

The ODW goes to...
CONvergence
JULY
2-3-4-5
2009

WHY SO
SERIOUS?



**Progress
Report 2**

This CONvergence has a twist.

CONvergence

JULY
2-3-4-5

2009



Table of Contents

When You Arrive	2
What's New at CVG 2009?	
Connie's Quantum Sandbox, Live Auction, Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival, MainStage Friday Night	3
Geeks Got Talent, Story Slam! Writing Workshops.	4
More Things to Sign Up for	4
Don't Forget	5
Guests of Honor	6
We Need Your Help!	8
Advertising	9
But Wait, There's More!	10
CONvergence is Imminent	10
MISFITS	11
Hotel Status/Referrals	12
Registration Form	Inside Back Cover

Contact Info

CONvergence (Care of:)
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in Science Fiction and Fantasy**
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info@convergence-con.org
www.convergence-con.org

MISFITS e-mail / web site:
info@misfit.org
www.misfit.org

ANNUAL THEME

The CONvergence 2009 theme will be *COMEDY AND HUMOR* in Science Fiction and Fantasy.

This covers everything from the comic relief of Artoo and Threepio to the outright farce of *Spaceballs*. From the works of Douglas Adams and Robert Asprin to Peter David and Keith Giffen.

Invader Zim! Red Dwarf! Ghostbusters! Addams Family! Buckaroo Banzai! Earth Girls are Easy! Galaxy Quest! Mars Attacks! Men in Black! Time Bandits! Repo Man! Adam West Batman! Young Frankenstein! Real Genius! Freakazoid! Inspector Gadget! Coneheads! I Dream of Jeannie!

From those Disney movies with Kurt Russell to the craziest of Anime, it's all fair game!

We can't wait to see how it all plays out in the panels, parties, and costumes at *CONvergence 2009!*

schedule.convergence-con.org

Exciting news - a new era in CONvergence scheduling! The CONvergence Programming Schedule will be on line at <http://schedule.convergence-con.org>.

You can search and select by time, location, and panelists, and create your own personalized schedule. We will also be implementing ways to organize the programming schedule, for example: Tagging panels that are especially appropriate for teens or are theme related.

You can find more than just panels – we'll list events from many areas, like MainStage, or Connie's Quantum Sandbox and the hours of operation for the Art Show, Registration, and Dealer's Room.

How could this possibly be more useful? You can download the content to anything that supports iCal (Outlook, Google Calendar, and Apple's iCal) -- and also view it on an iPhone.

Visit <http://schedule.convergence-con.org> now and start planning your convention. Please note, the schedule is NOT final and will continue to be revised until the final weeks and days before the convention. Many of the panels listed may be cut if not enough panelists sign up for them, so support the programming you want to see!

FOUR DAYS

In case you haven't heard, CONvergence is now a FOUR DAY convention, running from Thursday to Sunday. This decision was made in the interest of the sustainability of our ever growing convention. To read more about the reasons behind this change, and how this year's 4-day con will compare to last year's Year Ten extravaganza, check out our 4-Day FAQ:

<http://www.convergence-con.org/faqs/FAQ4daycon.php>

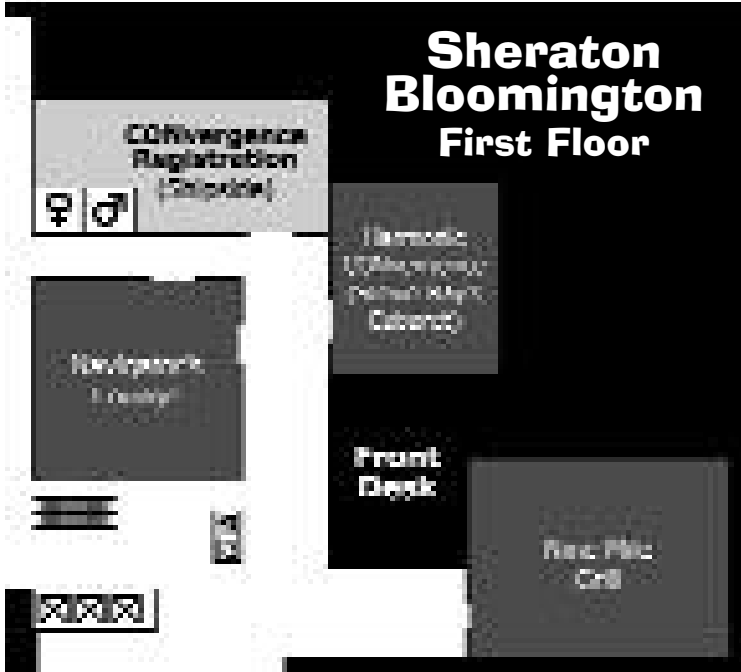
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This publication was designed by Christopher Jones and Ellie Younger for CONvergence Publications. All artwork is by Christopher Jones unless otherwise indicated. Thanks to Dave Benhart, Lisa Bronner, Elisabeth Dutton, Erica Lewerenz, Beth Scudder, Peter Verrant, and the CONvergence Directors for their help in proofreading. We always welcome feedback and suggestions, and ask that any comments be directed to the channels listed above.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE...

