

ALBACON III

THE 37th BRITISH ANNUAL SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION



PROGRAMME NOTES

FRIDAY = MAIN PROGRAMME

- Noon "Where Are The Extraterrestrials?"
The Fermi Paradox - "Where is EVERYBODY?" asks why, given the age of the Earth and the Galaxy, we aren't already in the Galactic Civilization. Duncan Lunan, John Brunner, Prof Roy, Chris Boyce and Joe Haldeman suggest possible answers.
- 1pm Glasgow Herald/Albacon III Short Story Competition Award.
The competition was announced in December. The prize is an Amstrad computer/word processor. The Judges were Chris Boyce, Duncan Lunan, Prof Roy and Alasdair Gray. 240 entries were received. What was the outcome? "The results, in reverse order, starting from 240..."
- 2.30pm Poetry in SF. (Panel)
Continuing from last year's popular panel with Edwin Morgan and Diane Duane, this year John Brunner, Alasdair Gray and Donald Saunders read and discuss their favourite works with Duncan Lunan. Donald Saunders' contribution will cover Hugh McDairmid's poems and translation of Harry Martinsson's SF epic "Aniara"
- 3pm Glasgow Film Theatre
A double bill of The Thing From Another World and The Thing, to which Albacon members will be admitted at concession rates on production of a badge. We would ask you to support the GFI as they have helped Albacon immensely over the years.
- 7pm Not The Wogan Show.
That dashing young man about town John Wilkes invites you to a chat show which will introduce you to all the guests of Albacon III. Be prepared for something completely different.
- 8pm Cinematic. (an illustrated talk)
Award winning film maker, Ian Rintoul, explains how miniatures are used in SPFX for tv and cinema. Centering on the work of Ray Harryhausen and Gerry Anderson, Ian will be screening film extracts from "One Million Years B.C." together with a complete episode of "Thunderbirds" and some very rare unused shots from T.V.'s "Terrahawks". There may also be a few more surprises in store but Ian isn't saying what. There will be a question period in the last section of the talk.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME

- 6pm Jeopardy (An SF Quiz).
Peter Wareham invites you to take part in a marathon SF quiz requiring 4 teams of 4, (2 Scottish and 2 English) to participate over the weekend in knockout rounds on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If you think you have a vast and unbeatable knowledge of SF trivia, then turn up here for the first round and see if you're lucky enough to be chosen for a chance to win an unbelievable prize.
- 8pm Backs to the Future. (A Panel)
The first part of a discussion of the present state of the literary SF field chaired by Chris Boyce. This time Duncan Lunan, Joe Haldeman, Jane Johnstone, and others discuss the plight of the science fiction writer trying to keep alive in a market increasingly dictating the mass audience novel. Where is SF literature now? Has the future finally caught up with it? Is there anything new to say? Will horror become the SF of the future? The panel will try to analyse, in a constructive way, present market trends.
- 10pm Ceilidh. (A Dance).
What is a ceilidh, apart from one of the most mispronounced words in the language? Well, to begin with, it's not "keek-a-lid", nor it's American cousin, "ke-hall-di"; it's pronounced "kay-li", with the stress on the "kay". The dictionary says "it's an informal gathering for song and story", but in Scotland the emphasis is on dancing. Come and enjoy our kind of Barn-dance and shout "hooch" to the best band in the land, "Hopscotch".

SCIENCE FICTION and WRITING

10 lectures by Duncan Lunan - author, SF critic of the Glasgow Herald, and organiser of the Glasgow Herald/Albacon III short story competition - plus discussions with emphasis on writing techniques.

The course will take ten major science fiction themes, such as interstellar travel, time travel, robots, and the paranormal, and consider the differing treatments of them in 'modern' science fiction from the early 1940's to the present. An example would be the radically different treatments of the far future in Arthur C Clarke's "The City and the Stars" and Gene Wolfe's tetralogy 'The Book of the New Sun'. The course may also be linked to the founding of a Glasgow science fiction circle. A list of recommended reading is available.

Course begins in October 1986. Write to the Enrolment Secretary, University of Glasgow, Department of Adult Education, 57/61 Oakfield Avenue, Glasgow G12 8LW. Tel.No. 041 339 8855, Ext. 4394.

Members of Albacon III will be allowed in at the £1.10p concession rate on production of their membership badge.

