



Lambda Sci-Fi DC Area Gaylaxians



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One-Man Lord of the Rings

a Review of the Play
by Peter Knapp



I recently saw the *One-Man Lord of the Rings* play by the same guy (Charles Ross) who did the *One-Man Star Wars* play. As the title suggests, the play is performed by one man, with no sets or props (not even a ring) and only theatrical lights to suggest various scenes. In three acts, Ross voices all the key characters, music, and sound effects, runs around the stage, often fighting with himself, playing various characters fighting the hordes, and at times each other. I had a good time and recommend it to *Lord of the Rings Fans*. **It runs through August 1st at Woolly Mammoth:**

http://www.woollymammoth.net/performances/show_one_man lord_rings.php

It was exactly the same kind of play as the *One-Man Star Wars*, though I didn't find it nearly as funny the *One-*

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An Evening of Shakespeare in Klingon in September!

info passed along by Teresa



Just thought I should post this: Washington Shakespeare Company announces *By Any Other Name: An Evening of Shakespeare in Klingon*, with special guest George Takei!! September 25th, 2010. More info at:

<http://www.washingtonshakespeare.org/>

[Sayeth Ye Olde Editor: Turn to page 2 of this newsletter to see what you'll find at that website:]



The LSF Book Discussion Group

If you're interested in lively discussions of F&SF books (with an emphasis on elements of interest to the LGBT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, we conduct fascinating round-table discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW – for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. The next meeting will be held on August 26th.

Here are the details:
Aug. 26th - *The Windup Girl*, by Paolo Bacigalupi; moderator: Carl.

[P.S. - Attendees also decide on future books to discuss. Have you got a favorite that you'd like to talk about? Then, by all means, come to the August book discussion meeting and let us know!]

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August LSF Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 8th**. The meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St. NW, #413), near Dupont Circle. The business meeting will begin (as usual) at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM.

Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

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Shakespeare in Klingon

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Washington Shakespeare Company
announces

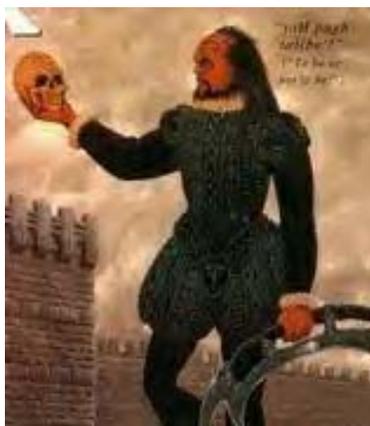
By Any Other Name: An Evening of
Shakespeare in Klingon

“qaStaHvIS wanI’vam yIDachQo’!”

Never shrinking from a challenge – and always willing to surprise – Washington Shakespeare Company (WSC) has once again turned Shakespeare on its ear. In celebration of its groundbreaking 20 years as the Metro area’s cutting-edge classical theater company, WSC is pleased to present “By Any Other Name: An Evening of Shakespeare in Klingon,” with special guest George Takei. This unique production includes performances of memorable Shakespearean scenes presented in both English and Klingon, the language spoken by the fictional warrior race in the beloved *Star Trek* series. Appearing with WSC for this one-night-only event is legendary actor George Takei. In addition to his portrayal of Mr. Sulu in the television and film series, Takei has more than 40 feature film and television roles to his credit. “I’ve never participated in an event that brings Shakespeare and *Star Trek* together in this unusual way,” said Takei. “It will be a new and exciting experience for me, and I’m looking forward to boldly going where I’ve never gone before!”

Indeed, the planets have aligned for this remarkable event; the current president of WSC’s board is none other than the creator of the Klingon language, Marc Okrand. A noted linguist, Okrand helped launch television’s closed captioning service for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers. By an unusual confluence of events, he found himself enlisted to develop Klingon, now believed to be the most widely spoken fictional language in history. Indeed, fans began to study the language, even using Okrand’s *Klingon Dictionary* to translate the works of Shakespeare and the Bible.

“Translations of Shakespeare into Klingon and my involvement with WSC began at about the same time,”



Okrand remarked. “I was always trying to figure out how to get the two together. Given WSC’s creative approach to Shakespeare, performing scenes in Klingon struck me as something obvious to try. The upcoming celebration of WSC’s 21st season presents a great opportunity to pull these elements together in typical WSC fashion – and to offer an evening that’s both serious and fun.”

Joining Takei on stage will be WSC’s own Artistic Director, Christopher Henley, as well as members of WSC’s Acting Company. The cast will perform scenes and speeches in both English and Klingon from *Hamlet*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* (with a same-sex couple performing as Beatrice and Benedick). WSC has tackled everything from an all-nude production of *Macbeth* to an all-female production of *The Taming of the Shrew*; thus, taking on Shakespeare in a completely fictional, sci-fi language isn’t daunting for Henley

“WSC continues to take chances. Our brand of non-traditional, risk-taking theater is exactly what sets us apart and wins over audiences from around the region. We have evolved from a scrappy to a substantial company, without losing our edge. It’s a special treat to celebrate our new space and our 21st year with such a generous and enormous talent as George Takei.”

