

FandomFest

2013 Literary Track Panels, Times, Descriptions, and Participants:

Friday Panels

2:00 pm

Meet the Panelists

An informal meet and greet, where attendees at Fandom Fest can get an idea of who's who on the Literary Track!

3:00pm

The Art of Being a Good Panelist

This special session is for those new to being panelists at conventions, those with little experience, or even those with many conventions under their belt who might want to gain some further insights into what makes for effective panel participation. A great orientation on participating on panels!

Featuring:

Lee Martindale (M)

4:00 Panels

Crossing Genres A Forum

There will always be readers of particular genres, whether it be steampunk or epic fantasy, but many storytellers are having wonderful experiences bringing in elements of many genres. This panel will explore some examples of cross-genre fiction, and also discuss why cross-genre fiction is growing fast in popularity.

Featuring:

John Allen

J.H. Glaze

T.Lee Harris

Christian Jensen

Bethany Halle

Joy Ward

Dynamic Dialogue

What are some approaches to writing effective dialogue? This panel will contain a few surprises, as our panelists will demonstrate how dialogue that might look correct on the page can be very different on the ear. Be sure to catch this panel for some moments that are both instructive and entertaining!

Featuring:

Marian Allen

L. Andrew Cooper

Scott Sandridge

Missy Goodman

Ian Harac

Ren Garcia

Developing A Good Query

Whether looking for an agent, or perhaps a publisher, writing a concise and engaging query letter can often prove the difference in whether your work is taken into consideration. This panel will break down query letters and offer advice on how to write an effective one.

Featuring:

Ginny Fleming

Eric Beebe

Sean Taylor

Becky Hollada

5:30 PM Panels

Effective Social Media

So many social media outlets and so little time. What is an author to do? This panel will feature several individuals who are savvy and effective when it comes to social media, to offer their insights on how to approach some specific social media outlets, as well as what not to do. There is an art to being effective with social media, and this panel will shed some light on that area.

Featuring:

Alicia Justice

Tony Acree

Marian Allen

RJ Sullivan

Missy Goodman

Jennifer Malone Wright

Urban Fantasy Today

The definition of urban fantasy has changed over recent years, and it is the focus of this panel to explore the realms of urban fantasy and where the genre is at today. What's popular in urban fantasy now? What kinds of themes are being explored in today's urban fantasy. This will be a fun panel for all who love this genre.

Featuring:

John Allen

Chris Brown

Eric Garrison

S.H. Roddey

Georgia L. Jones

Brick Marlin

Putting Together a Winning Anthology

Join a group of authors and editors with plenty of anthology experience, as they talk about what goes into the assembly of a solid anthology project. There's more involved than just picking some good stories, and if you've ever wanted to know how editors think in approach to an anthology project, then this is the panel for you.

Featuring:

T.Lee Harris

Lee Martindale

J.L. Mulvihill

Michael West

Becky Hollada

Writing a Series

Whether a trilogy or fifteen books in length, a series involving several installments is very prevalent in the world of speculative fiction. There are things to keep in mind when creating and developing a series. This panel will involve a discussion with several authors with active series, offering suggestions and approaches to writing effective installments in a solid series.

Featuring:

Terry W. Ervin

J.H. Glaze

Mark Wandrey

Lisa Morgan

M.B. Weston

S.B. Knight

7 PM Panels

Choosing the Right Path In Publishing

A special extended forum exploring the options of self-publishing, small press, and major press. The pro's and con's of each avenue of publishing will be discussed by panelists who are personally experienced with one or more of those choices.

Featuring:

Janet Harriet

Lee Martindale (M)

Eric Beebe

M.B. Weston

SB Knight

Georgia L. Jones

The Writing Business: A Forum

Yes, as much as writing is a creative endeavor, it is also a business. Bring your questions on the business of writing, ranging from contracts to sensible ways to planning your year of activity as an author. Business can be a dry topic sometimes, but this panel promises to include some wild tales and anecdotes that will illustrate the importance of taking a serious approach to the business of writing.