GFT

12 Rose Street Glasgow G3 041-332 6535

A public cinema operated by the Scottish Film Council.
 Administrator: KEN INGLES
 Manager: CHARLIE WATT
 Asst. Manager: JIMMY QUINN
 Chief Projectionist: BARNEY MCCUE
 Special Thanks: JYNE MILLING (SFI)

TICKET PRICES

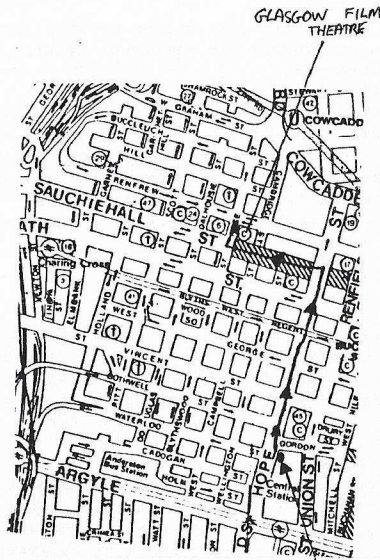
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To obtain concessions from adult full price, proof of status must be shown. The management reserves the right of admission.

BOOKING OFFICE 1.00 a day except Sundays

All patrons may purchase tickets in advance for main evening performances indicated in BOLD ITALICS in the Programme Summary on the back page of this brochure. Tickets purchased in advance guarantee admission to a specific performance but will not reserve a particular seat. Patrons are advised to come early for the best choice of seats. Tickets may not be exchanged or refunded.

In addition to purchasing tickets in person, GFT offers a limited TELEPHONE and POSTAL booking service. Telephone bookings must be collected and paid for at least one day in advance. Postal bookings for adult full price tickets only should be accompanied by a SAE, date options and an open cheque/PO payable to GFT.



CENTRAL
HOTEL

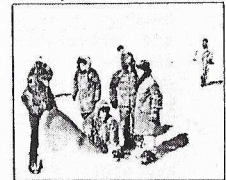
S-F EVENT - 28 March

This programme was selected by noted science fiction writer, JOE HALDEMAN, who is visiting Glasgow as a Guest of Honour at ALBACON III, the 37th British Annual Science Fiction Convention, at the Central Hotel, from 28-31 March. Convention memberships at £12 are available now from FUTURESOCK, 200 Woodlands Road, Glasgow or at the Central Hotel from 28 March.

Fri 28 March 2.00 only
 Double Feature Programme:

THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD 18

Inspired by John W. Campbell's short story 'Who Goes There?', this HOWARD HAWKS production endures as a science fiction classic, excitingly staged with blood-curdling action and suspense. The Antarctic discovery of a spacecraft frozen under the ice yields an alien, which proves blood thirsty once thawed. MARGARET SHERIDAN and KENNETH TOBEY star. USA 1951/87 mins SHOWN FIRST.



plus

THE THING 18

JOHN CARPENTER's remake is more faithful to Campbell's story, showing in graphic and gruesome detail the nature and actions of 'The Thing', a shape-changer able to assimilate and copy exactly any life form. It can be destroyed by fire, if only KURT RUSSELL can find out what and where it is. A genuine evocation of alien menace. USA 1982 109 mins.

SATURDAY - MAIN PROGRAMME

- Noon Things That go Bump in the Night (a talk)
Have you ever seen a ghost? Professor Archie Roy of Glasgow University explains his experiences of dealing with the paranormal, putting forward some theories of his own that may explain some of the unexplained happenings he has come across.
- 1pm Do Computers Have Crystal Balls?
This is the third in Jonathan Cowie's Beccon Series of talks loosely based around the theme of "Human Ecology, the Cosmic Overview". In this offering Jonathan looks at how computers can model the future and the picture they paint. The talk is slide illustrated and, he promises, will not contain any computer jargon.
- 3pm Guest of Honour Speech.
Joe Haldeman reveals all in the first part of a 2 hour session. Hear untold truths about great SF writers of our time, including Norman Spinrad and Harlan Ellison.
- 4pm In the second part of the session Joe Haldeman gives us an exclusive preview of a new short story soon to be published.
- 5pm Debate. This House Believes That:
"John, a one-eyed slack-jawed slaver lunatic who repeatedly rapes a girl in a graveyard, then, ripping her open from top to bottom, spreading her entrails (those he hasn't eaten) across the grave, in graphic bloody Technicolour with scything Dolby sound - a film" - should be censored.
Against the motion Clive Barker, and Alex Stewart. For the motion Mike Christie and Anne Page. Chaired by Mic Rogers.
- 7pm Photocall for Fancy Dress.
This is your chance to get real good pics of all our fancy dress entries. The location for this event shall be in the alcove outside the main hall.
- 7.30pm Costume Competition.
This is the annual fancy dress competition which always promises to be spectacular as well as very funny. If you are interested in taking part please let Joyce Craig know, you will find the details and helpful people in the costume workshop.
- 11.30pm Cleaning up the Rocky Horror mess.
We must mention that after the Rocky Horror Show we would like as many people as possible to help clean up the resulting mess. The more the merrier. It shouldn't take long with a fair number of people helping. We must point out that the late night films will not run until the mess is cleared. We ask this in the interest of hygiene and safety.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME

