

GE News

Women talk Sci Fi

GE what's new?

Star Trek



The Movie

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What's inside this issue?

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Star Wars author Sean Williams interview (Part 1)

"Yesterday was a Lie" New Chase Masterson Movie, what is it? Plus a behind the scenes look on the set!

GE look where we went!

ARMAGEDDON 2008

For months we had been waiting in anticipation for Armageddon 2008, not just because of all the guests, but the fact that we were going to help with the autograph line for Michael Shanks (yum!!) and David Anders (mmm not too bad on the eyes either). It was disappointing to find that neither of them would be there due to other commitments. Not to worry as the other two guests who came, we were happy enough to meet, Gary Jones (the 'Chevron One Encoding' guy from Stargate SG-1) and Kavan Smith from 4400, Stargate SG-1 and Stargate Atlantis. In fact there were to be 5 guests who have been in Stargate!! An impressive line up.

Our journey to Melbourne started at a civilized time this year. But we arrived early Friday afternoon at Adelaide Airport to find that our plane had been delayed for 90 minutes instead of arriving at a reasonable hour now we were not going to! Hopefully the rest of the weekend was not going to have as many delays. (Mmm well, so much for hoping!!)



We arrive at our accommodation, sharing a one bedroom flat with 3 others as reasonably priced accommodation in Melbourne during Melbourne Cup Weekend, Gaelic/Aussie Football Match and World Rugby was impossible. The company was great and so cramped conditions didn't seem to matter too much.



Marls and Sarah had shopped all day arriving earlier that morning and were flaked out. Not ready for a quiet night yet, we left our exhausted flat mates and headed town to catch up with our friends Jason and Darren from *Gifts for the Geek*. A late dinner with Jason and Darren and lotsa info on the past few Cons where they had been dealing.

Next day we left to set up displays at the Expo for Starship Mawson and International Federation of Trekkers. All done, we wondered which 'star' we would land our eyes on first. We decided that we should stand in the autograph line to get our tokens. Memories flooded back of the waiting of hours in line the year before and getting quite frustrated. Was this year going to be better? Yes?? No!! We waited over two hours to get our tokens and we were only 40 or so people away from the front!! However that being said that was the only hiccup we had over the two days.

With tokens in hand, finally, we went about collecting autographs from each of the guests. This year the lines for autographs were better as we lined up for guests individually moving from one to the other depending on the length of the line. The line that was the longest was David Hewlett's, (Stargate SG-1, Stargate Atlantis). More about him later tho'.



Our first autograph was Katt, remembered for his William time as *America's Greatest Hero* and recently a short but memorable stint in *Heroes*. (Each of the guests was wonderful, very pleasant and accommodating having a good chat with each of them.) Next was Ernie Hudson from *Ghostbusters*, a fun guy. The guest that surprised us was Doug Jones and how lovely he was to his fans. ('I'm not really interested in meeting Doug Jones' says G. Boy did she change her tune.) Doug took time to speak to all of his fans and no one seemed to mind waiting as you knew that you would have quality time when it was your turn. We couldn't get over how many characters he has been, apart from the two he is most known for, Silver Surfer from *Fantastic Four* and Abe Sapien from *Hellboy* and *Hellboy 2*. He has also starred in *Pan's Labyrinth*, *Buffy* (in that really scary episode 'Hush' as the really tall Lead Gentlemen) *Batman Returns*, just to name a few. We both (yes Gerri too!) went away thinking, he is really terrific. Then on to Andee Frizzel who has played a number of Wraith Queens in *Stargate Atlantis*. This time we both admit that we were not too fussed to meet her but again how wrong we were! Andee is a fun loving individual. bright, bubbly and amazing with her fans and a pleasure to meet. Our Stargate collection of autographs is certainly growing and there was still more to come.

GE look where we went!



Finally we got into David Hewlett's line, waiting we got to chat with lots of people who had come along to Armageddon. The one thing that is great about going to Armageddon is meeting up with people we met in autograph lines the year before. Sci Fi people are VERY friendly.

The wait for David's autograph was worth it, fantastic to his fans, giving time to each person as he signed. He certainly seemed to enjoy having a laugh with the people meeting him.

Autographs in hand it was time to head over to The Hub Productions and help with guests Gary and Kavan. 'I never thought of Kavan as sexy' said E 'but boy when he walked up to the table to sign her opinion changed!! He is definitely sexy, especially with a three day growth and longer hair!!!



So started our time with Gary and Kavan! In between them signing autographs we got to talk to the two of them and find out a little more about their time on Stargate and what they are up to now.

Later we headed over and got our photo taken with David Hewlett and then headed to Southbank for a sit down, food and coffee, and boy did we need that coffee!!

Another early start on Sunday with us heading into Southbank for a leisurely breakfast and then catching up with Sarah and Marls. Sarah was still recovering from meeting David Hewlett who is her all time favourite star, she was in seventh heaven.



