

GE NEWS

Vol 2 Issue 13 2009



WOMEN TALK SCI FI



Dr Who competition

Win an dual autographed picture!

Peter Davison & Mark Strickson
5th Doctor & Companion

See inside for details



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Stars [read ones]



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Years

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GE News 1 year in publication

DR WHO COMPETITION EXCLUSIVE TO GE NEWS READERS



Autographs courtesy
Robbie Buonaccorsi
Culture Shock Events
Visit them at

www.cultureshockevents.com

Write in 200 words or less who was

"Your Doctor Who or Companion and Why?"

Send your answer to "competition@genews-ezine.com"

Winner will be announced in Issue 15

All readers are able to enter!

(note if you do enter and you are not on our subscribers list you will be added)

Closing date 01/08/2009

Conditions of entry: multiple entries are allowed, entries may appear in GE News, and G & E's decision is final, winner will be contacted by e-mail and prize will be posted where ever you live in the Universe.

STAR GATE SG1 AUTHOR SUZANNE WOOD



We continue with part 2 of our interview with
Suzanne Wood,
Star Gate Fan to Star Gate Author. Part 1 available at:
www.genews-ezine.com

When we last spoke with Suzanne she was telling us that she has to stay with
Do they give you get a manual?

No, the publishing company is not connected to the production company, which is a bit of a draw back but they keep and eye on it! So it was back to basically watching everything and going through forums to explain how that gun works or something like that.

In terms of people writing Stargate novels are there many women who do Stargate novels?

The other writers are pretty much all women. There are three other Australian women and three English or American. There is James Swallow, he's English, and he's done a couple. In the upcoming books there are three male writers. They are trying to attract more writers and they've picked up a few who have already published and have written in other things like Doctor Who.

Are you interested in doing a Doctor Who book?

No I don't think I would because I don't know the show that well. I only started watching it when Christopher Eccleston came into it. Lucky if I know a dalek from a whatever!

Where are you based in Australia and how hard is it to be based in Australia?

Melbourne, I think it is relatively difficult all over the world because publishers are cutting back all the time on what they publish and they only want to go with the dead set certain seller. If you propose something to them you really have to expand your horizons and say I am not just going to do this book it can go into a trilogy. They want something they can build into a franchise. A lot of publishers are looking to doing a series and have something they can build up instead of a lot of single novels. But there are opportunities to get published. I've heard agents in Australia are not taking on new authors at the moment, but Allen and Unwin have a Friday pitch day and they'll take any adult fiction proposal, first chapter, synopsis by email on a Friday and the editor will read it and will get back to you within a week.

Do you think that as a woman you bring a different style to the Sci Fi genre than a male would?

Yes, I think we do, yeah! I think we would focus a little more on the characters not so much on relationships but a little more on the emotions. Where as the guys might go a bit more for the explosions (chuckles all round).

So what would you recommend to any woman who wants to get into the writing field?

Someone who has an interest in writing and an interest in something like Stargate or another fan realm, definitely should try out fan fic, because it is the best breeding ground for writing. There are so many people willing to help, and all you have to do is say on-line is I need a beta reader, I need an opinion on this and so many people will put up their hand and say yes to help you out, it is a really great nurturing place to be. There is some incredible writing out there on-line and you get feedback from your readers, so that you know if you are doing good or not. It's a really good way to build your craft.

(con't page 4)

Being at Armageddon are people surprised that it is a women writing for Stargate?

Yeah a little, not so much surprised I think, much more surprised that I was Australian. I think because it is an American show they expect everything to come from America, but that is the beauty of the Internet these days. Everything belongs to everyone!

If it was'nt for the Internet do you think you would not be writing?

Absolutely yeah, I didn't have a computer six years ago and I found all of this stuff on the internet. Going into Minotaur in Melbourne (genre store) looking at Star Trek and Dr Who books and thinking, I really wished there were Stargate books because I would love to read more about the characters that I love. Then I found fan fic on the net! I had no idea how huge it is and Stargate is one of the largest in terms of creating fic on the net.