- 11am Waverider. (an illustrated talk)
Gordon Dick and Ken Bradshaw bring us up to date on recent developments. ASTRA's WASP team (Waverider Aerodynamic Study Programme) are trying to prove that the Waverider re-entry vehicle designed by Prof. Terence Nonweiler, can do all that was claimed for it in the 60's but never put to the test. Already they've been asked to join NASA design study, conducted hypersonic wind-tunnel tests by courtesy of British-Aerospace, and driven a model at high speed on top of a car. But the big question remains; when it comes to the sponsored rocket launch, WILL IT FLY?
- Noon Re-enactment Societies. (a panel)
Members of the many re-enactment societies explain how you can get involved in re-staging historic battles and show you a few tricks of the trade. You may find it not as expensive as you thought.
- 1pm SF Futures. (an illustrated talk)
Space Artist Ed Buckley gives us a representation of present day ideas as seen throughout the decades in many SF classics, films comics, and novels included.
- 2pm Not Another Trilogy
Talk by Peter Morwood on how he started writing.
- 5pm Jeopardy Round 2.
The second round of the knockout SF quiz that started on Friday.
- 6pm Rings Around Uranus. (An illustrated talk)
On 24th January this year Voyager II flew past the seventh planet and transmitted pictures and data back to earth of a world never before seen close

up. What did it find? Duncan Lunan shows us the latest pictures hot from the press at JPL and puts forward some theories to explain some of the bizarre findings.

7pm Book Reviews of the Year. (Panel).

Paul Kincaid, Oscar Dalglish, Caroline Mullan, and Ken Slater review and report on this year's SF books.

8 Halley's Comet Update

Andy Nimmo reports on the very latest information gleaned from the recent close encounter of the comet kind.

9pm The Turkey Buffet. (A Treasury of Trash)

Bill Morris and Chris O'Kane invite you to an informal event which will have you cringing in disgust and writhing in laughter, as we kick off with a showing of "Q-The Winged Serpent" followed by a serving of turkey soup and sandwiches and then on to a look at some of the worst movie posters, album covers and book covers you could ever imagine, culminating in the hilarious "Worst Record Disco of All Time". Can you survive?

PLEASE NOTE. there will only be a limited amount of soup and sandwiches to go round so get there early.

12 Mid Horror Stories. (readings)

Clive Barker, Ramsay Campbell and John Jarrold read by candlelight a collection of short stories that will chill you to the bone. Don't go in alone!

SUNDAY - MAIN PROGRAMME

11am Forward to the Past. (Panel).

The second of two panels which evaluate the continuing development and marketing of SF literature, raising important questions about it's future potential. Joe Haldeman, Duncan Lunan, Jane Johnson, John Brunner and Rog Peyton discuss where SF literature has been and to what kind of audience it sells.

1pm The Bidding Session.

Every year rival SF fan groups present bids to host the National SF con. If you claim to be an SF fan you should be here for this one; your vote can mean the difference between winning and losing a bid.

2pm The Future of Eastercons. (An open debate).

From an agenda drawn up on the Friday night in the fan room Bob Jewett hosts an open debate with the audience on the present state of Eastercon bidding. Is there a need for two year bidding due to the ever increasing growth of the Eastercon? Once again if you are an interested and concerned fan, you should be in on this one. Someone has to run the Eastercon; next year it could be you!

4pm Clive Barker - In Person (Guest Speech)

The very talented and humorous Clive Barker gives you an account of his career and his work, with a look to the future at some up-coming projects.

6pm Jeopardy - The Final. (A quiz).

The final and conclusive round of the knockout SF quiz that began on Friday. This one will decide who has the best knowledge of SF.

9pm The Albacon Highland Games. (Silly Games).