This groundbreaking production on September 25th kicks off a celebration of WSC’s 21st season and is a turning point for the company. In October, the company moves into its new theater space in Artisphere, the cultural arts center formerly occupied by the Newseum in Rosslyn, VA. Artisphere

will also include a ballroom, a WiFi town square, a restaurant, and a gallery.

“By Any Other Name: An Evening of Shakespeare in Klingon” featuring George Takei takes place at 8 PM on September 25th, 2010, at the Rosslyn Spectrum in Arlington. In addition to the scenes from Shakespeare, the performance includes an introduction by Okrand and a question-and-answer session with Takei, Okrand, and Henley at the conclusion of the show. Tickets for this event go on sale on June 15: a \$150 ticket includes the Klingon event and four flex-use theater passes for the WSC 2010-2011 season; a \$250 ticket includes the above package plus a ticket to the VIP reception following the performance.

(Note: George Takei’s appearance is subject to professional commitments.)

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One-Man Lord of the Rings

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Man Star Wars play. I’m not a fan of fantasy in general and gave up trying to read *Lord of the Rings* as a kid. I saw the three movies, though not the special editions. My husband Rob is a huge fan of the source material, so he was proverbially rolling on the floor laughing the way I did the three times I saw the *One-Man Star Wars* show.

Ross talked to the audience afterward. After getting a cease-and-desist order from the *Lord of the Rings* folks, he spent four years writing weekly letters asking for permission to do the show. They finally relented for 10%. While popular when he first performed it after the movies came out, the show is not as popular today. He’s philosophical about the difference between the two shows, as the *Star Wars* show is very popular; but he has to give George Lucas 25%. He only has to give 10% to the *Lord of the Rings* folks.

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Star Wars in Concert
a short review by Carl



Saturday night (July 17th) I gave myself a treat and attended “*Star Wars* in Concert” at the Verizon Center. All I can say is: “Wow! What a show!” It’s a traveling concert featuring film clips from the six *Star Wars* films and, of course, the music of John Williams. And short introductions to each segment were narrated by Anthony Daniels (yes, C3PO himself).

I’ve always been a fan of John Williams. Putting aside arguments about whether or not his work is “derivative,” the man really knew how to compose thrilling film scores. And I’m here to tell you that there’s simply nothing like hearing a live symphony orchestra belt out the music from the *Star Wars* epic right there in the auditorium. I couldn’t help tapping my feet to the rhythm. (The guy in front of me was pounding his thigh in time with “The Imperial March.”) I’m pretty sure they used some sort of THX sound system – after all, the whole show started with the THX intro sound effects – and, of course, the Twentieth Century Fox fanfare. Pretty cool, says I! There was even a full chorus to sing the pulse-pounding “Duel of the Fates” theme (for the climactic duel against Darth Maul in *Phantom Menace*).

But where would a *Star Wars* concert be without the visuals? Well, “*Star Wars* in Concert” did a really good job of including excerpts from all six of the films – as well as occasional stills and pre-production artwork – expertly woven into the Williams score. On a huge hi-def screen, no less.

The opening sequence was a montage of scenes from all six films while the *Star Wars* orchestral overture was performed. The rest of the concert was organized as a series of thematic sequences, with titles like “Rise of the Hero” and “The Droids” and “Pod Racing.” But I’m not actually certain about all the titles,

**Minutes of the
Lambda Sci-Fi July Meeting**
taken by Scott

The meeting began with a swirl of discussion about movies. *The Prince of Persia* was visually stunning, but the plot was tepid. Regarding *Toy Story III* – it sounds like everyone shed tears at a certain point in the movie. What’s this about Ken having the Dream House and the huge closet full of clothes? Hmm...

Next summer, films about both Captain America and Thor are planned for release. *The Last Airbender* is fairly horrible. The 3D effects were added after-the-fact. The acting was especially horrible. The new *Despicable Me* movie looks entertaining, while the previews of *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice* are at best only so-so. The *Inception* movie (with Leonardo DiCaprio) looks intriguing.

Peter and Rob attended the one-person *Lord of the Rings* play at the Woolly Mammoth Theater. Rob said that the actor, who was excellent at playing several roles, clearly was a *LOTR* fan. Peter enjoyed the actor’s portrayal of the Gollum and Smeagol characters.

Universal assessment: the new *Gates* TV show is wretched. Let’s hope that it gets canceled. Back with new seasons: *TruBlood*, *Warehouse 13*, and *Eureka*. Will *Eureka* perhaps get a tad bit more serious this season?

The character of Amy Pond on the new *Doctor Who* is a smart, inde-

pendent thinker and attitudinal – her life is NOT about the Doctor, which is refreshing. Next season the knavish character of River Song (Doctor Who’s wife? Paramour?) will return.

because I forgot all about taking notes during the performance. (And I was definitely *not* going to shell out \$30 for the Commemorative Program Book.) The only segment title I remember for sure is “A Defender Emerges,” which was the story of Leia Organa. Other sequences dealt with the rise and fall of the hero (Anakin Skywalker), the story of Yoda, flying through asteroid fields, the relationship between the siblings Luke and Leia, and the rise and final defeat of the Galactic Empire. The sequences were loosely organized so that the pre-Intermission sequences mostly dealt with Episodes I–III and the post-Intermission sequences mostly dealt with Episodes IV–VI.

