



All I want for Christmas!!

Check out what you can give The Geek for Christmas, be it a new Spock belt buckle, the latest way to read books "The Nook", to cross stitching them a Dr Who or making them some models. We have the gift idea for you!

However, if you are in Australia then maybe a ticket to the convention below will make it the best of Christmas' for The Geek in you or someone you know!



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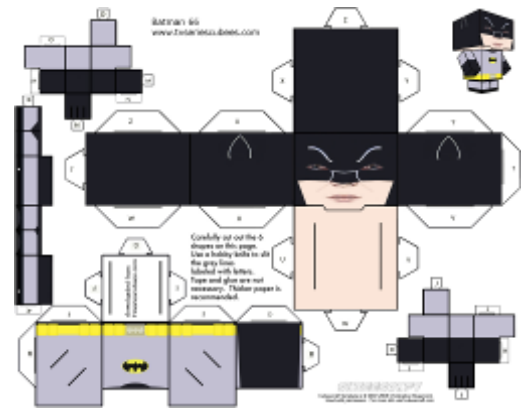


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ARMAGEDDON

EXPO

OCTOBER 2009

OFF WE GO AGAIN!

Doing what we love best. Going to a Con!! This time it was Armageddon in Melbourne during October. As usual it was an early trip to the airport on the Saturday morning, just getting to the flight desk by the skin of my teeth before the flight closed!! Thank goodness everything else went smoothly.

At the airport Gerri, Jim (Gerri's husband) and myself met up with Marlene who was also travelling over to Armageddon with us. We were all excited about the days ahead (Jim happy that he was going to the Timber Show and Ecology Expo).

We arrived in Melbourne, dropped off our bags, had breakfast, ready to pace ourselves for the hours of fun ahead. First port of call was the 'Gifts for the Geek' stall to say hello to our friends Jason and Darren, to catch up on gossip and orientate ourselves. The plan of attack was formed. Marlene lined up to get her tickets to have her photo taken with the guests. Gerri and I had a look around seeing what was there.

This year was a feast of Stargate Atlantis and Twilight guests. Paul McGillion (Carson Beckett), Joe Flanigan (John Sheppard), Jason Momoa (Rhonan Dax) and Christopher Hyderdahl (Todd the Wraith, also Marcus in New Moon) along with Cameron Bright (Alec, New Moon and young Orlin in Stargate SG-1), Bronson Pellitier (Jacob, New Moon) and a couple from other Sci Fi shows Gigi Edgley (Chiana, Farscape) and Noah Gray-Cabey (Micah, Heroes). Our wallets certainly a lot lighter after buying autographs including more than one from some of the guests. Friends of ours Therese and Lisa joined us and we set off to listen to the first of the guest talks.

Chris Hyderdahl was brilliant, one of those guests that wasn't a main actor in a show but was a fantastic Con guest, very entertaining and you could tell loved meeting his fans. Jason Momoa was a lot of fun and had lots of stories to tell about life on the set. Next was Bronson's talk about the new Twilight movie with many of the teenagers piling in to listen to his talk! Vampires and Werewolves have certainly taken the world by storm.

Getting autographs was next and by this stage with most of the lines lessened it wasn't long before we had most of the autographs we needed and a chance to have short talks with all of the guests. Gerri and I got talking to Gigi about her recent engagement and admiring the ring, it had a lovely sparkle to it.

The day came to a close, tired and hungry but very happy we left the Exhibition Centre ready to do it all again the next day.



Up early again and a short walk to Armageddon. The Sci Fi, Anime and fantasy costumes people were wearing were amazing with a lot of thought and effort going into them. We met up with fellow Adelaidean Darren who had made his own Dr Who new series Cyberman outfit, he is extremely talented making many Sci Fi models to perfection. You would be hard pressed to tell the difference between Darren's and a proper Dr Who Cyberman. There were many dressed as anime characters, Star Wars, comic heroes and other TV shows. It was like having your own personal quiz game trying to guess who the characters were.



We sat in on Paul McGillion and Joe Flanigan's talks. Two very funny men with Jason turning up in both talks pretending to be a fan who asked an awkward question. It didn't take long for both of them to work out it was Jason. An added bonus was the talk by the Robot Chicken guys Seth Green, Matthew Senreich and Tom Root. Seth Green is a real fanboy and also very short!! You don't realise how short he is until you see him in real life.



As we were waiting for Noah Gray-Cabey's talk, who should seek us out but Noah's mother. We had talked with her briefly the day before and she wanted to come and say hello to us a lovely woman who was very proud of her son.



Other exhibits included the 'Back to the Future' DeLorean replica of the car from the movie it looked magnificent with a lot of time, effort and money put into it. There was also a display of Twilight costumes some were the real deal and others were copies of costumes from both movies.