Join in the hilarious fun as the Scots play the English at each other's national games, plus some other not so familiar ones. Featuring Caber Tossing, Tiddley-winks, Haggis Hunting and Highland Dancing - ALL at the SAME TIME in one hall. Bill Morris, Jim Campbell and Bruce Saville host the epic event. Get in early if you want to participate; teams will be hauled screaming from the audience.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME

3pm The Indian SETI Programme. (Talk).

Professor Archie Roy presents the latest facts behind the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence in India. It will be the first time that this information has been presented in this country.

6pm The Art Auction.

This is your chance to buy some of the best of SF art at ridiculous prices. The auction will also be a chance to snap up some collectors' items in the book market

- 8pm Guest Artist's Speech. (An illustrated talk).
Pete Lyon gives an entertaining presentation of his work, and also a few hints and tips for all you budding artists out there.
- 9.30pm Round Robin SF Stories. (A Panel).
Panellists Joe Haldeman, Bob Shaw, Duncan Lunan, Clive Barker, John Jarrold, Terry Pratchett, Peter Morwood, Gus McAllister and Chris Boyce, try to concoct a coherent SF story, each adding to the previous panellist's contribution. It sounds like it will be quite a concoction; it may even be a short story winner.
- 10.30pm The Beccon Charades Quiz
Lots of fun for audience and teams as they try to outdo one another in Beccon's brain and body boggling quiz.

MONDAY - MAIN PROGRAMME

- 2pm Beginning SF. (A Panel).
Joe Haldeman, Duncan Lunan, Chris Boyce, Peter Morwood, Gus McAllister plus others. At Albacon '85 during the "Future of SF" panel, many aspiring writers were asking for guidance. The Glasgow Herald/Albacon III story contest was one response, the forthcoming SF course at Glasgow University Adult Education Dept., will be another. Revival of the Glasgow SF circle could be a third. Come and make your views known. Participants include the above mentioned - but most of all ladies and gentlemen, YOURSELVES.
- 3.30pm Space Stations in Fiction and Reality (an illustrated panel).
In 1984 President Regan committed the USA to building a space station by 1992. But was it the right decision and is NASA's concept what the West and the world really need? Ed Buckley, Robert Law, Duncan Lunan and Joe Haldeman look at the past, present and future of space station development.
- 4.30pm Amateur Societies- Their role in Space Research. (A Panel).
In the USA, the fastest growing section of the space advocacy is in practical research. Getaway Specials fly on the shuttle, a solar sail race to the moon is planned, the Space Studies Institute gives out research contracts. In the U.K. there's ASTRA's Maverider project; in Europe ESA sponsors Youth in Space. Gordon Dick (ASTRA President, U.K. Youth in Space Delegate), Duncan Lunan, (Outreach Committee, Seattle Space Development Conference), Andy Nimmo, (Space Settlers Society) and John Pitfield (Rocket Propulsion Systems) discuss the possibilities for development.
- 6pm Joe Haldeman's Movie Choice. (A film).
With so much Hollywood hype and nonsense around in films like "Rambo" and "Apocalypse Now", Joe Haldeman tries in some way to clear the fog by recommending this Australian view of the Vietnam war. The story concerns the day-to-day existence of a small group of soldier buddies serving with the Australian SAS. Joe believes this to be the most accurate representation of the war.
- 7.30pm The Committee's Farewell.
Our chance to thank you all for coming and showing appreciation to those who helped make your weekend.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME

- Noon The Albacon Business Meeting.
Your chance to question the hotel management and committee on serious business matters relating to the con.
- 2pm Future Cons.
A short run down from representatives of the various conventions being held during this year. It is possible that there may be requests for help to organise some of the up-coming events, so if you feel you want to have a bash, come and let them know.
- 3pm The Final Auction.
Your very last chance to pick up some of the valuable treasures left out of the Sunday auction. The prices are ridiculously cheap.

creating a stir in the science fiction world

WRITERS OF THE FUTURE

L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest has brought into being a whole new breed of talented science fiction and fantasy writers.

Launched in America in 1984, the quarterly Contest for new and amateur science fiction writers was judged by a distinguished panel, including Gregory Benford, Algis Budrys, Stephen Goldin, C.L. Moore, Robert Silverberg, the late Theodore Sturgeon, Jack Williamson and Roger Zelazny.

The judges were delighted with the high standard of entries and chose 15 of the best from among the prize winners and runners up for an unprecedented anthology of exciting new science fiction "L RON HUBBARD presents WRITERS OF THE FUTURE". Published in America last year, the Writers of the Future stories earned critical acclaim and the book became an overnight success, creating a whole new era of science fiction, with many of the award winners going on to have further work published in other media as a result of their success in the contest.

