



CONvergence  
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to you by

# CONvergence

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# POST MORTEM REPORT

A review of CONvergence 2001



**CONvergence**

A convention for fans of Science Fiction and Fantasy

CONvergence is a production of

**The Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS)**

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The CONvergence 2001 Post-Mortem Report was designed by Christopher Jones for CONvergence Publications. Photographs by Darren Tilbury and Alex Larson. Artwork by Christopher Jones. Special thanks to Barb Pemberton and David Elliott for their assistance in proofreading this publication.

We always welcome feedback and suggestions, and ask that any comments be directed to the channels listed above.

**CONvergence 2001  
POST-MORTEM REPORT**

**Table of Contents**

**Introduction** .....1

**Departmental Review**

**Art Show & Print Shop**.....2

**Cinema Rex Movie Room**.....3

**COF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub> Free Coffee Shop** .....3

**ConSuite** .....4

**Concessions** .....4

**CONvergence Central** .....5

**Dealers' Room** .....5

**Gadgeteer's Petting Zoo** .....5

**Gaming** .....5

**Guests**.....6

**Mainstage** .....8

**Masquerade** .....9

**Music** .....10

**Panels and Programming** .....10

**Registration**.....11

**Theater Nippon Anime Room**.....11

**Volunteers** .....11

**Thank You 2001 ConCom** .....12

**MISFITS** .....13

**CONvergence 2002**.....14

**2002 Hotel Form** .....15

**2002 Reg. Form** ..... Inside Back Cover

**CONvergence 2001 Post-Mortem Report**

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**"CONvergence should be a role model to all other conventions."**

- Michael Sheard

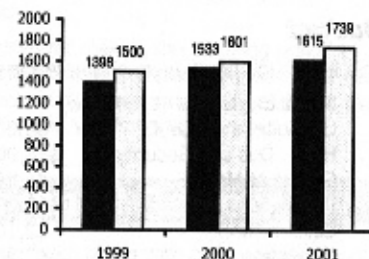
Wow. We just never get tired of hearing stuff like that. But as flattering a statement as that is, we don't think for a moment that we're perfect. In fact, we know we're not, and we try to make the convention better each year. One of the ways we do that is by listening to the feedback we get from the convention committee, the volunteers, and the attendees of the convention. The reasons for publishing this Post Mortem Report are to share some of that feedback, to let you know what went well and what we think could use some work, and to tell you some early news of our plans for next year.

So let's get started! First, some hard numbers...

**Registrations / Attendance**

Pre-convention registrations	1377
On-site registrations ("At-the-doors")	307
Problem registrations	15
Dealer upgrades at the convention	40
<b>Total Registrations</b>	<b>1739</b>
No-shows	-124
Warm body count	1615

(See the graph at right for details.)



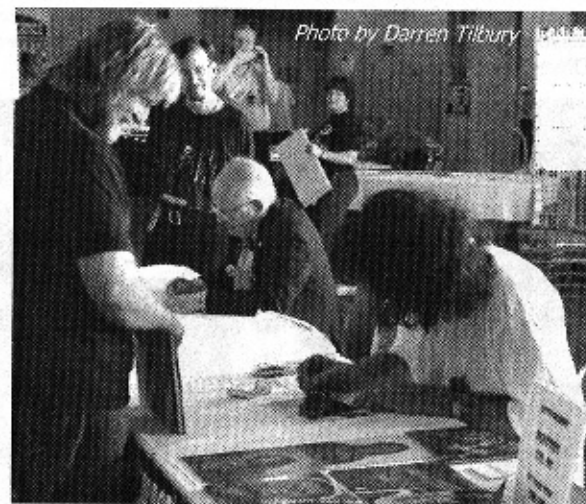
Legend:  
 [White Box] Attending (Warm Body Count)  
 [Black Box] Total Registrations

**Age Demographics**

13-17:	7%
18-20:	8%
21-30:	26%
31-40:	34%
41-50:	18%
51+:	7%

These numbers have been consistent for the last 3 years, with approximately 60% of our attendees falling between the ages of 20 & 40.

33% of our respondents were attending CONvergence for the first time. 55% have attended all three years of the convention. This is consistent with last year's numbers as well. This number indicates a higher than expected attrition rate, with new members making up the difference. We hope that by reviewing the comments from the survey, we can do something about that attrition rate!



Guests **Michael "Admiral Ozzel" Sheard** and **Peter "Chewbacca" Mayhew** sign autographs for fans.

### List your favorite feature of CONvergence:

My friends are here:	42.2%	Guests:	26.7%
Programming:	31.0%	Dealers Room:	25.9%
Parties:	27.6%	Masquerade:	25.9%
Cinema Rex:	27.6%	Other:	93.1%

Survey participants were allowed to pick three items from this list, so percentages are based on a total of 300%. Most features of the convention received at least one vote indicating that our membership is as diverse as the features we offer. As usual, the most important factor for most respondents was a convention they could share with their friends.

### How many cons have you attended since last year's CONvergence?

The average CONvergence member has attended 2.5 conventions in the last year. As expected, most of our members are regular convention goers, although 20% of our respondents indicated that CONvergence was the only convention they had attended in the last year.

### Budget

This is a rough breakdown of where the money was earned and spent at CONvergence 2001.

2001 Expenses (estimated)		2001 Income (estimated)	
ConSuite and COF <sub>2</sub> E <sub>2</sub>	\$9,000.00	Registrations	\$50,600.00
Hotel, Ops and Security	\$18,000.00	Dealers' Tables	\$7,000.00
Guests of Honor	\$6,000.00	Concessions	\$6,000.00
Publications, Postage	\$10,000.00	Advertisements	\$1,000.00
Cinema Rex	\$2,100.00	Art Show	\$1,600.00
Mainstage	\$2,200.00	Total	\$66,200.00
Masquerade	\$300.00		
Art Show and Dealers Room	\$4,000.00		
Volunteers	\$2,000.00		
All other expenses	\$2,300.00		
Total	\$57,900.00		

These figures do NOT reflect income from the Silent Auction (which directly benefits MISFITS) or from CONvergence 2002 Pre-Registrations.

