

#### ALASTAIR REYNOLDS WRITER GUEST OF HONOR

Although Alastair Reynolds worked as a research astronomer with the European Space Agency from 1991-2004, his early love of writing was revealed when he published his first four short stories while still a graduate student. Alastair is probably best known for his *Revelation Space* series, comprising six novels, two novellas and at least eight short stories. The series covers a span of nearly six centuries beginning in 2150 and is notable for its adherence to hard science; in the *Revelation Space* universe, Einstein rules, and even the fastest ships (known as lighthuggers) travel slower than light. The first book - after which the series is named - appeared in 2000, while the most recent, *The Prefect*, was published in the UK in April, 2007.

Published in 2004, *Century Rain* marks a departure not only from the *Revelation Space* universe, but also from Einstein's harsh laws. In *Century Rain*, faster-than-light travel is permitted via a system of wormholes.

Other works include *Pushing Ice* (2005), which takes place during a much earlier time than Alastair's other works, and his upcoming *House of Suns*, which leaps into deep time.

Although *House of Suns* takes place circa one million A.D., galaxy-wide civilizations still inevitably fail because no form of faster-than-light communication is possible. However, one faction seeks another solution; they'll simply reshape the galaxy to make it smaller. This feat - however difficult - is well within the laws of physics.

#### NATE BUCKLIN FAN GUEST OF HONOR

Nate Bucklin came to the Twin Cities in 1966 to attend college. Minnesota fandom and music would never be the same. A regular gathering of Nate and fanish friends became (somewhat) formalized and the Minnesota Science Fiction Society (Minn-StF) was born. Although Nate is a published writer, was a long time contributor to APAs and a member of the Scribbles, he is more widely know for his music both in and outside the SF community. Combining his early musical influences from Brazil (and later folk and rock), with finely crafted lyrics from his literary side he has produced a joyful catalogue of songs. His involvement with Minn-StF always has included music, helping to establish a musical tradition unequaled elsewhere in fandom.

#### REGISTRATION

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL: [REGISTRATION@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG](mailto:REGISTRATION@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG)

There is nothing like free money, and you can pocket \$20 if you register by Nov 15, 2007. Until then, adult registration is only \$40! We've included a registration form, or you can register online at [www.mnstf.org.com/Minicon43](http://www.mnstf.org.com/Minicon43).

Come to Minicon 43 and enjoy the finest guests of honor we've had all year, great fun, great conversation, great bands, great art, and the best hospitality suite in fandom.

If you'd like to come - and who wouldn't! - but you aren't certain you can make it, feel free to buy a supporting membership now for \$15 and convert to a full membership at the door for \$40.

Minicon would like to extend a special invitation to high school and college groups this year. If you, or someone you know, is a student at a school with a science fiction/fantasy/animanga/comic book/gaming club, please send the name of the school and the group advisor's name to [groups@minicon43.mnstf.org](mailto:groups@minicon43.mnstf.org).

#### HOTEL

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL: [HOTEL@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG](mailto:HOTEL@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG)

Minicon 43 will return this year to the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel. If you haven't visited the hotel recently, prepare to be impressed. Sheraton has made over the entire building, from the guest rooms to the function space, it looks brand-new.

#### Room Rates

\$87 Standard Room	\$102 Deluxe Kingsize
\$97 Cabana Room	\$289 Suite

Reserve your room quickly and easily using our web link, [www.StarwoodMeeting.com/Book/Minicon43](http://www.StarwoodMeeting.com/Book/Minicon43). There, you can also get directions, see photos of the hotel space, and much more. Or, phone 952-835-7800, and be sure to mention Minicon to get our special room rates. And don't forget, parking is *Free!*

#### ROOM PARTIES

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL: [PARTIES@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG](mailto:PARTIES@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG)

As always, Minicon welcomes people who would like to throw a room party this year. To reserve a poolside cabana or another room for your party, email us today.

#### ART SHOW

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL: [ARTSHOW@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG](mailto:ARTSHOW@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG)

Minicon has a long history of hosting fine art and artists. In the past few years, our artists have included Fastner & Larson, John Picacio, and Charles Vess. This year, we'll have Wayne Barlowe! His stunning work will grace our convention t-shirt, program book and badges, but there's more. We have a room at the convention absolutely filled with great art, both fan and professional. Piece after piece of amazing artwork, some for sale, all for looking. We call it the Art Show. (Catchy name, don't you think?)

