

COMING JULY 3-6
CONVERGENCE
2008



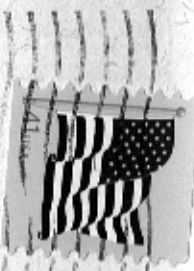
PROGRESS
REPORT
TWO

Coming July 3-6

CONVERGENCE
2008

Celebrating 10 Years of
the place where Science Fiction and Reality meet

c/o The Minnesota Society for Interest
in Science Fiction and Fantasy
1437 Marshall Ave, Suite 203 St. Paul, MN 55104

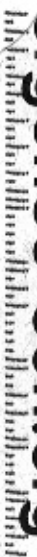


If the @ symbol appears on your mailing
label, you are listed in our database as
pre-registered for CONVERGENCE 2008.



<http://www.convergence-con.org>

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CONVERGENCE

1999 TEN YEARS 2008

A four day celebration of the first
ten years of CONvergence.

July 3-6 2008

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This publication was designed by Christopher Jones for CONvergence Publications. All artwork is by Christopher Jones unless otherwise indicated. Thanks to Peter Verrant, Erica Lewerenz, and the CONvergence Coordinators for their help in proofreading. We always welcome feedback and suggestions, and ask that any comments be directed to the channels listed above.

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Four Days.

Are you *ready* for it?

Think about it for a second. On a regular CONvergence weekend, **Day One** begins with a few panels in the afternoon, the first movies play in Cinema Rex, the first anime shows in Theater Nippon, art is being set up in Art Show, and the convention is gearing up as we move towards the Opening Ceremony. There are panels, entertainment and parties galore late into the night, but in a lot of ways, Day One of the convention is only a half day. **Day Two** is a different matter. The convention is fully in gear from early in the morning and doesn't let up through a day of panels, music, shopping, and shows, until Saturday night brings the Masquerade, the Art Auction, and your chance to party into the wee hours of the morning. There's more to do on **Day Three**, but in a lot of ways, the convention is winding down. The parties are packing up. If you didn't book your hotel room through Sunday night, you'll have to check out of the hotel. The Closing Ceremony comes in the late afternoon. Maybe you'll hang around for some of the Dead Dog parties in the evening, but it's all bittersweet because CONvergence has come to an end.

But what if it wasn't that way? What if Day Three was as full as Day Two, with another whole day ahead? That's what you can look forward to at CONvergence 2008. To celebrate ten years of CONvergence, we're throwing a four day party. CONvergence 2008 starts **Thursday July 3** and doesn't end until **Sunday July 6**.

Are you *ready*?

Annual Theme

To celebrate ten years of CONvergence, all of our past years' themes will be in play. Was there a year when you didn't have the resources to do what you really wanted at con for a costume or room party? Did the idea come too late, or were you not able to be there at all? Well now's your second chance. All our past themes are suitable for Year Ten.

What were all those themes again? We're glad you asked...

- July 2, 3, 4 1999 — "After All, It's Just a Party"**
Our inaugural year.
- July 7, 8, 9 2000 — "No one can TELL you what CONvergence is... you have to EXPERIENCE it for yourself."**
The Matrix and similar fiction
- July 6, 7, 8 2001 — "Curioser and Curioser"**
Alice in Wonderland and similar fiction
- July 5, 6, 7 2002 — "If Adventure Has A Name..."**
Adventure themes in Science Fiction and Fantasy
- July 4, 5, 6 2003 — "Time Flies"**
Time travel themes in Science Fiction.
- July 2, 3, 4 2004 — "Out of the Shadows"**
Noir and the dark side of SF and Fantasy
- July 1, 2, 3 2005 — "Snikt! Bamf! Thwip!"**
Superheroes from comic books and other media
- July 7, 8, 9 2006 — "Boldly Go"**
Space exploration and the 40th anniversary of *Star Trek*
- July 6, 7, 8 2007 — "Creature Feature"**
Creatures, Monsters and other non-human characters
- July 3, 4, 5, 6 2008 — "Party like it's 1999!"**
Tenth Anniversary Celebration



CONvergence
mascot Connie,
circa 1998.



John Kovalic

2008 Guests of Honor

No, we don't have 2008 guests this year... but it's starting to feel that way!

In a normal year, CONvergence will have six or seven guests of honor, with one guest slot set aside to invite back a returning guest from a previous year. For our four-day year-ten extravaganza, we are hosting an expanded slate of guests from the past decade of CONvergence. Guests scheduled to appear include:



Kenneth Hite

Robert Meyer Burnett (2002 Guest of Honor)

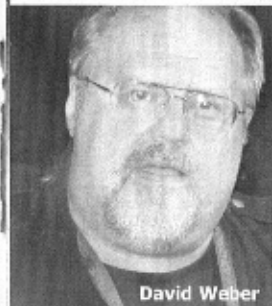
Filmmaker, director of *Free Enterprise*, and producer of DVD extras. <http://www.ludovicotechnique.com/>

Christian Colquhoun (2004 Guest of Honor)

Prop-builder and physical effects artist whose projects include *Galaxy Quest*, *Van Helsing*, and *Firefly*. <http://www.convergence-con.org/guests/2004christian.php>

Larry Dixon (2005 Guest of Honor)

Co-author of *Mage Wars* and *Dariens Tale* series, author of many short stories and game material and fantasy artist. <http://gryphonking.aelfhame.net/>



David Weber

Daren Dochterman (2002 Guest of Honor)

Designer and illustrator for over 35 feature films, including *Star Trek: The Motion Picture Special Edition*. <http://www.darendoc.com/darendoc/Welcome.html>

Kenneth Hite (2006 Guest of Honor)

Role-playing game designer for GURPS, the *Star Trek* role playing game, and beyond. <http://princeofcairo.livejournal.com/>

Dr. James Kakalios (2005 Guest of Honor)

