

Boston ★ Massachusetts



FIRST NIGHT

NOREASCON 4 2004

Thursday, September 2, 2004

Welcome to **First Night**, the Noreascon Four opening night celebration! We've brought together a myriad of activities designed to give you a taste of the convention and of the different aspects of fandom. (And some things just for fun!)

First Night runs from 7pm–11 pm on Thursday night (with a few items starting earlier or ending later). We will have activities throughout the second floor of the Hynes Convention Center, centering on the Midway and the ConCourse (Hall C). See the map on the back of this program, and look for signs, balloons, and streamers in the First Night colors of purple, red, and yellow which will mark the locations of First Night events. Many of the program items are interactive, and are designed so that you can drop in and sample many different activities during the evening.

Several of the activities, marked by the ★ symbol, will be giving out tickets that can be redeemed for silly carnival prizes. The First Night Prize Table will be located at the Information Desk in the ConCourse.

We hope that you will come, participate, and have a great time! 🗡️

CONTINUING EVENTS

(All continuing events will run from 7pm–11pm unless noted otherwise.)

Ankh-Morpork Ball: Dancing Through the Ages, 7pm–2am. The evening starts with Participatory Renaissance Dance: Easy dances from the 16th and 17th centuries. Everything will be taught, so come on in! (Run by the Society for Creative Anachronism, Justin du Coeur, dancemaster.) Follow this with Ballroom dancing of the ages, including Waltz, Polka, One Step, Tango, Swing, and Rock, from 8pm–10:30pm. Finally, wind up the evening with modern music. Bring your dance shoes! (Sue and Larry Schroeder) **H200.**

Art Show and Retrospective Art Exhibit, 6pm–10pm. Over 350 panels of science fiction and fantasy art, including a special exhibit of classic pieces from the Golden Age of SF illustration. (Harp music by Ellen James from 8pm–9pm.) **Hynes 3rd floor Ballroom.**

Artist Demonstrations. 7pm–9pm: Margaret Organ-Kean, Dave Seeley, MOIFA—Chinese Brush Painting, Sophie Klesen. 9pm–11pm: Ruth Sanderson, Tom Kidd, Jay Trefethen, Nezir. **Rotunda.**

★**Beer and Skittles.** Come join us for a friendly game over by The Mended Drum. As a showcase for the Gaming rooms, we'll be playing short (5–15 minute) games of every type from *Fluxx* to *Lightspeed*, from *Falling!* to *Devil Bunny Needs a Ham*. Take a load off your feet and elevate your sugar level! We also expect to have the Looney Labs oversize pyramids to play with. (Bill Todd and Daniel Abraham) **ConCourse.**

Balloon Animals. (Megan Hefner) *Various locations.*

Belly Dancing. We'll have dancing all night, and during the 8:30pm–9pm segment the more venturesome of you will be welcome to join in. **Midway.**

Dancers include: Ravenar (Julia Mandala, Linda Donahue, Kathy Turski), The Hippy Chix (Nancy "Aurora" Rogers, Valerie Kerin, Kimberly Parker, Janet Johnston, Pat Vandenberg), Bad Raqsan'e Sahra (Karen Purcell, Anne Livermore Rookey, Lynne Chaney, Susan Dunphy, Laura Hayes, Kathy Journeay, Beth Kelly, Carol King, Randi LaMadeleine, Keri Ogorzalek, Theresa Roberts, Audrey White, Jen Wise, Kate Waterous) and Christina Briley.

★**Blackjack.** Play blackjack (for fun) with a professional dealer. (Dave Cantor, Kevin Hall, Michael Nutt) **Midway.**

Bounce Castle. (Sponsored by Arisia) **ConCourse.**

★**SF Concentration.** Match names of SF authors and win a Fast Forward DVD. (Sponsored by Fast Forward: Contemporary Science Fiction) **Midway.**

Caricature Artist. Kyle Thomas. **Midway.**

★**Children's Costume Corner.** Crafts area where children (and interested adults) can make their own sparkle crowns, magic wands, and capes. (Persis Thorndike) **Midway.**

DUFF/TAFF Reception, 8pm–11pm. Come meet Norman Cates and James Bacon, the DUFF and TAFF delegates, and while you're here, check out the fanzines and grab some beads. (Guy Lillian) **Fan Lounge, ConCourse.**