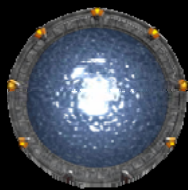
Did you get to choose the illustration on the book?

No, the publishers did all that. They started with the Eye of Ra, which is featured in the book and MGM said that they also wanted some faces on it. So they put Jack and Daniel on it. I was really pleased with it.

You have a nice big illustration at home?

Yes! (laughs...)

Do you have it signed?



No, but I have a copy of the book signed by Michael Shanks. A girl I never met in Germany, loved my book and sent me e-mails and so we got talking and she went to a convention off her own back, took a copy, gave it to Michael and he signed it and she sent it to me, that was really nice yeah!

Once again before we (sic) surfed the net you would not be able to get feedback from people from different countries?

Yes, it is astonishing, the range of readers and people from all around the world who contact you and tell you what they think of it. It's wonderful!

Now that you are a published author, do you still do fan fic?

Yep, I can't help it! I have ideas that probably would not get published, because of rambling, way too long or focusing on one particular character and forgetting about the rest. Yeah, I still do, I like to do short stories for zines and putting them on the net!

How many times have you watched a Stargate

I've lost count, actually, I watched the first three seasons while I was writing it just to keep the voices in my head and keep them in character. If you are referring back to something that has happened, you have to get it right so you watch that over and over again.

What would you class as your favourite episode of Stargate

I think 'Secrets', it was such a well written episode, it was very rare, actually that it gave a very good character piece for each of the main actors and even though it spilt them, two went to Abydos and two to Washington. They came out of it with something almost life changing, that was a really well crafted episode.

Jack and Daniel are two of your favourite characters, who else would like to write for?

T'elc, because he is underused in Stargate, I think the writers found it hard to get into his head. He was underused on the show, I made a point of trying to give him something. There is a chapter where they have to reveal something that they have kept hidden, so I thought that he has been around for 101 years and he has got one child. The Jaffa are bred to breed, so I gave him a back history of four lost children, it nice to do that and I think that he has a lot of scope.

Finally, do you still run two careers, writing and working in the industry?

Oh yeah, it does not quite pay enough to live on at the moment (laughs!!!)

Is that your dream?

Yes, I would love to sit in my garret and write everyday and do nothing else!



The Hubble Telescope set up in collaboration with NASA and the European Space Agency was carried into orbit in 1990 by the Space Shuttle Discovery and is named after American astronomer Edwin Hubble. This is not the first space telescope but is one of the largest and most versatile.

The idea of putting a telescope in space has been around since 1923 but it wasn't until the 70s that the Hubble telescope found funding and was expected to be launched in 1983 but technical delays, budget problems and the Challenger disaster meant that it wasn't until 1990 that the Hubble was up in our skies.

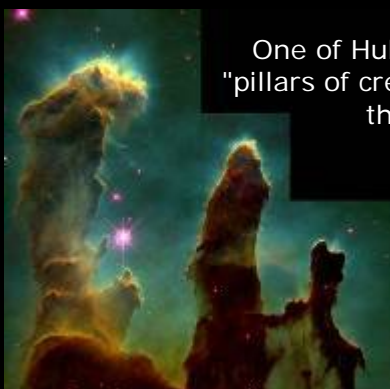
Hubble's position outside the Earth's atmosphere allows it to take extremely sharp images with almost no background light. Hundreds of thousands of images have been sent back to Earth to help shed light on some of the great mysteries of astronomy.



Edwin Hubble Credit: The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, and artist Kathy Cordes, STScI

Due to the Hubble scientists have changed the way they look at the universe. Hubble has revealed the age of the universe to be around 13 to 14 billion years and has helped in the discovery of dark energy, a force that causes the expansion of the universe to accelerate. Hubble has shown galaxies in all stages of evolution to understand how galaxies are formed. It has found clumps of gas and dust around young stars that likely function as birthing grounds for new planets. To see more of the Hubble Telescope discoveries click on the following link.