#### PROGRAMMING

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL: [PROGRAMMING@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG](mailto:PROGRAMMING@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG)

Programming has always been a big part of Minicon. We have panels, activities for kids, readings, more panels, interviews, workshops, signings and even more panels. If you'd like to see what we've got cooking so far, check out our programming page at [www.mnstf.org/minicon43/programming/](http://www.mnstf.org/minicon43/programming/).

#### HOSPITALITY

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL: [HOSPITALITY@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG](mailto:HOSPITALITY@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG)

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry. Words both old and simple, but they capture the spirit of the Minicon hospitality suite as well as any can. Come for the conversation, and have some hot pizza and cold beer while you talk.

We vary the selection from year to year to keep things fresh, but recent menus have included tequila wings, meatballs in marinara, pizza, tacos, and endless bowls of munchies. On the bar side, we'll serve beers like Guinness, Newcastle Brown Ale, several types of hard cider, and surprises yet to be announced.

#### DEALERS' ROOM

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL: [DEALERS@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG](mailto:DEALERS@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG)

Books, artwork, jewelry, games and gaming supplies, comics, clothing, handcrafts, music, movies, hats, bags, scarves, shawls, creatures, cards, t-shirts, buttons, magazines, toys, figurines, calendars, songbooks, dragons, & poetry; we could go on, but you get the idea. All these things and more can be found in the Minicon Dealers' Room, so be sure to indulge in some browsing.

Dealer tables are available at a rate of \$45 per 2.5 x 6 foot table. (This price does not include membership to the convention). Dealers can reserve tables by emailing the address above.

#### MUSIC

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL: [MUSIC@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG](mailto:MUSIC@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG)

Music has always been a vital part of the Minicon experience. Top-notch stage acts play to eager crowds in a music club atmosphere, and afterward, the music circle runs well into the wee hours. This year, we'll be adding even more to our musical offerings with expanded music programming.

#### PARTICIPANTS & VOLUNTEERS

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL: [VOLUNTEERS@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG](mailto:VOLUNTEERS@MINICON43.MNSTF.ORG)

Each section in this progress report lists an email address in its title bar; please don't hesitate to email your questions or requests to any of these addresses. But we'd also love to hear your thoughts and your ideas, and most of all, we'd love you to join us in making Minicon a great convention. If you'd like to participate in a panel, Rachel would love to hear from you at our programming address. If you have art to contribute, or music to play, or if you'd like to reserve a table in our dealers' room, one quick email will get you started. Minicon thrives on the participation of its members; please join us for lots of fun and a free Porche (quantities limited to fewer than one).

WAYNE BARLOWE ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR

Wayne's work includes *Barlowe's Guide to Extraterrestrials*, *Expedition*, and *The Alien Life of Wayne Barlowe*, each of which strives to illustrate realistic conceptions of alien life forms. Wayne's art has also been displayed in many institutions of fine art, including The Bronx Museum of the Arts, The Orlando Science Center, The Atrium of Park Avenue, The New Britain Museum of American Art, The Society of Illustrators, The Hayden Planetarium in New York, and The Discovery Museum in Bridgeport, Conn.

Wayne has also contributed to a wide variety of television and movie projects. He designed the artifacts as well as the principal aliens and their homeworld for the two-hour TNT Babylon 5 movie *Thirdspace*, which aired in the fall of 1998. He also contributed alien creatures and character designs for the animated 20th Century Fox release, *Titan A.E.* and designed creatures seen in *Galaxy Quest*. In 2000, he executed preproduction drawings for *Blade 2*, and in 2002, creature and character designs for *Hellboy* as well as *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. One year later, Wayne contributed concept art to *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*.

Adding to his impressive resume, Wayne's first novel, *God's Demon*, will be published by Tor Books and is expected in October 2007.

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SHAWNA MCCARTHY EDITOR GUEST OF HONOR

Shawna Lee McCarthy is well-known both as an editor and as a literary agent. From 1983 through 1985, she edited *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*. While there, Shawna edited four anthologies of stories from the magazine; *Isaac Asimov's Wonders of the World* (1982), *Isaac Asimov's Aliens & Outworlders* (1983), *Isaac Asimov's Space of Her Own* (1984), and *Isaac Asimov's Fantasy!* (1985). In recognition of her talents, Shawna won the 1984 Hugo Award for Best Professional Editor, and has been nominated twice since. After leaving *Asimov's*, Shawna joined Bantam, and during her time there co-edited the first two volumes of *Full Spectrum* with Lou Aronica. Today, Shawna splits her time as an independent literary agent and as editor of *Realms of Fantasy* magazine.

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