U of M physics professor, author of *The Physics of Superheroes*. <http://www.physicsofsuperheroes.com/>



Greg Weisman

Harry Knowles (1999, 2001 and 2005 Guest of Honor)

Creator of Aint-It-Cool-News.com. <http://www.aintitcool.com/>

Jay Knowles (1999, 2001 and 2005 Guest of Honor)

Creator of Harry Knowles (and contributor to AICN). <http://www.aintitcool.com/>

John Kovalic (2003 and 2007 Guest of Honor)

Cartoonist and Game designer: *Dork Tower*, *Dr. Blink*, *Out of the Box Games*. <http://archive.gamespy.com/comics/dorktower/>

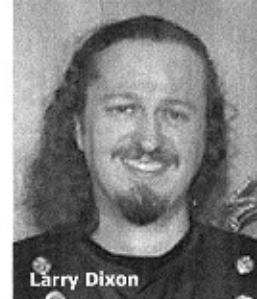


Mercedes Lackey (2005 Guest of Honor)

Author of many popular novels, including the *Valdemar* and *Bardic Voices* series and folk music lyricist. <http://www.mercedeslackey.com/>

Bridget Landry (2006 Guest of Honor)

Engineer on the teams of the Hubble Space Telescope, the Mars Pathfinder project, the Cassini Mission to Saturn, and other space missions. <http://mpfwww.jpl.nasa.gov/MPF/bios/team/landry.html>



Larry Dixon

Peter Mayhew (2001 Guest of Honor)

The actor who played the beloved Chewbacca in the original *Star Wars* Trilogy and in *Episode III*. <http://www.petermayhew.com>



Bridget Landry

Andrew Probert (2003 Guest of Honor)

Production Designer for *Star Trek*, *Battlestar Galactica* and *Airwolf*. <http://probertdesigns.com>

Vincent Truitner (2004 Guest of Honor)

Animation and CGI artist. <http://www.convergence-con.org/guests/2004vintruitner.php>



Peter Mayhew

David Weber (2006 Guest of Honor)

Author of the Honor Harrington series and other military science-fiction

Len Wein (2005 Guest of Honor)

Writer for comics and animation, creator of Swamp Thing, Nightcrawler & Wolverine. <http://lenwein.blogspot.com>

Greg Weisman (2006 Guest of Honor)

Disney's Gargoyles creator and supervising producer of *The Spectacular Spider-Man* for Kids WB.

Marv Wolfman (2005 Guest of Honor)

Writer for comics and animation, creator of Blade, Bullseye & The New Teen Titans. <http://www.marvwolfman.com>



Mark Evanier

Plus our two FIRST TIME Guests of Honor:

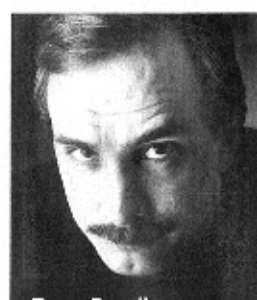
Mark Evanier

Mark has written and produced animation for numerous animated TV series, from *Garfield* and *Friends* to *Thundarr the Barbarian*. He has written for live action TV shows ranging from *Welcome Back Kotter* to *Pink Lady* and *Jeff*. In comics, Mark is the writer of *Groo the Wanderer*, which he created with artist/partner Sergio Aragones. The first of two books by Mark about his friend Jack Kirby has just been released. You can read more about Mark and his work at <http://www.povonline.com>.

Trace Beaulieu

Trace Beaulieu is a puppeteer, writer, and actor, best known for his roles on *Mystery Science Theater 3000 (MST3K)* where he played Dr. Clayton Forrester and was the original voice of Crow T. Robot. Recently, Trace has joined forces with MST3K alumnus Joel Hodgson, J. Elvis Weinstein, Frank Conniff and Mary Jo Pehl, for a project called *Cinematic Titanic*.

You can learn more about *Cinematic Titanic* at their web site (<http://cinematictitanic.com/wpmu/>).



Registration

"I will not be pushed, filed, stamped, indexed, briefed, debriefed or numbered."
- Number Six, *The Prisoner* (1967)

As always the Registration Department is looking for volunteers to round out the 2008 Registration Team. Expanded hours for better access, and the chance to see everyone - how can you beat that for earning your volunteer t-shirt? If you would like to join the team, please send an email to registration@convergence-con.org!

How to Register

You can register for CONvergence in two different ways: Online or by mailing in a registration form and payment. If you'd like to register online, simply visit www.convention-reg.com and follow the instructions there. **Convention-reg.com** can now register you directly with CONvergence - no paper forms needed at all! What a deal!

If you'd like to register for CONvergence by mail, fill out a registration form and send it in with a check payment. You can download a registration form from www.convergence-con.org/amenities/registration/conregform.php, or use the one at the back of this booklet.

You can also visit www.convergence-con.org/amenities/hotel/hotelreg.php for hotel information.

Recycle Badge Clips

Please help recycle by bringing in your old badge clips. A receptical will be located in the Registration Department and clips can be dropped off during normal Registration hours.

Pre-Registration Deadlines

Note: Any registration postmarked/received after May 15 is considered "At the Door."

Youth (13-17) & Adult Memberships (18+):

\$50 - Until May 15, 2008

\$65 - At the Door

Kids Ages 6-12:

\$25 - Until May 15, 2008

\$30 - At the Door

Supporting Memberships are available until May 15, 2008 for \$30, which can be upgraded to a full membership at the door for an additional \$20.

Children 5 and under:

Free

At the Con

The first thing you'll want to do when you arrive at CONvergence is check in at the Registration Desk, which is in the same location as last year! Registration is located next to the hotel's front desk in Captain's Quarters/Stevie Ray's on the ground floor (across from the Navigator's Lounge).

