

# I M P U L S E

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

May-June / Mai-Juin 2017 (Vol. 21, No./N° 5)

## CLUB FIELD TRIP IS UPCOMING

**Sunday, May 14**

### Group Outing to Old Port's Montreal Science Centre for CSI: THE EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Investigate crime scene, analyse evidence, solve case!
- ▶ Meet at 12:30PM in front of ticket booth, lobby of Science Centre. *Don't be late!*
- ▶ Enter exhibit area together at between 1:00PM and 1:15PM.
- ▶ Each club member responsible for own cost of admission, listed at \$23 (discounts and rebates available).
- ▶ See lead item (center column) for details.

### NEXT REGULAR MEETING

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 12:00PM-5:00PM**  
**Grand Salon, Hôtel Espresso,**  
**1005 Guy St., Downtown Montreal**

*MEETING THEME: Dragons! Wear a dragon T-shirt, socks, or cap; bring in a dragon-related item for our display table!*

### PROGRAMME

**12:00PM-2:00PM**

#### SUNDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE:

Showcasing movies featuring dragons!

**2:00PM-3:15PM**

**HERE THERE BE DRAGONS!**: We examine the legends surrounding fantasy's supreme beastie while highlighting some of the Genre's most memorable dragons!

**3:15PM-3:30PM**

**BREAK:** Dragon-themed raffle-prizes featured!

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

#### THE DRAGON SLAYER—DEFINING A HERO:

What are the key attributes of the dragon slayer, and of fantasy and SF heroes in general? Discuss!

## CLUB FIELD TRIP IN MAY

Attention MonSFFen! Mark Sunday, May 14, in your calendars, for with the Who's familiar guitar riff ringing in our ears, we're headed to the Montreal Science Centre at the Old Port to take in CSI: The Experience!

Based on the popular, long-running American television franchise, this "interactive learning adventure," so described, will allow us to play forensic detective as we investigate a "crime scene," collecting and analysing "blood splatter, DNA," and other evidence in order to solve a case of criminal nefariousness!

We'll meet no later than 12:30PM in front of the ticket booth in the Science Centre's lobby. Our plan is to have everyone purchase tickets for a 1:00PM or 1:15PM entry, so that we may all access the exhibit area at the same time.

*So don't be late!*

MonSFFen will be responsible for their own admission. Adult admittance is listed at \$23, with discounts available for children and seniors. A family rate is also offered, and we are given to understand that Canadian residents will benefit from a further rebate as part of the cross-country celebrations of Canada's 150th birthday this year!

Arrive a bit early if you wish to scoff a quick bite beforehand. You may pack a lunch, or purchase food and drink at the snack bar on site; a dining area is open to all.

The Montreal Science Centre is located on the King Edward Pier, Old Port of Montreal—that's at the intersection of St-Laurent Boulevard and de la Commune Street, an approximately 10- to 15-minute walk from either the Place d'Armes or Champs-de-Mars Metro stations.

Street parking is available in the area for those travelling by car, but we caution that it

**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  
 NADEAU, Marc  
 SIMARD, Phil  
 WHITELOW, Maureen

#### Due This Month, May:

SICHEL, Danny

#### Due Next Month, June:

BELLEMARE, Josée  
 SILVERMAN, Barbara

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: \_\_\_\_\_

can be difficult to find a spot. Alternately, paid parking is available in a lot adjacent the Science Centre (access via King Edward Pier entrance).

This outing will take place in lieu of a club meeting this month. Note that our next MonSFFA meeting is scheduled for June 4.

For more information on CSI: The Experience visit the Science Centre's Web site: [www.montrealsciencecentre.com](http://www.montrealsciencecentre.com)

## Night Sky Guy Visits MonSFFA

We welcomed astronomy writer/educator and life-long Star Trek fan Andrew "The Night Sky Guy" Fazekas to our April 9 club meeting to talk Trek and compare Star Trek science to real science. Andrew, a fan of the original 1960s series, in particular, asserts that, unlike other sci-fi TV shows of the day, Star Trek got a lot of the astronomical science right. Producers adhered to science fact as much as possible, he says, in creating their reasonably plausible science fiction storylines.

Andrew opened his presentation by outlining his interest—nurtured at an early age by his father—in both Star Trek and science, astronomy in particular. He noted that many of today's researchers, engineers, and technicians were inspired by Star Trek as youngsters, and that cell phones, iPads, and other modern electronic devices can trace their lineage back to the then-futuristic gadgets featured in Star Trek. Gene Roddenberry's inspirational sci-fi series served to instill in motivated young people a vision of the future that they have applied to the real world as adult scientists and inventors.

