



JULY 27, 2024

SATURDAY

News, Events, and Highlights at Comic-Con International

COMIC-CON

TODAY

Welcome to *Comic-Con Today*, the official newsletter of Comic-Con International. Each morning, we post a new digital issue with News, Updates, and Highlights of Comic-Con. We look forward to putting the information you need in your fingertips, or at least on your smartphone.

Masquerade Celebrates 50th Anniversary Tonight



A tale as old as time, Judges' Choice Award winner from Comic-Con Special Edition, 2021

The Comic-Con Masquerade turns 50 this year, and the event starts tonight at 8:30 pm in Ballroom 20. To celebrate the anniversary, Comic-Con's throwing a masquerade viewing party with music and dancing with Channel 933's DJ Chino in the Sails Pavilion. We'll have special black and gold commemorative buttons, eats and treats, and a no-host bar for beverages.

Doors for the Masquerade will open for audience seating at 8:00 pm, but the line for choice seating will start forming earlier. To help audience members avoid waiting in a lengthy line, *free* seating tickets will be given out at 12 noon near Ballroom 20, and again after 3:00 PM at the Masquerade desk nearby. A ticket assures that you will have a seat, so you can then go enjoy your day and return later. Tickets are *not* required, however, and once the ticketed line has all gone in, then anyone without a ticket is welcome while seating remains. Ballroom 20 holds nearly 4,000 and sometimes fills, but to accommodate, the Masquerade will also be shown simultaneously on large screens in the Sails Pavilion (about 500 seats) and Ballroom 6A (no tickets needed for either). For more information on attending the Masquerade, see the Events Quick Guide, pp. 18 and 19.

A Little History

Costumes have always played a vital role at Comic-Con. The Masquerade on-stage costume competition premiered at the fifth Comic-Con, on August 2, 1974, when the entire attendance of the convention, set at the El Cortez Hotel, was just over 1,900 people. The legendary June Foray (voice of Rocky the Flying Squirrel, Cindy Lou Who, Granny from the Warner Bros. cartoons) acted as emcee that Friday night and oversaw a contest full of superheroes, Star Trek cosplay, and a few classic movie monsters. That Masquerade's winner, Charlene Brinkman, even went on to run the Masquerade for several years. Eventually, in 1986, the event moved from Friday to Saturday.

Early on, a popular recurring emcee was radio disc jockey Gabriel Wisdom, who donned a winged helmet and wig, and brought a large hammer prop made of rectangular mirrors, becoming The Mighty Thor, emceeing in character. The Rocky Horror Picture Show was at the top of its popularity, and there were many submissions featuring the film's characters. It was during this era when the rather unfortunate "No Peanut Butter and Jelly Rule" became necessary after one contestant's strange costume idea went, well, rather rancid.

Among the many more tasteful moments came in 1989, when contestant Allen Lavigne crafted an impressive Hawkman costume along with a large hollowed-out boulder to be perched on, worn by his wife. When he hopped off it, wings majestically spread, to the middle of the big Civic Theatre stage. He finished his performance, but forgot about the rock. His wife in the rock costume, unsure what to do, crawled slowly off stage. Partway there, the voices of a few in the audience rose with chants of "Rock...Rock...Rock!" and then were joined by most of the audience. For many Comic-Con Masquerades afterward, the refrain "Rock...Rock...Rock!" would spontaneously rise up from the audience at least once or twice per show.

In 1979, Comic-Con moved to the San Diego Concourse, (known as the Convention and Performing Arts Center at the time) with the Masquerade in Golden Hall. Depending on availability, the Masquerade in the 1980s bounced around between Golden Hall, the El Cortez Hotel, the Civic Theatre, and even Symphony Hall. For the latter venue, large buses were used to shuttle about 1,700 attendees and contestants from the Concourse to Symphony Hall, and then back again.

Over the years, emcees often changed, as did the Masquerade showrunner, with an especially dedicated one in 1986 who eventually became the current president of Comic-Con.

As Comic-Con moved to the then-new San Diego Convention Center, the Masquerade expanded into more sections of the center. The Masquerade moved to Ballroom 6ABCF and got its first truly huge audience line, the largest one ever seen for anything at Comic-Con or at the convention center itself at that point.

In the 1990s, Phil and Kaja Foglio became our regular emcees, occasionally missing a year due to scheduling conflicts. A few years later, the second half of the center was completed, and the newly built Ballroom 20 became the Masquerade's 7th and current home. Through all those decades our technology continually improved, of course. The box of audio cassettes carefully placed in order evolved into a box of CDs, eventually becoming USB drives.

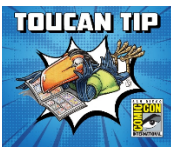
During the difficult two-year COVID shut-down, the Comic-Con Board of Directors deemed there should never be a Comic-Con without a Masquerade, so even during our two online virtual Comic-Cons, there were still Masquerades, also hosted by the Foglios, and with amazing costumes from a dozen different countries. Today, 50 years from the very first event, with an audience numbering over 5,000 and an estimated 2,000 costume entries later, Comic-Con once again presents the Saturday evening event that gives costuming the spotlight it deserves. Don't forget that if you're too tired to stick around for the judging, the winning costumes will be listed in tomorrow's issue of *Comic-Con Today*.