Registration's Hours

Wednesday July 2nd: Volunteer Only Registration 3:00pm-6:00pm

Registration will be open on Wednesday for convention volunteers only. Early registration is just one more reason to volunteer!

Thursday July 3: Registration 10:00am-11:00pm

You'll need a badge to get into convention space so avoid the crowd and stop by Registration early on Thursday. We'll also have programming schedules, souvenir books and any last minute

updates so you can start planning your convention.

Friday July 4: Registration 9:00am-11:00pm

Saturday July, 5: Registration 9:00am-8:00pm

Sunday July, 6: Registration 11:00am-6:30pm

CONvergence 2009 Pre-Registration

You can self-register for next year's convention during this year's con and at a special rate too! To pre-register, fill out the 2009 Registration Form, put it in a (provided) envelope with a check and drop it in the treasure chest. The chest will be in Registration during our normal hours and on the Bridge when we're closed.

Hotel Reservations

"Ma'am, my feet are hardly touching the ground. I'm barely able to look over the counter. How can I make a reservation for a hotel room? Think about it. A kid coming into a hotel, making a reservation? I don't think so."
- Kevin, *Home Alone 2* (1992)

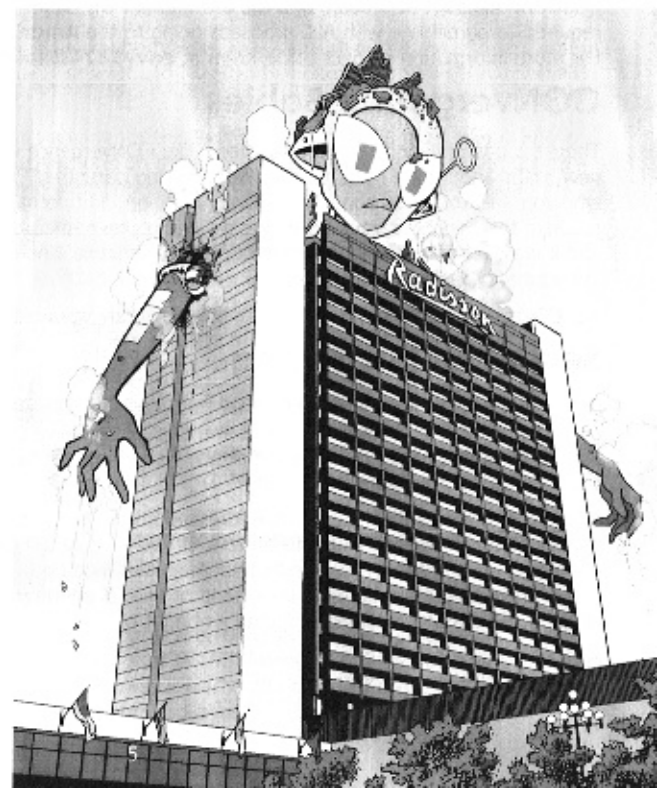
Those who have not secured rooms at this time in the Sheraton Bloomington will be overflowing into a limited number of rooms at the Sofitel, (located directly across the parking lot from the Sheraton), and when those fill, we will overflow to the Crowne Plaza (located across Highway 494) which will run a shuttle between the hotels. Both hotels are graciously extending the Sheraton's convention rate to our guests.

If you have turned in a hotel form and have not been contacted by the CONvergence Hotel Department, you can verify your status with them at hotel@convergence-con.org.

The CONvergence Hotel Department therefore is still taking room requests and advising the Sofitel and Crowne Plaza of the guests they should be expecting, so please continue to forward requests directly to CONvergence.

Either way, fill out the form following the instructions and send it in right away. Please watch the website, www.convergence-con.org, for further updates.

Connie bursts out of the Radisson in 2001, our Curiouser and Curouser year. In 2008, the Radisson is now a Sheraton, and the convention is doing so mething similar...



Special Events

USS Nokomis Blood Drive

The USS Nokomis (a Twin Cities Star Trek Fan Club – www.usnokonis.org) is once again proud to host a CONvergence blood drive on Saturday, July 5th. Remember these handy pointers:

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

If you haven't pre-scheduled your appointment, you can stop in to the USS Nokomis' room on Friday night and schedule with Mary. You may also stop by the lobby after noon on Saturday to check for open appointments. Several Nokomis members will be wandering the halls to look for donors, too, so they will find you if you don't find them!

Drop off Used Eyeglasses at Registration Dept.

Again this year, Registration will be a collection point for used eyeglasses. These glasses will be cleaned, recycled, and hand delivered to individuals in developing countries through the Give the Gift of Sight Foundation and Luxottica Group. When you come to CONvergence this year, please bring an old pair of glasses (or two, or three) to help bring a better quality of life one person at a time. More information can be found at <http://www.givethedgiftofsight.org/>

Klingon Bat'Leth Tournament

Five years ago a group of Klingons arrived at CONvergence to fight against the disease of diabetes. Today it is said that a cure is within sight, which means our enemy is down but is not defeated. Join us in our fifth year of fighting for a cure Saturday morning in the Garden Court. Qualifications start at 9:00am and the tournament will begin at 10:00am. A \$10 registration fee is required to participate with ALL proceeds going to the **American Diabetes Association**. For more information contact Uncle Krom at envy1874@aol.com.

CONvergence Babies

There's a phenomenon common to events like CONvergence where couples attending celebrate new births about nine months later. We're asking parents of "CONvergence Babies" (you know who you are) to tell us about their happy addition, and perhaps share a photo. If you'd be willing to share the names of you and your child and a photo, please send them to david-eck@2z.net, and if we get enough responses we hope to have some kind of display at the convention. Please get your submissions to us by May 17.

No, this is not just an effort to identify potential new volunteers.

