

The 17th National Australian Science Fiction  
Convention  
24th - 27th March, Easter 1978  
Melbourne, Australia

Guest of Honour: BRIAN W. ALDISS  
Special Guest: Roger Zelazny



## WRITE A STORY

A SHORT story competition will be held in conjunction with the Unicon-17th National Australian Science Fiction Convention next March.

The competition is sponsored by the Australian Science Fiction Foundation and is open to all writers, published or unpublished.

Entries should be between 1000 and 8000 words and must be in by February 20. Forms from Kitty Vigo, 2 Grattan Pl., Richmond, 3121.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Current Membership rates for UNICON IV are given below. Prices at the door may be higher, but people buying a Supporting Membership may convert it at any time to an Attending Membership by paying the difference between what they paid and the cost of Attending Membership at that time they paid.

With this Progress Report comes a Nomination Form for the DITMARS - the 1977 Australian Science Fiction Achievement Awards - and also a sheet fully explaining arrangements concerning Accommodation and the Saturday night Awards Banquet.

### MEMBERSHIP RATES

Attending Membership - \$8.00 until January 1st  
\$10.00 until March 1st  
\$15.00 thereafter until the con.

Supporting Membership - \$4.00

Payable to 'Unicon', send all monies to: Unicon IV,  
Box 106,  
Melbourne University,  
Parkville, 3052,  
AUSTRALIA.

### WORK PARTY

Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Awards,  
Parliamentarian, Films, Programme Book,  
Publications, Publicity, Hucksters, Art  
Show, Masquerade & Accommodation:

Roger Weddall & Alan Wilson

Short Story Competition: Kitty Vigo

Publishers: Merv Binns

Art & Layout: Chris Johnston, Roger Weddall, Alan Wilson  
& Dennis Callegari

Any convention is very much the effort of a group of friends: Justin Ackroyd, Don Ashby, Merv Binns, John Breden, Dennis Callegari, Elaine Cochrane, Bruce Gillespie, Lee Harding, Tony Howe, Robin Johnson, Chris Johnston, Gerald Murnane, Kevin Noonan, Roman Orszanski, Jaynee Russell-Clarke, Petrina Smith, Paul Stevens, Torbjorn von Strokirch, Terry Stroud, Charles Taylor, George Turner, Kitty Vigo, Phil Ware, Roger Weddall & Alan Wilson.





# UNICON IV

## SOME GENERAL INFORMATION



To properly explain the notion of a Science Fiction Convention, a little should be first explained about Science Fiction Fandom. It is a world-wide non-organization which has been growing steadily from its early beginnings in the twenties. By fandom, we mean the many readers of science fiction who, by way of the amateur publications or the many conventions now held, have built up an international communications system which is probably unequalled by followers of any other literary genre. In the early days readers communicated via the letter columns in the pulp magazines, criticising the stories and then writing to one another. Eventually many readers started publishing their own duplicated magazines to air their views, and some went on to become professionally involved with sf writing, editing and publishing.

In time, groups of these people decided to get together and talk about their interests, meet the authors and see displays of books and artwork related to SF and the associated genre of Fantasy. Since then SF Conventions have become popular all over the world and whether they are small gatherings or WorldCons, the format remains much the same. The authors, illustrators and editors are the stars, so to speak, and many of the sessions will be the discussion of the work of a particular writer, panels and round-table discussions on "How to plot your way out of a paper bag," or "Building your own design for a world", meetings of Comics enthusiasts or sword-and-sorcery fans, or on the problem of writing a story to fit in with the background set up in earlier stories. There are often films, usually auctions of books and artwork, manuscripts and memorabilia, and sometimes banquets at which awards are given to the best work of the year.

UNICON IV is the 17th National SF Convention to be held in Australia, and also the fourth in a yearly series of conventions run by University SF Associations around Australia. It is the second convention to be run under the auspices of MUSFA, the Melbourne University Science Fiction Association, who were responsible for the eminently successful UNICON II in 1975 in Melbourne.

PROGRAMME



Friday 24th 10:30 Registration and display rooms open  
 12:00 Lunch  
 1:00 Introduction: GoH & UNICON IV welcome. Official opening  
 1:30 Bruce Gillespie: Talk  
 2:30 Guest of Honour Brian W. Aldiss: Speech  
 3:30 Afternoon Tea  
 4:00 Round-table Discussions: Best Selling SF; Monsters in SF; SF Films;  
 Building SF worlds; 'I was a Mad Scientist for a day'; Comics; etc.  
 6:00 Dinner  
 7:30 Films (three)

Saturday 25th 10:00 Films/The Unicon AUCTION, Part One: Auction of Books, Artwork, etc.  
 12:30 Lunch  
 1:30 Roger Zelazny: Speech  
 2:30 George Turner: "The Creation of a New SF" - Speech  
 3:30 Afternoon Tea - including the 'Easter Egg Hunt'  
 4:30 John Breden: Comics - Speech  
 4:30 Film  
 5:45 Dinner  
 7:30 Masquerade/Party Some Food & Drinks provided. The theme of the  
 Masquerade is "After The Holocaust", and all are expected to  
 attend in garb.



