



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 281 – August 2013

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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 usually 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 book discussion will be held on **August 22nd**.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

Aug. 22 - *The Glassmaker's Daughter*, by V.A. Briceland; moderator: Tod.

Sept. 26 - *11/23/63*, by Stephen King; moderator: Keith.

Oct. 24 - *The Summer Prince*, by Alaya Dawn Johnson; moderator: Claire.

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Diaghilev and the Ballet

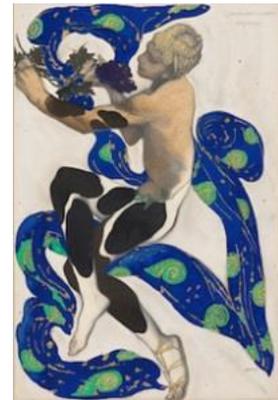
Russes, 1909-1929:

When Art Danced with Music

Info passed along by Carl

You might be wondering: "WTF? An article about ballet in the LSF newsletter?" But it's not really so strange, once you think about it. Fantasy themes, costumes, and art-work -- the history of the Ballet Russes is filled with it. And, featuring as it does such flamboyant figures as Serge Diaghilev and Vaslav Nijinsky, the Ballet Russes is a notable part of gay history.

This beautiful exhibit runs through October 6th in the East Building of the National Gallery of Art. It features about 80 works from the Victoria & Albert Museum's collection and an additional 50 objects on loan from private and public sources. During the two decades of performances that serve as the basis for the exhibit, the Ballet Russes brought the most important artistic developments of the early 20th Century to the ballet stage: futurism, cubism, and surrealism. And this exhibit is packed with more than 130 original costumes, set designs, paintings, sculpture, prints, photographs, posters, and drawings from such artists as Leon Bakst, Pablo Picasso,



Costume design by Leon Bakst for Nijinsky in *The Afternoon of a Faun* (1912)

Nicholas Roerich, and Henri Matisse.

The exhibit also incorporates a number of short film clips of modern performances of the ballets that Ballet Russes brought to the world. I was particularly interested in the film clips showing the groundbreaking (and controversial) choreography originally created by Vaslav Nijinsky for *The Afternoon of a Faun* (1912) and *The Rite of Spring* (1913). And I even got a chance to do some good old-fashioned perverting at men in the film clip of a recent performance of *The Blue Train* (1924).

I really enjoyed this exhibit; and if you're interested in fantasy-inspired costume and art – and, yes, in ballet – then I think you'll enjoy it, too.

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August LSF Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 11th**. The meeting will once again be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM and the social meeting at 2:00 PM. Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

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July LSF Meeting Minutes

taken by Scott

Business Meeting

Peter announced that he will be updating the LSF Membership List. He reminded everyone that membership is \$10 annually and he briefly reviewed membership benefits (voting rights, eligibility to become a club officer, direct e-mailing of LSF newsletter).

Social Meeting

Carl enjoyed both *Monster U* and the accompanying short cartoon, *Blue Umbrella*. He wondered about the combination of live action and CG in *Blue Umbrella*.

There was some discussion about the SyFy Channel feature *Sharknado*. How did it attract so many viewers? Rather embarrassing.

Peter provided info about the *Dr. Who* 50th anniversary later this year (including a docudrama about the show's origins) – and tentative plans for an LSF event to watch it.

David enjoyed attending the recent Discworld convention in Baltimore. Sir Terry Pratchett did not attend the con, since he was working on his latest book. Dan mentioned that there are four books on the science of Discworld. David also recently attended a genre-related play at the Fringe Festival, entitled *Fireball XL*.

Rob said that Joss Whedon's film *Much Ado About Nothing* (filmed in black and white over a 10-day period at Whedon's "palatial estate") deserves accolades. He also thinks that Guillermo Del Toro's *Pacific Rim* (Del Toro's loving homage to monster/mecha movies) is brilliant!

There was some discussion of Andrew Garfield's recent comments. (Garfield is the actor who portrays Spiderman in the most recent film version.) Garfield is reported to have asked "Why couldn't Spiderman be gay or bi?"

