

GENEWS

WOMEN TALK SCI FI



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Sean Williams Interview ~ Part Two

GE News: So moving onto to Doctor Who as both of us are quite avid Doctor Who fans.

Sean: Excellent!

GE News: Did you write pre the new era or post the new era of Dr Who?

Sean: Now when I say I've written for Doctor Who I have to admit I have only written one short story, but I put a lot of effort into it and I've had to turn down offers to write about the universe before as I'm sort of afraid that I would do very badly at it. I've still got the 96 Doctor Who novels that I had as a kid, that I read and read and I still buy them on DVD. I love the classic era, I like the new era I'm a complete Whovian! I was so afraid that if I ever tried to write in the Doctor Who universe I'd screw it up!



GE News: Really? You enjoy it that much?

Sean: I'm so invested in it. I've got the histories, and if I did a bad job I would probably have to kill myself!! (laughs). So a friend had a collection of stories called 'Destination Prague' every story

is set in Prague. He's a friend of mine, we've worked together, he twisted my arm behind my back and said "I want you in this book. None of your pathetic excuses about doing a bad job and having to kill yourself. You've got to do it." And I said to him "Ok, I'll do it if I can write a Pertwee story set between Jo Grant and Sarah Jane Smith". I always wanted to know what he did in between that time. He went to Prague I can tell you now!

GE News: (E said this!!) I love Jon Pertwee's Doctor.

Sean: Yes, so do I and it gave me a great excuse to go back and watch all the videos to try and get his voice right. I worked as hard on that short story and invested as much in it as I did in any novel.

GE News: You had the neutron flow in there definitely didn't you? (E again)

Sean: Reversing the polarity... (G, ya know he only says it once!!)

GE News: ...of the neutron flow

Sean: ... I remember I agonised on whether I put it in because everybody who writes Pertwee puts it in, I thought should I, shouldn't I? (You'll have to read the book to find out!) He name drops, he talks about meeting historical figures and the story has a sort of anti-military kind of philosophy

GE News: He was very upset with UNIT.

Sean: Several times over.

GE News: The Silurians especially.

Sean: That's right. Absolutely! So here we are Who fans... I think it's one of the best stories I've ever written

GE News: So more?

Sean: I'd like to do more. I'd like to write a radio play.

GE News: The Big Finish?

Sean: The Big Finish! Some interesting things are happening about the license of it. So we'll see how that falls out. I would love to write for the show, but that's not very likely but you never know.



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Sean with some of his fans.

used?

GE News: Who knows?

Sean: I'll put this dream out on the internet now, if the Internet sort of god is hearing my prayer, hopefully. I'll be talking to Paul Cornell and Rob Sherman who wrote the Dalek story.

GE News: Paul Cornell writes so well, doesn't he?

Sean: Paul is such a nice guy too. Hopefully one day someone will say "We need a good writer for Who" and Paul will go "Oh well..."

GE News: With the licensing, how does Star Wars work? I'd imagine that under Lucas there would be a fairly strict copyright of what can and can't be

Sean: Yes that's right. Yes, they control things with a fairly tight hand but underneath that restriction they are very free to allow you to use anything from within the universe. When I was writing the Force Heretic series which was a three book series, there was lots of room for me to trawl through encyclopaedias and say we haven't seen much from these guys for a while can I bring them in and do something with them? Can I expand on their culture? Can I kill them off? You're given a lot of freedom and I really enjoy that and also the freedom to add my own stuff too. I've invented several cultures and several characters that are now part of the universe and I am very excited about that. That's one of the great things about working with Star Wars is that it is such a hugely collaborative universe. Hundreds of writers and artists and people from various fields have worked in the universe and added things to the universe and I'm one of them! I add my own choice to the mix, which is a great honour and a great deal of fun. For a kid who grew up seeing a New Hope, I'd like to work in that universe, and here I am!

GE News: It's all in your head and you can expand even further.

Sean: Oh yes, it's terrific!

GE News: Is there anything in the future?

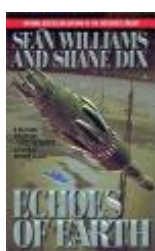
Sean: For myself I have lots of books coming out. Five books this year, a desktop collection of short stories, a space opera series, a very dark space opera series featuring a character who speaks only in the lyrics of Gary Newman, which is just fun. More licensing issues! A fantasy book for kids set in various Australian landscapes. Anyone coming from Whyalla will recognize the landscape instantly. In fact some of it is set near Cowell and Port Gibbon. I had someone come up to me and give me the highest compliment that I have ever been paid and said 'I've just read your book "The Stone Mage and The Sea" and it really reminded me of Port Gibbon'. I said "Ahhh that's exactly where it is set but I've never known it!!!"

