

I M P U L S E

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTRÉLAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

February / Février 2017 (Vol. 21, No./N° 2)

**NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND**

**Sunday, February 12**  
**12:00PM-5:00PM**  
**Grand Salon**  
**Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.**  
**Downtown Montreal**

*MEETING THEME: In celebration of Valentine's Day, simply wear something red!*

**PROGRAMME**

**12:00PM-1:00PM**

**EARLY-BIRD BRAINSTORMING SESSION:**  
 We work further on our schedule for 2017's meeting programming; fresh ideas welcome!

**1:00PM-3:00PM**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Are flying saucers real? Is Agent Mulder on to something? MonSFFA welcomes retired McGill University professor Don Donderi, who will be speaking on the topic of UFOs. Professor Donderi has authored the book UFOs, ETs and Alien Abductions: A Scientist Looks at the Evidence.

**3:00PM-3:30PM**

**MID-MEETING BREAK:** Brief discussion of club business; fund-raising raffle

**3:30PM-4:30PM**

**EH, ROBOT!:** What will the Canadian economy look like in the future? Will there still be jobs for everyone when robots are doing all the work? Will we attain SF's utopian dream of a fully automated society without want or need, or are we staring down the barrel of a dystopia? Discuss!

**4:30PM-5:00PM**

**BRAINSTORMING SESSION, REDUX:** To close the afternoon, we briefly get back to working on our 2017's meeting programming, fine-tuning and finalizing any outstanding scheduling. Missed the early-bird session? You can still contribute! Put forth your ideas now!

**NEXT TWO MEETINGS:**  
 March 12, April 9

**CLUB ELECTION RESULTS**

As is the club's practise, MonSFFA held elections at its January meeting to select the Executive Committee for the coming year. Returned to office were: Cathy Palmer-Lister, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; and Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer. These long-serving MonSFFen will form our 2017 Executive Committee.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on behalf of the membership. These executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility.

On occasion, a second vice-president may be required, usually to handle an important, specific task, or to take the reins on a special project. A co-VP was not elected for 2017.

We offer congratulations, thanks, and our best wishes to the 2017 Executive Committee as they take the helm.

**DATES CONFIRMED, CLUB MEETINGS MOVE DOWN THE HALL**

We have received word that all of the meeting dates we requested for 2017 have been confirmed. All Sundays, those dates, now official, are: January 15 (meeting has taken place), February 12, March 12, April 9, June 4 (book sale), August 27 (fancraft workshops, group projects), September 17, October 15, and November 12.

In addition, we have a field trip planned for Sunday, May 14, our annual picnic-in-the-park set for Sunday, July 16, and our Christmas Dinner/Party scheduled for Saturday evening, December 9.

We are informed that because of a recent downsizing of meeting hall facilities at the Hôtel Espresso, our longstanding meeting room, St-François, is no longer free past 4:00PM Sundays. As this would cut into our meetings by some 30-60

**DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR BELOW? CHECK THIS SPACE TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE**

*The Annual Membership Fees of the Following Club Members are...*

**Overdue:**  
 D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda  
 DUROCHER, Marc  
 GLOVER, Wayne  
 NOVO, Alice  
 NOVO, Fernando  
 PETTIT, William S.  
 WHITELAW, Maureen

**Due This Month, February:**  
 RUFIANGE, Yolande

**Due Next Month, March:**  
 MÉNARD, François  
 SIMARD, Phil  
 WALLING, Evelyn  
 WALLING, René

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

**MonSFFA c/o**  
**4456 Boul. Ste-Rose**  
**Laval, Québec, Canada**  
**H7R 1Y6**

*Thank you for your patronage*

**MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

**AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION**

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

NAME/NOM: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE/ÂGE: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL./TEL.: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

Province Postal Code/Code Postal E-MAIL/COURRIEL: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS/INTERETS: \_\_\_\_\_

minutes, we opted to move permanently to the larger Grand Salon, down the hall.

Note, however, that on occasion, the Grand Salon may not be available, at which point we'll either hike back to the St-François for a truncated meeting, or relocate upstairs to the 7th-floor luxury suite (room 700) in which we held a couple of meetings last year.

Such room changes may be last-minute, so if you don't find us in Grand Salon, check the two alternates above mentioned. A quick inquiry at the front desk downstairs in the main lobby will also get you pointed in the right direction.

Finally, we have obtained a freeze in room rental costs for the year, which is sure to please the Treasurer!

## January Club Meeting

The opened 2017 with a well-attended January 15 meeting. The afternoon's agenda was a busy one!

Keith Braithwaite kicked it off with an exploration of SF/F soundtracks and notable Genre film and television composers presented in the form of a difficult but fun game employing a range of classic sci-fi film music and contemporary TV themes and songs. The group was divided into two teams that took turns endeavouring to correctly identify, from short excerpts, the movies and television shows for which each piece of music was composed.

A selection of orchestral pieces, synthesizer driven electronic works, and pop music numbers employed as TV themes tested the group's knowledge of sci-fi/fantasy/horror soundtracks. Throughout the game, Keith paused briefly to speak of such outstanding composers as Bernard Herrmann, John Williams, Jerry Goldsmith, and horror director John Carpenter, who scored most of his own films.

Keith also touched on the subject of SF/F themes, metaphor, and imagery in pop and rock music, inviting folk to identify songs and singers from a few lines of lyrics, a challenge that proved rather daunting!

