

GE NEWS



WOMEN TALK Sci Fi



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Press Conference



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HOYTS 100
Years





We are sure that all of you have heard of the Action Figure GI Joe well no longer does this soldier just hide in a toy box! GE News was invited to attend the first leg of the GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra, world promotional tour. George Chris our Sydney correspondent attended the conference and told us that "The movie looks great" and the stars attending said that they think that everyone who watches will want more! Is this the beginning of a new franchise? Attending the conference was Sienna Miller, Channing Tatum, Marlon Wayans, Rachel Nichols, Stephen Sommers (Director, writer and producer), and Lorenzo di Bonaventura (producer).



Download our Podcast to hear the stars and director of the movie at the recent press conference in Sydney.

www.womentalkscifi.com

Sienna Miller says that "...It was a great project and really a fun role. I got to play a villain, I got to learn how to fire guns and work with a great director and a great cast." & "We made a great movie!"

Producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura said that "What is great about these movies (Transformers and GI Joe) is they are mythologies. "It is really a wealth of material frankly, and is greater than a lot of books that I have put into movies".

Rachel Nichols, Channing Tatum, Marlon Wayans and Sienna Miller at the Sydney Press conference



Stephen Sommers (Director) said that "This movie is a real human character story, it is fantastic and I wanted to make it as real as possible."

If you want to hear more from the director and the actors then download our podcast and listen to what they have to say!

Don't forget to head over to a Hoyts Cinema near you to catch it when it comes out



Supanova, Here We Come!!

It was only two weeks before Supanova that Gerri and I finally decided to go. So, what encouraged us to make the trip? Well two things really, Karl Urban 'Bones' in the new Star Trek movie and the guys from the original Battlestar Galactica.

As the event got nearer it started to get exciting as we knew we had interviews with the Battlestar actors. Every time I (Eugenia) thought about it I had to do a little dance!

We flew into Sydney late Friday night and were met by my good friend Mary the same one I dragged along to the Star Wars Exhibit a few months before. I think she was rather glad that she didn't have to come to Supernova with us.

When we arrived at The Dome people were lined up, many dressed for the cos play competitions. We got in and rushed to find the 'Gifts for the Geek' stall to say "hello" to our friends Jason and Darren and went exploring to see where everything was.

Buying autograph tokens was our first port of call and with those in hand we lined up to get our first glimpse of the actors and get our photos signed.

The actors began to trickle in, the guys from Battlestar Galactica, Herb Jefferson Jr, Boomer, Dirk Benedict, Starbuck and Richard Hatch who played Apollo in the original series and Tom Zarek in the re-imagined. Soon the dreamy, take our breath away Karl Urban came in and took his place at the signing table.

Even though there were lots of people the autograph lines moved quickly and it was easy going from person to person, chatting with each of them.

There was plenty to see and do at Supanova with anime screenings, Cos Play competitions, talks by guests and stalls of various goodies and of course the wrestling.

The afternoon ended with our first interview with Richard Hatch, a truly genuine, lovely man. Richard an actor, writer, composer, who spends a lot of his time as a motivational speaker.

Tired but happy we left The Dome.

Cont'd



Sunday morning and this time, familiar with the layout we went straight to 'Gifts for the Geek' said hello and headed once again for the signing area. It was here that we spent the rest of the day waiting to interview the guests in between their signing and photograph schedules.

Firstly, we talked to Herb Jefferson Jr., an interesting man who has done work for Charity with the Special Olympics and USO and had the privilege of being shown his photo album of his work and the people he has met. We were impressed that Herb has met Neil Armstrong. Wow!!

Next was Dirk Benedict, Starbuck in the original Battlestar Galactica and Templeton 'Faceman' Peck of the A-Team. Dirk has very strong convictions and was never short for a word.

Waiting in the wings we chatted to Steve who has a really interesting job. He is one of the actors you see dressed up in large character suits. Doing this for a living and going from event to event dressed in all sorts of character outfits like Shrek, the NSW Origin mascot, and the St George Dragon. Today he was Sonic The Hedgehog advertising the new Sonic Game.

We weren't able to talk with Rachelle Lefevre who plays Victoria in the new Twilight movie due to her hectic schedule but we did get a chance to have a short chat with her and she told us about her shopping trip in Sydney. She was very pleased with her Aussie purchases.

Jake Lloyd was our next interview. The now grown up young Anakin Skywalker from Star Wars The Phantom Menace, is 20 years old but still has very fond memories of his time on the set. Currently studying film arts he wants to direct rather than act.

Finally, we talked to Karl Urban. We did a quick interview as it was the end of the day and he still had a photo session to do. Karl is a down to earth, gorgeous guy who loved his role as 'Bones' McCoy and is looking forward to the next movie. Gerri was thrilled (I really was) to have interviewed Karl as this meant she had now met 'Kirk' (Chris Pine), 'Spock' (Zachary Quinto) and 'McCoy' (Karl Urban), scoring the hat trick!!