How exciting I got it right!! That's a very powerful book, so that's coming out and is part of the 5 books coming out this year. More kids books, more space operas coming out next

Check out Sean's site at <http://www.seanwilliams.com/> or click on the pictures below



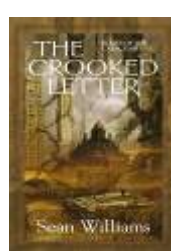
Sean's latest "The Force Unleashed"



year. working thriller would more novels, and



Yeah, on a plus a like to Star once I maybe



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STAR WARS - CLONE WARS

REVIEW BY E

I still remember the night I first watched Star Wars on the big screen. Those scrolling words that explained what had been happening (I hadn't taken in that it actually had started at Chapter Four!) and then Darth Vader's magnificent ship majestically passed over my head. I was in awe, and the ride had only just begun. I came home raving about it and wanted to have my own R2D2 and CP30.



The main players in the movie are Obi Wan Kenobi, Anakin Skywalker, Count Dooku and the novice Padawan, Ahsoka Tano.

I really didn't mind that the movie was animated. I liked the way the characters were drawn. The voices even though they were not the original voices from the past three prequels (except for Count Dooku, voiced by Christopher Lee) were acceptable. However that was the end of my enjoyment.

I was put offside right from the first second of the movie. What happened to the scrolling words on the screen that put you in the picture?? They didn't appear!! Was this a Star Wars movie or a poor imitation? After that all I remember is a battle, another battle and more battles. There was no story line and the characters had no substance (pun not intended). I am sure 5-7 year olds loved it but for a long time fan like myself it was a disappointment.



I loved the following two movies and with the rest of the Star Wars world was so excited to find that after 20 years or so, more films were on the way!!

And so begins the downhill slide with the occasional rise. I will leave my views on the prequel live action movies and go on to 'Star Wars - The Clone Wars'.

The Clone Wars is set between 'Attack of the Clones' and 'The Revenge of the Sith'. The Grand Army of the Republic are fighting against the droid forces of the Confederacy of Independent Systems.

I have not watched the TV episodes that follow. Eventually I will because deep down I still need a Star Wars fix every now and again. Maybe my opinion will change when I watch these. Hopefully the characters will be fleshed out (still no pun intended, well maybe a little one) and there will be a more compelling story line.

Star Wars is still alive and well, despite animated movies and prequels! If all else fails I can always go back and watch Darth Vader's ship rumbling over my head and relive the reason why I like Star Wars in the first place.

NALINI KRISHAN

STAR WAR'S BARRISS OFFEE

GE News: Who/what influenced your decision to become an actor?

Nalini: I was fascinated with horror films and use to play out scenes in the primary school playgrounds and my fascination grew from there...

GE News: How did you land your role in *Star Wars Attack of the Clones*?

Nalini: My agent called and said I got a role in Star Wars Ep2 and the rest is history...

GE News: *Attack of the Clones* was filmed in many locations all over the world, where was your role in the movie filmed? (if overseas, please compare this with working in Australia)?

Nalini: I filmed *Attack of the Clones* in Australia at Fox Studios in Sydney.

GE News: Did you have to do any special training for the part?

Nalini: I did stunts with Nick Gillard the stunts coordinator for all the battle scenes.

GE News: What is it like to be involved in one of the largest Sci Fi franchise in the world?

Nalini: It's pretty awesome, there are all these figures, books, animated series, it's mind blowing & it's even more interesting when more figurines come out all the time!

GE News: How does it feel to see Action Figures/ Statues of your character Barriss Offee from Star Wars?

Nalini: I was so stoked to see these figures made based on me, I can't really describe it except to say I was really impressed!

GE News: You are planning to move to LA, what has influenced your decision and do you have any work planned?

Nalini: I landed a part in a TV series there and I want to broaden my horizons a bit more, I feel it's time for me to move abroad and I am ready to step outside the Australian market of acting.



GE News: As an Australian actor is it hard to find work in Australia?

Nalini: I feel it's limited for people of my ethnicity, I only get specific roles when they are looking for people with my specific look, I feel so many limits are placed on me. There is more work overseas compared to Australia.

GE News: What advice would you offer people who are thinking of pursuing an acting career?

Nalini: Believe in yourself and that you can act, get training to refine your skills, join an agency and do something each day towards your acting!

GE News: Last question, Star Wars or Star Trek?

Nalini: To be honest...that's a tricky question to answer... I loved watching both of them as I was growing up!



