen, Kelly Jo Ernst, Melissa Olson (mod), Niles Schwartz</i></p>	8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Subversive Sci-Fi of Paul Verhoeven DoubleTree Edina Dutch director Paul Verhoeven's Hollywood films have been blockbuster hits (Robocop, Total Recall, Basic Instinct) and objects of ridicule (Showgirls, Starship Troopers). We discuss how he is one of moviedom's most iconoclastic of genre infiltrators. <i>Adam Lueck, Greg Orange, Matt Gamble (mod), Norman Cates, Tim Lieder</i></p>
7:00pm–9:30pm	<p>Mega Panel DoubleTree Bloomington The panel where we talk about anything and everything *except* the CONvergence Masquerade. If you are interested in everything *except* the masquerade, this is the panel for you! <i>Derek Mahr, Jeremy Stomberg, Melissa Kaercher, Molly Glover, Nick Glover</i></p>	8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Truth That's Weirder Than Fiction DoubleTree Plaza 1 Are we living in an SF novel right now? What real-world weirdness inspires our fiction and what real-world stories are far too implausible to ever fly in a fictional work? <i>Emilie Peck, Jen Dixon, Naomi Kritzer (mod)</i></p>
7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Obsessed Podcast: Whiskey DoubleTree Edina A live recording of comedian Joseph Scrimshaw's hit comedy podcast about liking things a lot! Joseph hosts a panel of pals obsessed with the adult beverage, whiskey. <i>C. Robert Cargill, Joseph Scrimshaw (mod), Sara Scrimshaw, Tim Wick</i></p>	8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>VR in Movies and Games DoubleTree Plaza 3 Both Hollywood and the gaming industry are utilizing new graphics technology. Let's talk about what's already out and what we're hoping to see. <i>Evva Kraikul, Ian Truitner, Ross Conklin, Stephan Stomberg, Tony Bruno (mod)</i></p>
7:00pm–8:00pm	<p>Stargate Fan Panel DoubleTree Plaza 1 All things Stargate, the movie, the shows (SG-1, Atlantis, SGU). What worked, what didn't? What made the characters great? And what made the best episodes stick with you? <i>Chelsea Okey (mod), Courtney Azar, Lathan Murrell, Norman Cates</i></p>		