See What I'm Saying

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

At the convention you will see people dressed in dark solid colors at the front of some events and panels. These people are the interpreters. If you wish to talk to one of the deaf members of CONvergence and haven't learned either American Sign Language (ASL) or telepathy, you can ask one of the interpreters to lend you a hand or two. If an interpreter is not available, other communication options are available including writing it out. Give it a try, you might find a friend.

Please welcome our deaf fans and interpreters. We look forward to all the new friendships and conversations they will bring.

Departments

Art Show & Auction

"Ah, hey! I got an idea. Instead'a us hangin' around playin' art critic 'til I get pitched by The Man, how's about we move away from this eerie-ass piece of work and get on with our increasingly eerie-ass day, how's that?"
– Jayne, *Firefly* (2002)

We are pleased to again present a wide variety of artwork by many talented fantasy and science-fiction artists from across the country. This artwork is for sale to the convention membership via an auction system, with enough bids sending pieces to the voice auction on Saturday night.

Additionally, there will be artists set up in the Art Show gallery demonstrating their craft. Stop by and watch them create their beautiful artwork.

As artists register, their names will be posted on the Art Show page of the website, so check often to see who will be displaying artwork this year. We are looking forward to seeing some new as well as familiar faces this year. So please join us in seeing what they bring to the show.

If you are an artist, we would love to see you, as well as your artwork, at the show. Forms for submitting artwork are available for download at http://www.convergence-con.org/attractions/artshow/art_show.php. If you would like the forms mailed to you, contact us and we will send them out. If you are interested in participating in the demonstrations, drop us an email and see if we still have room.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or you would like to volunteer to help with the show (we always need volunteers), please do not hesitate to drop us an email at artshow@convergence-con.org.

Cinema Rex

"Nobody... nobody trusts anybody now, and we're all very tired... there's nothing more I can do, just wait... RJ MacReady, helicopter pilot, US outpost #31."
– MacReady, *The Thing* (1982)

Rex has been hard at work yet again planning for this year's convention. As most of you know, we are not allowed to list our movie selections on the CONvergence website before the convention due to licensing restrictions, but in anticipation of the four-day con, his plans include:

"Retro" theater:

Rex will be reshewing one film selection from each of the past nine years' playlists.

Employee picks:

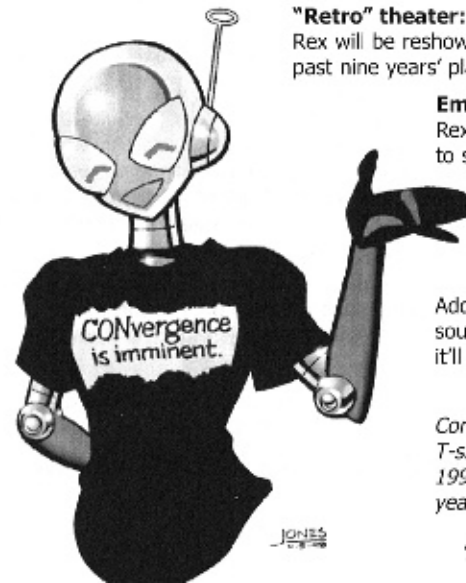
Rex is going to allow his department heads to select and show a film their choosing.

Guest events:

Rex has a whole slew of events in mind with some of the expansive list of guests coming to the con this year.

Add to that the usual high-quality projection and sound, comfy seating, snacks, and atmosphere... it'll be four fun-filled days of film!

Connie modeling the "CONvergence is imminent" T-shirt in 1998. While CONvergence was first held in 1999, it was in the planning stages for more than a year and a half.



CoF2E2 Free Coffee Shop

"Of course I've been up all night! Not because of caffeine, it was insomnia. I couldn't stop thinking about coffee. I need a nap. [snores] [wakes up] Coffee time!"
— Fry, *Futurama* (1999)

CoF2E2, CONvergence's 24-hour, free coffee shop provides coffee, espresso drinks, tea, and milk steamers in a comfortable and relaxed coffee shop atmosphere. Stop by for a quick drink while rushing between CONvergence events, or drop in and play a game or two while burning away the late nights and early mornings of this year's four-day convention.

Want to learn how to make espresso drinks? Volunteering at CoF2E2 is a fun way to spend a couple hours at the convention. Email cof2e2@convergence-con.org, check out the FAQ at www.convergence-con.org, or just stop by Cabana 115 the Wednesday evening before the convention (July 2nd) to learn more about volunteering for CoF2E2.

Connie's Space Lounge

A CONvergence anniversary feast.*

*Menu subject to change. See one of our staff to sign up for cabaret.

Guests are invited to bring a battery operated, sound-producing toy to artfully mangle in the circuit bending workshop.

Really.

Service included. 18% gratuity added for smoothies with more than six ingredients.

amuse : Thursday
a one-night bite of cold Club Neo Tokyo, homage to our roots

appetizer : Friday
Circuit 1989Bending Workshop with Beatrix*Jar

first course : Friday
refreshingly hot live music, iced smoothies, black light photos

intermezzo
a surprise

second course : Saturday
Duo of Space Craft and Sci Fi Cabaret.

dessert : Saturday
video game tournament

Sunday
mignardises

ConSuite

"You know, Dick, when life gives you lemon, just shut up and eat the damn lemons."
— Dick Solomon, *Third Rock from the Sun* (1996)

ConSuite: Your destination for crunchies, munchies, or something to drink as well as great conversation. We'll have the standard sodas, snacks, rice and soups available at our ConSuite stations, plus surprise treats that will show up at unannounced times and are available only while they last. So stop by and see what's available! ConSuite has plenty of space to hang out and socialize, in addition to table top games organized by our Gaming Department. So stop by by and spend some time!

ConSuite needs you! An extra day of Con means an extra day of food and drink and your help would be greatly appreciated. If you have at least one manipulative digit, tentacle, or pod, we can put you to work! Send us an e-mail at consuite@convergence-con.org prior to the convention, or stop by the Volunteer Table or the ConSuite Bridge at the convention to let us know that you'd like to help in ConSuite.