Exhibits. Browse through the many exhibits featuring our Guests of Honor, E.E. 'Doc' Smith, Masquerade Costumes, Hugo Awards, Fan History, and NASA. **ConCourse.**

FANAC exhibit of fan photos and memorabilia from the past forty years will be open throughout the convention. The Photo Scanning Station will be open from 7pm–9pm during First Night, so bring along your favorite fannish photos or newspaper clippings to add to our fannish archive. **ConCourse.**

Face Painting. Megan Hefner, Lisa Hertel, Kate Johnson, Elizabeth Stone. **Midway.**

Filksinging and other entertainment in *The Mended Drum* and *Club SF*. (See schedule below.)

★**First Citizen of Fanitopia.** Campaign and vote for your favorite SF author. The best off-the-cuff campaign speeches will win prize tickets. (Sponsored by the Washington Science Fiction Association) **Midway.**

★**FIRST Night TIMES**, the First Night Real-Time One-Shot Fanzine. Contribute 25–250 words or fan art on the theme of "Your First Time"* and come back tomorrow to help collate and pick up the finished fanzine that you created. (Bob Devney) **ConCourse.**

*"You might write about your First Night experience. Or your first time at a con. Your first time at a Worldcon. Your first time reading SF or fantasy. Your first time reading a particular author or sub-genre. Your first time in Boston. Your first time attending or competing in a Masquerade. Your first time composing or performing a filksong. Your first time on a panel. Your first time meeting a particular author, editor, artist, or fan. Your first time contributing to a fanzine. ... Or, on the mundane side, your first time eating a Boston delicacy (hah!), buying a house, using a computer, driving a car, flying in an airplane, riding a horse, firing a gun, seeing a ghost, running for office, having a baby, taking a drink, breaking a bone, visiting a foreign

country, dreaming in a foreign language, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. Oh, or having sex."

★**Hall Costumes** are encouraged! If you're wearing a hall costume, look for our roving photographer to take your picture and give you a prize ticket. (Vivian Abraham) *Various locations.*

★**Hugo Ring Toss.** Toss glow-stick rings onto real Hugo rockets and win a prize. (Sponsored by the Science Fiction Oral History Association) **Midway.**

★**Haiku, Origami, Ikebana, and Godzillas.** Haiku contest, Origami and Ikebana demonstrations, Pin the Propeller Beanie on Yokohama, Chocolate Godzillas. (Sponsored by the First Japanese Worldcon Bid, Nippon 2007) **Midway.**

Juggle 3 Balls in 20 Minutes. Learn to juggle in 20–30 minutes. (We'll lend you the balls.) Sessions will start at 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, and 9:30. (David G. Grubbs) **Midway.**

Juggling by Eric Kollenberg. *Various locations.*

Magic Show by Bill Brang of Have Wand Will Travel. Two shows at 8:00 and 9:30. **Midway.**

Movie Previews, 8pm–10:30pm. Drop in and see previews of the films that will be shown during the convention. **H208.**

Period Fun. The Society for Creative Anachronism will be running a variety of Medieval and Renaissance games and other activities over the course of First Night. Come on by and join in! **ConCourse.**

Phoenix Swords. Come see the Phoenix Swords' interpretations of *St. George and the Dragon* (7:30) and *Don Quixote* (8:30). Sword-fighting demonstrations before each show. (Phoenix Swords: Frank Hunt, Holly Hunt, Carol Mantz, Jenifer Larkin, Tom Howard, Rachel Malkoski, Brian Rust, Nate Grondin) **Auditorium.**

Prize Table, 7pm–12m. Cash in the tickets you win for silly prizes at the Information Desk in the **ConCourse.**

Refreshments. A variety of food and drink, including a selection of beers, will be available in *The Mended Drum*. There will also be popcorn and ice cream available from food carts in the **Midway.**

★**The Show That Never Ends.** Our performers will entertain and amaze you as you join us for peep shows, gypsy fortune telling, a fish-tossing game, and a guessing game. (Sponsored by Cascadia Con, the NASFiC in Seattle in 2005) **Midway.**

Souvenirs. Convention souvenirs, including T-shirts and our Guest of Honor books,

will be on sale at the Sales-to-Members tables. *ConCourse*.