On Site Registration / Badge Pick-up

Registration has moved into a new space in the Sheraton. Please come to **Shipside** (formerly Harmonic CONvergence) to pick up your registration materials.



Registration Hours:

Wednesday	3:00pm–6:00pm (For Volunteers Only - come sign up!)
Thursday	10:00am–11:00pm
Friday	9:00am–11:00pm
Saturday	10:00am–8:00pm
Sunday	11:00am–6:30pm

Eyeglasses Donation at Registration

Please consider donating your used eyeglasses to charity by bringing them to the collection point at Registration. Thank you to the **Give the Gift of Sight Foundation** and **Luxottica Group** for bringing a better quality of life to developing countries. More information can be found at <http://www.givethegiftofsight.org/>

Parking

As CONvergence has grown, parking has become something of a concern. We are contacting businesses close to the Sheraton to arrange permissions for parking and are currently awaiting final word. We will post to the CONvergence web site and send an email announcement when we have more information.

WHAT'S NEW AT CONVERGENCE IN 2009?

Connie's Quantum Sandbox

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

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

Live Auction

We're adding a **Live Auction** component to our **Silent Auction!** Sunday morning before the **Iron Artist** event, many of the exciting donations you've seen at our Silent Auction will be offered for sale *LIVE!* We plan to bring high profile, high value donation pieces to this auction, instead of diverting them to the already crowded **Art Show Auction**. It's the *loudest* Silent Auction you've ever seen!

Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival

MISFITS and CONvergence in association with **IFP Minnesota** and the **Minnesota Film and TV Board** present the first annual *Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival* which will be featured as part of CONvergence 2009.

The festival is currently accepting entries. Eligible films will be from any filmmaker living in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota or Wisconsin, in the category of Science Fiction, Fantasy or Horror genre film and under 16 minutes. There is no entry fee. For more information, please email **Festival Director, Troy LaFaye** at indiefilmkr@aim.com.

MainStage Friday Night

We have an **all-new** lineup of Shows and Events planned for CONvergence MainStage on Friday night. We'll have more details on these events as the schedule is finalized and the convention approaches. Keep an eye on the schedule at <http://schedule.convergence-con.org/venue/Main+Stage/> for updates.

- *Chuck & Dexter*
Joseph Scrimshaw and **Tim Uren** of **Soylent Theater** bring you the adventures of Lovecraftian Cultists Chuck and Dexter.
- *Ka-Baam!! The Improvised Comic Book*
Created by Marvel Comics Editor **Steve Wacker** and directed by **Nels Lennis**, **Ka-Baam!!** features the improvised origins of three original superheroes, and sends them on a team adventure against a dastardly supervillain! To learn more about *Ka-Baam!!* and its monthly performances at the Bryant Lake Bowl, visit <http://www.hugetheater.com/productions.php>.
- *Geeks Got Talent*
A talent/variety show in the tradition of *The Gong Show*. Contestants/performers wanted! See page 4 for more details.
- *Vilification Tennis*
Vilification Tennis is a structured improvisational show where competitors engage in a battle of insults. The show finds humor in the most taboo subjects and is, therefore, willing to make fun of things that most people would think aren't the least bit funny. Like your mom. Learn more about the show at <http://www.vilificationtennis.com/>

Geeks Got Talent

Do you have a special talent? Calling all performers including singers, jugglers, comedians, magicians, acoustic musicians, one-man bands, and sketch comedy. We're going to follow the style of *The Gong Show* with judging based on performance, originality and audience reaction. If the audience **boos** the performers will be "gonged" by the judges. Consequently, audience **cheers and jeers** are highly encouraged. There will be at least two awards: **Best** and **Worst Performance**.