Dealers Room

We will once again be on the 2nd floor next to Mainstage, but this year we have one more day of shopping for you.

Be sure to stop by several times throughout the four days to chat with your favorite returning dealers, meet new dealers, and add find that perfect something for yourself, your loved ones and that impossible to buy for person.

Watch our web site as the convention approaches for a listing of Dealers who will be at CONvergence 2008.

Dorian Gray Memorial Literary Lounge

Room 2201 in the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel is a beautifully furnished suite which we've designated as a Literary Lounge, a space for local authors, Guests of Honor, and others to gather for quiet readings, events, and discussions.

Don't forget the returning Literary Lounge Book Cart where you can come and drop off books or pick up a few that suit your fancy. Bring all the books you like and take some home while you're there! Would you like to donate some before the con? Let us know!

Have a suggestion for a local author you'd like to see give a reading? Let us know how we can contact them! Please feel free to volunteer in helping out by contacting the Lounge's co-heads, David J Rust and Jody Wurl at literarylounge@convergence-con.org.

Gaming

"Oh, things are getting out of control - even I can't play this many games at once!"
— The Doctor, *Doctor Who: Ghost Light* (1989)

Whether a Role-Playing Game, Miniatures Event, Card Tourney, or just a few rounds of *Apples-To-Apples*, what we want to know is what games you, personally, would enjoy playing with a thousand of your closest friends.

So, contact our Gaming Head David Rust at gaming@convergence-con.org and let us know what you'd like to see!

If you'd like to **run** a gaming event, drop us a line and let us know what you'd like to run and when you'd like to run it. Remember: your hours running an event count as volunteer hours and get you invited to that volunteers-only party after the con!

Harmonic CONvergence

"Oh, enough with the harmonic convergence crap, okay, you're not saying anything to me."
— Mulder, *The X-Files* (1993)

CONvergence's acoustic venue is back. Featuring a mix of music, comedy and spoken word, Harmonic CONvergence is planning a great schedule of new and returning acts. Artists scheduled to appear in 2008 include The Dregs, 3 Pints Gone, Beth Kinderman, Possible Oscar, and Icebox Radio Theater.

Further updates to the list of performers will be posted at www.convergence-con.org. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for a performance spot, please contact us at harmonicconvergence@convergence-con.org.

Krushenko's

Krushenko's is a friendly space for people who like to spend a good part of their time at SF conventions really getting down and talking about science fiction and fantasy.

This year's Krushenko's panels will include "**Lizards in Fact, Folklore, Fiction, and Film**," "**SF Writing Groups: The 2008 Scene**," and a panel on the history of the **Incredible Hulk**. We'll have parties hosted by SF groups in the evenings, including a "Silver Edition Party" celebrating the 25th Anniversaries of the SF-book discussion group Second Foundation and of Krushenko's itself. Come on down for light snacks and heavy conversation!

MainStage

"What's so *hard* about it? I've seen actors in plays before, it's stupid! Everybody says Shakespeare's so great. Well how come nobody's ever heard of him. Hell, I'll write 'cha a play! All you need is a silly old king's hat, and some fancy sissy clothes out of your sister's drawers, and ya get up on the stage, and ya go nuts."
- Mr. Phelps, *Mr. Show with Bob and David* (1995)

This year **MainStage** hosts a plethora of 10th-year celebration events. There will be the usual Masquerade, live bands, DJ Dance, and Opening and Closing Ceremonies, but we've got all kinds of additional programming to keep you entertained including a mega-panel, several plays, and a "best of" Masquerade retrospective featuring some of our favorite performances from CONvergence past. From music videos to **Soylent Blue**, plays about D&D to musicals about Cthulhu, celebrity amazonian DJs to costumed dinosaurs, MainStage is ready to celebrate our 10th year in *style*.

Mark Time Awards and Radio Show

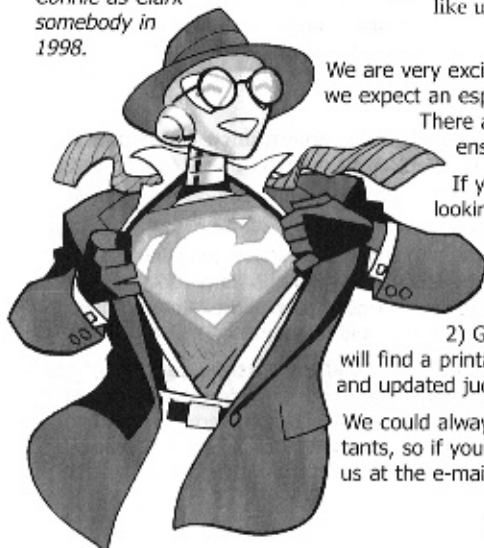
"I don't want to die now. I've still got a headache. I don't want to go to Heaven with a headache, I'd be all cross and wouldn't enjoy it."
- Arthur Dent, *HitchHiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (1978)

CONvergence will be presenting the **12th Annual Mark Time Awards and Ogle Awards** for science fiction and fantasy audio productions. We've received entries from around the world, and Canada too. Writing good audio scripts is just as difficult as writing a short story or novel. And producing an audio drama is just as much work as making a video or film. We listen to them all and let you know what is the best available. They deserve their minute of fame during Opening Ceremonies for creating original science fiction and fantasy, and in doing so making a vintage medium fresh and readily available to all of us who love the genre. Find more at <http://www.greatnorthernaudio.com/MarkTime/MarkTime.html>.

Before Thursday's Opening Ceremonies **Great Northern Audio Theatre** will bring you the **Mark Time Radio Show**, an original and entirely silly live program with allusions to the theme of the convention. And, like the convention, it will be bigger and better than ever. As always the radio show features CONvergence regulars Tim Wick and Windy Bowsby in the cast. See you there.