Theremin Demonstration. Thomas Farrell will give a short talk on the science and history of the Theremin each hour on the hour. In the remaining time, you will be invited to try playing the theremin yourself. *Midway*.

★**To Serve Fan.** Hot Dog Mania, with trivia and guessing games. (Sponsored by Chicago in 2008) *Midway*.

★**Tombola Booth.** Interaction brings the heart of the English village fete to First Night with a traditional tombola. Much beloved by Agatha Christie, these summer affairs were the highlight of the village calendar, and the tombola booth gave the villagers access to the only form of gambling that was approved of by both Vicar and Womens Institute. So come and try your luck! (Sponsored by Interaction, the 2005 Worldcon in Glasgow, Scotland) *Midway*.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

6:00 PM

★**Fannish Eye for the Mundane Guy.** Fans will give a total lifestyle remake to a mundane or two. (Esther Friesner, Lynn Gold, John F. Hertz (m), David R. Howell, Suford Lewis, Edie Stern) *H206*.

★**Tall Tech Tales.** Panelists, with considerable audience participation, tell real-life amusing anecdotes about the sciences. (Guy Consolmagno, Jeff Hecht (m), Robert A. Metzger) *H205*.

★**Fancylopedia — Live!** Tales of fannish lore, with audience participation. (Joe Siclari, Jack Speer, Milt Stevens) *Fan Lounge, ConCourse*.

6:30 PM

Roland Liu, a prize-winning young violinist, will play traditional waltzes, jigs, reels, and bluegrass. *The Mended Drum, ConCourse*.

7:00 PM

Trumpet Fanfare announces the official start of First Night and the opening of the Midway booths. "Arthur's Fanfare" from the score for *First Knight* by Jerry Goldsmith will be performed by The Star Chamber. (David G. Grubbs, Jerry Sabatini, Dave O'Neal, Jim Paradis, Michele Weinstein, and Alex Wei) *Midway*.

Punday. A host provides topics to a set of contestants who must in turn make a not-yet-said pun on that topic within 30 seconds. When someone misses or repeats,

they're gonged out and the topic changes. (Jordin T. Kare, Josepha Sherman) *H206*.

Godzilla: My Favorite Monster. Born in Japan as a nuclear allegory, now an American favorite in innumerable remakes and variants... What is the big guy's appeal? Bob Eggleton discusses Godzilla and shares his collection of commercials, trailers, and other oddities. *H208*.

Future House. Imagine a mixed group of average folks from the USA of 2004 living for 3 months in a typical 2104 biopod-plex. (Rusty Hevelin, James Patrick Kelly, Ellen Kushner, Connie Willis (m)) *H205*.

The Return of Twenty Panels an Hour. Using patented ThoughtSquasher compression technology, Boskone's barely tolerated "Sunday Funny Sunday" crew flees to Noreascon's First Night. Watch with whimpering amazement as they whip through at least 20 complete panel topics (not including this one) in 55 minutes or less. Warning: do not apply directly to brain. (Michael A. Burstein, Keith R. A. DeCandido, Bob Devney (m), Leigh Grossman) *H311*.

Terry on Trial ...for such charges as "failing to stop at a trilogy," "writing with undue care and attention," "cruelty to animals," and "being a rich bastard!" Celebrity witnesses will include Death, Nanny Ogg, and others. (James Bacon, Esther Friesner, Jay Caselberg (m), Mary Kay Kare, Terry Pratchett) *ConCourse*.

Ask Dr. Mike. What can you get for the man who knows everything? Science fiction's wildly acclaimed answer to Drs. Hawking, Ruth, Phil, and Laura asks only for the gift of your most challenging questions about science, philosophy, history, the meaning and origin of life, and that awkward con restaurant invitation thing. (John M. Ford) *H209*.

Dave Weingart, filksinging. *Club SF, H210*.

7:30 PM

St. George and the Dragon, as interpreted by the Phoenix Swords, with sword fighting, puppets, and cross dressing. (Phoenix Swords) *Auditorium*.

Paul Shuch sings witty science and SETI songs. *Club SF, H210*.