Nalini as Barriss Offee

Check out her web www.starwarz.com/nalini/





International Year of Astronomy

For Sci Fi fans this is a special year. We celebrate the International Year of Astronomy in conjunction with the 400th Anniversary of the development of the telescope by Galileo Galilei (invented the previous year by Lippershey, Janssen and Metius of the Netherlands). Most Sci Fi enthusiasts not only love the fiction of science but also the facts. Many past and present scientists acknowledge that reading Sci Fi literature and watching Sci Fi shows in their youth stimulated their desire to pursue a career in the sciences. Of these, astronomy is one of the oldest and has amazing impacts on our culture. Without the development of the telescope we would never have discovered the billions of galaxies that make up our Universe and our imagination and technology would never have reached beyond the ionosphere and beyond. Never mind all the technology that we all enjoy today!



The major goals of the International Year of Astronomy are to:

1. *Increase scientific awareness.*
2. *Promote widespread access to new knowledge and observing experiences.*
3. *Empower astronomical communities in developing countries.*
4. *Support and improve formal and informal science education.*
5. *Provide a modern image of science and scientists.*
6. *Facilitate new networks and strengthen existing ones.*
7. *Improve the gender-balanced representation of scientists at all levels and promote greater involvement by underrepresented minorities in scientific and engineering careers.*



Facilitate the preservation and protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage of dark skies in places such as urban oases, national parks and astronomical sites.

This year is a great opportunity to indulge a little more in our passion as we continue to reach and live among the stars.

Images taken from
www.astronomy2009.org

And

www.hubblesite.org

More interesting astronomy sites
<http://www.astronomy2009.org.au/>

<http://astronomy2009.nasa.gov/>

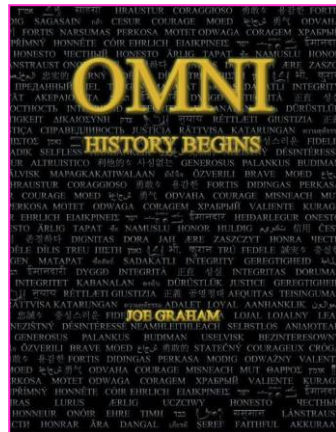




Omni – History Begins

Some were raised to be superheroes, some were plucked from everyday life; none could imagine how important their destinies would become.

The Alpha teams, made up of the finest superheroes on the planet, were formed after the first Supervillains world war. Every three years, supers from around the world are recruited to attend the Alpha academy. These young hopefuls from varied cultures and parts of the world are trained and nurtured to one day take their place alongside the great teams. Combat training and technology are taught alongside the lessons that will lead to the 'Heart of a Hero.'



This smart epic is written with great attention to detail throughout. The well-rounded characters are very developed and brought to life for the reader. An intricate multi-threaded story with several twists and a surprise ending draws readers into this unique alternate world and its jargon along with the beginning students. This is large scale storytelling, reminiscent of The Lord of the Rings Trilogy and the Star Wars Saga. Special attention is also shown, incorporating both genders and a wide array of cultures into this work. Although this is a large stand alone book, it is the start of a series that will last for some time. As a serious take on superfiction, this is not intended for small children or as a bedtime story.

Coach Connors, a seasoned war veteran and experienced mentor, takes charge of the team that is central to the story. Darkspeed is assigned the role of leader over his teammates; Olympian, Cosmos, Bioforce, Shi, and Virtuoso. Quickly, they start to learn the skills that will one day decide life and death.

Shortly into their training, a second war between Superheroes and Supervillains breaks out.

The young heroes must follow their mentors into a fight none were ready for.

Secrets of the past and of their own families find their way to the surface as the conflict erupts, bringing to the light of day the origins heroes and villains share.

Vector, the nightmare all superheroes feared, returns to conquer the world. His return to lead the Supervillains throws the world into chaos as the heroes of the world falter under the onslaught.

OMNI, the greatest Superhero who ever lived, is forced to once again become the point of the heroes spear. The world hangs in the balance as good faces evil to see who will be victorious and who will be destroyed.

Join Darkspeed, Olympian, Cosmos, Bioforce, Shi, Virtuoso, and a host of others as they learn what it takes to become the greatest of superheroes. Be there as they learn why those that came before them lived by the motto 'Never Alone.'

Joe Graham is a 40 year old computer scientist who lives in Michigan with his wife and six children. As an author, 'Omni – History Begins' is his first published work. As a life long science fiction and comic book fan writing a book of this kind came naturally to him.

Joe raised his children on science fiction and superheroes. That presented a problem, whenever it comes to purchasing action figures for his children, "My daughters never seemed to get a fair shake" he says. The ratio of superheroes to superheroines is always worse than 10:1, if there are even any female action figures available.

Joe's book is available from the following on-line stores:

- Amazon.com
- Amazon.co.uk
- Amazon.fr
- Amazon.de
- barnesandnoble.com
- target.com



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So let's be friends!

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