Masquerade

Connie as Clark somebody in 1998.



"If there's anything that's disturbs me, Lily, it's the idea of grown people, like us, dressing up in costume and looking ridiculous."
- Herman Munster, *The Munsters* (1964)

We are very excited to be celebrating our Tenth Masquerade, and we expect an especially large number of participants this year.

There are only 30 performance slots available, so to ensure your space in the show, register now!

If you have not participated in a few years or are looking to enter for the first time, you have a couple options:

1) Send us your mailing address at info@convergence-con.org and we'll send you a packet.

2) Go to the Masquerade section on the web site. You will find a printable registration form, rules for the competition and updated judging and award criteria!

We could always use more backstage help and costumer assistants, so if you'd like to get involved in that way, please contact us at the e-mail address above.

Operations

"What's going on here? Spock calls me to the bridge and then goes into some kind of poetry!"
- Dr. Leonard 'Bones' McCoy, *Star Trek* (1966)

Beginning with set-up on Wednesday, the Operations Department is the communications central nervous system of the convention, operating 24-hours-a-day until convention tear-down on Monday.

We're looking for volunteers to take shifts working in Ops, and are starting our contact calls soon to fill in our schedules. Sign up early, to get first choice in shifts, and sign up often. We will be holding training sessions for using our communications system, and to work in our dispatch, XO, and Wandering Host positions.

We also need people to help with Move-In and Set-up on Thursday and with Tear-Down and Move-Out on Monday. To sign up or to get more information, contact ops@convergence-con.org.

Parties

"Tonight we're going to party like it's 1999."
- Prince, 1999 (1982)

This year's four-day convention means three nights of parties! Most of your favorites will be open Thursday night as well as their usual Friday and Saturday nights.

New parties range from political headquarters to Victorian tea rooms, from spaceships to the supernatural. They join the existing joyful cacophony of toast and Time Lords, dark futures and better tomorrows. Check the website for the list of usual and unusual suspects.

Even with the 4th Floor Satellite Zone, space is limited and filling fast. If you want to host a party (or think you're hosting one, but don't see your name on the website), you will want to e-mail parties@convergence-con.org right away.

Photography at CONvergence

While CONvergence limits access to convention space to badged members, it is still a public space and there will be photographers. CONvergence has volunteers taking photos and video for the convention, and additionally there are fans capturing their own momentos of the con weekend.

Please remember that badged convention space is still considered "public space" with regards to photography and videography, including the Garden Courte and poolside areas, MainStage, parties, panels, prep areas and gaming areas. CONvergence has no policy to restrict photography or videography in these public spaces. The only "private space" in the convention is behind the closed door of a private sleeping room.

Programming

CONvergence 2008 will have panels featuring both Guests of Honor and panelists drawn from our convention membership. We will have programming that looks back on the last ten years, as well as our usual broad spectrum of topics.

We will have great topical conversations about everything from favorite TV shows to the latest movies and novels, as well as panels reflecting our unique fandom sub-culture. Fitness panels return by popular demand. There will be panels on working with audio and video, and other projects and how-to panels for both kids and adults. Late night you will find comedy and panels geared for a more mature audience.

If you're interested in being a panelist, there are multiple ways to get involved. You can become part of our Google Group to receive updates on meetings, panel ideas, and other developments. Go to <http://groups.google.com/group/convergenceprogramming> to join.

You can also go to the Programming Page on the CONvergence web site to link to our list of panel ideas where you can sign up for panels that you'd like to be a part of, or just browse to start making plans of what to attend.

CONvergence programming is what our members make of it, so we encourage you to participate and get involved. E-mail us at programming@convergence-con.org if you have questions or would like to be involved.

MISFITS Silent Auction

In honor of our Tenth Anniversary, this year's Silent Auction will include a theme wall with an item depicting each of our 9 past convention themes and one for year ten. There will be some silliness to pass the time away, as there will be an extra day of bidding this year. As always we are counting on you, the CONvergence Membership to make this the best year ever.

If you have past photos of the Silent Auction or memories you would like to share, please send them to us. You can reach the Silent Auction crew at SilentAuction@convergence-con.org.

Theater Nippon Anime Room

"Morphing. Crazy morphing! We're talking Piggy turning into Gonzo, mutating into Scooter. Scooter turning in to a big, busty vampire vixen who explodes in a sea of crimson blood! Hahahaha. All done in the classic Japanese anime style. You know, for the kids."
- Quentin Tarantino, *Muppet's Wizard of Oz* (2005)

With an extra 24 hours of CONvergence Theater Nippon will have more Anime than an Otaku can shake a magical girl wand at! A mix of fan favorites from the past 10 years, to cutting edge programs. Have a suggestion? We still have space on our schedule. Let us know!

If you're looking to volunteer, we are still looking for a sub-head positions and at con volunteers. Contact us at theaternippon@convergence-con.org.

Videography

"I need to put this camera inside you. [Fry opens his mouth] Guess again."
- Dr. Zoidberg, *Futurama* (1999)

All new videos, all new features, and all new expansions coming soon from the CONvergence Video Department!

Our first set of **2007 CONvergence: Creature Feature DVDs** will be available at the MISFITS Trivia Contest. These titles will include two brand new videos from our always fashionable line of **Special Archive Series** DVDs! First is the complete coverage of the **2007 Iron Artist** panel, featuring celebrity Guest of Honor judge Brian Keene and our formidable line-up of Iron Artists, joined by puppet-artist Gordon Smuder! Second is the always raucous **Smackdown** panel, featuring last year's Creature Feature theme in... The Monster Mash! Who wins? Who loses? Who gets a flaming stake to the heart? Buy a video and find out!