Dan described the BBC series *In the Flesh*, which is about the reintegration of zombies back into society. Not a comedy! He is also currently watching both the 1970's and 2008 BBC *Survivor* series, about a



Doctor Who 50th Anniversary Special Viewing Party

announced by Peter

When: Saturday, November 23, 2013

Where: 1425 "S" St NW, Washington DC 20009

Time: TBA

Tentative Pre-Show:

The Five Doctors

The Curse of the Fatal Death

Time Crash

Details: TBA

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plague that destroys nearly all of the Earth's population – and what the remaining survivors do to stay alive. He also talked about the 1998 BBC satire *Whoops Apocalypse*, about the beginning of World War III.

Question: How will CBS's new Stephen King series *Under the Dome* end? Stay tuned...

Rob explained the plot of the SyFy Channel series *Continuum*. In response to a comment from David, he also provided a short history of the two Boston-area conventions Boscone and Arisia.

David talked about a number of upcoming genre movies: *RIP Department*, *Turbo*, *Smurfs II*, *Sea of Monsters*, *City of Bones*, *Kickass II*, *World's End*, *Random*, *Gravity*, *Carrie* (the remake), *Ender's Game*, *About Time*, *Thor II*, *Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, *Frozen*, and *The Hobbit: Desolation of Smaug*.

The next couple of upcoming LSF book discussion titles were announced: *Red Shirts* by John Scalzi (July); and *The Glass Maker's Daughter* by V. Briceland (Aug.). ΛΨΦ

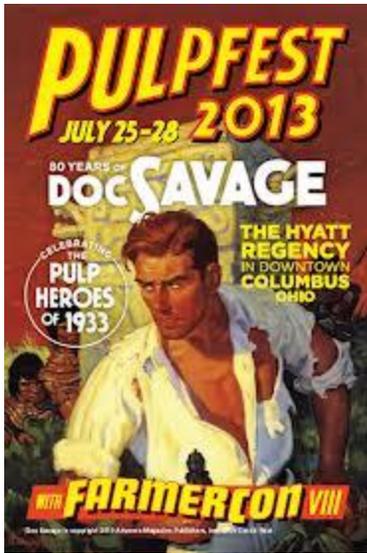


Humanity has the most amazing capacity for self-deception matched only by its ingenuity when trying to destroy itself.

"Remembrance of the Daleks"
Dr. Who episode (1988)
by Ben Aaronovitch

quoted in
Science Fiction Quotations: From the Inner Mind to the Outer Limits
edited by Gary Westfahl
(Yale University Press, 2005)

Impressions of
PulpFest 2013
from Carl



In late July, I decided to try out a con I'd never previously experienced: PulpFest 2013 (this year held jointly with FarmerCon VIII). I had an interesting time... and I managed not to spend *too* much money on books and such. The convention was held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus, OH.

PulpFest is a very specialized fan-run F&SF convention. It concentrates on the magazines, movie serials, comics, books, etc. of the Pulp Era (roughly from the early 1900s to the 1950s). The theme for this year was a celebration of "The Pulp Heroes of 1933" (Doc Savage, the Shadow, the Spider, G8 and His Battle Aces, etc.) and "100 Years of Dr. Fu Manchu and the Yellow Peril." Doc Savage *and* Fu Manchu?!?! There's *no way* I could resist attending this con!

I think this was the 3rd or 4th PulpFest; and it still definitely has the feel of a small convention. As far as I could tell, the con-comm consisted of only 5-6 guys. I think the total attendance was somewhere in the mid-300s; and I don't think I saw more than about 30 audience members for most of the presentations or readings – although there were probably a couple of hundred attendees for a couple of the program sessions (such as Saturday evening's "Business Meeting"). At times, I also got

an "amateurish" feeling about the con, starting with the scramble for the first presentation on Thursday evening to hook up the sound system and find the parts needed to connect a computer to the projector for the accompanying slide show.

It was really easy to attend all of the scheduled programming. There was only one track of programming, which ran on Thursday from 8-11 PM, on Friday from 1-4 PM and 7:30 to Midnight, and on Saturday from 1-4 PM and 8 PM to 1 AM. However, the subject matter of the discussions and presentations was fascinating: analyses of the origins of the Hero Pulps; the sociology of "Yellow Peril" fears; Dr. Fu Manchu and his many imitators; presentations by Will Murray (the current incarnation of "Kenneth Robeson", the house name for all Doc Savage writers); and so on. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night, they showed 5 chapters each of *The Spider's Web* (the 1938 Columbia serial).