UK readers now have a chance to catch up with this new world of science fiction. L RON HUBBARD presents WRITERS OF THE FUTURE will be published in the UK on April 17th and available in bookstores at £2.75 or direct from the publishers New Era Publications at £2.75 plus 50p p & p. UK writers have their chance too - the Contest has now been extended to the UK and will continue well into 1986 - contest details available at Albacon.

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FILMS AT ALBACON III - REVIEWED BY CHRIS O'KANE

THINGS TO COME. U.K. 1936.

Raymond Massey, Cedric Hardwicke, Margaretta Scott, Ralph Richardson. Directed by William Cameron Menzies. Screenplay by H.G.Wells.

Coming out of the famous London Film Studios of Alexander Korda, this was the most ambitious SF film of the 1930's. The film is divided into three parts, the first set in 1940 which uncannily sees the start of a world war that continues for decades; the second deals with a community reduced by the war to a primitive way of life, and ruled over by a despot until the arrival of a mysterious "airman" who announces that a new era of "law and sanity" has begun; the third takes place in AD 2036 when the ruling technocrats have built a gleaming white underground city, supposedly Utopian; an attempt is being made to fire a manned projectile at the Moon from a huge cannon despite the opposition from a horde of effete "artists" who are still maintaining that "there are some things that Man is not meant to know". But their efforts are in vain. Stunning SFX for the first time by Ned Mann, who went on to design for "Gone With the Wind". Wells published a version of the script as "Things to Come" in 1935.

DOC SAVAGE: MAN OF BRONZE. USA 1974

Ron Ely, William Lucking, Darrell Swerling and Mike Miller.

Doc fights with a villainous captain over a fountain of liquid gold owned by a tribe in a remote part of South America. Aided by his grotesque team of helpers, he succeeds in preventing the gold from falling into evil hands and the villain is last seen singing in a Salvation Army band after a session in Doc's "rehabilitation centre". This George Pal production is based on the first DOC SAVAGE pulp novel. There are 181 novels in the series and at one point Pal announced that he hoped to film them all. This was Pal's last movie before his death in 1983.

DEATHWATCH. France 1982.

Romy Schneider, Harvey Keitel, Harry Dean Stanton and Max Von Sydow. Directed by Bertrand Tavernier.

An ambitious TV producer (with implanted camera behind his eyes) records the last days of a terminally ill woman for a new programme, but discovers he no longer has a "private" life. Strong cast, excellent performances and shot in and around Glasgow.

BLADERUNNER. USA 1982.

Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, Sean Young. Directed by Ridley Scott. From the novel "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" by Philip K. Dick.

Set in Los Angeles in the year 2020 at a time of overpopulation, a group of replicants (Androids) return to earth from the dangerous off-world colonies. Killing their masters and escaping to earth to find out why they exist, they are pursued by a Blade Runner, (Harrison Ford), sent by police to terminate them before word gets out to the public that the genetics industry is spiralling out of control, and that Androids are becoming too human. Visually stunning SFX from Douglas Trumbull.

GHOSTBUSTERS.

Ever increasing paranormal occurrences are plaguing the city of New York. Three extraordinarily bright, though somewhat off-beat to say the least, university parapsychologists, having lost their research grant, decide to start a business known as "Ghostbusters". Walking a fine hair-line between genius and lunacy, they manage, more often than not, to emerge as winners. During the course of their business they encounter a girl with a very annoying supernatural problem, (Sigourney Weaver) on whose apartment the manifestations seem to centre and the fun really begins.

COCOON

Don Ameche got the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his part in this fun film which has a group of senior citizens being rejuvenated when they accidentally interfere in some aliens' attempts to rescue their companions, trapped when Atlantis sank. Don't worry about the plot, just enjoy the performances.

ALL OF ME

One of the best comedies of recent years, it stars Steve Martin as the lawyer who gets Lily Tomlin's soul trapped in his body and has to find a way to get her out again. Prepare to have your sides ache watching the brilliant body movements as Steve Martin discovers how difficult it is to get around when one side is controlled by a man and the other by a woman!

SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES.

USA 1983. Jason Robards, Diane Ladd, Jonathan Pryce, Pam Grier. From a story by Ray Bradbury. Directed by; Jack Clayton.