Featuring:

L Andrew Cooper

Charlie Kenmore

Sean Taylor

Brick Marlin

Michael West

Kayelle McClive

Writers Guide to Drinking

What's the easiest place to find authors at a Con? Just go to the bar! Yes, authors have been known to have a drink or two, and we thought we'd include a fun panel featuring authors talking about the topic of drinking! What they like, whether they drink when writing, and more! Should be a fun, light-hearted addition to the track!

Featuring:

Tony Acree

Mariah Allen

Chris Brown

Christian Jensen (M)

Scott Sandridge

Neil Sayatovich

Pitch the Publisher Session One

Come and pitch your manuscript/project to an established publisher. Grimoire Books is the featured publisher for this first session of a popular Fandom Fest Literary Track activity!

8:30 PM Panels

Author Karaoke

Just fun, informal Karaoke featuring Fandom Fest authors! Who knows who else might be there? Rumor has it that Selah Janel and John F. Allen will be dazzling the audience with their hosting and singing talents!

Pitch the Publisher Session II

Pitch your manuscript/project at the second scheduled session at FandomFest, featuring the amazing Dave Mattingly of Blackwyrn Publishing!

Saturday Panels

10 AM Panels

The Changing Landscapes of Publishing

This session explores how much publishing has changed in recent years, where it is now, and what is just ahead. What kinds of adaptations have publishers undertaken to survive, and even thrive, in today's climate? What challenges are looming? Come and examine trends and speculation in regards to the world of publishing.

Featuring:

Janet Harriet

Christian Jensen

Eric Beebe

Bethany Halle

Sandy Sullivan

What's Involved with Publishing a Quality Title

This panel will give you a nice overview of the steps of the publishing process, ranging from the editing phase all the way to the marketing and publicity phase. This panel will give authors a

better appreciation of what publishers have to do on their end, as well as provide a clear perspective for authors pursuing self-publishing on how to do it right.

Featuring:

John Dawson Jackson

Charlie Kenmore

Travis Surber

Sean Taylor

Mike Patton

Becky Hollada

Approaches to Character Development

What is involved in developing compelling, realistic characters? This panel discussion will explore the elements of character development that apply to all genres of writing. Make your characters live, breathe, and grow over the course of your story arc!

Featuring:

John Allen

Terry W Ervin

Mark Wandrey

Brad Parnell

Shon Jason Medley

Dave Creek

Cheap Easy Cosplay

Are you an author that likes to “look the part” at conventions, perhaps suiting up as one of your own characters? Are you simply interested in learning more about Cosplay? This session takes a look at Cosplay in the kind of light that does not require big budgets or high expertise!

Featuring:

Selah Janel

J.L. Mulvihill

11:30 AM Panels

Authors Interviewing Authors

Yes, the title says it all! Authors will be interviewing Authors in this new addition to the track! See 3 authors ask questions of three others... and then the table will be turned!

Featuring:

L. Andrews Cooper

Selah Janel

Lee Martindale
Michael West
Georgia L. Jones
J.H. Glaze

Book Blogging

Book Blogs have become quite a force in today's publishing climate. Book Blogs have propelled self-published authors to the heights of the sales charts, and major presses now place a great focus on the book blog community. This forum will discuss the world of book blogging and why it has become so important for today's authors.

Featuring:

Alicia Justice
Rachel Smith
Alexx Miller
Bethany Halle
Mike Patton

Evolution of Steampunk

Steampunk has become a very popular area of speculative fiction, and has crossed over into film, games, and much more in the mainstream consciousness. This panel will offer you an overview of steampunk, but it will also explore the directions that steampunk is evolving, and what kinds of new elements are making their way into steampunk literature now that it is fairly well established.

Featuring:

Eric Garrison
J.L. Mulvihill
Shon Jason Medley (M)

World Building 101

World building plays a key role in all kinds of speculative fiction, from steampunk, to epic fantasy, to science fiction and urban fantasy. How do you go about creating an interesting and compelling world to set your story in? There are so many considerations, from geography, to sociology, to technology, and much more. What world-building elements can be used in developing a story set in our world? Come and explore the exciting topic of world building with our expert panelists.