8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Grimm: The Final Season Sheraton Ames The last season has aired. What did we think of how the story wrapped? What were your favorite moments? We will be focusing on Season 6, but there will likely be some series retrospective discussions as well. <i>Ann Laabs, Cetius d'Raven (mod), Jennifer Manna</i></p>	10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>The Rise of Women's Comic Book Clubs Sheraton Ames There are three feminist comic book clubs in the Twin Cities alone and similar groups have been popping up all over the US for the last few years. What makes these groups so popular? Why the sudden increase? Club leaders talk about their experiences. <i>Jordan West, Katy Rex, Millie Adelsheim</i></p>
8:30pm–9:30pm	<p>Local Urban Fantasy Sheraton Whalon A panel of local authors of urban fantasy, stories set in or around the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. <i>David Lenander, Lyda Morehouse (mod)</i></p>	10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Table Top Space Opera Sheraton Whalon What are your favorite table-top games with a space opera theme? <i>Jonathan Killstring (mod), Kyle Dekker</i></p>
10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Space Opera Anime and Manga DoubleTree Atrium 2 From Macross to Tenchi Muyo, Captain Harlock, Space Battleship Yamato, Legend of the Galactic Heroes, and so, so many more, Anime and Manga offer us amazing, developed worlds for Space Opera. It can be hard to explore them all, but we'll try! <i>Jen Riehm, Nick Stoner, Scott Jamison (mod), Scott Mattson</i></p>	11:30pm–12:30am	<p>Dominate Submissions DoubleTree Atrium 2 Publishers and literary contest judges share what they like to see in submitted works of writing, what keeps them reading past the first few sentences, and what turns them off. Hoping to get published or win a literary contest? Take these tips to heart. <i>David Stegora, Laura Zats (mod), Roy C. Booth</i></p>
10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Peele-ing back "Get Out" DoubleTree Atrium 6 Jordan Peele's new horror flick "Get Out" was different. It was very, very different. But the world it presented around race was, literally, scarily familiar. Let's break that down. <i>AlyshaRose Jordan, Bryan Thao Worra, Derek "Duck" Washington, Gregory Parks (mod), Morgan Strickland</i></p>	11:30pm–12:30am	<p>Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog DoubleTree Atrium 6 The Evil League of Evil invites you to attend Joss Whedon's Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog. Don't forget to attend "Can't Stop the Serenity" on August 3 2017 at the Riverview Theater in Minneapolis. <i>Barbara Jungbauer</i></p>
10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Preacher Fan Panel DoubleTree Atrium 7 Who've thought Preacher would be developed for TV? Well, it has and we're gonna talk about it. How true to source is this adaptation? What's changed for the better? <i>Jeremy Stomberg, Sean Berry (mod)</i></p>	11:30pm–12:30am	<p>The Golden Age of Radio Horror DoubleTree Atrium 7 A discussion of the great horror and suspense shows from the golden age of radio, including Suspense, Lights Out Everybody, The Witch's Tale, The Shadow, and more. We'll talk about classic episodes, not-so-classic episodes, and the people who made them. <i>Bill Stiteler (mod), Joshus English Scrimshaw, Kai Stewart, Scott Jamison, Tim Uren</i></p>
10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Minnesota Awkward: Conversation and Mingling Tips for the Socially Challenged DoubleTree Bloomington Let's face it. Geeks are awkward. Minnesotans are shy. We need help. Networking experts and CONvergence goers who have overcome awkwardness tell their stories and offer advice for improving small-talk, flirting, and conversational technique. <i>Adam Poetter, Ben Ellis, Bess Stuvencend, Grace Ulak (mod), Harris O'Malley</i></p>	11:30pm–12:30am	<p>2 Panel 2 Furious DoubleTree Bloomington A new Fast & Furious film has roared into theaters! Is it a worthy addition to this increasingly ambitious and bonkers franchise? Are you new to the series and are wondering what's going on? Did the panelists bring enough Corona this time? Join our FAMILY <i>Derek Mahr, Melissa Kaercher (mod), Windy Bowslby</i></p>
10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>From Fetishism to Feminism: Horror, Anime and Beyond DoubleTree Edina Final girls, all-female battleship crews, mythological heroes recast as women: let's talk about how tropes rooted in sexism and objectification can be reinterpreted as empowering narratives by those being objectified and why that happens. <i>Chrysoula Tzavelas, Lara Richarson, Michael Grimm (mod), Michelle C, Michelle Farley</i></p>	11:30pm–12:30am	<p>Star Wars Counseling DoubleTree Edina Joseph Scrimshaw, comedian and co-host of the Star Wars podcast, Force Center, tries to make people feel better about whatever part of Star Wars they're upset with. The light side of the force is calling... let it in. <i>Jeremy Stomberg, Joseph Scrimshaw, Molly Glover</i></p>
10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Supernatural 12 seasons and beyond! DoubleTree Plaza 1 The Winchester's are hunting for a 12th season and already renewed for a 13th! Between finding Lucifer and trying to figure out what the British Men of Letters want, Sam and Dean already have their hands full with Castiel, Crowley and Mom! <i>Alexandra Howes (mod), Holly Chamas, Jennifer Lundstrom, Jennifer Manna, Nicole LaBat</i></p>	11:30pm–12:30am	<p>Bridge Building 101 DoubleTree Plaza 3 The command deck, or bridge, is the heart of the vessel. The team that brought you HMS Artemis Simulator will discuss design, materials, and execution. Learn how they did it and tips on how you can too. <i>Brian Horton, Christopher Thompson, Don Hackett, Jill McTavish</i></p>
10:00pm–11:00pm	<p>Androids, AI, And Gender Theory DoubleTree Plaza 3 Androids & AI in sci-fi disrupt the idea of a gender binary and play with gender fluidity in a way that implies gender is not essential or passive but a construct in which one must actively participate. How do these narratives translate to other contexts <i>Jamie Riedesel (mod), Justin Grays, Nat Morse-Noland, Skazka 9000, Susan Willson</i></p>	11:30pm–12:30am	<p>Horatio Hornblower...IN SPACE! Sheraton Ames From the Royal Manticoran Navy to the Republic of Cinnabar Navy, we'll discuss how military space opera series are flavored with tropes borrowed from the classic "age of sail" Royal Navy adventures by C.S. Forester and Patrick O'Brian. <i>Christopher Baye (mod), Garret Bitker, John Neitz, Sean Berry</i></p>