One smoked-scented October a carnival arrives unexpectedly in a small American town. Presided over by the sardonic Mr Dark, it fuels itself on the dreams of ordinary men and women and turns them into nightmares. One man and two young boys come to recognise the leering face of evil behind the carnival's jovial mask, the odour of corruption beneath the heady scent of popcorn and candy-floss. How can one tired, ageing man and two small boys combat the terrifying forces ranged against them...?

Q-THE WINGED SERPENT.

USA 1983. Michael Moriarity, Candy Clark, David Carridine, Richard Rountree. Directed by Larry Cohen.

A giant winged serpent and bloody Aztec sacrificial ritual bring mounting horror to present day Manhattan...

This is a real turkey, make no mistake. However there is somewhere, in among the dregs, a clever social comment about the small man on the street and his value to society. Michael Moriarity turns in a terrific performance as the man who knows the whereabouts of the hideous slaughtering serpent. This film, however, could be a political bombshell, as it carries the message that the New York Police Department are totally ill-equipped to deal with flying serpents and other types of monsters, with such a back log of rape and mugging crimes to be dealt with. Be warned there are some really terrible lines in this one.

STARMAN.

USA 1985. Jeff Bridges, Nancy Allen. Directed by John Carpenter.

The surprise hit of last year. Harlan Ellison slammed it for not doing anything new with a well used theme. Though that is true it is surprisingly well handled by director John Carpenter, not known for his sentimentality. Jeff Bridges makes the whole film a delight to watch due to his very touching performance (he was nominated for a best actor oscar last year), but the story gets silly when the CIA get involved.

MAD MAX III - Beyond Thunderdome.

Mel Gibson plus a cast of thousands (as usual) directed by George Miller.

This is the third of the "Road Warrior Films" from Australian director George Miller, the story has now become rather ridiculous but it doesn't really matter, for the visual images and stunts make up for it. Miller has said that he will not make any more Mad Max movies. Let's wait and see if he means it.

THE TERMINATOR

British director James Cameron's first and very promising movie burst explosively onto the screen as big Arnold Schwarzenegger is given his first decent role as a cyborg from the future sent back to Los Angeles in 1984 to terminate the life of a girl who will give birth to a son who could eventually become a dangerous resistance leader in the future war on earth between ruling machines and the remnants of mankind. The action seldom lets up, except for plot devices, and the pace is exhilarating as Arnold deals out death and destruction in wholesale lots in the pursuit of a pretty girl. There are some twists in the plot so I shall not reveal all here, but I don't think you will be disappointed. James Cameron went on to write the action scenes for the dreadful Rambo and is currently editing the sequel to Alien; we should expect plenty of visual fireworks but not a lot original input to the story. He seems to borrow freely from other people's work and had to settle recently out of court with Harlan Ellison on this one. Ellison accused him of stealing his Outer Limits story, "Soldier"

2010: THE YEAR WE MADE CONTACT

"Make contact with whom" you may well ask at the end of this one. A film that has all the classic signs of a story written for money and a movie produced for money. An absolute compromise between, writer, producer and director with the sole aim to please the market. Space ships go "whoosh" in the vacuum of space and highly trained and experienced crews run around cursing and swearing, making irrational decisions while on a mission to find out what happened to the mission of "Discovery One" to Jupiter in 2001. Peter Hymas manages to destroy the respectable image of space exploration that Stanley Kubrick so painstakingly built up over a period of four years (1964-1968) and what we end up with is a very mediocre pot of soup. The spfx are well up to 1985

standards as they should be for a production of this cost and if you haven't read the book the ending will make no sense whatsoever.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

I'm sure you will need no introduction to this one, and some of you will want no introduction to this one. It's the movie you either love or hate, the movie that you can't hear for the fans singing along with, the movie that gets you wet, the movie that makes a mess that we can all clean up. However it never fails to generate a terrific atmosphere in which to have a party. Surely I don't have to list the stars and the songs, but need only to say to those who are unaware of it (or virgins as the hype goes) that it is an affectionate send up of them good old horror SF movies from way back then. The title number says it all.