Andrew is author of the National Geographic publication *Star Trek: The Official Guide to the Universe*, in which the fictional stars and planets to which the starship Enterprise travels are compared with their counterparts in the real universe. The Orion Nebula, for example, could easily stand in for the fictional Mutara Nebula featured in *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*. And Spock's home world of Vulcan may well have a real-life equivalent orbiting the star 40 Eridani A, also known as Keid. Some of the 3000 or so exo-planets recently discovered by astronomers resemble the earth-like terrestrial planets that Star Trek classifies as M-Class worlds.

Pitching his proposed book to the Star Trek people, Andrew was met with pronounced enthusiasm and described the whole experience of researching and writing the book in exceedingly positive terms.

A lively Q&A followed and eager MonSFFen snapped up sale copies of Andrew's book, which he graciously autographed for each buyer.

The latter part of the meeting was given over to a workshop on the sound design of our paper cut-out stop-motion animated film project, concentrating on recording sound effects for the production.

Keith Braithwaite began by screening of a brief primer he had prepared on the art of what is called Foley, that is, the creation of specific sound effects tailored to a film or television show. The process is named for its inventor, Jack Foley.

Keith then showed the group how he had "scored" our short film by cutting and blending together snippets of royalty-free music downloaded via Creative Commons, before he and François Menard set up a makeshift recording studio to capture the sound effects needed to complete our project.

Various MonSFFen sat before the microphone to mimic a variety of dinosaur grunts and bellows, which Keith then ran through sound processing software, altering pitch, tempo, or speed to arrive at a series of nifty "voices" for our dinosaur characters. A bath towel was manipulated to create the sound of the Pterodactyl's wings flapping. Strips of cut-up newspaper were bunched together, mop-like, and gently agitated to simulate the sound of jungle foliage rustling, and a pair of paper cups "walked" through a Tupperware container of dry macaroni feigned the sound of our dinosaurs' footsteps.

Keith closed the afternoon with a quick demonstration on inserting the various sound clips into the film's soundtrack.

We appreciate greatly guest speaker Andrew Fazekas' talk and thank him very much for visiting with us. We thank, too, Keith Braithwaite and François Menard for running our Foley workshop. And, a nod is given all who helped to plan and run this meeting.

## Briefly:

► Please note that *Impulse* will not publish next month, June. You are presently reading our May-June 2017 issue, reviewing last month's April 9 club meeting, and previewing our upcoming field trip on May 14, and subsequent club meeting June 4. *Impulse* will return in July, in advance of our annual Summer-Barbecue-in-the-Park.

► *Star Trek: Discovery*, to air on Space here in Canada, will also be available on Netflix, it has been announced. 13 episodes are planned for Season One. The show's delayed premiere date remains unspecified; figure on, at earliest, sometime in late Fall. Bryan Fuller has withdrawn as the creative team leader and showrunner. Sonequa Martin-Green (*The Walking Dead*) is cast as the series' lead character, a lieutenant-commander aboard *Discovery* known only as Number One, with Jason Isaacs (*The OA*, *Outland*) as *Discovery*'s Captain Lorca, and Mary Wiseman (*Longmire*) as Cadet Tilly. Anthony Rapp (*Rent*) is an openly gay science officer, Lt. Stamets, and Doug Jones (*Hellboy*) is Lt. Saru, an alien new to the *Trek* universe. Michelle Yeoh (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*) is Captain Georgiou, of the starship *Shenzhou*. Maulik Pancholy (*30 Rock*) is *Shenzhou*'s Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Nambue, with Sam Vartholomeos (*The Following*) as Ensign Connor, a junior officer aboard *Shenzhou*. We'll also see James Frain (*Orphan Black*, *Gotham*, *True Blood*) as Sarek, and Terry Serpico (*Rescue Me*) as Starfleet's Admiral Anderson. Michael Dorn will *not* be playing one of *Worf*'s ancestors!

## Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy...

We remind club members that MonSFFA moves to a more relaxed beat during the summer months as the Executive and many other of the volunteer-members who contribute to the running of the club are, at various times during this period, on vacation or away on weekends and therefore unavailable for club commitments. Rest assured that the club still gets done what it has to get done, like membership renewals and Web site updates, but usually at a more leisurely pace than is the norm during the rest of the year.

We thank MonSFFen for their understanding and wish for everyone a pleasant summer, during which the club will host its annual July Barbecue-in-the-Park, among other activities.

**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

*Impulse* est préparé une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Cathy Palmer-Lister. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: [keith1958@live.ca](mailto:keith1958@live.ca) • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6