### Why are we telling you all this?

We think information is a good thing. None of this needs to be a secret. We think that the more our members and attendees understand how the convention works and why we make the decisions we do, the more they will appreciate what a great convention we have in CONvergence (and the more they'll help make it better).

Photo by Darren Tilbury



Perrin Klumpp proposes to Jenni Grant at the end of Opening Ceremonies. (She said yes.)

### General Items

#### Hotel

It was with much joy and eager anticipation that we returned to the Radisson Hotel South and Plaza Tower in Bloomington, MN. We are pleased to report that out of an expected 900 room-night block we actually produced 959 room nights for the hotel. They were very happy with this result (as were we).

For the entire weekend, the Radisson front desk staff wore the CONvergence 2001 at-con T-shirt with pride. The Radisson is looking forward to our return in 2002, and hopes to have us there for years to come.

#### Smoking

In 2001, we made some changes to the smoking policy, some of which were dictated by events at CONvergence in 2000. It turned out that the changes we made were ones the Radisson South was going to request, as they had made changes in their own smoking policy to bring it into compliance with the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act.

We take this opportunity to thank all convention attendees for making the smoking policy a success. The air was cleaner, and many smokers cheerfully and uncomplainingly complied with the new rules and designated areas for smoking. We believe we have arrived at a solution that works for everyone, and will continue with this policy for next year's convention.

## CONvergence 2001 Departmental Review

Survey comments and other feedback quotes will be presented along with our commentary on the various CONvergence departments.

### Art Show & Print Shop

The CONvergence Art Show had 63 artists participating in 2001, with 580 pieces contributed overall, 40% of which were sold. The Art Auction Saturday night was a great success, due in part to the extraordinary performance by special guest auctioneer Michael Sheard. Thanks to all the volunteers and staff for their great work this year, as well as to all the artists who participated.

#### 2001 Art Show Winners

Best of Show – "Epiphany" by L.A. Williams  
Guest of Honor's Choice – "Pandora's Box" by Dale Ziemanski  
People's Choice – "Ragnarok" by Ben Allen

#### 2001 Honorable Mentions

"Kith & Kin" by L.A. Williams  
"Winter Queen" by Christen Cassidy  
"The Alchemist" by Cathy Schmid  
"Eve" by Lubov  
"Star Sapphire White Tiger" by Theresa Mathers  
"Dark Waters" by L.A. Williams  
"Elaine" by Denise Garner  
"Low Noon" by Rich Larson & Steve Fastner  
"The Lady of Shalot" by James Wappel

#### 2001 Artist Honorable Mention

Theresa Mathers

For more information on the CONvergence art show and the 2001 winners, visit <http://www.cvqartshow.org/news.html>.

## Cinema Rex Movie Room



Cinema Rex had another very successful year. About 870 people attended Cinema Rex this year, averaging about 45 people per film. Over 50 pounds of popcorn, 83 pounds of candy, and 62 pounds of cookies were served up this year, as well as pizzas from Green Mill at the Kurt Russell Pizza Party on Friday evening.

The screening of *The Empire Strikes Back* hosted by **Peter (Chewie) Mayhew** and **Michael (Admiral Ozzel) Sheard** was a standout success, and we hope to bring you similar events in future years.

Our thanks go to everyone who filled out Cinema Rex comment cards. We appreciate your feedback and try to improve the movie room each year. We'll be back again next year with more films, more guests, more popcorn and snacks and the ambiance that is *Cinema Rex*!

**"Can we get a bigger room for Cinema Rex?"**  
— Survey Comment

As usual, Rex was extremely popular. We were filled to overflowing for Peter Mayhew and Michael Sheard's introduction of *The Empire Strikes Back* (go figure) and many other movies played to near-capacity crowds.

Cinema Rex is located where it is because there is a great convenient location for a concession stand and because it draws people into the North tower, spreading the convention out a little more. Also, the larger the room, the further some people will end up from the screen. Even so, we are well aware that if Rex's popularity grows much further, a larger room will have to be used.

### Cinema Rex 2001 Playlist:

*The Thief of Bagdad*: NR/1940/106 min.  
*When Worlds Collide*: NR/1951/81 min.  
*Soldier*: (widescreen) R/1998/95 min.  
*La Belle et La Bête: (Beauty and the Beast)* NR/1946/90 min.  
*Dark City*: (widescreen) R/1998/103 min.  
*The Hidden*: (widescreen) R/1987/97 min.  
*Alice in Wonderland*: (Disney Version) G/1951/75 min.  
Admiral Ozzel and Chewbacca host *The Empire Strikes Back*:  
(Pre-Special Edition version – widescreen) PG/1980/124 min.  
*She*: (widescreen) NR/1965/105 min.  
Cthulhu Film Fest: A multitude of short independent films.  
*2001: A Space Odyssey*: (widescreen) G/1968/139 min.  
*Incubus*: (with WILLIAM SHATNER!) NR/1965/76 min.  
*Barbarella: Queen of the Galaxy*: (widescreen) PG/1968/98 min.  
*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*: G/1972/95 min.

### COF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub> Free Coffee Shop

While we received no specific comments about COF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub>, we sure did receive a lot of thirsty con-goers, desperate for caffeine. The **COF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub> mugs** were a huge hit, selling out early Saturday. We'll make sure we have more next year. A very big thank you to everyone involved in running COF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub> this year. The room was so clean, the hotel did not even need to shampoo the carpet!