The four of us lined up again, to have our photos taken with Gary and Kavan and then back to the autograph line. E met up with the three Star Wars actors, Rohan Nichol, (Captain Antilles), Chris Kirby, (Gideon Danu and a real honey!!) and Nalini Krishan, (Barriss Offee). We interviewed Australian author Suzanne Wood who has written a Stargate Novel called "The Barque of Heaven" (look out for her interview in the next edition). Back to Gary and Kavan and then on to interview Richard Arnold, personal assistant to Gene Roddenberry during TNG.

Another autograph from Doug (G had to get the Buffy *Hush* picture) and another autograph from David Hewlett signing the photo that was taken the day before. Sarah even got to hug David so all we could get from her for the next 12 hours was 'David Hewlett!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!'. Exhausted but happy we left Armageddon with a wad of autographs under our arms, empty purse and wonderful memories.

GE look who we talked to!



GE News recently caught up with Sean Williams, South Australian author whose new novel based on the game “The Force Unleashed” was released in 2008. The interview with Sean provides insight into the fascinating world of the author and how a story evolves and the hard work that it requires. Sean talks about his love not only of working as a writer but of Sci Fi, and that he is as much of a fan as the rest of us!

GE News: Sean you have a new book coming out based on the game ‘The Force Unleashed’ and you have also written other Star Wars books

Sean: That’s correct. I have done 3 other Star Wars novels and about 23 other books of my own.

GE News: What genre are the others in?

Sean: Science fiction, fantasy, I’ve done big space opera novels, I’ve done science fiction ,crime and lots of short stories in fact I have 5 books out this year.

GE News: Wow! That is amazing! Now you’re from Adelaide in South Australia and you are with the South Australian Writers Guild.

Sean: I am deputy chair of the SA Writers Centre.

GE News: And a Whyalla boy?

Sean: I was born in Whyalla in 1968, and I lived there for about a year. In fact my family comes from all around that area, from the country town Cowell. I spent a lot of my childhood there. My grandfather discovered the Jade there and I go back as often as I can. It’s the place I like to call home. Quite a lot of writers , actors and musicians come from Whyalla. I guess because it was such a transient town and a lot of doctors and teachers went through. Kristy Brooks the Adelaide writer she was born there and lived there for a while.

GE News: Did you plan to always be a writer?

Sean: I wanted to be a writer ever since I was about 10. Ever since Star Wars first came out, and I was reading lots of Dr Who and Star Wars Books. I always thought that would be a cool thing to be. As I got older I realised that sometimes it wasn’t a very highly paying job so I kind of talked myself out of it for a bit and then came back to it in my early 20s and had a red hot go at it and never looked back! So next year is my 20th anniversary of making that decision to try and be a writer, and my 10th year of working full time as a writer without any other jobs. So a big year next year!

GE News: How easy has it been to be a writer in South Australia?

Sean: Mmm not that hard actually I’ve often told people that Adelaide is that best place to live if you want to be a writer because the cost of living is quite cheap here, we have really good wine, really good food and you don’t need to live in Sydney or New York or London to publish any more. Sometimes maybe (living overseas) is a bit easier but given that I am a New York best selling author and I’ve never lived in any of those places proves that anybody can do it anywhere. The internet has made it so much easier these days. I do travel a lot. I just got back from a two week trip to the States where I launched a book went to a Conference and gave out an award and those kinds of in person things are important but I’ve always said the money you save living in Adelaide easily pays for those trips you need to do two or three times a year. So it becomes self sustaining after a while.

GE News: So, what was your very first book that you wrote?

Sean: My very first book that I wrote!! Has never been published! It was a terrible book that I wrote as a teenager. But the first book that I wrote that was published was probably my first solo novel ‘Metal Fatigue’ ... 1996. It wasn’t the first book that I published. I co-wrote a novel with a guy called Shane Dicks called ‘The Unknown Soldier’ that I started after ‘Metal Fatigue’ but it was published before...

GE look who talked to us!

GE News: And why Sci Fi?

Sean: Why Sci Fi? Sci Fi because I am interested in science, that's number one and I'm interested in humanity and what makes us human and I think science fiction is the best way to explore that topic. You can do it through any genre really, but science fiction gives us the chance to really play with the things we assume. I had a novel come out, a love story between two people, a whirlwind relationship over about 30 years, and they break up very very badly and don't see each other for 150 years and what emotions that brings up you can only discuss in science fiction.



GE News: So it is quite liberating to write in that field?

Sean: Liberating? In some ways but very constricting in others because you have to get the science right sometimes and find ways to get around it when you want to break the laws. There's a lot of research involved. I've been writing a main street thriller and in recent times and I love the fact that if I need to describe a place that exists there's plenty of books on it, I don't have to make anything up. If I want to describe a certain type of helicopter all the specs are online, I don't have to make anything up. Writing a main stream fiction in that respects is a lot more research but sometimes less thought.

GE News: So how long would you take to research a particular aspect of your book?