Acts interested in performing, should prepare **3-5 minutes** of material and should be able to change over quickly for the next group (i.e. no large sets are allowed). Entrants must also supply a short synopsis of their performance on the entry form. There will be no technical or performance rehearsals for this show; be sure to rehearse on your own. Entrants will be expected to arrive an hour prior to show time with pre-edited music CDs and any other equipment.

MainStage has the right to refuse any acts deemed dangerous, hazardous, inappropriate or in violation of convention rules. The following are NOT allowed: Vulgarity, nudity, obscenity, messy or gooey substances (like silly string), fire, weapons of any kind, and trapeze work.

Applications can be submitted online until **June 28** to geeksgottalent@convergence-con.org. After that date you must apply on site by **10:00am** Friday. Individuals interested in being a **Judge** or **Master of Ceremonies** may also contact us by email at the address above.

Story Slam!

The Dorian Grey Literary Lounge is hosting a **Story Slam!** Storytellers should come prepared with a **3-5 minute** original story with a sci-fi or fantasy theme. Storytellers may either tell their story from memory or read from printed material, but they **must use their own work**. No reciting other authors' material.

Sign-up will be held at the start of the event by placing your name in the hat and names will be drawn at random from among all those present. We'll call participants up until we run out of time, or storytellers. Look for scheduling details on-line and at the convention.

Writing Workshops

Two writing work shops will be held in the Dorian Gray Literary Lounge at CONvergence this year.

Open Fiction Writing Workshop [2.5 hrs]

The instructor is **Jeannie Holmes**, author of supernatural suspense and urban fantasy and holding B.A. and Masters of Art degrees in English, with an emphasis in creative writing. <http://www.jeannieholmes.com/>

Open Poetry Writing Workshop [1.5 hours]

The instructor is Sandra Lindow, an award-winning poet, editor and teacher currently teaching part-time at the University of Wisconsin, Stout as well as doing some free-lance writing and editing. <http://www.wfop.org/poets/lindowa.html>

For more information on the workshops, the instructors, or how to sign up, email literarylounge@convergence-con.org or visit <http://www.convergence-con.org/news/20090411.php>.

MORE THINGS TO SIGN UP FOR!

Programming Sign-up

A fourth day in our schedule means lots of extra panels to choose from. Our schedule is nearly complete and we are **not** accepting additional panel ideas for this year. However, you still have until **May 1** to sign up for any existing panels that interest you. We're especially looking for panelists in the **Comics, Art, Gaming** and **Science & Technology** tracks. Please go to www.convergence-con.org and click on "**Programming**" from the **Activities Menu** for details. It's also not too late to volunteer at the convention by staffing the Programming Green Room. Email programming@convergence-con.org if interested.

We've listened to feedback and have added additional time for a **dinner break** between 5:00pm–7:00pm, which should give you enough time to go out and get a substantial meal between panels.

This year, we're working on identifying **moderators** for certain panels. On Thursday afternoon we will have a *Panel 101* for new panelists (or for those wanting a refresher) to review the basics of how to give good panel. We also are trying a "**Geek Swap Meet**" this year. Be sure to bring any DVDs, toys, or memorabilia that you'd be interested in trading with others on Saturday afternoon.

Masquerade

There are only 30 performance slots available, and demand is sure to run high this year, 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 of 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 (<http://www.convergence-con.org/attractions/masquerade/masquerade.php>). 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.

Connie's Space Lounge: Circus in the Stars

Haven't you always wanted to run away to the circus? *In space?*

Space Lounge Cabaret is looking for performers. You don't have to be experienced; enthusiasm and creativity are where it counts in this Space Circus! If you have skillz in magic, gymnastics, singing, puppetry, or reciting Klingon poetry, we are especially interested in YOU! We are also looking for non-performers who would like to MC, run a soundboard, or costume. Interested? email rzzachel@gmail.com.