SATURDAY CONTINUED

11:30pm–12:30am **Barbarella Fan Panel**
Sheraton Whalon
The cult classic about a sexy astronaut saving the peaceful future from a return of evil. Come discuss the beauty and the cheesiness of this beloved film and its spinoff media.
Garrick Dietze, Lara Richarson, Sarah Barsness (mod)

SUNDAY

9:30am–10:30am **A Comprehensive Guide to Independent Publishing**
DoubleTree Atrium 2
There are a lot of guides to self-publishing, independent publishing, and small presses. However, those guides may not cover everything. The purpose of this panel is to cover issues and challenges that may not be covered elsewhere.
Harris O'Malley, Joan Marie Verba, Linda White, Michael R Underwood, Ty Blauersouth (mod)

9:30am–10:30am **Ms. Marvel Fan Panel**
DoubleTree Atrium 4
Marvel has four different heroes under this same overall title. They're all good, but which is your favorite?
John Seavey, Kathryn Sullivan, Lyda Morehouse (mod), Tim Lieder

9:30am–10:30am **Flash Gordon (1980)**
DoubleTree Atrium 6
Let's talk about the sole sci-fi entry from director Mike Hodges. How did the film get made? How did Queen come to do the soundtrack?
Garrick Dietze, Kevin Eldridge, Kyle Dekker (mod), Paul Weimer

9:30am–10:30am **Miles in Charge**
DoubleTree Atrium 7
Miles Vorkosigan, a genius hampered by his disabilities on his home world of Barrayar, becomes a force to be reckoned with once he starts exploring the galaxy. Explore Bujold's Vorkosigan Saga and why having Miles in charge is not always a good thing.
Jody Wurl (mod), Kerry Peterson, Lois McMaster Bujold

9:30am–10:30am **Gravity Falls Fan Panel**
DoubleTree Bloomington
Let's chat conspiracy theories, nightmare demons, and adorable sweaters at this Gravity Falls fan panel.
Anna Besmann (mod), Graham Barr, Jeanne Mealy, Jonah Rees

9:30am–10:30am **Steven Universe as Queer Space Opera**
DoubleTree Edina
We will explore how the alternative relationship styles and structures, as well as the growth and character development in Steven Universe work to queer the traditional concepts of Space Opera.
Bri Donovan (mod), Jesse Haller, Justin Grays, Lara Richarson, Ryan Alexander

9:30am–10:30am **The Many Failures of Dungeons & Dragons**
DoubleTree Plaza 1
Possibly the most widely played RPG, D&D has some mighty flaws built into its design and play. Can they be overcome by good players, house rules, or in-game purchases?
Cam Banks (mod), Dave Walbridge, Kevin Horner, Monica Valentinelli

9:30am–10:30am **Parenting in Troubled Times**
DoubleTree Plaza 3
Our world seems beset by unsolvable problems and unwinnable battles, from Global Climate Change to the rise of Fascism. How can we, as parents, raise socially aware children without passing along our fears and worries to the next generation?
Anj Olsen, Katarina Larsen, Michael May (mod), Peter Larsen, Vetrnita Anderson

9:30am–10:30am **Why Are All the Blerds Sitting Together in the Garden Court?**
Sheraton Ames
Why is there a differentiation? Aren't we all one geeky community? The panel will explore what it's like to be considered an outsider within your own community, the meaning of the term "blerd" and how it's not just a pop-culture reference.
AlyssaRose Jordan (mod), Briana Lawrence, Gregory Parks

