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EVENT HORIZON

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June - Saturday - TOLKIEN SOCIETY. Regular monthly meeting. 1st Saturday of the month at THE CARPENTER'S ARMS Whitfield St, near Goodge St Tube. 8.30 - 10.30 by pint.

10 June - Saturday - WINDSOR SF FESTIVAL - 2pm to 11pm, gates open at noon. SF writers attending are John Brunner, Harry Harrison, Ian Watson and John Sladek plus the amazing the incredible the stupendous (especially if EVERYONE buys him a pint Gerry Webb (who as he's now sharing an office with me will surely out of common gratitude for such a plug make the tea next week).

Amongst the other goodies; films, inflatables, daleks etc, be sure not to miss the performance of Heathcote William's THE IMMORTALIST (See, space permitting, review below).

The festival's billing in TIME OUT and NEW SCIENTIST reads "UK's first popular science fiction festival", nice compromise, sneaky but nice.

Entrance £1 adults 50p children, or three for the price of two in advance from 8 Lynden Close, Holyport, Berkshire. Please enclose SAE.

9-11 July - Weekend - BENELUXCON 6 in Eindhoven Holland. Guest of Honour Chris Priest.

21-23 July - Weekend - EURCON Ingram Hotel. Guest of Honour James White. Contact Bob Shaw, top flat left, 11 Barrington Dri, Kelvinbridge, Glasgow. Apart from running cons Bob seems, judging by his latest FRIENDS OF KILGORE TROUT, set on becoming a very numerous fan writer. Faneds take note drop this lad a trade.

2-3 September - Weekend - INTERCON at the huge Slough Conference rooms, accomodation at the Huge(ly priced) Heathrow Hotel travel between the two by the worlds hugest hotel corridor, the M4. Bookings for fancy dress competitors have now closed so I presume the Heathrow heavies will be set on anyone attending in an outlandish garb without the proper tax and insurance. The incredible the (speciflly they've finished their "sweeny" colouring books.

Rumours that the convention chairman was keeping his name a secret have proved to be totally unfounded, it's simply that no-one can remember his name.

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SMALL MAMMAL lurks at 191 The Heights, Northolt, Middx UB5 4UB and exists on a diet of SF and Fantasy news, which seems lately to be in short supply so don't delay send what you can spare now. Remember a SMALL MAMMAL can spin out one vague rumour enough to last a year.

GAMES &&&&&

New contender for the alliterative role playing game market is STARSHIPS AND SPACEMEN from Fantasy Games Unlimited, a company with a good record on games produced so far. Interesting tips on "creating a galaxy in 7 days", see if you can do better than the current model. This game apparently draws on STAR TREK for inspiration and so may appeal to a different group than DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS. Price in the USA is 7 dollars. Available in this country from Games Workshop, 1 Dalling Rd, Hammersmith, London.

STARSHIP MARINE. Introduces a weird and totally unbelievable concept to SF gaming, CHEAPNESS! A set of rules for combat during attempts to board an enemy spacecraft. 30p from 48 Palace Rd, London SW2. Who last seen the designer of this game was dressed up in funny clothes firing a rocket at me, but that's another story. His hobby is lying down in the left lane of motorways so order now before they take him away and stick him up (all the above + blue).

REVIEWS &&&&&&&

PROJECT DAEDELUS - Published by the British Interplanetary Society. The first hard science investigation of a project to send a unmanned probe to a nearby star. A mind boggling collection of facts, equations and diagrams. While not pretending to give the final answers on how or whether we should explore the rest of the universe this book does, as intended, give an excellent basis for future discussion of interstellar probes. A worthy successor to the 1930's moonship study which inspired it.

SCIENCE FICTION THEATRE OF LIVERPOOL. This travelling theatre group, under the direction of Ken Campbell, surfaced briefly at THE THEATRE AT NEW END in May with three short plays.

THE IMMORTALIST, a TV interview with an immortal man introduces us to philosophy as an alternative to biochemistry or cryogenics as a path to immortality. Literally mindboggling.

THE END IS NIGH deals simultaneously with the everyday problems of a monastic community as well as those brought about by the reality warping experiments of one of the brothers. Sadly the play is just getting into its stride when it reaches a sudden and unsatisfactory ending.

SOME OF YOUR BLOOD, from a story by Theodore Sturgeon, takes place in the surgery of a psychiatrist who is analysing a psychotic soldier. Gradually by assembling jigsaw pieces of his past experience the insane soldier's mind is made comprehensible to the audience. The previous production at the Bush Theatre was slightly better, having an interval to highlight the main dramatic revelation, nevertheless this is still a compelling play.

General verdict - See the SF Theatre whenever you get the chance.

STAR LORD, new comic from IPC probably more on my cultural level than the above. Artwork and paper quality are superior to IPC's other SF weekly also slightly less nauseatingly violent but 2000AD, the previous publication, has the only decent children's SF comic strip in the shape of JOHN LORREDD, which is packed with apparent and concealed SF ideas and gags, like the 'extra' in one frame who is wearing a prisoner society badge.