## ConSuite

**"I really appreciate the food and veggies in the ConSuite."**  
— Survey comment

**"Soup in the ConSuite was a good idea."**  
— Survey comment

**"The veggies and soup are great! Please keep them."**  
— Survey comment

**"The food in the ConSuite is the worst of any con I go to. Potato chips are not enough."**  
— Survey comment

If there is one thing we have learned, there is no way to keep 1700 hungry con-goers happy, but we sure are trying. This year we had over \$500 of fruit and vegetables in addition to all our other offerings. Judging by your comments, not everyone found them. While we don't believe it is the responsibility of ConSuite to provide meals to our members, we do believe that a variety of foods is preferable to just chips and chocolate.

We had sandwich and soup bars this year as well as yogurt, donuts, bagels and tea. We know that sometimes we have trouble getting the good stuff out as quickly as everyone eats it, but we are trying. Please give us a few minutes, or find a member of ConSuite staff and let them know the vegetables are all gone. We promise we'll have more!

### Concessions

The Concessions/Merchandise Table did quite well in its new home in the CONvergence Central area, earning over \$5,000 for the convention. 149 of the CONvergence 2001 Convention Shirt alone were sold, as well as 64 of the 2001 mid-year shirt featuring Cheshire Connie. Many of you pre-ordered the CONvergence 2001 Video Yearbook, a souvenir video that is being edited now for distribution in the coming months. If you would like a video yearbook, visit our web site for more information.



Waiting outside Grand Ballroom West.

## CONvergence Central

CONvergence Central was a new concept this year. The large open area in front of the Grand Ballrooms was dubbed CONvergence Central, and access to it meant passing through one convention badge checkpoint. Beyond that point, attendees had access to the Dealers' Room and Main Stage without any further badging required.

Info Services, the Volunteer Table and the Merchandise Table were also grouped in this area, hopefully making them convenient and easy to find for our attendees. Overall we think the concept worked well, although we'll be doing some minor tweaking and rearranging next year to try to improve traffic flow.

## Dealers' Room

This year's Dealers' Room featured 40 dealers and 101 tables of merchandise to tempt you to part with your hard earned dollars. And based on how happy all the dealers were, we'd have to say you parted with quite a few.

This year saw a better overall mix of different kinds of dealers than last year, but we're still looking to improve in 2002! We are especially interested in finding dealers with Anime merchandise for next year.

If you'd like more information on how to be a dealer at CONvergence 2002, contact us through our web site or any of the other channels listed on the inside front cover of this booklet.

## Gadgeteer's Petting Zoo / Science Display Area

In addition to the popular Robot Sumo Wrestling, this year's Petting Zoo also featured the first annual MISFITS Construction Challenge. Four teams competed to construct a gadget that could win a tug-of-war contest. We are sorry that the winner of the challenge was not available at press time. We will post this information on our web site shortly.

A HUGE thank you is in order to the Minnesota Space Frontier society for once again providing interesting and educational displays. We admit that the petting zoo is still a little short on gadgets. Possible solutions include a gadget making contest and some sort of partnership with the U of M engineering department. Our goal is to make this convention feature a lot of fun and educational as well.

## Gaming

**"Hadn't realized the gaming area had board games and card games too! I'm glad I stopped."**

*- Survey Comment*

We keep working to get gaming right and while we haven't quite perfected it yet, we're getting closer. A brand new gaming crew came in at the very last minute (a month before the convention) to run the room. They did a great job and have a lot of good ideas for next year.

Part of the problem is having the gaming suites on the 22nd floor. We aren't sure what to do about that. The fact is that those rooms are great gaming rooms even if they are out of the way. One possibility is to take "walk up" games like board games out of the gaming suite and into CONvergence Central.

Additionally, we will be working to schedule more games ahead of time and produce a guide for all con goers that will be available with your registration packets. We want gamers to feel like welcome and important members of our community. Please let us know if you are interested in running a game or doing anything to help improve our gaming suite.



Above are samples of the individualized convention badges that all guests of CONvergence receive. The full color artwork is by Christopher Jones is unique to each guest. In addition to the set distributed to the guests themselves, a second set of badges was signed by each guest and featured in the convention's Silent Auction. Note that Jay Knowles' badge features an obscure Willem Dafoe joke that we knew Jay (and maybe three other people) would get...

## Guests



**Harry Knowles** holds court in a poolside cabana. While at the convention Harry was constantly updating the Aint-it-Cool-News web site and occasionally e-chatted with the likes of Robert Rodriguez and Paul Dini. Harry's room was a cool place to be.

Every year we seem to end up saying to ourselves, "Wow, we had such amazing guests this year." Whether we've just been really, really lucky or are doing something right, the streak continues. They all enjoyed the convention and spending time with our attendees. We'd love to have all of them back. Here are some quotes by each guest, and a few words about them.

**"Tim Wick was a very awkward, geeky teenager."**

*- Crist Ballas*

This is why if you're helping organize a convention it's important to make sure none of the guests went to high school with you. Actually, Crist Ballas was a great guest, and his makeup demonstration on Saturday was a big hit.

**"This is a fabulous convention. I love it. You guys have got to keep doing it over and over and over."**

– Eleanor Arnason

Eleanor had a great time at the convention, sitting on several panels and talking about her own work and her role as a voice for feminist Science Fiction. We hope to have her back to do it again, over and over and over.

**"This is really unusual."**

– Carol "C.H." Morgan

Our thanks go to Carol Morgan for being a fabulous guest. We enjoyed having her at the convention to talk about her work and otherwise join the party. Come back next year, Carol!

**"The surest way to make this (convention) five days is to not take this mike away from me."**

– Harry Knowles

Harry and Jay Knowles held court once again from a poolside cabana, talking to fans into the wee hours of the night. And the following morning. Seriously. And then there was the panel on Saturday that ran just a little long. OK, it ran six hours. It was supposed to be three panels spread out over the afternoon but they just all merged into one giant Harry-a-thon. Co-panelists came and went. Audience members came and went. And everyone had a grand time and no one seemed to mind. Despite all this, if you somehow missed Harry and his dad, fear not. They may be finding their way back to CONvergence in the not too distant future...