Featuring:

John Allen
Terry W. Ervin
Scott Sandridge
Mark Wandrey

Brad Parnell
Ian Harac

1 PM Panels

Contracts An Overview

We can't offer official legal advice, but we can explore the common clauses to publishing contracts, and what to keep in mind when evaluating whether a contract is fair or not. This panel discussion will also give you some insight regarding red flags to look out for.

Featuring:

Janet Harriet
Lee Martindale
Charlie Kenmore
Eric Beebe

Young Adult Fiction: A Forum

YA is without question one of the strongest and hottest areas of the publishing world, with many popular books series taking off as major film franchises. Come and discuss YA fiction, including what it is, what kinds of changes it has gone through, and even how highly mature themes are worked into YA literature.

Featuring:

Ali Justice
Brad Parnell
Terry W. Ervin
Mark Wandrey
Brick Marlin

Plotter or Pantser

When writing a short story, novella, or novel, there are some who heavily outline, and some who largely go with the flow, as well as all levels in between. This discussion will explore the development of plot in regards to a new writing project, as authors discuss what kind of approach they take.

Featuring:

Chris Brown
Jennifer Malone Wright
Giny Flemming

K.B. Miller
Pamela Turner
Lisa Morgan

2:30 PM Panels

Working Well With Editors

What do editors expect? What's the right etiquette when working with a professional editor? What are the editor's expectations of an author? This discussion will give you insights that will help you improve your approach to editors as well as your experience working with them.

Featuring:

Janet Harriet
Scott Sandridge
Sean Taylor
Shon Jason Medley
Dave Creek
Becky Hollada

Episodic Fiction

The explosion of eBooks has brought along with it a great potential for publishing stories as episodic fiction. This panel will give an overview of episodic fiction, and also discuss why the digital media world makes episodic fiction increasingly attractive for many authors.

Featuring:

Jennifer Malone Wright
J.H. Glaze
K.B. Miller
RJ Sullivan
Travis Surber

Genre Fiction as an Effective Aid for Those With Disabilities

From special literary programs, to themes in stories, science fiction and other genre fiction has long been of help and comfort to those with special needs or disabilities. This panel will explore some of the ways in which genre fiction plays a wonderful role in helping many who are contending with disabilities.

Featuring:

T. Lee Harris
Lee Martindale (M)
J. L. Mulvihill

Joy Ward
Marian Allen

4:00 PM Panels

Exploring Horror

Explore the realm of creating compelling horror with a cross-disciplinary group of panelists! Panelists with backgrounds in books, movies, and games will participate in this special forum to examine what elements go into the foundation of effective horror, in a way that's relevant to all types of creative expression.

Featuring:

L. Andrew Cooper
Selah Janel
S.B. Knight
Michael West
Brick Marlin
John Mulhall

Alternate History

Alternate History is a very exciting genre that challenges writers to explore the big "what ifs?" What if a different side won a battle or war? What if a different president was elected? What if a different choice was made at a critical juncture in history? All kinds of scenarios are explored by writers of alternate histories, and this panel will take a look at the unique challenges and considerations when writing in this genre.

Featuring:

Eric Garrison
J.L. Mulvihill
John Dawson Jackson
Shon Jason Medley (M)
Ren Garcia
Neal Sayatovich

Game of Thrones

Be prepared for spoilers! A panel discussion comparing the highly popular HBO series adapting George R.R. Martin's Song of Ice and Fire Series. What do you like and not like about the television version? Perhaps the television version has some things that you liked better than the books? This promises to be a fun panel for fans of the show, books, or both!

Featuring:

Tony Acree
Lee Martindale
Ian Harac
Lisa Morgan

Fan Fiction

A panel focused on writing fan fiction, including the reasons why it can be a useful endeavor for some writers, and why other writers advise strongly against it. An honest discussion of a very popular pursuit in the world of creative writing today.