We want to send a special hello to Tones who we met on the plane going to Sydney. Weren't we surprised when out of nowhere a touch on a shoulder and who was it? Tones! He was just as surprised to see us. Just goes to show you can't really tell a Geek from the outside!!

With our interviews recorded we headed to the airport to fly back to Adelaide.



The Day I Met The Doctor



Yes!! I finally got to go to a Doctor Who Convention!! Well technically it wasn't my first because I got to see Colin Baker, Sylvester McCoy and Katy Manning in a Concert format at the Festival Theatre in Adelaide. The Convention you have when you are not having a convention.

My heart jumped when I first found out that Culture Shock Events (you can find out about their next conventions on www.cultureshockexpo.com) was bringing out not only a 'Who' guest but it was to be a Doctor! The fifth doctor, Peter Davison!!

I have grown up with Doctor Who and ever since I can remember I have watched it. It's one of those shows that took me to a different place, I loved the aliens, I loved the shaky sets, I loved the concepts of science it started to introduce me to. To meet some of the actors that are part of that show is not easy when you live down under and down under in Adelaide.

So, how did I feel when I found out there was going to be a second guest? Well 'like WOW!!' I couldn't believe it. One day I was looking up the Culture Shock website just to check that the Con was still on as it is very hard for Conventions at times to keep with their original line up. What I found was that Peter Davison was still coming but so was Mark Strickson, the fifth Doctor's companion Turlough.

So off to Sydney I went! The Doctor Down under was held at the Sebel Hotel in Parramatta and the only criticism I would have about the Convention is that the room we were in was very small. All the dealers were also in the same room, so there wasn't much space to move around in. With this said getting my ticket, having my photo taken with the actors and getting the actor's autographs ran smoothly.



Competition prize see issue 13

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The Day I Met The Doctor

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I sat down to be entertained by two very funny men. Peter and Mark have the 'gift of the gab' and are excellent story tellers. Peter has been in many British TV series since leaving Doctor Who and I remember coming across him when he was Tristan in 'All Creatures Great and Small', he was gorgeous! After having four older looking men as the Doctor, Peter Davison came in as a young, energetic Timelord and even with his strange outfit and celery buttonhole he was a real cutie.

Some of the story lines for Peter were well written but of course in true Doctor Who tradition, some were clangers. One of the most interesting storylines was the fact that a companion was out to kill the Doctor. Turlough, the not so innocent school boy had been placed in the Tardis by the Black Guardian to get rid of the Doctor. This is probably why I didn't warm to the character of Turlough as he made Doctor Who slightly darker. However as I grow older I appreciate what each companion brings to the story (except Mel, she just screamed too much!!) and watching Dr Who on DVD I appreciate it even more.

From the time Mark was on stage he had all of us in stitches. He has had and does have a very interesting life with his work in TV shows in England, his passion for ecological issues, which spurred his move from England to studying Zoology in Australia, and the work that he now does producing wildlife/nature documentaries in New Zealand.

I had the opportunity to interview Mark and you can hear the complete interview on our podcast website www.womentalkscifi.com

We would like to say a big thank you to Robbie from Culture Shock Events for donating our prize for our first GE News Competition.

Keep checking their website and ours for further news about their up and coming conventions, LeVar Burton is coming in August.

Eugenia Stopyra



Scott Liston - First Contact Conventions

Eugenia and I have been to many conventions around Australia so we thought that it was time for us to let you meet some of the convention company owners and organisers. This time we are talking with Scott Liston, owner and event manager of First Contact Conventions.

Scott can you tell us when did your interest in science fiction start?

My interest in Sci-fi began so long ago I can't even remember. I was raised on VGER and never looked back.

I remember back when I was in about grade 4 making my Dad drive to every video store in our area until I had a copy of each of the Star Wars movies so I could watch them all in a row.

Of course my kids don't need to worry about Dad not having something like that to watch, their problem is more what version to watch :)

How long have you been involved in running conventions?

First Contact Conventions started back in 2004. I think we got the name registered and started the ground work in about February, with the first convention being held in the October. That was nerve racking and I think I slept for 2 days straight after the first one, but now they are a lot easier and have been known to knock a convention together overnight...literally!

So with a 2 year gap, I started to think about it and then...First Contact was born. Although I do remember a conversation around a table at a convention wrap party one night and it was thrown around then.



Is this a full-time business for you or do you also have a day job?

The sci-fi conventions are just a side line, run by a fan, for fans. Although I do work in events and exhibitions full time. Running shows right up the east coast.

What made you want to be involved in organising conventions?