Photo by Darren Tilbury



**Michael Sheard** at the Closing Ceremony.

**"I have been saying ever since I arrived words like 'Fabulous.' 'How can you do it in three years?' Etc., etc. These lovely people have got one of the most fabulous conventions I've ever attended."**

– Michael Sheard

We're looking into adopting Michael Sheard. We want to keep him. He blew into the Radisson South and just charmed the pants off of everyone. Many of his conversations began with the phrase "I'm a man of few words..." and you'd find yourself enthralled as he told stories of his acting career, his convention experiences, or of his life in general. Michael had a grand time at CONvergence, and made it abundantly clear he wanted the convention to last longer. It was possibly the only thing he said all weekend with the absolute minimum of verbiage: "Five days."

**"I have done a lot of shows... this is the best one I have ever done."**

– Peter Mayhew

They like 'em big down in Texas, but this transplanted Brit still stands out in a crowd. The 7'2" actor was a delight, sharing stories of playing Chewbacca and his other adventures. Peter's good humor was in evidence when he happily played along with the bizarre antics he was subjected to at Closing Ceremonies. Thank goodness! We'd hate to see him angry! One of the best things Peter did was bring his fabulous wife Angie, who had stories to tell of her own. We'd love to see both of them return soon.

For more information on all our 2001 guests, visit the CONvergence web site at <http://www.convergence-con.org>.

## Mainstage

### Opening and Closing Ceremonies

**"Shorter opening ceremonies"**

– Survey Comment

The irony is that this year was our shortest Opening Ceremonies yet: It was just under an hour long. But the point is well taken. We, too, felt that Opening Ceremonies runs a bit on the long side and will be working to shorten it next year. There are a number of things that we need to make time for (announcing the winners of that year's Writing Contest, the Team Trivia Challenge, introducing the convention guests, etc.) so we have to be very careful about what we cut in trying to shorten the running time. Closing ceremonies, however, can never be too long because when it's over, so is the con!

Photo by Darren Tilbury



The 21 towel salute honoring Douglas Adams.

### Mark Time Awards

The Fifth Annual Mark Time Awards were presented at CONvergence 2001, sponsored by the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS). Four of the five winners were present to accept their awards in person.

#### 2000 Mark Time Award Winners

- **Gold Award:** *Tread Softly Bill Lizard* (<http://www.crazydogaudiotheatre.com>)
- **Silver Awards (Tie):** *Patch and Click* (<http://www.wmnf.org>) and *Flash Gordon - Episode 1: A New Planet* (<http://www.oneact.org>)

#### 2000 Ogle Award Winners

- **Gold Award:** *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*
- **Silver Award:** *The Soul Patrol, Episode 6: Bridge of Indecision* (<http://www.the-cosmic-forces.net>)

Congratulations to the winners. Award winning programs are available through the LodesTone Catalog (<http://www.lodestone-media.com>) or through their individual web sites. For more information on the winning entries, the Mark Time Awards, and ASFSFA, visit <http://www.greatnorthernradio.com/MarkTime/MarkTime.html>.

**"Merge Radio Show and Opening Ceremonies"**

– Survey Comment

**"...better transition to Radio Show"**

– Survey Comment

The Mark Time Awards and the Mark Time radio show were enjoyed by everyone who attended. Sadly, not as many of you chose to attend as we would have hoped. We know that part of the problem was the timing of the Mark Time Awards, following immediately after the

hour-long Opening Ceremonies. We are looking at several ideas for next year that we hope will help Mark Time reach a wider audience. Integrating the radio show into Opening Ceremonies is one of several ideas we are considering. We remain committed to the Mark Time Awards and are thrilled to have them at CONvergence.

### Masquerade

**"Wasn't able to attend Masquerade because the room was too full. Can that be remedied?"**

—Survey Comment

**"Need more room for masquerade audience."**

—Survey Comment

For several reasons, we chose to put Mainstage in the West Ballroom this year. Though the reasons were valid, in retrospect they did not sufficiently offset the loss of over 100 seats for the Masquerade. Mainstage will move to a larger section of the Grand Ballroom next year. Though we still anticipate that there may be problems in seating everyone, we hope we will be more able to accommodate those who wish to attend. Video feeds and other ideas are being explored with the primary concern being that of expense. If we can make it work for a price we can afford, we will do it.



Photo by Darren Tilbury

The eager audience filling available Mainstage seating.

### CONvergence 2001 Masquerade Awards

**Best in Show** – Theresa Jones, Blair Keith and Jeff Clausen: "Captain Proton"

**Best Performance** – Mary Helen Inskeep: "Alice from Wonderland"

**Best Workmanship** – Beth Jorgensen for "Lula: Slave Girl of Crete II."

**Best Journeyman** – Sarah J. Tesch: "Blue Light Special"

**Best Novice** – The 501<sup>st</sup> Stormtrooper Legion: "I can't see a thing in this helmet"

**Best Young Fan** – Miss Cullum: "Queen of the Snows"

### Workmanship Excellence Awards went to:

- The 501<sup>st</sup> Stormtrooper Legion: "I can't see a thing in this helmet"
- Chana Zahava Blyly-Strauss: "Water Priestess Aquasa"
- Heather Heitz: "With Flightless Wings"
- John Grams, Eric Knight, Zvie Razeli, Pat Harrigan, Cheris Haire: "Chulman's Poetry Hour / Death Star Jazzmatazz"
- Michael Palmer: "Kryten mixes drinks and cleans"
- Miss Cullum: "Queen of the Snows"
- Rob Lent: "Kelvis - The Kling of Rock 'n' Roll"

### Judges Choice Awards went to:

- Christina Ferris & Cat Cegla: "A Truly Interesting Collection"
- Lisa Fabio: "Esmerelda"
- Cassie Phillips: "San from Mononoke"
- Joseph W. Erickson: "Trappings and Suits of Joe"

Amiee Kuzenski served as the CONvergence Masquerade Emcee once again. Workmanship Judges were Amanda Gordon, Chris Honse, and Michelle Clark. Performance Judges were Micheal Sheard, Windy Merrill, and Rex Bryant. Judy Kaper was the Green Room Manager. Thank you to all our other helpers: George Richards, "Roadkill", Tadao Tomomatsu, Jennifer Manna, TJ Starbuck, Tim "Wabbit" Haas, Richard Caylor, and Erin Hildebrandt. CONvergence would like to thank Jeff Barry for his assistance with Mainstage tech needs.