9:30am–10:30am **Laomagination: Building Southeast Asian Speculative Arts Movements**
Sheraton Whalon
While Southeast Asian culture has extensive epics, space opera is still an emerging field. Using Laos as a case study, we'll look at possible directions for the genre. How might the Vietnam War, ecological / economic / political concerns impact tales?
Bryan Thao Worra

11:00am–Noon **Space Opera in Video Games**
DoubleTree Atrium 2
Mass Effect, Knights of the Old Republic, and Destiny are all well known examples. Come talk about these and other examples of this year's theme applied to video gaming.
Jonathan Killstring (mod), Meredith Gillies, Stephan Stomberg

11:00am–Noon **When Nerd Niche Goes Mainstream**
DoubleTree Atrium 4
With superheroes all the rage these days, self-described old-school nerds talk about what it was like back when enjoying comic books would get you beat up in school and the pros and cons of when your niche interests go mainstream.
Allyson Cygan, Dave Margosian (mod), Derek Mahr, Harris O'Malley, Michael R Underwood

11:00am–Noon **Star Trek: Discovery**
DoubleTree Atrium 6
Let's discuss the newest addition to the Star Trek family. What worked, what didn't, and what do you hope to see from the show going forward?
Aaron Coker, Gabriela Santiago, Michael Shappe (mod), Rick Ellis, Taylor Cisco

11:00am–Noon **Martial Arts in Media**
DoubleTree Bloomington
Martial arts has always had a special place in SF, fantasy, and anime. From Chirrut's staff work in "Rogue One" to sword work in "Kill Bill," what representations of martial arts make actual martial artists cringe and which are genuine.
Adam Whitlatch, Alison Anderson, Aric Stewart (mod), Eric Chu, Ian Truitner

11:00am–Noon **Crowdfunding 101**
DoubleTree Edina
Kickstarter, Indigogo, and many others. What are your experiences, both as a project manager and as a backer, on the various sites?
Anj Olsen, Elise Matthesen, Luxander Pond (mod), Mark DiPasquale, Sam Stiles

