

A Science Fiction Convention in Edinburgh
STARRING
Tanith Lee
28-30 OCTOBER 1988



THE PROGRAMME BOOK

Welcome to ConCert and to sunny Edinburgh. I hope that you get the chance to see our lovely city during your stay here but don't worry if you don't. all I know of some cities in Britain is the inside of the Convention hotel. I we've done this thing properly that is all you'll want to see of 'Auld Reekie'

'Course, if you do want to sight-see you could always join us for the 'Ghost tour' late on Friday night. You will certainly se things most tourists don't.

The theme of this convention is 'SF spells FUN'. Anyone who wishes to be boring (or bored) should be at the Booker awards, not a con, but please remember these rules so that everyone else has fun.

1) Our Guests of Honour are people too. Just because they're responsible for that work that you loved/hated doesn't make them your property. Speak to them, certainly,

buy them a drink, if you want and they don't object, but don't crowd them. If G.O.H.'s get cheesed off you spoil the con for them and for others.

2) Weapons can be fun; but only when they're safe. If you want to carry a weapon, if your costume or 'persona' requires it, please see Security and obtain a permit, then read and observe the weapons policy contract.

3) A convention is as much FUN as you want to make it. It is no good sitting in a corner waiting to be 'entertained'. Join in and entertain others as well as yourself. Join the conversations. You might be told to shove off; but it unlikely.

4) Wear your convention badge. All con area are members only, so not wearing your badge could get you thrown out (bodily, on occasions). If you lose your badge report it to the registration desk, committee member of gofer.

Now I'll introduce the committee and thank those who need to be thanked.

Michelle Drayton (Cuddles) who organised our film programme and auction. She's the one with the MedJudge badge.

Margaret (Facegirl) Cassidy, who is full of great ideas. We couldn't afford most of them. A good proportion of the video prog is her work.

Jette (Howling Mad) Goldie. That's me. I'm the committee worry wart and nominal chairwoman (only because we needed one for the bank mandate). Look for the harassed expression.

Thanks to: Margaret's mum who put up with strange people sleeping on her floor after 'committee meetings'.

Ian Thomas for the terrific artwork and for his help in getting this programme book printed.

All gofers, security and helpers in advance.

Darling Derek the committee masseur, who distracted the committee at just the right moment (and sometimes at the wrong moment).

Lastly, to Colin Goldie, my husband, who refused to have anything to do with this mad idea but who kept me sane

anyway and disappeared off to the pub to give us the house to ourselves.

Our guests I'll introduce separately and thank individually.

And thank you, for coming.

MOVIE TRIALS

Not for the squeamish this quiz! Just how well do you know your movies? Who directed ZARDOZ? What was the 'droid in SATURN 3 called? Who composed the soundtrack for THE THING? If you can answer these questions perhaps you would like to take part. All victims made most welcome. As well as the quick rounds, there are specialist rounds covering directors, film composers and spaceships, to name but a few. There is the ever popular musical round Bits 'n' Pieces and the return of the props bag. If you would like to take part, let Cuddles know. It's a lot of fun (except for the contestants) and hopefully some worthwhile prizes. See you there.

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

As you know, ConCerts is supporting two charities to which a percentage of the profits will go to. The charities are the SCOTTISH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN ASSOCIATION and ARTHRITIS CARE. There is quite a wide selection of items for sale at the auction some of more interest than others.

There is quite a large selection of signed photographs including Timothy Dalton and Jane Seymour. There are the HAWK scripts from BUCK RODGERS which, I hear, are very hard to come by these days. Music fans will probably be interested in the original soundtrack for DREAMSCAPE and there is a rare opportunity to get your mitts on the BATMAN record released by the Nicholas Young Fan Club (he was Robin). Quite rare apparently and a real treat for Nick Young fans.

Unique art is being auctioned: FOX is doing a special drawing at the convention and the original ConCert programme book design will also be on offer. A lot of time and effort was put into the latter by Ian Thomas who is not a professional artist.

So, keep plenty of pennies aside for the auction. Don't forget, we are supporting two charities as all monies will be greatly appreciated.

TANITH LEE

My first meeting with Tanith Lee was at a Glasgow convention.

I was dressed as Servalan at the time and handing out copies of my first 'fan' story, a Blake'7 tale. It had been well received so I was flushed with success (and whiskey).

Spotting a friend who I knew to be a B7 fan I gaily pressed my hot little 'zine into her hand. I noticed but did not recognise, nor attend, her companion, nor did I give anyone time for introductions.

The next day I heard that Tanith would be doing a signing session in the bar. "Oh, goody" thought I and toddled off with my autograph book in hand.

To my surprised I discovered that my friend's companion of the previous night was - yes, none other than Ms Lee. To my astonishment she signed my book "You make a grand Servalan."

It was at least an hour of puzzlement (how does a famous author know about B7?) before I remembered,

embarrassed, that she wrote two episodes for it.

With her reputation for masterful fantasy and excellent SF it is not surprising that I forgot her connection with TV. Writers of her calibre are rarely drawn to 'media sf' but Tanith is the exception. She has also written for radio and I know of one stage production based on her work.