But don't let the small attendance and limited programming fool you: LOTS of \$\$\$ was involved!!! For example, one day in the Dealers' Room, I eavesdropped on a conversation between a couple of friends (one of whom turned out to be one of the PulpFest presenters). The presenter opened a small rectangular box to show off several small pins and a ring of some sort, all originals from Pulp Era hero magazine fan clubs. The conversation went something like this: Dealer: "How expensive were they?" Owner: "Several thousand—but, believe me, I've had no buyer's remorse!" Then there was the Saturday night auction—by my count, something over \$6000 was shelled out for various items (including an original manuscript by Philip Jose Farmer).

And then there was the HUGE Dealers' Room, which was obviously the centerpiece of the whole convention (open from 9 AM to 5 PM on Friday & Saturday and 9 AM to 2 PM on Sunday). Wow! Lots of cool stuff! As I said, I managed not to spend *too* much for books and such. There was no con suite; but lots of socializing went on in the Dealers' Room.



The convention's program book – a special issue of *The Pulpster* – is really a classy publication.

Will I go to PulpFest 2014? I don't know... maybe. We'll see...

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There was death afoot in the darkness. It crept furtively along a steel girder. [...] Girders lifted a gigantic steel skeleton. The naked beams were a sinister forest.

It was in this forest that Death prowled.

Death was a man.

The Man of Bronze (1933)
by Kenneth Robeson (Lester Dent)

quoted in
Science Fiction Quotations: From the Inner Mind to the Outer Limits
edited by Gary Westfahl
(Yale University Press, 2005)

* * 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 copy of 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 11th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** The busi-ness meeting will begin 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



Sept. 19-21, 2013 **8TH ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC NOSTALGIA CONVENTION.** Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests include: Larry Storch (*F-Troop*), Julie Newmar ("Catwoman" on *Batman*), Johnny Crawford (The Rifleman), Ed Asner, Mamie van Doren. Membership: \$15 per day per person (pre-pay online in advance at the con's website for a discount).
Website: www.midatlanticnostalgiaconvention.com

Oct. 11-13, 2013 **CAPCLAVE 2013.** Hilton Washington DC North (Gaithersburg, MD). Guest of Honor George R.R. Martin; Editor GoH: Sharyn November; Artist GoH: Steve Stiles. Membership: \$60 August - September; \$70 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2013 Registration, c/o Sam Scheiner, 1518 North Edison St., Arlington, VA 22205-2638. On-line registration also available at Capclave.org.
Website: Capclave.org Info: info@capclave.org Twitter: twitter.com/capclave

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 2013 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL 36.** (A *very* LGBT-friendly convention.) Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). GoH and Artist GoH: TBA; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$50 thru 11/1; \$55 thereafter and at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907
Website: www.darkovercon.org

April 25-27, 2014 **RAVENCON 2014.** Doubletree by Hilton Richmond Midlothian (Richmond, VA). Author Guest of Honor: Elizabeth Bear. Membership: \$35 until 12/31/2013; \$40 before 4/11/2014; \$45 at the door.
More information available online: <http://www.ravencon.com>

Aug. 14-18, 2014 **LONCON 3: The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention.** (London, UK). Guests: Iain Banks, John Clute, Robin Hobb. Membership (currently): \$170 (ages 26+); \$110 (ages 16-25) - prices will go UP. Make checks payable to "Loncon3" and send to: London in 2014, #110, 530 Showers Drive, Ste. 7, Mountain View, CA 94040
Website: www.Loncon3.org Info: info@Loncon3.org

July 3-6, 2014 (tentative dates) **GAYLAXICON 2014.** Hotel TBD (Boston, MA). "When the stars are right over Boston!" Membership: \$50 thru 8/31/2013. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society" and send to: GSFS c/o Registration, PO Box 425662, Cambridge, MA 02142

Info: Questions2014@Gaylaxicon.org

On-line Registration: Registration2014@Gaylaxicon.org