8:00 PM

Magic Show. (Bill Brang of Have Wand Will Travel) *Midway*.

Autographing (Peter Weston and William Tenn) *Rotunda*.

Tavern Songs. (Faye Ringel and Sean McMullen) *The Mended Drum, ConCourse*.

Comedy Routine. Harry Harrison and Gary Davis (World Citizen #1) do comedy! *H209*.

Blindfolded Sculpting. Come with suggestions for bizarre creatures to be sculpted or join in! (Sandra Lira, Heidi Hooper, Susan Finley, Mike Ventrella) *Midway*.

A Preview of The Filkado. A sampling of a few songs from the fannish musical to be presented in its entirety later in the convention. *Club SF, H210*.

8:15 PM

The Fibs. A rock-influenced trio. *Club SF, H210*.

8:30 PM

Don Quixote as interpreted by the Phoenix Swords. A lucky audience member will be picked to play the title role. Singing required. (Phoenix Swords) *Auditorium*.

9:00 PM

Thomas the Rhymer. Ellen Kushner's performance interlaces portions of her award-winning novel *Thomas the Rhymer* with the traditional ballads that inspired it. Accompanied by fiddler Joe Kessler, she creates a living picture in words and song of the mortal minstrel taken by the Queen of Elfland to serve in her perilous kingdom. (Ellen Kushner) *Club SF, H210*.

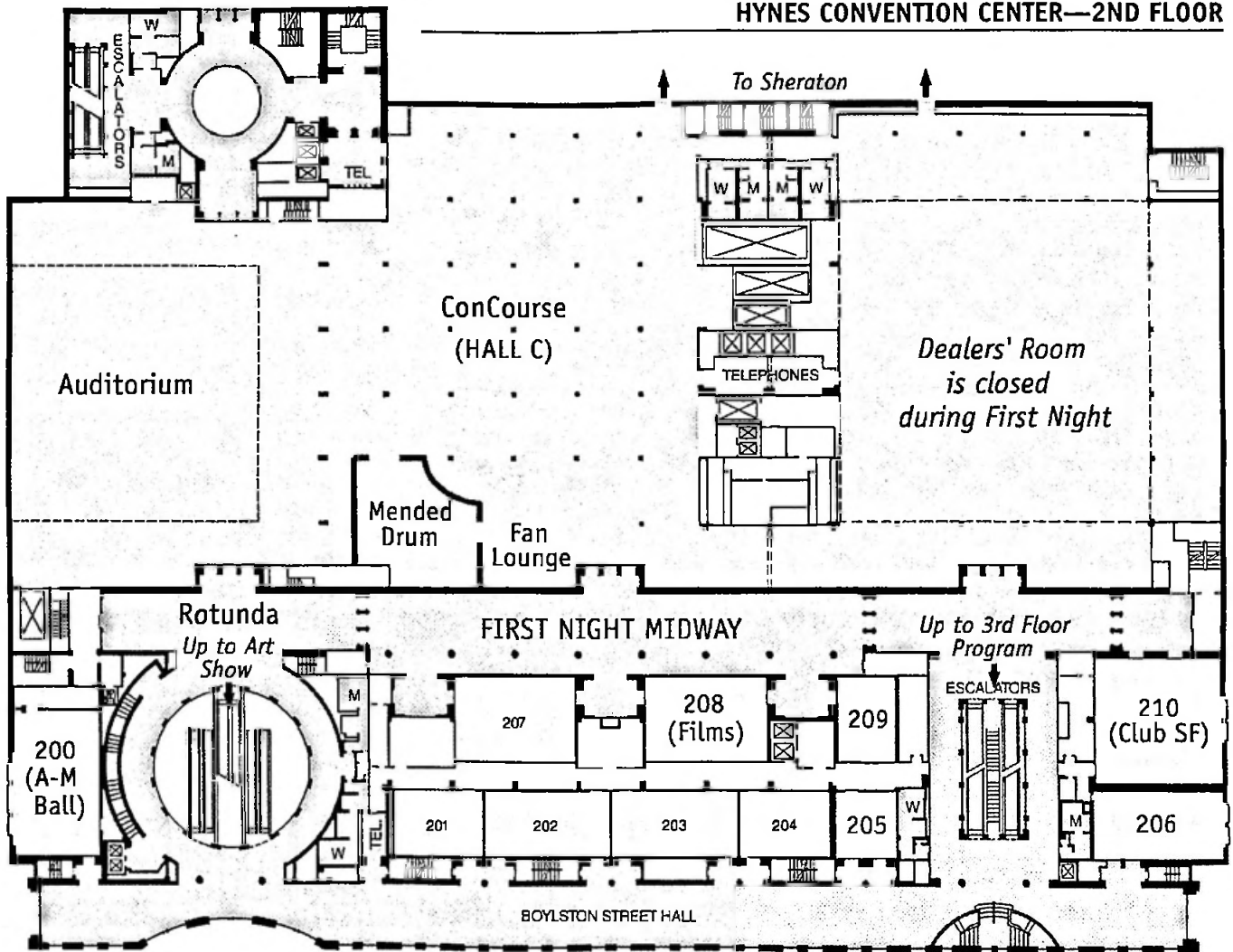
SFWA Musketeers. (Elizabeth Moon, Jay Caselberg, Melanie Fletcher, Esther Friesner, Laura Anne Gilman, John G. Henry, Lee Martindale, Vera Nazarian, Madeleine E. Robins, Selina Rosen, Susan Schwartz, Steven H. Silver, Laura Underwood, Liz Williams) *The Mended Drum and Auditorium*.