### Music

**"Live music was great! More! More! More!"**

— Survey Comment

**"Friday music was horrid! Nick Atoms were almost OK, but came on too late to salvage the night. Saturday DJ's were great!"**

— Survey Comment

Musical tastes are pretty subjective, so we know the music we book can't please everyone. We try to present a variety of music that we hope most of our attendees will enjoy. We'd like to thank every band that performed over the weekend. Some did not have much of an audience and we are looking at how to fix that problem. We know that it's no fun to play to an empty house.

Next year, COF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub> Music will be fully acoustic and located next to COF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub> Coffee. We are looking for more folk, filk, comedy and spoken-word performers to play that venue, as we feel that is a better fit for our convention. We hope to continue featuring bands on Friday and will work on having as wide a variety as possible.

What can we say about the DJ dance? It finally ended after 6:00am on Sunday morning and there were still 40 people dancing! Obviously it is a tradition that will continue.

### Panels and Programming

This year the goal of the Programming Department was much like it has been since CONvergence started: There will be programming, and it will not be bad (we used stronger language, but that wouldn't be right for publication). We think we achieved that goal. People said they enjoyed watching the makeover by Crist Ballas, one of our featured guests. Our Guests of Honor and Featured Guests seemed to enjoy the panels they were on. We even got Keith Topping (one of last year's Featured Guests) back from England to sit on a number of panels again. We've heard good feedback from folks about the variety of topics covered by the different programming events. And gosh, we had fun, didn't you?

One of the things that worked especially well this year as we started to plan for the convention was holding an afternoon brainstorming session. This allowed us to gather a group of about 20 folks together and start dreaming up ideas and concepts that could eventually be brought to life as panels at the convention. There was a good mix of people at the brainstorming session, and we came up with an initial list of about 100 ideas. Some of those ideas got merged together to become programming events, many of them went on to become full-fledged panels in their own right, and ultimately we wound up with a schedule of over 90 separate panels and events.

In the category of "needs some work" is our grand scheme to create a programming green room, where panelists can gather before their scheduled events and discuss what they are going to present, a place where programming participants can rest and gather their thoughts

before their next scheduled event. Unfortunately, the space we provided has not been used by the panelists, even with posters advertising its availability and the enticement of snacks. It seems that most folks either plan their events far in advance of the convention, or they don't talk at all to their fellow panelists until shortly before the panel begins. If the green room idea still seems like a workable one, more needs to be done to encourage programming volunteers to use it.

As we move into fall, start thinking about what you'd like to see at next year's convention. What would you like to see more of? What are we missing? What is your most fabulous idea for a programming event? Drop us a line via e-mail at [programming@convergence-con.org](mailto:programming@convergence-con.org), or you can snail mail your ideas to the PO Box address. Let us know if you're interested in participating in this year's brainstorming session. We'd love to see you there.

### Registration

Registration ran smoothly this year. Extended hours helped people get registered quickly and the many volunteers kept the lines moving. Our plan for next year is to keep the extended hours and try to streamline the process even more because we know all of you are eager to be out enjoying the convention, not waiting in line.

Thank you to all the registration volunteers that helped things run so smoothly, especially the first-timers. You were all terrific and we wanted to publicly acknowledge all of you. Additional thanks from the registration department go to: Michael, Aerinne, Quinn, Kurt Lindemann, Lynn Renz, John, The Yoder Family, Ellie, Sara, Michael Alexander, Team Tango, Adam Lee, Eric Kassell, the Grave Diggers Union, Ryan Alexander, Susan, Ian, and Charlie Price.

### Theater Nippon Anime Room

Anime fans had more Japanese animation to enjoy this year, courtesy of Theater Nippon. This year's offerings included:

Akira (Sub)	Iria Eps 1-2 (Dub)
Card Captor Sakura Eps 1-4 (Sub)	Nadia Eps 1-4 (Sub)
Coo (Sub)	Samurai Pizza Cats (Dub)
Dual Eps 1-4 (Dub)	Shamanic Princess Eps 1-6 (Dub)
Gasaraki Eps 1-4 (Sub)	Slayers: Explosion Array (Sub)
Generator Gawl Eps. 1-2 (Dub)	Starship Girl Yamamoto Yohko Eps 1-2 (sub)
Ghost In The Shell (Dub)	The Harlock Saga (Sub)
Himiko Den Eps 1-2 (Sub)	Trigun Eps. 1-3 (Dub)
	Vision Of Escaflowne Eps 1-4 (Sub)

### Volunteers

The Volunteers Department had a lot of successes this year. We fixed a lot of old problems dogging us from previous years, and have new ideas to try for next year. New ideas this year included a late-night "satellite" table in the poolside court, which yielded mixed results. We hope to improve even more next year in our never-ending quest for a dynamic and efficient volunteer delivery service!

One of the ideas for next year is a weekend workshop. This workshop would be for anyone interested in volunteering to come and hear from the different departments what their needs and expectations of volunteers are. This would enable people to make informed decisions of where and how they would be willing to lend their time before, during and after the convention. We'll be working on this idea throughout the year and will keep you informed.

Remember: Becoming involved doesn't mean you give up your enjoyment of the convention. Every bit helps. Thanks to all who assisted in making 2001 a great convention! See you next year.