Sadly it was time to leave. With lots of photos taken, many autographs obtained plenty of memories and very little money we left the Centre, and took a taxi to the airport ready to fly back to Adelaide. Gerri stayed over for another day to compensate her husband for her many jaunts interstate taking in the Pompeii and DaVinci exhibitions so from the future to the past from the fiction to the fact, what a weekend!



Rick Moyer Podcaster & Parody Song Writer



Rick, tell us a little about yourself?

I am a 44 year old Sci Fi buff and podcaster from Aberdeen WA. I do a weekly podcast called Take Him With You. (takehimwithyou.com) I am also a recording artist, public speaker, and a writer. I am a former pastor. I have been married to my wife Amy for 23 years and we have three children. I am very interested in music, the Space program, Stars, Star Trek, electronic gadgets and computers.

When/how did your love of Sci Fi begin?

I started enjoying Sci Fi at an early age. The Bionic Man, reruns of Star Trek, Buck Rogers in the 25th Century and other shows caught my eye as a kid. I also enjoyed Man from Atlantis, The Bionic Woman, Knight Rider, Space 1999 and more. I loved Star Wars, so much so that I would put my big barn boots on, a cape and grab a big branch from the yard and pretend to be Darth Vader. I also enjoyed Westworld with Yul Brynner and Planet of the Apes.

In particular, which shows caught your interest and why?

I think my favourite Sci Fi has to be Star Trek. The optimism and future outlook is so cool, not to mention the gadgets and gizmos that the show displayed. In my 20s when Star Trek The Next Generation came out, I was thrilled. I have watched every episode of every Star Trek series many, many times.

Are there any scifi shows that have started in the last few years that you enjoy and why?

I recently just got done watching Defying Gravity. I was so impressed with the storyline, production value and execution of that show. It's too bad it only lasted one season. I have really enjoyed The Sarah Connor Chronicles, and also have watched Smallville since it started.

Obviously, Sci Fi has influenced your life because you are podcasting and writing parody songs about it, why do you think that is so?

I like the possibilities and opportunities that Sci Fi suggests. I think the creative aspect of it inspires me to write, and think about the future in a positive way. I like good music, cool lighting effects and great stories. So Sci Fi has all of that and more! It helps me to embrace technology and use it to further my ideas. I love that.

Why do you think Sci Fi is the genre that "makes" fans decide to expand their lives into other areas such as podcasting, writing music, writing for a magazine, or making a fan film, etc?

It's the creativity that it inspires. It opens up your mind to new ideas and different cultures. It deals with problems in our society in an indirect way without confusing things for us. In other words, we can examine a cultural or society disagreement without getting mad at each other. It also brings creative people from all walks of life together without prejudice. I have met some wonderful people that I would have never even talked to because of Trek and other Science Fiction. I have also noticed that Sci Fi fans love to talk and share their lives.

How do you get an idea for a song parody?

It usually comes from just thinking about an episode of Star Trek, or other types of Sci Fi shows. I think about something like the Star Trek TNG episode Tapestry- there were many songs I could have done, but when I was watching it, I saw the Nausican's playing Dom Jot with Jean Luc. It hit me, hahaha! Humans playing Dom Jot. I looked up on iTunes Pat Benatar and found "Hit me with your best shot!" The rest, as they say, is history. Did the same thing with the 20 year anniversary of TNG. TNG... TNT from AC/DC popped into my head. It was a natural. And the list goes on. Probably my most favourite play on words was from Tommy Tutone and their song 8675309, Jenny. I was thinking of Seven of Nine from Voyager during the episode Unimatrix One. And the song "Unimatrix Zero One Seven of Nine" was born. Works great with that phrase!



Are you involved in the music industry or do you play an instrument for enjoyment?

I started playing for enjoyment way back in 4th grade. I played the tenor saxophone. When I was introduced to rock n roll, my uncle Bruce taught me to play the Animal's song "House of the Rising Sun" it uses five chords I think, and if you learn that song, you can play any rock n roll tune! So I got a twelve string guitar, and learned to play. I also play the piano, the bass guitar, and the drums and just about anything you can put in my hands. I love music and I love to manipulate sound. The most favourite thing that I do is play the synthesizer. With it I create atmospheres of sound and paint ambience like a painter makes pictures. I put out my first professional CD called "STARGAZER: A collection of songs to watch the stars with" in October of 2009. On it are 13 original instrumental songs with space audio mixed in. It's designed to simply chill out too. It is very electronic and stereophonic and can be used to watch the stars with or simply relax too. <http://www.takehimwithyou.com/stargazer> has more information on it and some samples.

What has been some of your favourite parodies you have composed so far and why?

My all time favourite parody song is called "Life is just a holodeck" it is a parody of Aldo Nova's song "Life is just a fantasy" I have always enjoyed that song, and with a character like Barclay, well, it just begged for some Star Trek Lyrics. I love to rock out, so a close second it "TNG" you can find those over at <http://www.christrocks.com/parody>

In relation to your podcasting

How long have you been podcasting?