A Scene a Minute/Whose Line Is It? How well can our teams of participants act out well-known scenes in a minute or less... and have the audience guess what they're doing? (Michael A. Burstein (m), Nomi Burstein (m), Solomon Davidoff, Michael McAfee, Michael Rennie, Josepha Sherman) *H206*.

★**Readings from the Published Works of Absent Writers.** Open mike reading of your favorite excerpts. Bring your own favorite 3-minute pieces (that are particularly meaningful to you) and join the read-in. (Jan Howard Finder, Mary Kay Kare) *H209*.

Cartoon Jam. (Joe Bergeron, Alexis Gilliland, Teddy Harvia, Bill Neville, John Zakour) *Rotunda*.

HYNES CONVENTION CENTER—2ND FLOOR



9:15 PM

April Grant, fiddler. *The Mended Drum*, ConCourse.

9:30 PM

Magic Show by Bill Brang of Have Wand Will Travel. *Midway*.

10:00 PM

★ **Win Tom Galloway's Money.** If you liked "Win Ben Stein's Money," you'll love the (very, very freely adapted) SF version. After all, Ben's game just can't compete with trivia categories like "That's Why Delaney Is a Tramp," "Running with Edward Scissorhands," and "I'm a Gaiman Fan—Not That There's Anything Wrong With That." (Tom Galloway and Keith R. A. DeCandido) *H205*.

★ **Hippocrene and Hyperspace: An Open Mike Poetry Reading.** Named in honor of the poetry item at the 1963 Worldcon (Discon I), about which George Scithers later wrote "We were afraid that a bald

announcement that we were going to have a poetry-reading session would scare off the audience..." Let's jam. *H209*.

Discworld Songs. *The Mended Drum*, ConCourse.

On Venus Have We Got a Rabbi. A reading by William Tenn, with the original intonations... (90 minutes) *Club SF*, *H210*.

10:30 PM

Lord of the Piercing and Gollum's Acceptance Speech at the 2003 MTV Movie Awards (Short Form Dramatic Presentation Hugo Nominee). *H208*.

11:00 PM

First Night Midway Closes.

Entertainment at The Mended Drum and the Ankh-Morpork Ball continues until 2am.

The Very Secret Diaries—A Dramatic Reading. *H208*.

Pictionary. Think of Charades, played by mute mental patients... (James Bacon (m), Mike Dashow, Joseph DeVito, Bob Eggleton, Teddy Harvia) *Rotunda*.

CREDITS

First Night Staff and Helpers: Vivian Abraham, Ruth Alfasso, Bob Devney, Ruth Doyle, Beneta Gagne, Dan Kimmel, Grant Kruger, Jim Murray, Jeff Orth, Ann Pinzow, Michael 'Sparks' Rennie, Erica Schultz (program design), Rachel Silber, Kevin Standlee, Geri Sullivan, Leslie Turek.

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