## Thank you to the 2001 Convention Committee

We would like to say a final thank you to the Convention Committee for CONvergence 2001. Most will be returning to work on 2002, but we do have open positions, and many departments could always use more help. If you'd like to get involved, please contact us. We can let you know where your help is needed most.

### Administration Division

Windy Merrill..... Director  
 Peter Verrant..... Photographer  
 Kate Carey..... Registration Head  
 Mark Priestler..... Registration Sub-Head  
 Karla Lindemann... Registration Sub-Head  
 Eve Kramer..... Volunteers Co-Head  
 Jeff Hildebrand..... Volunteers Co-Head

### Events Division

Tim Wick..... Director  
 Nathan Favilla..... Support  
 John Grams..... Cinema Rex  
 Eric Knight..... Cinema Rex  
 Zvie Raziell..... Cinema Rex  
 Cheris Haire..... Cinema Rex  
 Mary McKinley..... COF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub>  
 Aaron Prust..... Connie's Space Lounge  
 Frederick Beecher.. Connie's Space Lounge  
 Cali Mastny..... Connie's Space Lounge  
 Cally McMorrow..... Connie's Space Lounge  
 Gypsy..... ConSuite  
 Thadd..... ConSuite Sub-Head  
 Kelly..... ConSuite Sub-Head  
 Richard Caylor..... Gadgeteer's Zoo  
 David Buth..... Gadgeteer's Sub-Head  
 Dave Rust..... Gaming Room Head  
 Chris Mortika..... Gaming Room Co-Head  
 Eric..... Gaming Room Sub-Head  
 Doug Yoder..... Gaming Room Sub-Head  
 Richard Kooyer..... Gaming Room Sub-Head  
 Rob Poltzin..... Gaming Room Sub-Head  
 Kevin McColl..... LAN Gaming  
 Kat Peppmiller..... Masquerade  
 Matthew Dahlquist. Mainstage/Music  
 Christin "LeXi"

Erwin-MacDonald... Mainstage/Music  
 Skahnt Hansen..... Mainstage/Music  
 TCAAMS..... Theater Nippon  
 Anna Bliss..... Programming Co-Head  
 Stephanie Lindorff. Programming Co-Head  
 Lauren Lenzen..... Programming Support  
 Jody Wurl..... Programming Sub-Head  
 Ed Eastman..... Programming Sub-Head  
 Margaret Eastman. Programming Sub-Head  
 Diana Steben..... Youth Programming

### Publications Division

Christopher Jones.. Director  
 George Richard..... Advertising  
 Dove Lewerenz..... Distribution Coordinator  
 Elliott..... Proofreading  
 Chris Bowlsby..... Souvenir Book Editor  
 Tom Hogan..... Web Master  
 Michael Lee..... Web Team  
 Michael Sanford..... Web Team

### Finance Division

Pat Wick..... Director  
 Bruce Yoder..... Support

### Facilities Division

Ishmael Williams.... Director  
 Jim Danielson..... Dockmaster  
 Emily Stewart..... Dockmaster / Hotel  
 Cat Ocel..... Operations Head  
 Loren Botner..... Operations Co-Head  
 Kay Drache..... Operations Co-Head  
 Chris Jacobson..... Operations Co-Head  
 Nadim Khalidi..... Operations Co-Head  
 Doug Kirks..... Operations Co-Head  
 Mitch Moschkau..... Operations Co-Head  
 Bryan Eckstrom..... Gravedigger's Union  
 Michael Alexander.. Hotel Co-Head  
 Linda Paul..... Hotel Co-Head  
 Betsy Lundsten..... Hotel Resume  
 Rhonda Danielson.. Administrative Support  
 Ted Meisner..... Hotel  
 Joleen Gelse..... Hotel  
 Jules Raberding.... Hotel Support  
 Samantha Kopp..... Hotel Support  
 Cindy Barwin..... Information Services  
 Linda Petersen..... Parties  
 Deborah Wolfe..... Parties Sub-Head  
 Charles Piehl..... Hotel

### Guests/Fundraising Division

Perrin Klumpp..... Director  
 Perrin Klumpp..... Fundraising Head  
 Judy Byers..... Fundraising Sub-Head  
 Melissa Wouri..... GOH Sub-Head  
 Anton Petersen..... GOH Liaison (Michael Sheard)  
 David Justin..... GOH Liaison (Crist Ballas)  
 Jody Wurl..... GOH Liaison (Harry & Jay Knowles)  
 Scott Gieger..... GOH Liaison Assistant

### Marketing Division

Jeremy Stomberg... Director  
 Michael Byrne..... Art Show Co-Head  
 Amy McInroy..... Art Show Co-Head  
 Erik McInroy..... Art Show Auctioneer  
 Andy Murphy..... Art Show Staff  
 Charlie Horne..... Art Show Staff  
 Teresa Chaney..... Art Show Staff  
 Jeri Byrne..... Art Show Staff  
 Michael Fanslow.... Concessions  
 John Thompson..... Concessions Sub-Head  
 Janice Anderson.... Concessions Sub-Head  
 Berniece Krafft..... Dealers Room  
 Eric Hauser..... Dealers Room Sub-Head



## MISFITS

Looking for something to give you that fix of geeky goodness before CONvergence 2002? The Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS) has plenty going on to keep your social calendar full!

**MISFITS Sci-Fi Movie Night** is the third weekend of each month. Tickets are just \$4 for this monthly showcase of SF and Fantasy films shown Friday and Saturday at 11:30pm. As a Halloween season special event, the **Evil Dead Trilogy** will be featured Friday through Sunday, October 19-21. Each night you can watch all three films in the trilogy for \$10 or any of the films individually for \$4 each. The trilogy starts each night at 9:00pm at our usual Movie Night haunt, the Plaza Maplewood Theater, 1847 East Larpenteur Ave., Maplewood, MN. Call the theater at (651)770-7969 for more information.