At this time we are **not** looking for belly-dancing, drumming, or folk-singing. We respect your talents, but the Space Lounge Cabaret aims to create a theme, and showcase acts that do not already have a venue for expression elsewhere in the convention.

AND DON'T FORGET:

Parties

We have a full slate of parties at poolside ready to once again rock the house. Most parties will be the usual 2 night (Friday and Saturday) parties with many adding Thursday to run for three full evenings. We welcome anyone who wants to try throwing a room party to try Thursday night only. Please contact parties@convergence-con.org for further info.

American Sign Language Interpreters

We are pleased to announce that the **ASL Interpreters** will be returning this year. We ask all attendees to respect reserved seating for Interpreters, and to get word out that our services are available.

If you will need assistance at the convention, please contact info@convergence-con.org and let us know in advance what events or panels you will be attending.

If you know you want to attend the **Art Auction**, please let us know ASAP as that requires a specific skill set for our interpreting staff. For on-site assistance, contact the **Operations Bridge** in Verandas 6 and 8 or at extension 7215.

Guests of Honor

Trace Beaulieu

Returning Guest of Honor (2008)

Trace Beaulieu is best known for his roles on *Mystery Science Theater 3000 (MST3K)* where he played **Dr. Clayton Forrester** and was the original voice and puppeteer of **Crow T. Robot**. Since leaving *MST3K* following its seventh season, Trace appeared as a semi-regular in *Freaks and Geeks* as the school's biology teacher, Mr. Lacovara. He also appeared in *The West Wing* episode "Bad Moon Rising".

Recently, Trace has joined forces with *MST3K* alumni Joel Hodgson, J. Elvis Weinstein, Frank Conniff and Mary Jo Pehl, for a project called *Cinematic Titanic*. Like *MST3K*, the series uses silhouettes of cast members sarcastically commenting on vintage films. You can learn more about *Cinematic Titanic* at their web site (<http://cinematictitanic.com>), and you can order their releases from www.EZTakes.com.

Joel Hodgson

Joel Hodgson started his comedy career while at Bethel College in Minneapolis before moving to Los Angeles. He performed stand-up in comedy clubs across the country, becoming a regular performer on *Late Night with David Letterman*, *Saturday Night Live*, and was selected to be on *HBO's Eighth Young Comedians Special*.

After taking a hiatus from stand-up and moving back to Minneapolis, Joel created *MST3K* which he hosted for five seasons. Joel has written several movies, including Disney's *Honey We Shrunk Ourselves* with Nell Scovell. Over the last ten years, Joel has been a consultant working on diverse projects: Magic consultant for *Sabrina*, *The Teenage Witch* and *Penn and Teller's Sin City Spectacular*, and supervising producer for *Robot Wars* and *Everything You Need to Know*. Joel sporadically appears in the long running play *Girly Magazine Party* as well as Frank Conniff's *Cartoon Dump*.

Frank Conniff

Frank Conniff played *TV's Frank* on *MST3K* for five seasons as well as writing on the show through that span. Since moving to Los Angeles, Frank has worked as a writer/producer on the ABC series *The Drew Carey Show* and *Sabrina*, *the Teenage Witch*, *HBO's Perversions of Science*, and *The New Tom Green Show* on MTV. Frank has also worked extensively in animation as head writer for Nickelodeon's *Invader Zim* and writer for *Disney's Twisted Fairy Tales*. He has created both animated and live pilots for USA, Bravo, Nickelodeon and MTV. Frank also stays busy as a performer in TV roles, with his stand-up act, and as creator and host of the live show/webcast series *Cartoon Dump*.

Mary Jo Pehl

Mary Jo Pehl spent seven years as a writer and performer on *MST3K*, both in character roles and then regularly as the evil **Pearl Forrester**. She is a regular contributor to *Minnesota Monthly*, and she's also written for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *Catholic Digest*, *Bon Appetit*, and *PBS*. Her work has also appeared in several anthologies, including *Life's A Stitch: The Best of Contemporary Women's Humor*, and *Travelers' Tales: The Thong Also Rises*. Mary Jo most recently co-hosted a weekly radio show in the Twin Cities. In addition, her commentaries have aired on NPR's *All Things*

Considered and *Weekend America*; and PRI's *The Savvy Traveler*. She has appeared in various stage productions from New York to Los Angeles, and most recently has been featured in *Bad Seed* in Los Angeles.