Following these videos, our DVD Video Yearbook will once again be on-sale at the **MISFITS Picnic!** Enjoy all the screams and dreams of the 2007 convention, and be sure to pick up a copy of our beautiful three-disc set this spring!

And coming to a hotel near you, our Video Department would like to announce the introduction of **CVG-TV!** The 2008 convention will feature live video broadcasts of all MainStage events into the Sheraton hotel television system, as well as clips from past years of CONvergence events! You may even get to see some of the great videos that are available at our Merchandise department! We are very excited at the possibilities that these broadcasts may bring, so watch for further developments!

More surprises are on the way! And if there is something that you would like to see offered on video from CONvergence, please let us know!

Web Site

"Here is a Muppet News Flash. An international spy ring is trying to sneak ridiculous stories into the news... In other news, a black and yellow striped mackerel was elected king this morning."
- Muppet Newsman, *The Muppet Show* (1976)

We are looking for people to help us make the CONvergence Web Site better!

CONvergence is forming a Usability Team for our web site. This team will participate in monthly checks of the website, looking for out of date content, typos, and broken links, as well as providing feedback on the clarity and usability of the content as it is presented.

Usability Team members will be sent e-mail requests to check specific sections of the web site, and for each request handled, team members are credited with one CONvergence Volunteer Hour. It's a great way to get Volunteer Hours in before the convention weekend!

If you'd like to become part of the team, please send your full name and e-mail address to webteam@convergence-con.org.

Reminder

As the CONvergence approaches in the spring, updates to our website will be coming in at a quick pace. The CONvergence website has a wealth of information on most aspects of the convention and a directory of how to contact our various department. It's all at <http://www.convergence-con.org/>

As always, the web team is interested in your input. Please e-mail webmaster@convergence-con.org with any feedback, suggestions or requests.

CONvergence Needs You

"We surrender. There's no need to damage us, we're good stock. We volunteer for the upgrade programme. Take us to be processed."
- The Doctor, *Doctor Who: Rise of the Cybermen* (2006)

We need your help in making this four-day, tenth year anniversary convention a success! You might be surprised at how EASY and FUN volunteering can be, and you can make it fit around your convention schedule!

Easy! Just let us know that you want to volunteer and we'll take it from there. (If there's something you've always wanted to help with, let us know that too!). The sooner we know you are interested the sooner we can put you to work, er, *utilize your skills and creativity*. If you didn't remember to send us an e-mail and still want to volunteer at the con, just stop by the Volunteers Table in CONvergence Central and we can let you know where you're needed! If you already know that you're a creature of the night, let our 24-hour departments know! (ConSuite, CoF2Ez, Theatre Nippon, Operations and Volunteers)

Fun! Not only do you get the opportunity to see everything the convention has to offer, and from a comfy chair or central location but you get the added feeling and knowledge that you helped make it all happen.

Rewarding! The more volunteers we have at the beginning of a convention the smoother and more fun the overall convention experience for not just you, but for all of your fellow con-goers, as well.

It doesn't have to take up the entire weekend, either! An hour here or there adds up, and every Volunteer who donates even one hour of their time gets a special Volunteer Button and is invited to the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party! This party is held after the convention and in honor of you, the Volunteer. This is an opportunity for us to gather you all in one place deliver a personal "Thank You!" for all your help during the convention - and then feed you, let you socialize, and soak in a hot tub or swim in the pool!

The volunteers who work 15 hours or more get a Volunteer T-shirt. Like the Volunteer Buttons, the T-shirt designs are unique to each convention year, and cannot be bought. You can ONLY get them by volunteering at that year's CONvergence.

ALL Volunteers who have Pre-Registered have the opportunity to pick up their badges on Wednesday night prior to the convention, as a special "Thank You" (and a way to free up more at-con time for volunteering).

Advertising

Advertising in our Souvenir Program Book is affordable for anyone from businesses to fan groups. In addition to PRO rates we also have FAN rates that are available to fan groups and individuals who are not advertising for profit-making purposes.

Ad Size	Width	Height	Pro Rate	Fan Rate
Full Page	7.5"	10"	\$200	\$100
Half Page	7.5"	4.75"	\$120	\$60
Quarter Page	3.5"	4.75"	\$70	\$35
"Business Card"	3.5"	2"	\$40	\$20
Inside Back Cover	7.5"	10"	\$250	\$250 (first come, first served)
Back Cover	7.5"	10"	\$300	\$300 (first come, first served)

For further information or to reserve ad space, contact advertising@convergence-con.org. Your artwork and payment must be received by May 15, 2008 for your ad to be included in the 2008 Souvenir Book.

MISFITS

CONvergence is a fundraiser for the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy, a non-profit organization that supports many other events and clubs throughout the rest of the year under the banner of MISFITS.

To learn more about MISFITS and get involved, you can visit our web site at www.misfit.org, or stop by our room party at CONvergence. MISFITS events prior to CONvergence include:

10th Annual MISFITS Writing Contest

Get your creative juices flowing and submit a story or poem for the 10th annual MISFITS Writing Contest. Entries are accepted April 1 through May 1. We have increased the prizes for reaching this milestone year. At CONvergence 2008 we will have a commemorative booklet that includes all 10 years of winning contest entries available and MISFITS will again host the Writing Contest Reception. Full details and contest rules are available at <http://misfit.org/writingcontest/>.

In the Schools

Since 1999, MISFITS' "In The Schools" Program has brought thousands of school children from numerous Minneapolis, St. Paul and other regional schools the chance together with authors, representatives from NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Reptilian and Robotics demonstrators.

The program is free to all participating schools and libraries, as MISFITS sponsors and pays for each demonstration at each school. Demonstrations have varied from 1 hour to 4 hours, and have included "Physics in Space" NASA demonstrations, robotics demonstrations (specifically with Lego Mindstorms Robotics), to 1-2 hour reptile demonstrations, and the University of Minnesota Raptor Center's educational program (including visits with Owls, Hawks and Falcons).