Guest Cancellations

We regret to announce that the following Comic-Con Special Guests are unable to attend Comic-Con International 2024:

- **"Honkun" Yuta Honda**
- **Paul Levitz**
- **Christopher Paulini**

Toucan Tip of the Day



Today, Comic-Con celebrates the life and films of the undisputed King of Cult Films, Roger Corman. Corman directed over 50 low-budget films, mostly from the mid-1950s through the 1970s, and produced over 400 more. He gave a start to a generation of film directors such as Francis Ford Coppola, Ron Howard, Martin Scorsese, and James Cameron. He also gave early roles to many top actors, including Jack Nicholson, Dennis Hopper, Bruce Dern, Diane Ladd, and William Shatner. Roger Corman passed away on May 9, 2024, at the age of 98. He will be missed.

Comic-Con is proud to present the following Roger Corman films today:

- *Little Shop of Horrors* (1960), directed by Roger Corman and starring Jonathan Haze, Jackie Joseph, and Jack Nicholson, unrated (10:00 am - 11:13 am, Grand 5, Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina)
- *The Intruder* (1962), directed by Roger Corman and starring William Shatner, PG-13 (5:15 pm – 6:39 pm, Grand 5, Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina)

2024 Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Recipients



2024 Eisner hosts Phil LaMarr and Tom Lennon serenade the audience

Best Short Story: “The Kelpie,” by Becky Cloonan, in *Four Gathered on Christmas Eve* (Dark Horse)

Best Single Issue/One-Shot: *Nightwing* #105, by Tom Taylor and Bruno Redondo (DC)

Best Continuing Series: *Transformers*, by Daniel Warren Johnson (Image Skybound)

Best Limited Series: *PeePee PooPoo*, by Caroline Cash (Silver Sprocket)

Best New Series: *Somna: A Bedtime Story*, by Becky Cloonan and Tula Lotay (DSTLRY)

Best Publication for Early Readers: *Bigfoot and Nessie: The Art of Getting Noticed*, by Chelsea M. Campbell and Laura Knetzger (Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House)

Best Publication for Kids: *Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir*, by Pedro Martín (Dial Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers)

Best Publication for Teens: *Danger and Other Unknown Risks*, by Ryan North and Erica Henderson (Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House)

Best Humor Publication: *It's Jeff: The Jeff-Verse* #1, by Kelly Thompson and Gurihiru (Marvel)

Best Anthology: *Comics for Ukraine*, edited by Scott Dunbier (Zoop)

Best Reality-Based Work: *Three Rocks: The Story of Ernie Bushmiller: The Man Who Created Nancy*, by Bill Griffith (Abrams ComicArts)

Best Graphic Memoir: *Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam*, by Thien Pham (First Second/Macmillan)

Best Graphic Album—New: *Roaming*, by Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki (Drawn & Quarterly)

Best Graphic Album—Reprint (tie):

Hip Hop Family Tree: The Omnibus, by Ed Piskor (Fantagraphics)

Wonder Woman Historia: The Amazons, by Kelly Sue DeConnick, Phil Jimenez, Gene Ha, and Nicola Scott (DC)

Best Adaptation from Another Medium: *Watership Down*, by Richard Adams, adapted by James Sturm and Joe Sutphin (Ten Speed Graphic)

Best U.S. Edition of International Material: *Blacksad, Vol 7: They All Fall Down, Part 2*, by Juan Díaz Canales and Juanjo Guarnido, translation by Diana Schutz and Brandon Kander (Europe Comics)

Best U.S. Edition of International Material—Asia: *My Picture Diary*, by Fujiwara Maki, translation by Ryan Holmberg (Drawn & Quarterly)

Best Archival Collection/Project—Strips: *Dauntless Dames: High-Heeled Heroes of the Comic Strips*, edited by Peter Maresca and Trina Robbins (Fantagraphics)

Best Archival Collection/Project—Comic Books: *All-Negro Comics 75th Anniversary Edition*, edited by Chris Robinson (Very GOOD Books)

Best Writer: Mariko Tamaki, *Roaming* (Drawn & Quarterly)

Best Writer/Artist: Daniel Warren Johnson, *Transformers* (Image Skybound)

Best Penciller/Inker or Penciller/Inker Team: Jillian Tamaki, *Roaming* (Drawn & Quarterly)

Best Painter/Multimedia Artist: Sana Takeda, *The Night Eaters: Her Little Reapers* (Abrams ComicArts); *Monstress* (Image)

Best Cover Artist: Peach Momoko, *Demon Wars: Scarlet Sin*, various alternate covers (Marvel)

Best Coloring: Jordie Bellaire, *Batman, Birds of Prey* (DC); *Dark Spaces: Hollywood Special* (IDW)