Dwayne McDuffie

www.dwaynemcduffie.com

A native of Detroit, Dwayne studied physics, attended film school, co-hosted a radio comedy program, wrote for stand-up comedians and worked as a copy-editor for a financial magazine before becoming an assistant editor at Marvel Comics. Dwayne has since written comics for Marvel and DC, including *Fantastic Four* and *Justice League of America*.

Dwayne co-founded **Milestone Media** performing various creative tasks including development and writing the animated series *Static Shock*.

Dwayne and co-writer Alan Burnett won the **Humanitas Prize in Children's Animation** for the *Static Shock* episode "Jimmy."

Dwayne served as story editor on the Cartoon Network series *Justice League Unlimited* and *Ben 10: Alien Force*.

Kelly McCullough

www.kellymccullough.com

Kelly is the author of the critically acclaimed *WebMage* (2006), followed by *Cybermancy* (2007) and *CodeSpell* (2008). His fourth published novel, *MythOS* is expected to be available in the summer of 2009. Kelly has written 20 published short stories and a number of poems. His non-fiction work includes the *Interactions in Physical Science Curriculum*, a robust middle school physical science curriculum funded by the **National Science Foundation**. He lives with his wife, Laura, and a number of cats in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

Patrick Rothfuss

www.patrickrothfuss.com

After several years in college studying chemical engineering, clinical psychology, philosophy, medieval history, eastern theater, anthropology and sociology, Patrick Rothfuss completed a degree in English and decided to pursue writing. Patrick has written poetry for a local literary series, a satirical advice column for the local paper, and scripts for a radio comedy show.

In 2002 Patrick reworked a piece of his novel into the short story *The Road to Levinshir*, which won first place in the **Writers of the Future** contest, and was published in the anthology of the same name. Since then, Patrick's novel has been published under the title *The Name of the Wind*.

Brian Keene

Returning Guest of Honor (2007)

www.briankeene.com

Brian Keene is a **Bram Stoker Award** winning horror author. Several of his books and stories are slated for film, video game and comic book adaptations. Brian has written novels, edited a number of anthologies, written non-fiction, and is assistant editor of *Grave Tales* magazine from Cemetary Dance Publications.

Since visiting us in 2007, Brian has written the miniseries *Dead of Night: Devil Slayer* for Marvel Comics, adapted his story *Terminal* into a play with **Roy C. Booth**, and is hard at work on his next novel *Castaways*.

These are the Guests of Honor currently scheduled to appear. For more information, visit www.convergence-con.org/guests.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Volunteers

Now is the time to let your favorite department know that you're available to lend a hand at the convention! If you aren't contacted, feel free to contact them! Email addresses can be found on the department pages on our website or email info@convergence-con.org and let us know what you'd like to help with.

Badging and volunteer scheduling as well as new volunteer opportunities are posted on the CONvergence website as they become available. Just click on "**About Us**" on the main page.

With the extended 4-day convention schedule, like last year we will be recognizing and rewarding another level of volunteering at 25 hours! We hope that many of you will aim for that prize!

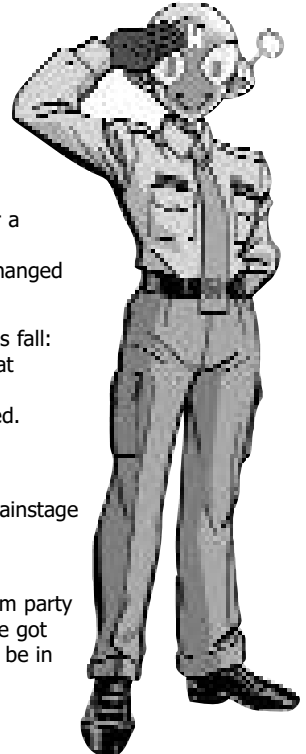
Badging Corps

New this year, we are starting a program of recruitment, recognition, and reward for our much-needed, much-heralded badgers! We will have different levels of recognition for increasing levels of volunteering! Want to know more and sign up in advance? Visit our website or email volunteers@convergence-con.org.