11:00am–Noon	<p>Finding Inspiration in Genre DoubleTree Plaza 1 Genre media can be the muse that leads people to new hobbies and careers. Talk about your journey. <i>Dana Baird (mod), Jordan West, Joseph Peterson, Lana Rosario, Norman Cates</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Disney's LGBT+ Problem DoubleTree Bloomington We'll cover the scope of queerness throughout Disney's cinematic history including coded characters, queer villains, and why Disney's purported "first openly gay cinematic character" in Beauty and the Beast is a poor effort at best; harmful at worst. <i>Bri Donovan (mod), Briana Lawrence, Sara Spookystitch, Stephanie Stensland, Tracee Lee Cocco</i></p>
11:00am–Noon	<p>From Fan Fiction to Professional Writing DoubleTree Plaza 3 Brichibi and Snow Cosplays met through fanfiction and roleplaying, which later spiraled into a writing career. This panel will go into how they managed to do that, and how fanfiction writing became one of the best ways to practice their craft. <i>Briana Lawrence, Jessica Walsh, Naomi Kritzer, Seanan McGuire, William Leisner</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Legion DoubleTree Edina "I have to know...is this real?" "Legion" is a series on FX network, focused on the often-controversial Marvel Comics character, David "Legion" Haller. In this panel we'll talk about the show and David's presence in the comics. <i>Daren Johnson, Dirk Ykema, Jennifer Manna, Kevin Horner, Sean Casey (mod)</i></p>
11:00am–Noon	<p>Fantasy and Sci-Fi Mapmaking Sheraton Ames This panel will cover techniques, tips, and other information for people who want to make their own fantasy and sci-fi maps. <i>David Rust, Linda White, Michael Carus, Tania Richter, Tex Thompson (mod)</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Iconography DoubleTree Plaza 1 Visual storytelling boiled down to simple ideas. <i>Jai Nitz</i></p>
11:00am–Noon	<p>What do YOU Want in Your Local Geek Culture Magazine? Sheraton Whalon Come join TwinCitiesGeek.com, your local geek culture online magazine, for a round table discussion and listening session. Tell us what YOU think a Minnesota geek culture magazine should be, what you want to see more of, or whatever else is on your mind! <i>Garrick Dietze, Hal Bichel, Madeleine Vasaly</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Eastern vs. Western Horror Tropes DoubleTree Plaza 3 How do regional customs, superstitions, and histories differently shape horror originating from Eastern and Western cultures? What is lost in translation when adapting these stories, and how necessary is cultural literacy across the horror genre? <i>Ansley Grams, Axel Kohagen, Lathan Murrell, Stephan Stomberg</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Norse Mythology in Contemporary Society DoubleTree Atrium 2 The re-emergence of Norse Mythology in our modern psyche is suggestive of a move back to nature while exploring our own inner-nature. Contemporary Authors such as Gaiman and Riordan have either expanded or exploited this interest. <i>Gabriel Hilmar (mod), Severina Hein, Will Shetterly</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Reading—Taylor Cisco Sheraton Ames <i>Taylor Cisco</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Mythic/Spiritual Visions in Film DoubleTree Atrium 4 Mythic frameworks in classics 2001 and Star Wars intimate spiritual wonder, while leaps of faith in Midnight Special, Hail Caesar, Stranger Things, etc continue to evoke transcendence. In an ostensibly secular world, why do these themes persist? <i>Chrysoula Tzavelas, Emma Bull, Jessica Walsh, Norman Cates, Tim Lieder (mod)</i></p>	12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Wynona Earp Fan Panel Sheraton Whalon Let's talk about the TV series, the comic, and how they relate to each other. <i>Craig A. Finseth, Grace Ulak, Jody Wurl</i></p>
12:30pm–3:00pm	<p>Art: Impossible DoubleTree Atrium 6 Watch as talented artists are given impossible challenges! Could you create a CONvergence-themed amusement park in thirty minutes? How about design a new Doctor Who costume in five minutes? These artists create the impossible! <i>Christopher Jones, Danielle Pebbles, Dawn Krosnowski (mod), Jerry Belich, Louis Frank, Melissa Kaercher, Tim Wick (mod)</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>This is Your Brain on Video Games DoubleTree Atrium 2 Do video games cause violence? How are they used for social good? Why did we cry when Aerith died? This panel explores how video games affect your brain, for good and for ill. <i>Allyson Cygan, Anna Besmann (mod), Ansley Grams, Briana Lawrence, Evva Kraikul</i></p>
12:30pm–1:30pm	<p>Zombies as Political Metaphor DoubleTree Atrium 7 Zombies are frequently used as a political metaphor. What are some of your favorites? GoHs Seanan McGuire and Saymoukda Vongsay discuss how they have used zombies in their works. <i>Saymoukda Vongsay, Seanan McGuire</i></p>	2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Meet The Real-Life Honor Harringtons DoubleTree Atrium 4 From Starbuck, Ellen Ripley, Cordelia Naismith, Honor Harrington, Nyota Uhura, and even General Organa, how do fictional accounts of being a woman in the armed forces compare to real life? Come explore this topic with real women U.S. military veterans. <i>Chelsea Okey, Courtney Azar (mod), Jen Peters Kyseth, Paula Merns, Sara McAtee</i></p>
		2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Overwatch Fan Panel DoubleTree Atrium 7 Blizzard has entered the first-person shooter genre with this sci-fi storied tale. Did they get it right? Does the story work? How's the gameplay? What's your favorite character and strategy? <i>Barry Hardt, Geoffrey Hofman-Frethem, James Fairbairn, Seanan McGuire</i></p>
		2:00pm–3:00pm	<p>Signing—Taylor Cisco DoubleTree Autograph Table A <i>Taylor Cisco</i></p>