The club also welcomed MonSFFAn Christopher Hammock to the podium to update folk on plans to relaunch the dormant local gaming convention Draconis, coming March 3-5, 2017, at Cégep du Vieux Montréal.

For more information, check out the con's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FestivalDraconis](http://www.facebook.com/FestivalDraconis)

The club held its annual elections, on this occasion, choosing MonSFFA's Executive Committee for 2017 (see lead item).

Danny Sichel gave a talk on the concept and attributes of gods, depicted in Genre literature and elsewhere, speaking of such godly characteristics as omniscience, immortality, and divinity. He compared the mythologies of the various gods with what science has to say about the universe and spoke of the relationship between man and deity, putting up visuals as he spoke to illustrate his points.

Finally, Cathy Palmer-Lister led a brainstorming session seeking to compile programming ideas and schedule presentations, discussion panels, and workshops for the club's upcoming meetings.

For their invaluable contributions to this first club meeting of 2017, we thank our programme participants,

and acknowledge, also, those who helped to plan and run the event.

Several MonSFFen convened for dinner after the meeting, enjoying the hearty menu at the nearby Irish Embassy Pub and Grill.

## Powerless Brings Humour to DC's On-Screen Universe

The newest superhero television series doesn't focus on superheroes at all! A light sitcom, NBC's *Powerless* brings much needed humour to DC's on-screen universe. The show stars Vanessa Hudgens (*Sucker Punch*) and Alan Tudyk (*Firefly*, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*).

Hudgens is Emily Locke, who is thrilled to have been hired as the new R&D director at the Wayne Enterprises subsidiary Wayne Security, a company that makes products for average folk, providing them a measure of safety in a world in which superheroes and supervillains regularly clash in and around Charm City. Tudyk plays Bruce Wayne's wastrel of a cousin, Van, who heads Wayne Security.

The residents of Charm City must constantly deal with the fallout of superheroes battling supervillains—smashed buildings, wrecked transit systems and the like—and have become weary of it all, even resentful that yet another superhero incident on the way to work is going to cause them to be late for a meeting or some such inconvenience. Emily has yet to grow so jaded and remains starstruck when encountering superheroes.

When Bruce Wayne decides to shut down Wayne Security because it isn't turning out any worthwhile products, Van makes no effort to save the company, seeing an opportunity to move back to Gotham City and climb the corporate ladder. But Emily motivates her motley crew of R&D personnel into developing a highly effective wrist-worn supervillain detector, impressing Bruce Wayne, who decides to keep Wayne Security operational.

Gently poking fun at the absurdity of the comic book superhero trope, the humour is quiet, unforced, and delightfully silly. The premise is the winner, here, something of a cross between the Steve Carell sitcom *The Office* and the 1994 comic book miniseries *Marvels*. The show also offers comic book fans obscure DC references and inside nods, like having Adam West provide an introductory voice-over in the pilot.

If the series remains true to itself, and its talented cast are permitted to develop their quirky characters, *Powerless* has a lot of potential.—*review by Carl Phillips*

### Briefly:

- ▶ Battlestar Galactica's original Captain Apollo, Richard Hatch, has died. He was 71. The actor passed away on February 7 after a lengthy illness.
- ▶ Peter Capaldi is leaving Doctor Who later this year! The Scottish actor who has interpreted the Doctor's 12th incarnation since 2013 recently announced that the modern series' tenth season will be his last. Also departing the series at the conclusion of season ten is showrunner Stephen Moffat.
- ▶ Ben Affleck will star but no longer direct the solo Batman movie expected for 2018 or 2019. Playing the Caped Crusader "demands focus, passion and the very best performance I can give," Affleck contends. "It has become clear that I cannot do both jobs to the level they require. Together with the studio, I have decided to find a partner in a director who will collaborate with me on this massive film. I am still in this, and we are making it, but we are currently looking for a director."
- ▶ Born just down the road in Trois-Rivières, Canadian director Denis Villeneuve is fast becoming a star Genre filmmaker. His acclaimed 2016 SF film *Arrival* is up for eight Oscars, including Best Director and Best Picture. He is currently finishing work on *Blade Runner 2049*, scheduled for an October 6 release this year, and will follow up with a reboot of *Dune*!
- ▶ The next Star Wars film has a title, *Star Wars: Episode VIII—The Last Jedi*. The late Carrie "Leia" Fisher will appear in the movie; the actress had completed filming her scenes shortly before her untimely passing this past Christmas. Disney recently made it clear that Leia will not appear in the ninth and final chapter of the Skywalker saga as originally planned, not even in CGI form. The character's fate remains undecided at this juncture but producers will have to somehow explain her sudden absence from the storyline. The Episode VIII action picks up immediately following the closing moments of Episode VII. Caution: here there be spoilers! Leaked script pages suggest that Rey will be trained in the ways of the Force by Luke, much as he had been schooled by Yoda, while less reliable rumours have it that the mysterious Snoke reveals to Luke in a pivotal scene that Anakin Skywalker was his son, making Snoke Luke's grandfather! Meanwhile, Joss Whedon is keen to direct a Star Wars movie! Maybe the Boba Fett stand-alone?

## Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: [www.MonSFFA.ca](http://www.MonSFFA.ca)

*Impulse* is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Cathy Palmer-Lister. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: [keith1958@live.ca](mailto:keith1958@live.ca) • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

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