Help Wanted

In addition to volunteer needs that are filled on-site at the convention, we are trying to fill a number of positions ahead of time, including some at **Sub-Head** and other **Departmental Staff** levels.

- **ConSuite** needs **Sub-Heads** and **Room Hosts**.
Contact consuite@convergence-con.org.
- **The Dorian Gray Literary Lounge** needs **Hosts**.
Contact events@convergence-con.org.
- **Silent Auction** needs **Sub-Heads**. Contact info@convergence-con.org.
- **Art Show** needs volunteers.
Contact info@convergence-con.org.
- **CVG-TV** (our in-house convention TV channel) is looking for a **Program Director!** We need someone to collect videos, schedule when to play them, and make sure the discs are changed at the right times. Contact info@convergence-con.org.
- **The Video Team** is looking for after-convention help for this fall: People to *Log & Load!* (View the tapes and write down what is on them, and load the file onto a hard drive.)
Requirement: Your own mini DV camera would be preferred.
Contact info@convergence-con.org.
- **The Video Team** is also looking for a **Live Feed Director!**
Someone to coordinate the various video feeds during big Mainstage Events as they are broadcast onto CVG-TV!
Contact info@convergence-con.org.
- Have you always wanted the fun of decorating a cabana room party without having to work during the convention? Well, have we got the perfect job for you! **ConSuite** is looking for someone to be in



charge of **decorating the rooms!** There is a budget supplied for this. If interested, email info@convergence-con.org.

- **Connie's Space Lounge Smoothie Bar** is looking for volunteer smoothie slingers. Shifts are short, fun and scheduled around your favorite programming panels. Contact info@convergence-con.org.
- **Merchandise** would like volunteers:
Gophers - to grab the shirts
Sellers - This would be for DURING the convention. Seller Requirements are basic math and finance to make change - whole dollar amounts - from various denominations, people skills. Multi-tasking abilities would be helpful in busy times.
- If you will have a **convention-supplied radio** at the convention, there will be a **radio training session** and **hotel tour** after the ConCom Meeting (May 17, 4:00pm at the Sheraton, Bloomington). Contact info@convergence-con.org.
- **Operations** will be putting their scheduling grid and training ONLINE, check the website for info and links. Contact info@convergence-con.org.

Moving Crew

CONvergence needs a little help moving in and out of the Sheraton. On **Tuesday June 30** from **10:00am to Noon** we're looking for people who can help move things from our office in St. Paul to the hotel. We will meet at the Sheraton and carpool to the office.

We also need people **Wednesday July 1** from **9:00am to 3:00pm** to help unload our storage pods and get items to the right place.

On **Monday July 7** we need people from **9:00am** until **5:00pm** to help load the pods back up and move some items back to our office in St. Paul.

We ask people be able to lift **50 pounds** safely and will be offering incentives to those who help out on Monday after the convention.

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, 2009** for your ad to be included in the 2009 Souvenir Book.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

In addition to all the *new* events and features to be found at CONvergence this year, the rest of your CONvergence favorites will be returning. There's so much to see and do, *FOUR DAYS* can barely contain it!

- **Art Show and Art Auction**
Whether you're just looking or shopping, you'll want to check out this fabulous collection of artwork in a wide range of styles and media. And don't miss the excitement of the Art Auction for your chance at the most popular pieces!
- **COF2E2 Free Coffee Shop**
Your source for free coffee, tea and espresso drinks around the clock.
- **ConSuite**
Bringing you snacks and soda to get you through the weekend. We'll again be having the occasional surprise "wow" food, so be on the lookout!
- **Dealers Room**
From movie memorabilia to corsets and jewelry, the Dealers Room has a number of ways to tempt you to part with your hard-earned cash.
- **Dorian Gray Memorial Literary Lounge**
A venue for intimate author readings and other literary-themed events. Held in the Sheraton's luxurious 22nd Floor Meeting Suites.
- **Gaming**
Role-playing, LAN Gaming, Board Games, Card Games... you'll find it all in the 22nd Floor Gaming Suites. We'll be bringing Gaming to ConSuite again as well!
- **Harmonic CONvergence**
A more intimate venue for musical and spoken-word performances. This year in a new location - find us in the Stevie Ray's space (formerly the location of CONvergence Registration).
- **Krushenko's**
More panels, more discussion, and more parties, as only Krushenko's can bring it to you!
- **MainStage Live Bands and DJ Dances**
MainStage will again host both live performances and DJ driven dance beats to thump, thump, thump into the wee hours of the morning.
- **Theater Nippon Anime Room**
'Round the clock Anime, both old and new. With Japanese snacks!