SUNDAY CONTINUED

- 2:00pm–3:00pm **Wubba Lubba Dub Dub: The Rick & Morty Fan Panel**
DoubleTree Bloomington
 Let's come together and discuss Rick & Morty, one of the most subversive science fiction cartoons. Where is the show going? Is Rick suicidal? Why are Beth & Jerry co-dependent? What is going on with galactic empire? Discuss all theories and tropes.
Derek Mahr, Greg Orange (mod), Kevin Horner, Lara Richarson, Tex Thompson
- 2:00pm–3:00pm **Book to Movie**
DoubleTree Edina
 Which ones were successful? Which ones didn't work?
Cat Choy (mod), Grace Ulak, Nathan Anderson, Niles Schwartz, Patrick Marsh
- 2:00pm–4:00pm **Hello Sweet-Tea!**
DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest
 The Victorian Lady Doctors invite you to join us for a Tea Party. Come dressed as your favorite Doctor, Companion, Villain, or Dedicated Fan. Various tea and dainties will be on offer. Photography encouraged. Tomfoolery highly encouraged.
Natasha Jo Krentz
- 2:00pm–3:00pm **Picking up the Spare: New Horizons at Pluto**
DoubleTree Plaza 1
 Pluto, last of the (former) planets to be explored, saved a few surprises for us. Come see the pictures and hear the latest theories of this remarkable object.
Bridget Landry
- 2:00pm–3:00pm **Alan Moore**
DoubleTree Plaza 3
 In a field known for eccentricities, Alan Moore is still the strange one with comics where the apocalypse turns out to be a good thing, writing *Lost Girls* which is a beautifully rendered Tijuana Bible and retiring for a 1200 page novel.
Jon Durmin, Roy C. Booth, Sean Casey (mod), Stephan Stomberg, Tim Lieder
- 2:00pm–3:00pm **Reading- William Leisner**
Sheraton Ames
William Leisner
- 2:00pm–3:00pm **Get Off My World! A Doctor Who Podcast**
Sheraton Whalon
 A live recording of the Doctor Who podcast *Get Off My World!* Serious analysis, cranky opinion, and more! With Joshua Scrimshaw, Kelvin Hatle, Ariel Leaf and Pat Harrigan.
Ariel Leaf, Joshua Scrimshaw, Kelvin Hatle, Pat Harrigan
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **Cosplaying with Disabilities**
DoubleTree Atrium 2
 Should your disability influence your cosplay choices? How can you work your mobility aid into your costume? Come for tips, strategies, philosophies, and stories about cosplaying while disabled.
Alisha Srock, Amy Graves, Josie Browning, Mary Helen Inskeep, Laura Cannata
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **New Hollywood Tropes**
DoubleTree Atrium 4
 Let's discuss the NEW Hollywood tropes and how they continue to recycle, remake, and reuse the same story arcs and character types, regardless of the fact that more and more female leads and heroes of color exist.
Adam Lueck, Christina "DZA" Marie, Jonathan Palmer, Shannan Paul (mod), Taylor Cisco
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **Agging Poorly: Pop Culture and the Test of Time**
DoubleTree Atrium 6
 Is Seinfeld as funny as you remember? Is The Dark Crystal really that good or is it just the nostalgia talking? Why do The Beatles persist while Falco falters? What makes something timeless and how can today's pop culture avoid aging poorly?
AlysshaRose Jordan, Dana Baird, Kevin Eldridge, Michael May (mod), Rick Ellis
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **Saga Fan Panel**
DoubleTree Atrium 7
 What makes this epic tale of lovers from warring planets on the run for bounty hunters, as told in flashback by their daughter, so good? Discuss the visuals and language of this popular comic.
Cynthia Booth, Jennifer Manna (mod), Lara Richarson, Tex Thompson
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **Signing—William Leisner**
DoubleTree Autograph Table A
William Leisner
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **I Love Everyone in this Bar: The Good Parts of Being a Fan**
DoubleTree Bloomington
 It's important to discuss the problems and issues within geek culture, but it's also important to celebrate the massive amounts of awesome. What's your favorite thing about being a fan? What do you love about conventions? When do you squeeze the hardest?
Elise Matthesen, Grace Ulak, Maggie Schultz (mod), Naomi Kritzer, Norman Cates
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **Face Value: Why Do We Believe False Things?**
DoubleTree Edina
 That thing you posted... It's not real. Why do humans keep believing false things over and over, even though it's easier than ever to check the facts? Discuss the history and psychology of false beliefs and how they apply to the modern, digital era.
Kayla McGrady (mod), Lathan Murrell, PZ Myers, Sara McAtee, William Donohue
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **Hitchhiker's Guide Fan Panel**
DoubleTree Plaza 1
 The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy—book, audio drama, mini-series, movie—is there anything it can't do? Come talk about Douglas Adams' most famous work.
Greg Orange (mod), Patrick Koozy, Renate Fiora, Stephan Stomberg, Tim Lieder
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **Geeky Sharing**
DoubleTree Plaza 3
 How to share your fandom with children and teens: both yours others. What is appropriate for each age level?
Anj Olsen, Katarina Larsen, Kerry Peterson, Rachel Traynham (mod), Vetrnita Anderson
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **Reading—Chrysoula Tzavelas**
Sheraton Ames
Chrysoula Tzavelas
- 3:30pm–4:30pm **Legalities of Developing Planetary Resources**
Sheraton Whalon
 We're not talking about Earth. We're talking the moon, Mars, asteroids, and other such bodies. What are the legalities?
J. Boone Dryden, Michael Carus, Mitchell Faas (mod)