<http://hubblesite.org/>



One of Hubble's most famous images, "pillars of creation" shows stars forming in the Eagle Nebula



Sombrero Galaxy



Interacting Galaxies Group Arp 194



STAR WARS

WHERE SCIENCE MEETS IMAGINATION



A few months ago I (Eugenia) was in Sydney and visited the Star Wars Exhibit at the Power House Museum. I managed to rope in Mary, a friend of mine who wasn't a Sci Fi fan to come along with me. She told me that "Yes, I did actually take two teenagers to the Star Wars movie when it first opened but promptly fell asleep half way through" so her knowledge of Star Wars is very thin. However, even Mary enjoyed the exhibits and was fascinated by the costumes and models.

It was fantastic to have something like this in Australia it is not often that we get a chance to see props and costumes from a Sci Fi show, let alone this many!! To have such a display at the Power House Museum really shows how much an influence Sci Fi stories have had. There are not too many people in the world who would not know the names of Darth Vader, Hans Solo and Luke Skywalker! With the last three prequel movies, Clone Wars Animated movie and TV series a new generation of viewers now know the characters. Star Wars is here to stay for a very long time.



There were over 50 objects on display ranging from costumes, models and props. Walking into the museum the first thing we were greeted by was a working R2D2 who said "hello" to patrons with a variety of whistles and chirps. Of course the geek in me took over and I had to line up along with children and quite a few adults to have my photo taken with this Sci Fi icon.





We went on to where the exhibit was being housed and the first model I saw was the Millennium Falcon. It was at least a metre in diameter, photos don't really show the amount of work in it and how big it really is. Next the costume of Hans Solo standing along side Chewbacca's. That's when you realize how tall Peter Mayhew must be. This costume is enormous.

Scattered amongst the costumes were models of the Star Fighters, Walkers and of course the Imperial Star Fighter and a full scale model of the flying car used in the movie.



This exhibit was dovetailed with a scientific exhibit showing how many of the Sci Fi concepts of Star Wars are becoming real, especially in the area of robotics in medicine, industry and everyday life.

The exhibit is moving to Melbourne and will be at the Melbourne Museum from June to November. It is certainly worth a look and we are planning to combine it with a Melbourne Convention and I look forward to giving it a second look.

For a more photos from the exhibit go to

www.genews-ezine.com/photos/starwars



Where is GE going?



GE News is heading to Sydney to Supanova, in Sydney. Guests coming to the convention include:

Karl Urban	Bones — Star Trek
Jake Lloyd	Anakin Skywalker — Star Wars
Rachelle Lefevre	Victoria — Twilight
Stanislav Lanevski	Viktor Krum — Harry Potter
Dirk Benedict	Starbuck — Battlestar Galactica (original)
Richard Hatch	Apollo — Battlestar Galactica (original)
Herb Jefferson Jr.	Boomer — Battlestar Galactica (original)

As you can guess we are very excited to meet some of the actors who have entertained us in some of the most iconic television shows, new and old! So keep an eye out for convention updates, interviews and lots of pictures.



RUMOURS AND OTHER STUFF TO LOOK OUT FOR!!!

TORCHWOOD	UKTV is participating in the Torchwood Global Event that means that Foxtel viewers get to see it first. Maybe it's time to see if any of your friends or family owe you a favour if you don't get it yourself! 6 July is the date to keep your eye out for!
TRANSFORMERS	We hear that it is great! Looking forward to seeing it soon!
DOCTOR WHO	Could there be a special "Children in Need" episode due later this year with lots of Doctors?
AMANDA TAPPING	Coming to a convention near you! See her at click here along with Jason Momoa and Paul McGillion and more!
LEVAR BURTON	Levar Burton will be in Australia in August this year in Melbourne and Sydney why not check out the cheap flights at QANTAS.