Sunday 26th 10:30 Film Shorts (including Star Trek)/The Unicon AUCTION, Part Two  
 12:00 Unicon Business Session (during Films)  
 1:00 Lunch  
 2:00 Brian Aldiss answers questions from the audience; Moderator  
 Bruce Gillespie  
 3:00 Afternoon Tea  
 3:30 Roger Zelazny answers questions from the audience; Moderator  
 Bill Wright  
 4:30 Bob Matthew: "Japanese Science Fiction" - Speech  
 6:30 Drinks  
 7:00 Unicon Banquet - Short Story Winners & DITMAR Awards Presented  
 10:00 Films

Monday 27th 11:00 Film  
 11:30 National Convention Business Session (during Film)  
 12:00 Lunch  
 2:30 'The A-to-Z of Science Fiction: from a writer's point of view'  
 A critical free-for-all with George Turner, Brian Aldiss,  
 Roger Zelazny and several noted local writers participating.  
 3:30 Afternoon Tea  
 4:00 Where Do We Go From Here: a Discussion including resume of Unicon &  
 National Convention Business Sessions, and considering the  
 possibility of an Australian bid for a future World SF Convention.  
 Heavy Stuff.  
 5:00 Panel: Summary & Goodbye. See you at UNICON V.

Tuesday 28th Although unfortunately only a holiday in Victoria & WA, a picnic party has  
 been organized for Tuesday. Pop down to the country property at Somerville  
 to relax and recover from the convention. Sheep roasted on a spit, swimming,  
 Leigh Edmonds' Cricket XI vs the 'Rest of the World' XI. More info later....



As a glance at the Programme will tell you, Unicon IV can rightly be called a Science Fiction Film Festival. Ten major sf films and several shorts will be shown during the convention. Films expected to be shown include: - Clockwork Orange, Dark Star, Sleeper, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ , The Man Who Fell To Earth, Silent Running, Flesh Gordon, Monty Python & The Holy Grail, Slaughterhouse 5, a tinted print of 'Metropolis' and Star Trek shorts.

#### EASTER EGG HUNT

One of the highlights of Saturday afternoon will be the UNICON IV Easter Egg Hunt, "for the young and the old, for the tall and the small and the inbetween." Easter Eggs will be hidden around the grounds and of course there will be a special prize for the ones who find the right type of Easter Egg... More details later.



UNICON IV is special in that as the National Convention, it is where the DITMAR awards are given, the main yearly awards of enthusiasts, as opposed to the writers, of the field. Everyone who is a member of the convention at the time of balloting, about one month before the convention, may vote in the various categories of award for the best fiction, amateur publication and critical writing of the year. Accompanying this Progress Report is a Nomination Form Blank with further details concerning the definition of awards categories.

Science Fiction, long the literature of the future, is now the literature of the moment, especially in Australia. More SF is now being published than any other single genre, and alongside the American magazines are now a number of Australian publications, anthologies and novels as well as magazines, and Unicon IV is very much a celebration of that fact.



## GUEST OF HONOUR

Brian W. Aldiss should need little introduction to science fiction readers. Winner of both the Nebula and Hugo awards, he is highly respected in science fiction and literary circles for his novels and shorter work. Brian Aldiss was recently voted "Best Contemporary Author" by the membership of the National Australian SF Convention, and it is an award which he has lived up to.

Publications soon to see the light of day in Australia are: 'A Rude Awakening', the third "Horatio Stubbs" novel; 'Last Orders', a short-story collection; and 'Brothers Of The Head', an out-size publication with illustrations by Ian Pollock.

Over a period of approximately the last twenty years, Brian Aldiss has produced many fine novels, among which are such as 'The Malachia Tapestry', 'The Eighty Minute Hour' and the Hugo-winning collection of short stories combined into the novel, 'Hothouse'. As well as many collections of short stories (The Saliva Tree; Space, Time and Nathaniel; etc.) he is the editor of the 'Decade' series - a look at the fiction of the forties, fifties, sixties - he has edited 'Billion Year Spree', a critical look at science fiction as a whole. Mr Aldiss is an experienced speaker at conventions in Britain and Europe, and is to be Guest of Honour at the 1979 World SF Convention in London. This is to be his first visit to Australia, an appearance long overdue.

### Our Special Guest - Roger Zelazny

Like the Guest of Honour, Mr Zelazny has been writing for approximately twenty years, and in that time he has been the winner several times of both the Hugo and Nebula awards. Guest of Honour at the 1974 World Con, his most recent and yet-to-be-finished work is the 'Amber' series of novels, a major undertaking of four books - to date. His first published short story - 'A Rose For Ecclesiastes' was a nominee for the Hugo award, and since then he has been the author of many short stories and some of his best known novels include 'Lord Of Light', 'Creatures Of Light And Darkness' and the more recent 'Bridge Of Ashes' and 'Doorways In The Sand'. Closely associated with the Australian bid for the World Con in 1975, this will be his first visit to Australia, and we welcome his presence.



## MASQUERADE/PARTY

The Masquerade on the Saturday night of the convention will be a very relaxed affair. The theme of the evening shall be 'After The Holocaust', and it's hoped that all will attend in costume. A light show and street theatre will help things along, and for those who like prizes The Paul Stevens Show - Pick-A-Box will provide plenty of entertainment. There will be special encouragements for those who turn up in costume, and an extra-special prize for the Best Costume of the evening.

## AUCTION/ART SHOW

The Great Unicon Auction Parts I & II will take place on Saturday & Sunday mornings during the film sessions, and already books, rare editions of magazines and other memorabilia are being stockpiled for auction. Save up your money and support our Australian artists; artwork on display during the convention may be offered up for sale during the auction; Leigh Edmonds has also threatened to put up some of his unusual model for sale. In any case, it should be worth turning up to see what's for sale. If you have material you wish to sell in the auction or display please contact the convention before March 17th at the below address.

## SHORT STORY COMPETITION

The Competition is being run by the convention but is open to all to enter whether they are members of the con or not. Length of the stories to be submitted is Short Story/Novelette length, and prizes are \$150 First Prize, \$50 Second Prize and \$50 for the best story by a previously unpublished author. For more details write to: Kitty Vigo, 2 Grattan Place, Richmond, 3121, Vic.

## CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence

to: UNICON IV,

Box 106,

Melbourne University,

Victoria, 3052

AUSTRALIA.