Sean: Depends on the book, depends on how difficult it is to find the answers that I want. One series, the orphan series that I wrote, I invented a whole new series of units and I had to come up with a 3D map of all the stars within a 100 light years of earth. Stuff that you can download in seconds now but didn't exist back then and that took some serious number crunching before I even got around to thinking about characters and settings and writing anything. So sometimes it can be very difficult, sometimes it's easy, sometimes you can do it as you go along I'm quite a lazy researcher, I prefer to read New Scientist every week and lots of Science Magazines and I love collecting clippings hoping all that stuff sinks in okay and then researching whenever I get stuck. So some ways it's easy, some ways that's harder when you get stuck and realise something you should have researched six months ago is getting in the way of the story you want to write and you can't find your way around it. That's when I curse myself for being a bit lazy. (laughs)

GE News: So is research the fun part?

Sean: The fun part for me is probably originally coming up with the idea and starting to wrap the story together, characters, settings, all that sort of stuff. Research is part of that, it can be fun but I think that initial conception is the most fun part followed by the actual writing of the book. There's nothing quite as good as sitting down and knocking out 2-3000 words of a fantastic story that I love writing, that's why I do it, in telling myself this story, being told this story by myself is a lot of fun! I quite enjoy editing as well it's a whole different set of skills and experiences.

GE News: Writing your universe verses someone else's universe?

Sean: Good and bad things to both. I love writing, written for Star Wars and Doctor Who and I love the fact that with Star Wars there's so much information there. If I need to describe a place I just look it up on Wikipedia and there it is. It's brilliant! If it's my own world, I have to make it all up, but sometimes that can be a curse too. With Star Wars you can't make anything up, you're constrained by what's already there. In my own novels I can do whatever I like and that's quite liberating and so I like both equally, and I work as hard at writing stuff in other people's universes as I do in my own universe. I think doing anything less would be a betrayal of the reader who expects you to work as hard as you can to write as good a story as you can...

End of Part one, make sure you catch part two in our next issue!



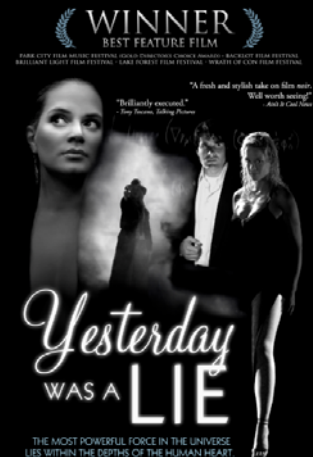
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GE what's new?

Yesterday WAS A LIE

GE News was recently given the chance to preview Chase Masterson's (Leeta, Star Trek: DS9) new movie "Yesterday was a Lie". A science fiction, film noir, with Kipleigh Brown (Crewman Jane Taylor, Star Trek: Enterprise) as the lead character Hoyle and Chase as a sultry and of course very sexy lounge singer.



Kipleigh Brown as Hoyle

The film a concept of writer/director James Kirwin is a movie that can be said to transcend many different genres, a touch of thriller, a pinch of detective mystery and a touching character piece. Funded by Helicon Arts Cooperative and truly independent, this movie has been stacking up awards at many a film festival in the US, (including the Wrath of Con Film Festival, see GE News issue 3 and festival promoter Rick Albritton interview). Comments include ..."weaves a tale of intrigue and metaphysical darkness" (*Ain't It Cool News*) and "Kipleigh Brown "exudes Bacall" (*Slice of SciFi*).

Hoyle, a detective finds herself caught up in a world of intrigue and earth-shattering cosmological secrets with a sexy lounge singer (Chase Masterson) and a loyal partner (Mik Scriba) as her only allies. Hoyle finds that the most powerful force in the universe the power to bend reality, the power to know the truth lies within the human heart, according to Kirwin.



Peter Mayhew as "Dead man"

It is interesting to see that the main character is a women detective in what at times looks like it is set in the 1930s or is it the 2000s, dial phones (what are they!!) versus e-mails. The film makes you concentrate and you have to stay with it to make sure that you do not miss a sudden change of direction. In fact, this movie is better watched with your friends who like to discuss plot, character interplay and in fact, all aspects of life, the universe and everything.



Chase looking sultry

GE what's new?

Yesterday

WAS A LIE

Behind the scenes!



Kipleigh Brown



Director/Producer/Writer
James Kirwin



Chewbacca
Peter Mayhew

Certainly a movie that makes you think!! It is intelligent and intriguing cinema, with a touch of sultry sexiness. Oh and if you look quickly you may see Chewbacca (Peter Mayhew) who plays the role of the "dead man"!

In black and white (yes like in the olden days) and most definitely surreal, the movie grabs your attention as you concentrate on the many turns and twists of the plot. If you like your science fiction with a touch of music, scored by Kristopher Carter, Emmy award winning composer which Masterson very ably sings then this is a film for you.

This film is not yet commercially released, but there are chances that you may be able to check it out at conventions in Australia in the near future. To get a taste of what this movie is about then head on over to the official film website where you can download the trailers <http://www.heliconarts.com/yesterday/>



Chase Masterson

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So let's be friends!

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