I have been involved in radio since high school. I worked for ten years in that area before I worked full time at a church. After I resigned from the church I started the podcast because I wanted to share my life with people from around the world. I wanted to use rock music, geeky stuff and reality to talk about my life and faith. I was inspired from Rico Dostie, the guy who does the Treks in Sci Fi Podcast. I started doing some parodies and comments for his show, improved my recording equipment and then got the idea. I started dreaming about talking to more than 200 people a week. Now we are getting thousands of downloads and are in 130 Countries. This is all since we started last February.



*Rich Moyer
Podcaster & Parody Song
Writer*



What is your podcast about?

The podcast Take Him With You is a show about my life. I talk about geeky things like my computers, I pod, Sci Fi shows and movies and more. I play music that I produce in my studio and I talk about my faith. It's all done in an entertaining and encouraging way. My goal is to encourage anyone who listens. I cover a wide variety of subjects and so frequent Twitter and Facebook polls for the show. I wanted something that people could download and take with them that was Spiritual but not religious. In other words, I am tired of stuffy religion that really doesn't do anything for people

Why do you enjoy podcasting? What are some of the opportunities/experiences you have had due to podcasting?

I love it because I can express my life with media that I am comfortable with. As far as opportunities? I have made some of the best friends that I have ever had, from all around the world. That is the best part. To know that people's lives are being blessed and helped is the best reward a guy could ever have. I have really enjoyed having the opportunity to pray for people on a weekly basis. I love doing that.

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A Strange New World

The Land of Anime



It was my first visit to AvCon and I wasn't sure what to expect. This was a two day Adelaide based convention totally devoted to anime. I have not watched a lot of anime, Kimba the White Lion and Robotech are the sum total of my anime experience. I missed the whole Pokémon craze only because I found the whole thing a bit childish and didn't really like the story lines.

In the last year or so I have become more aware of the anime phenomenon that has taken the teenage world by storm. When you go to an anime convention it really does put the Star Trek Costume parade to shame. The costumes the teenagers are wearing are incredible and the percentage that dress up are high.

With my ticket round my neck I took a big breath (as I was at the Con on my own) and launched myself into this foreign territory.

My first port of call was the dealer's room which was in semi darkness. I found that really strange, not that anyone around me seemed to mind. The room was dark to enhance the video games, LCD screens and computers that were in the room. It was noisy and there were lots of people crammed around screens trying the new games that are coming out on the market. I had just missed an air guitar competition that was happening in another part of the room.



A sigh of relief as in the distance I saw some familiar faces. Jason and Darren from Gifts for the Geek had a stall and so did Cherie and Nick from CENAT Enterprises. Touching base with them I felt a little happier as I knew I could always return to their stalls for a friendly face.

Once I checked out the dealer's room I ventured into the Cos Play Competition. Again I had heard of Cos Play but never knew exactly what happened. The auditorium was packed. I managed to get a seat in about the 20th row. With camera in hand I started to watch this new craze.

It was fascinating. The teenagers who enter into this competition do take a lot of time and thought in how they present their character. Firstly they are judged on their costume. Secondly they act out a part that highlights their character. This was done in two ways, video or audio. A number of the contestants had pieced together a clip about their character. As the clip was being played they also acted the scene out. It was the same for the audio. Many hours would have been put into the one minute presentation. All the in jokes went over my head but people around me in the know found them funny. Cos Play is a lot harder to enter than your regular Star Trek/Sci Fi dress up.

Once the Cos Play entrants had finished there was an opportunity for all the other people dressed up to show off on stage. These costumes ranged from simple outfits such as the boy from Pokémon to elaborate characters I had no idea who they were.

Next I went to the foyer area. On the wall was an anime drawing contest. There were many spectacular entries of different anime or anime like characters. As I continued going through the foyer the thing that tickled my funny bone was watching a group of approximately 20 people all huddled together, all with their DS' open, all staring at their screens, discussing the newest games. Eugenia Stopyra





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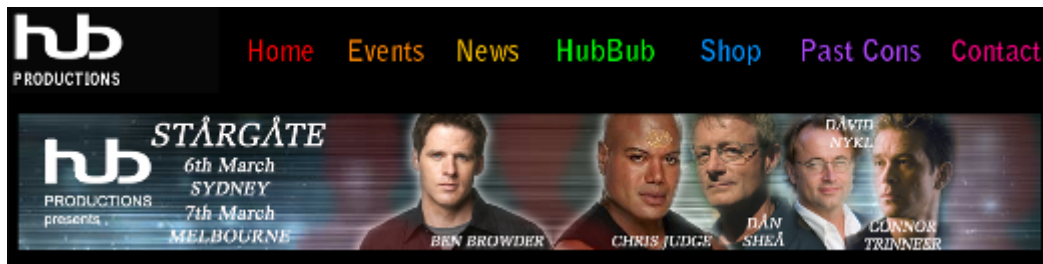


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