Sometimes sequences combined excerpts from multiple films. For example,

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Rob announced that *Heroes* has been canceled. As for *Lost*, he said the last episode was less-than-satisfying for those who expected to see answers and resolutions to assorted plot threads – and the ending was appealing to those viewers more interested in character development.

Rob did not care of the latest Charlaire Harris “Suki Stackhouse” book.

Arne asked for suggestions for some good summer beach reads. Somebody recommended Ian Tregillis’s *Bitter Seeds* – alternate history WWII novel that pits English warlocks against Nazi X-Men. Rob also recommended Tanya Huff’s latest novel *The Enchantment Emporium*.

Rob reminded everyone about the next two books for the LSFbook discussion group. In July, it is Jo Graham’s *Stealing Fire*. In August, it is *The Windup Girl* by Paolo Bacigalupi.

Carl announced that the North Country Gaylaxians will be hosting Gaylaxicon 2012 in Minneapolis. Hooray!

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the “racing through asteroids” sequence included scenes of the Millennium Falcon being chased by Imperial fighters (*Empire Strikes Back*) with scenes of Obi-Wan’s encounter with Jango Fett (*Attack of the Clones*). The only combination I found disconcerting was when they intermixed scenes of the Battle of Naboo (*Phantom Menace*) with the Battle of Endor (*Return of the Jedi*).

There was even an encore (which I subsequently learned is standard practice). After thunderous applause and cheers, Anthony Daniels came back on stage and asked: “You aren’t *really* ready to go home yet, *are you?*” Which was then followed by a repeat performance of “The Imperial March.” A stirring end to an enjoyable evening!

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**** INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS ****

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF) is an organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered (GLBT) people, and their friends who are interested in science fiction, fantasy, horror and related genres in all forms (SF/F/H). LSF's primary goals are to have fun, to provide a community, and to:

- promote SF/F/H, with particular attention to materials of interest to GLBT people and their friends;
- provide forums for GLBT people and their friends to share their interest in SF/F/H;
- promote the presence of GLBT elements within SF/F/H and within fandom; and
- promote SF/F/H within the GLBT community.

Annual membership fees are \$10, for which you will receive an e-mailed this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. (Hard copies of the newsletter cost an additional \$15 per year.) Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 8th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St. NW, #413), near Dupont Circle. The business meeting will begin (as usual) at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is an affiliate of **the Gaylactic Network**, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.



Con Calendar

by Carl



August 5-8, 2010 **ReCONSTRUCTION** (NASFiC 2010). Raleigh Convention Center; Raleigh Marriott City Center; Sheraton Raleigh Hotel (Raleigh, NC). GoH: Eric Flint; AGoH: Brad Foster. Membership: currently \$120 (will go up!). Make checks payable to "ReConStructure" and send to: ReConStructure, PO Box 31706, Raleigh, NC 27622
Website: www.reconstructionsf.org

October 22-24, 2010 **CAPCLAVE 2010**. Hilton Hotel & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville, MD). Guests of Honor: Connie Willis, Ann Vandermeer, Jeff Vandermeer. Membership: \$55 from 7/1 to 9/30; \$60 from 10/1 to 10/17. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2010" and send to: Capclave 2010, PO Box 53, Ashton, MD 20861. On-line registration also available.
Website: www.capclave.org For information: info@capclave.org

Nov. 26-28, 2010 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL 33**. *Every*gay-friendly convention. Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Elizabeth Bear; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz; Musical GoH: Clam Chowder. Membership: \$45 until Nov. 1st: \$50 thereafter. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907
Website: www.darkovercon.org

May 13-15, 2011 **GAYLAXICON 2011** (held in conjunction with OutlantaCon 2011). Holiday Inn Select Chamblee-Dunwoody (Dunwoody, GA). Guest: Melissa Carter. More information as it becomes available.
Website: www.outlantacon.org

Feb. 18-20, 2011 **FARPOINT 2011**. Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Guests: John ("Dr. Phlox," *Enterprise*) Billingsley, Bonita ("Gen. Diane Beckman," *Chuck*) Friedricy, more TBA. Pre-registration for weekend: \$80 (daily rates available). Make checks payable to "Farpoint Enterprises" and send to: Farpoint Enterprises, Inc., 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601
Website: www.farpointcon.com E-mail: trekcontact@comcast.net

Aug. 17-21, 2011 **RENOVATION** (69th World Science Fiction Convention). Reno-Sparks Convention Center (Reno, Nevada). Guests of Honor: Ellen Asher, Charles N. Brown, Tim Powers, Boris Vallejo. Membership: currently \$160 (will go up!).
Website: www.renovationsf.org Membership queries: memberships@renovationsf.org

