

I M P U L S E

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

March / Mars 2026 (Vol. 29, No./N° 3)

**NEXT CLUB MEETING: SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

**1:00PM-5:00PM**

Le Nouvel Hotel  
1740 Boul. René-Lévesque O.  
(corner St-Mathieu)

Salle Faubourg  
(South "Condo" Tower)

**And Simultaneously on ZOOM at: [www.MonSFFA.ca](http://www.MonSFFA.ca)**

**MEETING THEME:** *As a tie-in to our lead presentation, we're asking folk to bring in, for our display table, any Alien merchandise they may possess—books, posters, action figures, scale models, etc.*

**MARCH'S AGENDA INCLUDES:**

- **THEY MOSTLY COME AT NIGHT...** *Mostly. We explore the popular Alien franchise, launched in 1979 with Ridley Scott's seminal sci-fi/horror film, featuring one of the genre's most terrifying interstellar monsters!*
- **ARCHITECTURAL EXEMPLARS AND CURIOSITIES ON THE SF/F SCREEN—** *Showcase of a few noteworthy buildings and avant-garde architectural marvels featured as representations of the future on the SF/F screen!*
- **TELEPATHY!**—*A staple of paranormal belief, telepathy is examined from the perspective of true believers. Meanwhile, across many stories over many years, SF/F has adopted this sixth sense as a story device, exploring the power of clairvoyance, and considering the ramifications of telepaths existing within a non-telepathic society.*

**NEXT MONTH'S MEETING**

**Saturday, April 11**

**APPRECIATION OF ALIEN FRANCHISE LEADS MARCH MEETING AGENDA!**

Featuring one of science fiction's most terrifying space monsters, designed by Swiss surrealist painter and sculptor H. R. Giger, director Ridley Scott's acclaimed 1979 sci-fi/horror film *Alien* launched the career of actress Sigourney Weaver while introducing one of science fiction cinema's most outstanding female action heroes. Weaver's smart, resourceful Warrant Officer Ellen Ripley, of the space tug *Nostromo*, ultimately prevailed over the stealthy, lethal *Alien*, but not before the creature had savagely killed her fellow crewmates, leaving her the sole survivor of the encounter.

Sequels followed and most recently, a television series streaming on Disney+ in Canada. The *Alien* franchise is regarded as one of the genre's most successful ever.

We have slated our talk on and discussion of the franchise as the first agenda item of the club's March 2026 meeting this Saturday, the 14th (see "Events Column," left), kicking off 2026's downtown, in-person meetings.

**MonSFFA'S "BOOKWYRMS" HAVE BEGUN MEETING!**

Former club president Cathy Palmer-Lister leads the club's Special Interest Group (SIG) for readers of genre books, the group having thrice met as of this writing. A handful of the club's avid readers, dubbed the "Bookwyrms," get together via ZOOM on occasion to talk books, reviewing and recommending those that they have recently read. Often, the Bookwyrms' discussions revolve around a meeting theme—libraries in SF/F, for instance, or stories of medical practitioners aboard space stations or starships.

SIGs are small groups within the larger club that focus on a particular interest, such as, in this case, SF/F books. Our SIGs meet online outside of the club's regular meetings. MonSFFA also supports an Art SIG, which focuses on illustration

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES?**

**Check Here to See if Your Annual Membership Fees Are Due, Overdue, or Soon Due (Note: Based on Most Recent Membership List Update; May Not Reflect Very Latest Renewals):**

Fees Due Last Month, February:  
**NONE**

Fees Due This Month, March:  
**NONE**

Fees Due Next Month, April:  
**NONE**

Standard membership is only \$35 annually. We offer a family rate of \$50. Add \$10 to either in order 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  
29 Harold  
Kirkland, Québec, Canada  
H9J 1R7**

**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.

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

and painting techniques, and sci-fi art in general. SIGs may, once in a while, contribute content to a regular club meeting, leading a discussion or offering a presentation.

## JANUARY AND FEBRUARY e-MEETINGS

### January

Our January e-meeting included the election of the club's Executive Committee for the coming year; the 2025 team was returned to office for another term.

Danny Sichel opened another year of MonSFFA activities with a talk on AI as interpreted by the science fiction genre, citing a plethora of books and movies that offered versions of AI, and opined on what exactly constituted artificial intelligence, and whether the human mind could be replicated artificially. With nascent AI now a fact in the real world, how might humanity's future be shaped, for better and for worse?

Keith Braithwaite brought content from the club's Art SIG to a club meeting with his primer on visual perspective in 2-D art, detailing how the illusion of three dimensions is realized on a two-dimensional surface, like paper or a canvas. The horizon line, vanishing points, and atmospheric perspective were outlined, with Keith showing in a live demonstration how to create an accurate perspective grid for use as a guide to realistically drawing in perspective.