ICE PIRATES

Didn't get much of a release this one, but it's a terrific send up of Star Wars and as many other SF movies of the 70s. Far away in space lies a galaxy where water is a scarce and valuable commodity, (does it sound familiar). The evil, Templar Empire controls the last source of fresh water, making them the richest, most powerful, least thirsty race. Their hold on the rest of humanity is maintained by shipping quantities of the precious liquid in frozen blocks to its colony worlds aboard a massive fleet of interstellar refrigerators. One force in the galaxy remains strong enough to challenge the mighty Templars. From their base on a bandit moon, daring anything for a drink, emerge a few brave, bold buccaneers- the ICE PIRATES...! Spot the SF send ups in this one

PURPLE ROSE OF CAIRO

Woody Allen's excellent fantasy starring Mia Farrow as the girl whose heart throbs steps off the silver screen and sweeps her away in his arms! A truly marvellous piece of cinema, full of warmth, wit and one liners.

SHORTS

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER DOCUMENTARY.

USA 1982. Narrated by Leonard Nimmo.

This is a fairly factual account of the evidence gathered to date on "Nessie" it is a very fair and sincere presentation.

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER MOVIE

UK 1984. Produced by Iain Rintoul. This is a highly entertaining fiction film produced by Edinburgh film maker Iain Rintoul. The miniature work is superb and there are some very humorous moments among the chaos. The story concerns the discovery of "Nessie" in Loch Ness by the Americans who have just purchased the land from Scotland. This unexpected discovery leads to a political battle between the SNP and the Americans over who actually owns the monster. Eventually it is legally declared that the monster belongs to the Americans, and it is not too long before they have poor old Nessie touring the country and raking in the dollars. Unfortunately their plans go wrong when the truck carrying the monster meets with disaster and both end up crashing off the Forth Road Bridge into the river Forth. Later that night, Nessie emerges from the depths to terrorize Edinburgh city centre...

UFOs.

USA 1982. Narrated by Leonard Nimmo. A fairly factual and honest look at some of the hoaxes and baffling cases from the UFO phenomenon.

SPACEPLACE.

USA 1970 A summary of the Apollo moonflight in 1969, capturing all the thrills of takeoff, weightlessness, the moon landing, and the first steps on the lunar surface - a timeless epic in ten minutes.

SCOTLAND FOR FITNESS.

1938. Scotland. Made solely to prepare the unsuspecting Scots for war, this is a terrible but hilarious film of how to enjoy Scotland's beautiful scenery and keep in tip top shape at the same time. Whatever you do do not take this seriously!

SPACEBORNE

USA 1978. Rarely seen NASA film clips shot in space and on the moon, combine to show the mystery and grandeur of space. An Oscar nominated celebration of man's most dazzling accomplishment.

RECORDED LIVE

USA 1980. Winner of 15 international awards, this remarkable student film by S.S. Wilson parodies the Hollywood horror films of the Forties. A menacing reel of videotape pursues and devours a young man lured to an old, deserted mansion for a phoney job.

THE WIZARD OF SPEED AND TIME.

USA 1980. From a mountain cave blasts an incredible creature... a Green Wizard running along at 500 mph in a wild roar around the world until he slips on a banana peel and into a world record patrol. A truly magical tour de force of special

FAN PROGRAMME

FRIDAY

- 2pm What is Fandom?
Most fan programmes start with an item like this! It is simply a quick introduction to the sort of things that are going on over the weekend for those of you who haven't ventured into the fanroom in the past.
- 3pm Do We Need Fan Funds?
A panel of people who have been involved in fan funds in the past discuss with the audience the role they play and seek to answer the charge that, with the present low air fares, the fan funds are no longer necessary.
- 6pm My Favourite Con
What makes a convention memorable and how reproduceable is it? More nostalgia dressed up as hard edged fannish criticism.
- 8pm Introducing Fanzines
A panel which sets out to explain what fanzines are and how YOU can produce one this very weekend! Come along and see how easy it is to become a real fan.
- 9.30pm Two Year or Not Two Year?
Bob Jewett chairs an informal discussion in which it is hoped to thrash out an agenda for the big debate on Sunday over the future of the Eastercon.

SATURDAY

- 12 noon I Was a Teenage Convention Groupie
John Jarrold gives his Fan Guest of Honour Speech. The time was chosen to be shortly after the bar opens as an aid to comprehension.
- 2pm Pop Quiz
Doug MacCallum quizzes the people who gave the most correct answers to the eliminators in the programme package. Come along and see if you could do better.
- 6pm The Tennis Elbow Foot Game
Anyone remember this from the early days of BBC2? No? Good! Two or more teams will attempt to tie each other's tongues in knots and scramble their brains in this refined parlour game. Hearing is believing.
- 8pm Is There Life After Worldcon?
Old timers get together round the old campfire to tell us young 'uns what happens when the Worldcon comes to town. Do the weak die and vigorous young fans shoot up in their place? Did Nostrodamus foresee the Metropole Hotel on Brighton? What is a Worldcon, and is it infectious?
- 9.30pm Live Label, a Musical Cabaret
Ian Sorensen's previous dramatic presentations pale into significance beside this lemon. Only people wondering if they're famous enough to be slandered need attend. Note: it's all done in the best possible taste, but very badly.
- 11pm The Beccon 87 Bidding Party
In which the Basildon bunch try to win your votes for their Birmingham bid. No music, no sexism, just good clean fun. (Punch available).