Women Talk Sci Fi ~ Podcast

Women Talk Sci Fi ~ Podcast has released six episodes with over 1000 downloads since we commenced in April this year. We would like to thank all our readers who have listened to us and hope that you have enjoyed them.

Podcast seven will be released soon and in this episode we take a look at America's longest running Sci Fi show Stargate.

If you haven't had a listen yet then click on the link and listen now!

www.womentalkscifi.com



Podcast 1



Your favourite girls from GE News Ezine, Gerri and Eugenia, talk to you about their love of Sci Fi. If you've been a fan of Sci Fi for more years than you care to remember then this podcast will bring back some fond memories. Time and again Gerri and Eugenia dredge up shows long forgotten in the annals of time. From the ever popular Dr Who and Star Trek to the virtually unknown Space Patrol and everything in between. Geeks and Trekkies have been given a hard time for many years and the girls show you that we don't all live in our parents basement. In fact the parallels that they draw with so called normal people will bring a smile to your face. So sit back and be prepared to be immersed in memories from your most loved shows and shared experiences in the world of Sci Fi. Even if you are not a Sci Fi fan you should still give this podcast a chance. You might find you have more in common with us geeks than you think.

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Podcast 2



Women Talk Sci Fi had a golden chance to make their way. All the way to the world premiere of the new Star Trek movie in Sydney, Australia. I promise that's the last South Park reference I'll make. I can't promise you what the girls will do in the podcast though. Now time to be serious because there are some seriously big stars in this podcast. Interviews with Richard Arnold, Eric Bana and Zachary Quinto. Gerri and Eugenia waylaid Mr Arnold at the Armageddon convention last year in Melbourne. The enthusiasm in his voice for the movie, if not for Paramount, was obvious and reassuring. It gives hope that the right people are doing the right things to our beloved franchise. In fact it is a sentiment that seems to be shared by many of the cast involved in the movie. Relief that the reins have been handed over to someone who cares about Star Trek. Someone who wants to see it grow and flourish. Not just so money can be made but so the dream can live on a little longer. I've deliberately mentioned very little about what is in the actual podcast. You will just have to listen to it to find out. You won't be disappointed though. So sit back and be prepared for Gerri to rub it in that she got to go to the world premiere and we didn't.

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Podcast 3



The clock is ticking until the public release of the born again Star Trek movie. So Gerri and Eugenia are madly trying to cram everything in before the big event. So you guessed it this is another Star Trek podcast. What a cool podcast it is though with none other than J.J. Abrams as the main focus of today's podcast. It isn't just all interviews with the rich and famous though. You get to spend a day in the life of a podcast reporter. Find out what really happens behind the scenes of the media frenzy. The core of this podcast is the J.J. Abrams interview though. He seems to be a very level headed man with a passion for good stories. It doesn't matter if it is Star Trek or not just that the story evokes an emotional response. Some of you might cry that nothing is more important than Star Trek. I believe though that J.J. Abrams has really grasped what Gene Roddenberry envisioned for Star Trek. It's not a show for flashy special effects and cool gadgets. It's a platform designed to tell you a story. One with meaning, filled with optimism and hope for the future. Whilst J.J. Abrams freely admits he was not a Star Trek fan when he started this project he also freely admits that the Roddenberry vision has roped him in. Star Trek will do that to anyone who wants to desperately believe that humanity will ultimately make it. In J.J. Abrams one words that very optimism that has made Trekker's so uncool is set for a reversal. Optimism and hope is the new black. It's not all about J.J. Abrams though. There is also a red carpet interview with producer Bryan Burk. Over all this is a great podcast especially for those interested in the people who work behind the cameras.