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SURVEY

We have a short survey that we are asking our members to fill out to help us collect some quantitative data about our convention. By completing the survey, you'll be providing us with some invaluable information that we can use to help us improve your experience. The Survey is available on the website at <http://www.convergence-con.org/about/survey>.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

DoubleTree Verandas 1–4 (South Tower, 2nd Floor).

Wednesday 11:00am–6:00pm & 9:00pm–Midnight
Thursday 9:00am–Midnight
Friday 9:00am–10:00pm
Saturday 9:00am–10:00pm
Sunday Noon–3:00pm

Registration will accept only cash and credit cards.

TRANSFERRING MEMBERSHIPS

A membership needing to be transferred at the convention must be processed by the Registration department. There is a non-refundable \$20 transfer fee for all membership transfers done at

the convention. Memberships become non-transferrable once the corresponding membership badge has been issued at the convention. For more information on how to transfer a membership visit this page:

<http://www.convergence-con.org/get-involved/register/>

LOST MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Check Lost & Found in Operations to see if your lost membership badge was turned in. If it was not turned in you will need a replacement, which is available at Registration. The fee is \$20 for the replacement of Adult or Teen membership badges. Ages 0–12 years will be replaced for free.

RATES AND DATES FOR 2018

	Adult 18+	Ages 13–17	Ages 6–12	Ages 5 and Under
Until Jan 15, 2018	\$75	\$45	\$25	Free
Until May 15, 2018	\$85	\$45	\$25	Free
At The Door	\$125	\$65	\$35	Free

You may register for the 2018 convention beginning on Sunday, July 9, 2017. If you are paying by credit card, log in to your existing account or create an account at the registration link on the web page at <http://www.convergence-con.org/>

If you are paying with cash or in need of assistance, stop by Registration on Sunday, July 9 from Noon to 3:00pm and we'll sign you up. Please refer to our website at <http://www.convergence-con.org/> for more information.

HOTEL LOTTERY

HOTEL LOTTERY 2018

In the lead-up to CVG2018, we will once again be using a lottery system for hotel room allocations. The Sheraton, formerly known as the Sofitel, will not be included, and the DoubleTree by Hilton will be the only hotel offered in the lottery.

Our system distributes room assignments employing the following criteria:

- Guests of Honor
- ADA rooms & special needs (falling within the limits of the hotel's options for them)
- Host hotel's contract needs
- Programming & MainStage
- Convention needs
- Committee members and 30 hours+ volunteers*

All lottery participants will be informed of their status, either receiving a room placement or being wait-listed. We are not able to give exact positions on the waitlist. Lottery winners will have a limited time to respond and claim their reservation. Winning entries cannot be transferred, and cannot be awarded more than once. If expired or rejected, they will not be re-entered into the lottery. Every effort will be made to merge duplicate entries.

*Note: convention committee members and volunteers with 30 or more participant hours are placed in a random lottery if there are rooms available. Once all designated hotel rooms have been dispensed, any remaining entries are put on a waitlist. The waitlist of lottery entries will be voided on June 18th, 2018.

As always, we appreciate your understanding and patience while we work to make CONvergence hospitable and welcoming to every member, volunteer, and guest.

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