Other upcoming events include a **MISFITS Open Meeting** on Saturday, **October 6** at 2:00pm at the Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Avenue South, Richfield, MN. Come and learn more about the things that we do throughout the year, and meet the MISFITS! Open Meetings are typically followed by a group outing to a restaurant or some other social event, so come join the fun! Call the Richfield Community Center at (612) 861-9360 for directions.

**MISFITS Karaoke Night** returns on Saturday, **November 3**, starting at 7:00pm. As usual, admission will be \$5, or only \$3 with the donation of a non-perishable food item or hygiene product for the Aliveness Project's food shelf. Karaoke Jockey **Robb Roloff** will return, along with free munchies, and a cash bar. It's all at the **Radisson Hotel South**, 7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington, Minnesota.

MISFITS' **Project Happy Holidays** is again looking for a family in need from our community to try to make their holiday season a little brighter. If you are aware of a family in need of help, please contact MISFITS before **October 31** through the channels below. Please provide the name(s) and contact information of the nominee family as well as your own contact info.

For more information on **Project Happy Holidays** or any of our other ongoing clubs and events (like the **MISFITS Writers' Group**, the **Read the Book / See the Movie Club**, or the **CyberGladiators** computer gaming group), visit our web site at <http://www.misfit.org>, e-mail us at [info@misfit.org](mailto:info@misfit.org) or leave a voice-mail message at our new MISFITS info number 651-MISFITS (647-3487). Or mail us at MISFITS, Suite 203, 1437 Marshall Ave, St Paul, MN 55104.

## CONvergence 2002 Preview

If adventure has a name, it must be ...



# CONVERGENCE

## 2002

July 5, 6, 7 2002 - Radisson Hotel South In Bloomington, MN

Featuring Your CONvergence Favorites:

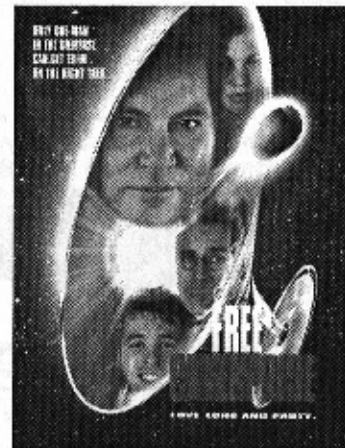
Cinema Rex Movie Room  
COF& Free Coffee Shop  
Mark Time Radio Show & Awards  
Art Show and Auction  
Gadgets: Petting Zoo  
Great Panels and Programming

Theater Hippo Anime Room  
Connie's Space Lounge  
The Masquerade  
Dealers' Room  
Live Music & DJ Dance  
Opening & Closing Ceremonies

## Guests scheduled to appear include:

**MARK A. ALTMAN and ROBERT MEYER BURNETT**

**Robert Meyer Burnett** and **Mark A. Altman** are co-writers and co-producers of **Free Enterprise**, a film about two hard-core SF fans whose lives are changed by a chance meeting with personal idol William Shatner. Shatner plays himself in the film, poking fun at his own image and eccentricities. The film co-stars Eric McCormack of **Will & Grace**, and is filled with enough SF and pop-culture references to play like a foreign film without subtitles to anyone who isn't a fan themselves. Mark and Robert are also producers of the superhero comedy **The Specials**, starring Rob Lowe, Jamie Kennedy and Thomas Haden Church.



Free Enterprise movie poster.

## NENE THOMAS

Nene Tina Thomas is a popular artist with a strong following in the fantasy market. Since beginning her career in 1994 contributing work to the popular card game, **Magic: the Gathering**, her work has appeared in several Wizards of the Coast projects, including the new **Magic: The Gathering** CD ROM Game. Her work has appeared in other card games including **Shadowfist**, **Vampire: The Eternal Struggle**, **Xenophiles**, and **Battlelords of the 23rd Century**. In addition to her card game work, Nene has completed cover or interior artwork for many publications including **Cryptech**, **Paper Mayhem**, **The Leading Edge** and **Scrye Magazine**. Nene's beautiful watercolor work continues to earn her awards and new fans, and we look forward to having her at CONvergence in 2002.



## PHIL HESTER

Phil Hester has been writing and drawing comic books since 1987 for publishers including DC Comics, Marvel Comics, and Dark Horse, working with some of the most loved characters and most exciting talents in the business. Phil is currently the penciller on the best-selling **Green Arrow** for DC Comics, written by fan-favorite **Kevin Smith**. Next year the two will be moving over to a new version of **The Brave and the Bold**, the classic Batman team-up title for DC Comics. Phil is also the creator and writer of **The Coffin** miniseries on Oni Press with artist Mike Huddleston which has been optioned by Lightstorm Studios as a feature film to be directed by Guillermo del Toro.

We'll be announcing more guests in the coming months. We've already got over 550 pre-registrations for next year, and expect CONvergence in 2002 to be bigger and better than ever! Visit our web site for more information on CONvergence 2002 as it develops. Pre-register. Volunteer. Come be a part making CONvergence 2002 something special. It's like nothing you've ever gone after before.



Green Arrow pencils by Phil Hester.  
Inks by Ande Parks. © 2001 DC Comics.

please print clearly + one reservation request per form + please feel free to make photocopy duplicates of this form

A convention for fans of Science Fiction and Fantasy in all media.  
At the Radisson Hotel South in Bloomington, MN

## Hotel Room/Room Party REQUEST FORM

# CONVERGENCE 2002

This form is for reservation purposes only. **SEND NO MONEY** with this form. Payment for your room is arranged between you and the hotel.