Following the mid-meeting break and a few articles of club business, the meeting closed with a nostalgic look back at some of the cool sci-fi toys we played with as children, dating as far back as the 1950s and '60s.

With early science fiction TV shows and the Apollo moon shots ongoing in those years, space toys were popular and plentiful, featuring astronauts, rockets, and robots of various designs. The cold war brought ballistic missile playsets to toy-store shelves, and the release of *Star Wars* in the late '70s unleashed a cavalcade of related action figures, vehicles, and playsets, with other sci-fi franchises joining in on all the fun. The fantasy genre influenced such popular 1980s toy lines as *Masters of the Universe* and in more recent years, the *Monster High* line of fashion dolls.

The group reminisced as a collection of vintage toy commercials were screened.

### February

Joe Aspler opened our February e-meeting with his presentation on SF/F movies adapted from books. Often, a perfectly fine book is adapted poorly, resulting in a bad sci-fi movie. Joe provided examples to illustrate the point, *The Postman*, *Waterworld*, and *Return to Oz* among them. But sometimes, the reverse is true, with a mediocre book providing the basis for an excellent film!

Joe also touched on movies and television episodes deemed impossible to adapt, or too expensive to produce, citing Harlan Ellison's screenplay adapting Isaac Asimov's *I, Robot*, and his original script for *Star Trek's* "City on the Edge of Forever." Examples of promising film projects relegated to "Development Hell" were also proffered, and Joe spoke, too, of unnecessary remakes, like *The Time Machine*—based on the H. G. Wells

classic—comparing the excellent 1960 and tedious 2002 screen versions.

Cathy Palmer-Lister led a discussion of genre books or movies serendipitously happened upon, and against expectations, thoroughly enjoyed. She told of discovering Michelle West's *House War* books while attending a Worldcon.

Folk chimed in with their examples, which included Whitley Strieber's 1978 premiere novel *The Wolfen*, Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone's *This Is How You Lose the Time War*, the anime *Psycho-Pass*, TV's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, the films *Planet of the Vampires* and *Quatermass and the Pit*, and the South Korean television series *See You in My 19th Life*.

The afternoon concluded with a lively round of our familiar Sci-Fi Balderdash game, hosted by Danny Sichel.

Fakes, fooling folk, and fun! Given only the title of an *actual* SF/F story, players were challenged to come up with a brief, two-sentence phoney synopsis for that title, one convincing enough to fool their fellow players! Further, they were asked to pick out the genuine synopsis from among the fakes!

## SENSOR READINGS

- Nathan Fillion has appeared in several recent social media posts, visiting his former *Firefly* castmates at their homes speaking cryptically of the day having finally come, strongly hinting at some kind of *Firefly* reunion or sequel or reboot! Fans anxiously await an announcement, said to be coming on March 15, day after this month's MonSFFA meeting.
- Mass-market paperbacks may be following floppy discs and 8-track tape systems into the dustbin of history! A precipitous decline in sales, north of 80 percent over the past couple decades, has reportedly prompted several major North American distributors to retreat from the format in favour of more profitable trade paperbacks and e-books. Many have already removed paperbacks from their catalogs! The cheap, compact paperback, once ubiquitous, arrayed on wire-frame sales racks in supermarkets, drug stores, airport concourses, convenience stores, and newsstands, is rapidly fading from the modern retail landscape. Merchants are pulling them from shelves and soon, your local used bookshop may prove the last bastion of the beloved paperback! For cost-conscious teenagers and young adults, paperbacks were a pathway to recreational reading, and a lifelong love of books. Many of us stirred and indulged our fascination with science fiction and fantasy by way of the humble paperback, and to see that avenue closed off is quite distressing.
- Currently in pre-production, *Sinners* writer/producer/director Ryan Coogler's reboot of *The X-Files* has cast Danielle Deadwyler (*I Saw the TV Glow*, *The Woman in the Yard*) as, presumably, the new Scully. *Sinners*, meanwhile, has been picking up award after award in advance of the Oscars, for which the film was nominated in a record 16 categories, including for Best Actor, Director, Screenplay, and Picture!



*Topic, MonSFFA's January e-Meeting: Major Matt Mason action figure, with his Space Explorer; Mattel's Man in Space toy line was popular in the mid-1960s and early 1970s.*

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*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 • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the Impulse mailing address: 125 Rue Léonard, Châteauguay, Québec, Canada, J6K 1N9*

*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 • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse de Impulse: 125 Rue Léonard, Châteauguay, Québec, Canada, J6K 1N9*