She is more known, however, for her haunting fantasy novels in which a theme which recurs frequently is Death and its after effects. Her flowing descriptions conjure vivid images of demons dread and awful, yet alluring and compellingly beautiful. Her ghosts do scare and her heroes may not always fit the mould but they are honourable and sympathetic. She will often give you a happy ending, though not the one you expect.

For this convention, instead of the usual G.O.H. speech, Tanith will read a chapter of her own choice from her novel 'Kill the Dead'. Later we will be having an interview with her where you will get the chance to ask

questions which I am sure she will be delighted to answer.

FOX

When I first saw Fox's comic 'Redfox', I looked at the cover and yawned. Ho, hum. Another beautiful, busty barbarian swordswoman. After all, hadn't she already been more than covered by 'Red Sonja' and most of her clones are not worth the ink they're drawn with.

So I walked past it on the shelf and kept walking past it, each time I saw it. When people asked me did I read 'Redfox'? I replied, no, and was told that I ought to. Hmm.

Some time later a friend, whose opinions I respect, said the same thing. He offered to lend me his collection and, as I was staying with him on holiday, I took him up on this.

I knew I was hooked when I found myself laughing out loud.

I do not laugh aloud; or very rarely, which causes some folks to assume that I have no sense of humour.

Wrong; it's just deeply buried and Fox knows how to dig it up.

Of course, nothing can be truly funny if it's constantly trying to be humourous, so in Redfox's life, as in real life, there is friendship, adventure, hardship, sorrow and pathos. As others have joined the creative team the story and the character have grown; but the humour is still there - though perhaps the heroine's tongue is a little more acid, since she is less of an innocent. (and she's written by a woman now).

Fox, who created the myth and still pencils the story, is a fun person whom I had the pleasure of meeting at a comics con in London this year. As our comic's G.O.H. he might be able to convince all you diehards out there that comics are not 'just for children'.

MOVIE MENU

Of all the films showing over the weekend, **HEAVY METAL** has to be the spotlight of any film programme. This movie has a bit of everything – fantasy, horror, magic and a brilliant rock soundtrack featuring artists like Journey, Nazareth and Black Sabbath. The four stories, which share a common link throughout the film, are well animated and shamelessly funny. Watch out for the Jewish robot (no insult intended)! Definitely a must see film.

Louis Gossett Jr., and Dennis Quaid star in **ENEMY MINE**. Superb acting from both actors, in a tale of bitter enemies stranded together on a desolate planet, fighting for survival. Those familiar with the film **HELL IN THE PACIFIC** will recognise the theme. Gossett deserved an Academy Award for his portrayal of the Doc, which certainly involved painstaking make-up calls to perfect ‘the look’.

THE SPY WITH MY FACE is one of the many Man from **UNCLE** movies. In this one, Solo is captured by **THRUSH** as part of a diabolical plan (aren’t they all?). When he escapes he runs into himself! And that’s all I’m gong to tell you. Certainly good for a laugh and highly recommended to Ilya Kuriyakan fans. Ladies! Keep the screaming to the barest minimum, thank you.

To complete the double bill, James Coburn as **OUR MAN FLINT**. Flint pits his wits and gadgets to the fullest, this time against dastardly weather men. Wonderful soundtrack and an extremely witty script.

Well, there you have it. Enjoy the viewing and don’t forget the selection of films in the video programme worth seeing too!

EATING IN EDINBURGH

Where do we go to eat? you say. You have plenty of choice.

Within the hotel there is bar meals, a Steak house and Juliana's Table. The bar meals are reasonably priced and very tasty.

For more variety wander out into Dalry Road where you will find three very good Indian restaurants in a row. The Verandah is particularly good.

Heading into town along Shandwick Place you will find a Pizzaland and Blakes Bistro. On Princes Street, at the West End, there's McDonalds then a block further, Wimpy's. On Lothian Road, several good Italian places. Dario's is the best known and sometimes the busiest.

If you feel expansive and expensive try Hansels or the Howtowdie, both on Stafford Street, just off Shandwick Place.

However, if the prices here are too rich for you and you just want a take-away, back to Dalry Rd and Haymarket again where you will find a kebab

house, a Chinese take-away, a chip shop (a very good one called Quo Vadis, if you feel classical) and a Curry take-away.

Avoid the Chinese restaurant on West Maitland St, but Stewpots on the same street is worth a visit for cheap nourishing food as is Brattisani's on Morrison St.

If you are the adventurous type venture as far as Nicolson St (up from the South Bridge) where you will find a very good Greek restaurant. In the same area on the corner of West Nicolson St and Potterrow you will find some nice vegetarian places and a 'Mediterranean' (read N. African and Arabic) restaurant. Its reputation is good but I've not tried it.

For more ideas, I'm sure the hotel receptionists will be able to help. Bon appetit.



[This is a re-creation of
the original text, due to ink
degradation, which my scanner could
n't pick up very well. It is copied

ConCert

PROGRAMME BOOK

OCTOBER 28th - 30th 1988

GROSVENOR STAKIS
EDINBURGH



Happy

Halloween

The Committee