### Please fill out the following contact info:

↑ Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

↑ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

↑ City, State, ZIP Code, Country (if not USA) \_\_\_\_\_

↑ Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ ↑ Work Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

↑ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

### Important Hotel Information (Please Read):

- CONvergence assigns all rooms, cabanas, and other hospitality areas.
- If you want to host a room party (regardless of location), you must also fill out a Room Party Request information in the lower right-hand corner of this form.
- Please note that we will only accept TWO CONvergence 2002 room request forms from any one person. A separate form must be submitted for each room requested.
- CONvergence will return unprocessed any form considered illegible or incomplete.
- Please inquire about exact check-in/check-out times when confirming your reservation.
- If you would like your room to be near a particular group or person, indicate name here:

- We will accommodate as many people as possible, but not all requests can be fulfilled. CONvergence and the convention hotel reserve the right to make last minute changes.
- Check-out time is 12 noon unless otherwise specified.

For more general information on CONvergence, visit our web site or contact us through the channels listed below. Direct all inquiries to the address below or send E-mail directly to [hotel@convergence-con.org](mailto:hotel@convergence-con.org).



**CONvergence**  
1437 Marshall Avenue, Suite 203  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651-MISFITS (651-647-3487) - 24-hour voicemail  
[info@convergence-con.org](mailto:info@convergence-con.org)  
<http://www.convergence-con.org>

# CONVERGENCE 2002

It's like nothing you've ever  
gone after before...

### Room Requirements:

<b>Check One:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 King Bed <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Double Beds <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Care	<b>Check One:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Care
---	--

Check any room requirements that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> Rollaway	<input type="checkbox"/> Crib
<input type="checkbox"/> Low Floor	<input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair Access

Number of People in Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Responsible Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Check-in Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check-out Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONVERGENCE WEEKEND 2002

WED JULY 03	THUR JULY 04	FRI JULY 05	SAT JULY 06	SUN JULY 07
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Once received, your form will be processed and you will be assigned a room in the Radisson Hotel South as they are available.

### Room Rates:

- Standard Room (\$99 per night)
- Cabana Room (\$119 per night)\*

\*Cabana Rooms are only available to individuals hosting room parties. See the Parties section below.

### Room Party Request:

Do you plan to hold a room party?  
 Yes  No

If yes, please complete the section below.

Please check one:  1<sup>st</sup> Floor Cabana  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Cabana  
 Standard Room

Do you want a:  Smoking Room?  
 Non-Smoking Room?

Will you be serving alcohol?  Yes  No

Hours of Operation (please indicate AM/PM):

Friday: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a brief description of your party and its theme that makes clear its connection to Science Fiction and Fantasy.

please print clearly + one pre-registration per form + please feel free to make photocopy duplicates of this form

# CONVERGENCE

where science fiction  
and fantasy meet

## PRE-REGISTRATION FORM: CONVERGENCE 2002, JULY 5, 6, 7

A convention for fans of Science Fiction and Fantasy in all media.  
At the Radisson Hotel South in Bloomington, MN

Complete this form and send it (with check or money order, US funds only) to:  
CONvergence, 1437 Marshall Ave, Suite 203, St. Paul, MN 55104

**Required** - These fields MUST be filled out for us to process your registration.

↑ Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

↑ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

↑ City, State, ZIP Code, Country (if not USA) \_\_\_\_\_

↑ Phone (Home and/or Work) - at least one is required \_\_\_\_\_

**NOT Required** - An e-mail address is NOT required but will speed up the process of confirming your registration and providing you with information about the convention. Badge names are also not required.

↑ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

↑ Badge Name (if different from Full Name) \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration Rates for CONvergence 2002

Until December 25, 2001	\$25
January 1 until May 15, 2002	\$35
Supporting Membership until May 15, 2002 (\$15 now plus \$20 at the door)	\$15 / \$20
Kids Age 6-12 (Pre-reg ends May 15, 2002)	\$15
At the Door July 5, 6, 7 2002	\$50
Kids 5 & under	Free

Make checks or money orders  
payable to **CONvergence**.

**Check One:**

Adult Badge  
(21 & over)

Non-Adult  
Badge  
(under 21)

You must specify Adult or Non-Adult status.  
People wishing adult badges will be asked to show a picture ID showing that they are at least 21 years old at the time they pick up their badge.  
That means that if you're not 21 now but will be by the time the convention is held, you can still request an adult badge.

I would be interested in  
information on:  
(check all that apply)

- Art Show / Auction
- Advertising
- Room Parties
- Working with MISFITS

I would be interested in volunteering in the following areas:  
(check all that apply)

- |  |  |                                      |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Badgers/Gophers       | <input type="checkbox"/> Concessions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Art Show Staff        | <input type="checkbox"/> Gaming      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operations                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Programming Staff     | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ConSuite                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Programming Panelist  |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COF <sub>2</sub> E <sub>2</sub> | <input type="checkbox"/> Connie's Space Lounge |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Put me wherever I am needed     |  |                                      |

I would be interested in  
volunteering... (check all that apply)

- During the year
- During the convention

You may like to know that I am a  
professional in the field of:

Do you have any other ideas, skills or resources that you would like to lend the use of to CONvergence? If so, please explain on the back of this form.

Thank you again for  
your support. We look  
forward to seeing you  
at CONvergence!



# CONVERGENCE 2002

It's like nothing you've ever gone after before...

Thank you for your interest in and support of **CONvergence**, brought to you by the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS).

If you provide us with an e-mail address, your registration confirmation will be sent to you via e-mail as soon as it is entered into our database. If we do not have your e-mail address, confirmation will be sent upon our next scheduled US Mailing cycle. Any confirmation given is pending the clearing of payment. Please note that we keep our information private and will not share your personal information with anyone. If you have questions or need to contact us for any reason, please use the contact information below.

**US Mail:** 1437 Marshall Ave, Suite 203  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
**Phone:** 651-647-3487 / 651-MISFITS  
(24-hour voicemail)  
**E-Mail:** [info@convergence-con.org](mailto:info@convergence-con.org)  
**Web:** [www.convergence-con.org](http://www.convergence-con.org)