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Podcast 4



What more could a Trekkie ask for than an interview with Kirk and Spock at the same time. Well that is exactly what happens in episode four of Women Talk Sci Fi. There are three things which spring to mind when listening to Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto. Their dedication to their craft, the respect they have for those that have come before them and their great sense of humour. Just like J.J. Abrams neither of these great actors claim to have been Trekkies when they accepted their new identities. It seems to be a recurring theme that may be distressing for many Star Trek fans. However they also share something else in common that alleviates that concern. That is a respect for both the characters they are playing and the fans that have come to love Star Trek. Without that respect a lot of damage could be done to the beloved Star Trek franchise. That respect coupled with not being encumbered by expectations allows them to breathe new life into Star Trek. The humour that is on display in the interview is another promising glimpse into the new movie. Star Trek was always at its best when it didn't take itself too seriously and had a good laugh at its own expense. J.J. Abrams certainly seems to have surrounded himself with a group of actors who desperately want to bring something of themselves to their characters whilst trying to remain true to the originals. This is an attitude that cannot be missed when listening to Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto talk about their experiences making this movie. It's not all serious talk though and the two actors certainly have a few interesting stories to tell. So join Gerri, Eugenia and guest presenter Marlene with their round table interview with Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto.

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Podcast 5



It's not long now and the all new Star Trek movie will be in cinemas for your viewing pleasure. Which means this is the last Star Trek related episode on Women Talk Sci Fi for a while. Well at least until they do a review of the new movie itself.

Prepare to put your thinking caps on and join Gerri and Eugenia on a journey down memory lane. It got me thinking about my first Star Trek experience. I was never an original series person and my most prominent memories of early Star Trek is from The Next Generation. However if I really dig deep the occasional memory of The Animated Series sticks in head up to say hello.

Still my fondest memories are for the cast of The Next Generation and it will be interesting to see my reaction to the re-imagined Original Series crew. Yet again we get another big name interview in this episode. This time none other than John Cho of Harold and Kumar fame.

From what I have heard about his portrayal of Hakuai Sulu the image of G.I. Joe meets Star Trek pops to mind. Finally Sulu truly gets an opportunity to dirty his hands with some real action. Something that I am sure George Takei wished he got the opportunity to do during his time as Sulu. At last we also get an actor who was willing to admit he was into Star Trek before starring in the movie. He was only a casual fan but that's better than nothing. Seeing Sulu in such an important role during that era meant a lot to John Cho. So much so that he was desperate to be a part of this rebirth of Star Trek. So sit back and join Gerri, Eugenia and Marlene as they chat with the new incarnation of one of Star Trek's favourites.

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Podcast 6



Doctor Who has always been a family show that everyone from the youngest child to granny could enjoy. It seems like they keep everything in the family at Doctor Who though. Seems that David Tennant is, or was, dating the daughter of Peter Davison or was it Mark Strickson? Or was she just some random daughter of some character on the show? Sure enough though he is dating someone's daughter. If you can figure it out please let me know.

This podcast isn't about the David Tennant era of Doctor Who though. This is about the successor to the longest running, and my personal favourite, Doctor in the show's history. We're talking about the fifth Doctor played by Peter Davison and his companions. Whilst Peter Davison obviously was not my favourite he certainly seems to have Gerri and Eugenia quite smitten.

As luck would have it Peter Davison and one of his companions, Turlough played by Mark Strickson, were at Culture Shock in Sydney recently. Eugenia just happened to be attending that convention and was lucky enough to get an interview with Mark Strickson. He certainly is a character but in a humble way. Very sure of himself but not arrogant. With the achievements he has under his belt who could blame him for being so confident.

Perhaps it is his sense of humor that takes the edge off that self confidence. Perhaps it's because it turns out he is responsible for bringing us Steve Irwin. Regardless you can't but find yourself smiling at some of the stories he regales us with.

So sit back and join Gerri and Eugenia as they bring back some fond memories and chat with Doctor Who companion Mark Strickson.

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