To find out how to obtain this MISFITS service for your schools or library please contact MISFITS "In The Schools" Program at intheschools@misfit.org. You can read more about the program at: <http://www.misfit.org/schools/index.htm>.

Get Involved!

Are you interested in knowing more about MISFITS? Wondering about volunteering? Have ideas you'd like to share? Want to yap with some fellow geeks? Then come join us at the Uptown Dunn Bros (located at Hennepin Ave. and 34th Street just 4 blocks south of Calhoun Square in Uptown Minneapolis) on **Tuesday, May 20th** from 6-8:00pm.

This is a casual "open house" type of meeting - so come when you can and stay as long as you like. Newbies encouraged! All are welcome!

MISFITS Picnic

MISFITS will hold our annual picnic on **Saturday, June 14th** at Cherokee Park in the Big Pavilion. The festivities begin at 11:00am and the food should be grilled and ready to munch by noon. MISFITS will provide the meat/veggie burgers and hot dogs along with plates, silverware, drinks and condiments. Please bring a potluck dish to share. Everyone is invited to bring board game, as we'll have plenty of table space for gaming this year!

Clubs

We have a variety of clubs to meet your geeky social needs. Check out the MISFITS web site at www.misfit.org to learn more about Crafty Geek, Geek Physique, Geeks Read, Read the Book/See the Movie and MISFITS of Gaming.

Geek Physique

Weekly Walks at the Mall of America and local parks. More details at <http://misfit.org/geekphysique>

Geeks Read

Meets 1st Tuesday of every month. The July meeting will be held AT CONvergence and will feature *Frank Herbert's Dune*. More details at <http://misfit.org/geeksread>

MISFITS of Gaming

Monthly meetings at The Source. More details at <http://misfit.org/gaming>

Read the Book/See the Movie

Meets 2nd Friday of every month. More details at <http://misfit.org/bookmovie>

Crafty Geek

More details at <http://misfit.org/craftygeek>

CONvergence is Imminent...

Remember, **May 15** is coming fast, so be sure to get your pre-registration in if you want to save on the at-the-door rate. Watch our web site(s) for breaking news.

If you want to be sure you get the latest updates, make sure you're on our e-mail announcement list! If you aren't already receiving our e-mails, send your e-mail address to info@misfit.org or info@convergence-con.org and say you want to be added to the announcement list.

It seems like a long time to wait, but July will be here soon. **Four Days**. Are you ready for it? Find out at **CONvergence 2008: Party like it's 1999!**



July 3-6 2008 • Sheraton Bloomington South, MN
A Convention for Fans of Science Fiction and Fantasy
CONVERGENCE
 1999 **TEN YEARS** 2008

Please fill out the following contact info:

↑ Full Name _____

↑ E-mail Address _____

↑ Street Address _____

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

↑ Home Phone Number _____ ↑ Work Phone Number _____

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 the Room Party Request Form.
- Please note that we will only accept TWO CONvergence 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.
- All information provided will remain proprietary of CONvergence and will not be shared.

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.

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

CONvergence c/o The Minnesota Society for
 Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy
 1437 Marshall Avenue, Suite 203, St. Paul, MN 55104
 651-MISFITS (651-647-3487) – 24-hour voicemail

<http://www.convergence-con.org>

HOTEL ROOM
Request Form

Room Requirements:

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

Check any room requirements that apply:

Rollaway Crib

Low Floor Wheelchair Access

Number of People in Room: _____

Other Responsible Party: _____

Check-in Date: 07/____/2008

Check-out Date: 07/____/2008

CONVERGENCE
"WEEKEND" 2008

TUE JULY 01	WED JULY 02	THR JULY 03	FRI JULY 04	SAT JULY 05	SUN JULY 06	MON JULY 07
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Once received, your form will be processed and you will be assigned a room in the Sheraton Bloomington as they are available.

Room Rates:

Standard Room (\$101 per night)

Cabana Room (\$125 per night) *

If you plan to hold a room party in this room, check the Room Party box below, and complete and attach the CONvergence Parties Form. Then submit both forms to the Parties Department.

This room is for a Room Party.
 * Cabana Rooms are ONLY available for Room Parties.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
CONVERGENCE
 1999 **TEN YEARS** 2008

July 3-6 2008 • Sheraton Bloomington South, MN • A Convention for Fans of Science Fiction and Fantasy

Check the box that will apply on the dates of the convention:

- Adult Badge (18 & over)
- 13 – 17 Years Old
- 6 – 12 Years Old
- 5 and Under

You must specify one of the age levels above.

People wishing adult badges will be asked to show a picture ID showing that they are at least 18 years old at the time they pick up their badge. That means that if you're not 18 now but will be by the time the convention is held, you can still request an adult badge.

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

Adult Membership until May 15, 2008	\$50
Adult Membership At the Door	\$65
Supporting Membership until May 15, 2008 (\$30 now plus \$20 at the door)	\$30 + \$20
Kids Age 6–12 until May 15, 2007	\$25
Kids Age 6–12 At the Door	\$30
Kids 5 & under	Free

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

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Show | <input type="checkbox"/> Gaming | <input type="checkbox"/> Programming Panelist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Badgers/Gophers | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravediggers | <input type="checkbox"/> Programming Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CoF2E2 Free Coffee | <input type="checkbox"/> Harmonic CONvergence | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ConSuite | <input type="checkbox"/> Operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Silent Auction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connie's Space Lounge | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers |

- I would like to volunteer wherever I am needed
- I would like information about entering the Art Show

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

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
 Make checks or money orders payable to CONvergence.

Thank you for your interest in and support of CONvergence, brought to you by the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy. 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 at right.
Information provided is proprietary to CONvergence/MISFITS.

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