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 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 2009: A celebration of the *FUNNY SIDE* of Sci-Fi and Fantasy!

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:

MISFITS Geek Prom

On **Saturday, May 16** we will be hosting the *MISFITS Geek Prom* at the Bloomington Sheraton. This year's theme is "*8-Bit Boogie*" inspired by old school video games. There will be a social hour at **6:00pm** and doors will open at **7:00pm**. Prom tickets are **\$10** in advance, **\$15** at-the-door or **\$10** at-the-door with food donation. Formal and geeky attire is encouraged but not required. For more info, go to <http://misfit.org/geekprom/index.htm>.

MISFITS Writing Contest

MISFITS is sponsoring our **11th Annual Writing Contest**. There are several divisions in which you can enter:

- **Open Division:** Open to writers of any age.
- **Poetry Division:** Open to writers of any age
- **Youth Division 1:** Open to writers 11 years of age or younger (as of May 1, 2009)
- **Youth Division 2:** Open to writers 12-13 years of age (as of May 1, 2009)
- **Youth Division 3:**
Open to writers 14-16 years of age (as of May 1, 2009)

Entries must be submitted via email between **April 1, 2009** and **May 1, 2009** for consideration. Some rules have been modified for the 2009 contest, please see details at <http://misfit.org/writingcontest/rules.htm>.

Google Calendar

Keep track of MISFITS events and club gatherings on the Society's public calendar. View it at <http://misfit.org/calendar.htm>.

MISFITS Room Party at CONvergence

The MISFITS room party has now been dubbed the **MISFITS Clubhouse** and we are excited to expand our scheduled itinerary. We are currently planning happenings during the daytime hours in addition to our usual evening party hours. So remember to check your Program Guide or the schedule posted outside the MISFITS Clubhouse for details!

Save the Date!

- MISFITS Picnic June 6th
- MISFITS Ice Cream Social August 8th





Hotel Status/Referral

We have been working hard with the hotel management and successfully negotiated a **lower rate** for 2009, and locked-in small increases for each of the **next 3 years**.

Also, to confirm, **the Sheraton is FULL**. We are therefore *not* including the usual hotel form here in PR2, but rather, here is a list of hotels near the Sheraton to contact for accommodations:

Staybridge Suites

5150 American Blvd West
Bloomington, MN 55437
(952) 831-7900
(Amazing affordable suites!)

Crowne Plaza Bloomington

5401 Green Valley Dr.
Bloomington, MN 55437
(952) 831-8000

Hilton Bloomington Hotel Minneapolis

3900 American Boulevard West
Bloomington, MN
(952) 893-9500

Park Plaza Bloomington

4460 W 78th Street Circle
Minneapolis, MN 55435
(952) 831-3131

While we are not providing specific reservations or rates to these hotels, we have contacted them to advise that they may receive calls from CONvergence attendees.

Lastly we want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding. Response to CONvergence has been huge again this year and we are suffering growing pains. Even more so than in previous years we are looking at ways to improve our processes and make them better for everyone. As always, please direct any questions on hotel rooms to hotel@convergence-con.org.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM



July 2-5 2009

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, 2009	\$50
Adult Membership At the Door	\$70
Supporting Membership until May 15, 2009 (\$30 now plus \$20 at the door)	\$30 + \$20
Kids Age 6–12 until May 15, 2009	\$20
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)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Art Show | Gaming | Programming Panelist |
| Badgers/Gophers | Harmonic CONvergence | Programming Staff |
| CoF2E2 Free Coffee | Move in/Move out Crew | Science Room |
| ConSuite | Operations | Silent Auction |
| Connie's Space Lounge | Registration | 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**.

I'd like more information about American Sign Language (ASL) translation service at the convention.

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.

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
Web: www.convergence-con.org



**A CELEBRATION of the
FUNNY SIDE
of Science Fiction and Fantasy.**

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 2009.

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