Best Lettering: Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou, *The Unlikely Story of Felix and Macabber, The Witcher: Wild Animals*, and others (Dark Horse); *Batman: City of Madness, The Flash, Poison Ivy*, and others (DC); *Black Cat Social Club* (Humanoids); *Beneath the Trees Where Nobody Sees* (IDW); *The Cull, What's the Furthest Place from Here?* (Image); and others

Best Comics-Related Periodical/Journalism: *The Comics Journal* #309; edited by Gary Groth, Kristy Valenti, and Austin English (Fantagraphics)

Best Comics-Related Book: *I Am the Law: How Judge Dredd Predicted Our Future*, by Michael Molcher (Rebellion)

Best Academic/Scholarly Work: *The Claremont Run: Subverting Gender in the X-Men*, by J. Andrew Deman (University of Texas Press)

Best Publication Design: *Bram Stoker's Dracula* and *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* boxed set, designed by Mike Kennedy (Magnetic Press)

Best Webcomic: Lore Olympus, by Rachel Smythe (WEBTOON)

Best Digital Comic: *Friday*, vols. 7–8, by Ed Brubaker and Marcos Martin, (Panel Syndicate)

Hall of Fame:

Judges' Choices: Kim Deitch, Creig Flessel, A. B. Frost, Billy Graham, Gary Groth, Albert Kanter, Warren Kremer, Oscar Lebeck, Frans Masereel, Don McGregor, Keiji Nakaszawa, Noel Sickles, Cliff Sterrett, Elmer C. Stoner, Bryan Talbot, Ron Turner, George Tuska, Lynn Varley, and James Warren

Voters' Choices: Klaus Janson, Jim Lee, Mike Mignola, and Jill Thompson

Other Awards

Bob Clampett Humanitarian Award: Women in Comics Collective International

Russ Manning Promising Newcomer Award: Oliver Bly

Bill Finger Award for Excellence in Comic Book Writing: Jo Duffy, Ralph Newman

Will Eisner Spirit of Comics Retailer Award: Blackbird Comics and Coffeehouse, Maitland, FL, owners: Candice Faulkner-Craig and David Craig



Eisner winner for Best Writer/Artist Daniel Warren Johnson for *Transformers* (Image Skybound)



Autograph Area Updates

Limited Signings

For complete details on how to participate in limited signings, see p. 74 of the Events Quick Guide. Today's limited signings are as follows:

- **Shiwasu no Okina**
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
AA04
- **Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba**
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
AA03
- **Todd McFarlane**
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
AA02

Note that Todd McFarlane has canceled his 11:00 am signing, but will sign at 4:00 pm.
- **REM**
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
AA04

Cancellation Today

- **Christopher Paolini**

Programming Grid Updates

The following changes were made to the Programming Grids after the Events Quick Guide was printed.

Cancellations

- **Spotlight on Christopher Paolini**, 11:00AM - 12:00PM Room: 25ABC [**Today**]
- **Becoming Superhero Fit**, 10:00AM - 11:00AM Room: Grand DE, Omni Hotel [**Today**]

Time/Location Changes

- **For All Mankind: Historic Fiction, Real Science**, originally scheduled for Friday, 7/26/24, 4:00PM - 5:00PM, Room: 25ABC [**moved to Today, 6PM - 7PM, Room 23ABC**]
- **Drawing with Dustin Nguyen**, originally scheduled Friday 1:30PM - 3PM, Room 3 [**Moved to Today, 11:00AM - 12:30PM, Room 3**]

Comic Con 365 App QR Misprint

The QR code for the Comic-Con 365 App in the Events Quick Guide (p. 9) was printed incorrectly, rendering it invalid. The following URL/QR code will get you to the correct spot: <https://www.comic-con.org/apps/>



Comic-Con Gallery



Comic-Con, Special Guest, Charles Arda garners an Inkpot Award!



The sweet intergalactic sounds of "Los Wukis".



Ivy and Homelander, together? Talk about a crossover!



Two (re)generations of Wolverine and Deadpool!



That game looks a little bit complicated.



Nice to see Fallout survivors around this year.



Merit badges for "Con"-ing? The Scouts would be proud.



A "Marvel"-ous turnout.



Thursday's Adult Swim "Battle for the Booty" was fierce!



It really was Agatha all along!



Impressive (and homemade)!



A family not to be trifled with!

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Comic-Con Today does **not** accept photo submissions, but if you notice something cool that you think we should know about, please drop us a line at newsletter@comic-con.org; no guarantees. Be sure to include a phone number in case we have questions.

MISSION STATEMENT: The SAN DIEGO COMIC CONVENTION (Comic-Con International) is a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation organized for charitable purposes and dedicated to creating the general public's awareness of and appreciation for comics and related popular art forms, including participation in and support of public presentations, conventions, exhibits, museums and other public outreach activities which celebrate the historic and ongoing contribution of comics to art and culture.

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Comic-Con Today

Editor-in-Chief – Chris Sturhann

Editor/Photographers:

Justin Hurt

Christopher Machado

Editor/Writer – Carly Neun