It wasn't a thought of "oh, let's do this because they look like fun". It was more that no one else was running conventions in Melbourne and I started to get sick of going interstate all the time for them.

Tell us about the process you go through to organise a convention e.g. how do you choose your guests? The type of activities you will run?

LOL, there's nothing that scientific about it. I guess in regards to the choosing of the guests, I just look at people who I'd like to meet and then sound them out, get costings, run the numbers and then go with it if it will work out. As a fan and a regular guy with a regular job, I can't afford to loose money on these, which is why conventions get cancelled a lot more these days. Just lack of ticket sales. So if people want conventions to go ahead, I strongly advise booking your ticket early. This is good for the organiser as they have a better indication of their numbers, but it also has the benefit to the attendee of getting a seat closer to the stage and the guest.

In regards to what activities, I just like to make it fun. As long as everyone is laughing and having a good time, that's the only thing I am looking for. At LeVar in August, we have a KAAAHN contest. This was a suggestion made by a friend of mine and I thought it sounded funny. Basically we will get people from the audience to come up onto stage and give their best Star Trek 2, Admiral Kirk impersonation. I know everyone knows the scene I'm talking about :) There will also be a great prize for the winner.

Do you use volunteers to help run your conventions? If so, where do they come from?

Pretty much all conventions are run by volunteers. My team are the best on the circuit (I can only figure this as other promoters try and steal them all the time). They are all friends of mine, but we were all fans first. Many of them started out as my attendees and we just hit it off.

If money was no object, which guest/s would you like to have at a convention and why?

This is a tough one and if money was no object, I don't think it would be a single guest I'd aim at. You'd have to look at something like getting the entire cast of a show. What a way to get that fully signed picture, all in one hit! I'd probably look at any of the Star Trek or Stargate casts, but that's just to satisfy my inner fan boy.

Who have been some of your most memorable guests and why?

Hmmm, there have been so many. When I think about it, the conventions where I have enjoyed myself the most have been 2001 A Space Odyssey, with Gary Lockwood and Keir Dullea. These guys were awesome and I had a ball with them. They never stoped talking the whole week and the stories were amazing. Lockwood is such a name dropper. But a place very close to my heart was the week we spent with Don S. Davis and Carmen Argenziano. Don was one of the most amazing people I ever met and I considered it an honour and privilege to call him a friend.

Do you offer absentee packs for your conventions?

Yes, You'll find most conventions do. Although I think I'm a bit slack and probably don't have that on my website. But if people email me, I'm more than happy to help them out to get their autographs. Personalization's are never an issue either.



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GE News 1 year in publication

CULTURE SHOCK EVENTS presents

OzTrek 09

LEVAR BURTON

'GEORDI LA FORGE'

Melbourne, 22nd August 2009 Sydney, 23rd August 2009



Click on the picture above to find out more about meeting LeVar Burton and his conventions in Melbourne, and Sydney Australia, August 2009



Apollo 11

40th Anniversary



Moon Landing

JAMES WEBB TELESCOPE



Artist's Conception of a Planetary Disk (credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/R. Hurt (SSC))

In 2014 the James Webb Telescope will be launched taking over from The Hubble Telescope. Its new design will allow the detection of infrared radiation. This means it will be able to view objects that are far beyond the reach of the Hubble and help to reveal the answers to some of the biggest mysteries of astronomy.

Originally 'The Next Generation Telescope' in 2002 it was renamed the James Webb Telescope. Pity 'The Next Generation Telescope' has a bit more of a Star Trek feel to it!!

James Webb ran NASA from 1961 to 1968. Many believed that he has done more for science than any other US government official. During his time at NASA he encouraged the development of robotic spacecraft, which explored the lunar environment so that astronauts could do so later, and he sent scientific probes to Mars and Venus. He retired just before the first landing on the moon in July 1969 but he had already been part of the administration that launched more than 75 space science missions to study the stars and galaxies.

His other accomplishments included creating the NASA University Program, which established grants for space research, funded the construction of new laboratories at universities and provided fellowships for graduate students. He also increased the role of scientists at NASA giving them greater control in the selection of the scientific missions.

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said when he announced the new name for the next generation space telescope, "It is fitting that Hubble's successor be named in honour of James Webb. Thanks to his efforts, we got our first glimpses at the dramatic landscape of outer space. He took our nation on its first voyages of exploration, turning our imagination into reality. Indeed, he laid the foundations at NASA for one of the most successful periods of astronomical discovery. As a result, we're rewriting the textbooks today with the help of the Hubble Space Telescope , the Chandra X-ray Observatory , and the James Webb Telescope."



Images courtesy of NASA

James Edwin Webb (7 Oct 1906 – 27 March 1992)

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CULTURE SHOCK EVENTS

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