SUNDAY

- 11am British Science Fiction Association AGM
Members of the BSFA should attend to discuss the very important decisions that need to be made about the future of the BSFA.
- 3pm Pop Quiz Final
The kings of rock and roll trivia meet in the final tussle to decide who's got the biggest store of useless information.
- 5pm After APAs, What Comes Next?
Every convention has a discussion in which everyone puts forward their views on the current state of fanzines. This is the one for Albacon. Will more genzines appear as the Apa boom declines? Will floppy discs replace paper? Did D West really run off Simon Dunsley's last zine on a clothes mangle?
- 7pm Connections
A quiz in which the best minds in the fanroom try to work out the link between Albacon, the fan room and 1900 hrs. (Hint: it's the name of a programme item)

9pm

The Late Late Fanroom Show

A madcap melange of carefree fun and spontaneous abandon hosted by your favourite and mine: Ian Sorensen. Who will win the Michael Ashley Awards? How many fans can be stacked on a Gestetner 405? Will the whirly wheeler actually survive ten minutes with Rog Peyton without losing their wallet? Come along and join in - prizes galore!

11pm

The Contravention Party

Last year's losers celebrate by having a party to which they have invited a selection of fellow heroic failures of mankind. Come along and drown your sorrows over your own dismal failure in the Contravention party. Fancy dress optional but preferred (try not to tear the costume as you put it on!)

MONDAY

Mon The fan room will be available for any groups wishing to meet in it eg APAs, CNDers etc.

REPRO ROOMS

The Repro rooms will be used by teams producing copies of the convention newsletter each day. At other times they will be used for the following items.

Fri/Sat Demonstrations of the Amstrad wordprocessor and Gestetner duplicators.

Sat 10.30am How to cut stencils.

A beginners guide to the production of stencils suitable for printing.

Sat 1pm Printing

How to get the stencils you cut earlier printed onto paper.

Sun 10.30am Advanced Techniques: Preparation and printing.

Both stencil preparation and litho/photocopy layout and preparation will be demonstrated.



Spectrum - Loch Ness Monster Movie

ALL FILMS with animated creatures owe their ancestry to the original King Kong, according to Ian Rintoul, and it is certainly true that until E.T., no other articulated object has caught the imagination, and the affection, of the customers as did Edgar Wallace's dream-child. Rintoul knows his creatures, and a lot of love has gone into his Loch Ness Monster Movie. He is also, on his own admission, a special effects maniac, and something spectacular will happen around a miniature of the art galleries in Edinburgh, which is where it's at.

The mania previously led him into animating the Tay Bridge Disaster, William McGonagall's favourite historical event, and the wartime Luftwaffe raid on the Forth Rail Bridge. He is in love with quality like any self-respecting

maniac, and came closest with his 1980 BBC2 film on Pearl Harbor, *Twenty-Nine Seconds to Zero*.

But other people have to love it too. I mean, they have no point in trying to inform the viewers if you don't entertain them at the same time.

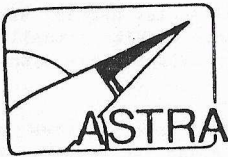
Setting the movie in Edinburgh is a neat trick which will give the audience that entirely agreeable sense of déjà vu.

And Nessie, of course, is already established as an object of love and pride.

But what if, like Kong, it was captured? The Rintoul eye on this possibility is a sharp, satirical one, because small incidents create big incidents. What if, for instance, the Americans wanted to take it over, the way they took over that other lunatic Scottish institution, golf?

There suddenly looms the menace of international incidents, tantrums even. We've already had a significant electrical storm in the film. Here comes the political storm.

It should be a lot more fun than your run-of-the-mill political storm. CLIFF HANLEY



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Details: Programme copy & membership details from ASTRA Secretary -

Gordon Dick 83 Kelvin St Largs 0475 673 653

OR contact - Oscar Schwiglhofer/Technical & Astronomy Sections
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