Featuring:

Marian Allen
Alicia Justice
Kayelle McClive
S.H. Roddey

5:30 Panels

Improv Storytelling

A fun and entertaining session that will feature a number of our author guests collaborating in a live, improv storytelling session! Sure to be one of the most popular features on the literary track! Don't miss this one!

Featuring:

Tony Acree
L. Andrew Cooper
Selah Janel
Christian Jensen
Lee Martindale
J.L. Mulvihill
Susan Roddey

Avoiding Scams in Publishing

There are more scams than ever, looking to prey upon new authors. This panel will discuss what to look for, in terms of red flags, when it comes to possible scams in the publishing industry. Don't be suckered into a bad situation, especially when it involves the rights to your work!

Featuring:

Ginny Flemming

Janet Harriet
Eric Beebe
Charlie Kenmore
Sandy Sullivan

Heavy Metal and Its Relationship With Speculative Fiction

Dio, Iron Maiden, Nightwish, Black Sabbath, Rush ... the list goes on and on of hard rock and heavy metal bands who have incorporated fantasy and science fiction themes into their music and artwork. This panel will explore the relationship of hard rock and heavy metal with speculative fiction,

Featuring:

Chris Brown
Scott Sandridge
Brick Marlin
Stephen Zimmer
Neil Sayatovich

Paranormal Explorations

From the popularity of paranormal investigations, to the popularity of paranormal-themed literature, the realm of the paranormal is certainly at the forefront. Come and join in a discussion of the paranormal as it applies to literature and investigations!

Featuring:

K.B Miller
RJ Sullivan
Eric Garrison
Joy Ward

7:00 PM Panels

Book Publicity

This session, featuring Jitterbug PR, will take you through a survey of book publicity in all its forms, including traditional PR and campaigns involving New Media. Publicity is a critical component to book sales, and authors of all levels would be wise to gain an understanding of the art of publicity!

Featuring:

Alicia Justice
Rachel Smith
Alexx Miller

Missy Goodman
John Mulhall
Mike Patton

Love and Sex For Geeks

A panel of an adult-themed variety, led by Alexandra Christian, exploring the topic of sex in the context of writing. Should be a highly entertaining and informative panel if you are looking to write more effective romance, erotica, or spice up other genre fiction.

Featuring:

Christian Jenson
Kayelle McClive
Pamela Turner
Bethany Halle
Sandy Sullivan

Pitch the Publisher Session III

Come and pitch your manuscript/project to an established publisher at the third session of Fandom Fest's Pitch the Publisher. This session will feature none other than Post Mortem Press!

Sunday Panels

9 AM

FandomFest Church Service

Come join us for a non-denominational worship service co-hosted by the Christian Gamers Guild and Fans for Christ. We'll read scripture, sing familiar hymns, hear a sermon, and offer an optional communion. Stick around afterwards to meet fellow Christians and learn more about the ministries.

10 AM Panels

Effective Ebook Marketing

Explore the ways that authors with success in eBook sales promote and market online. There are things specific to different platforms such as Kindle and Nook, and there are very cost-effective techniques for getting the word out there. Find out about things that are good to do, and also what is a waste of time and money.

Featuring:

Jitterbug PR
Chris Brown
J.H. Glaze
Amy McCorkle
Bethany Halle
Sandy Sullivan

Beta Reading

What is beta reading? Why is it so important to an author? What is involved in being a good beta reader? This panel will explore the world of beta reading, from panelists with experience!

Featuring:

Terry W. Ervin
Eric Garrison
S.H. Roddey
RJ Sullivan
Alexx Miller

Screenplay Writing

Come and find out what's different about writing a screenplay as compared to a novel. This panel will show you why the movie and the book will inevitably have significant differences. The approach to writing a screenplay entails some special considerations and is an art in itself. You might even find yourself inspired to begin writing one!

Featuring:

Ginny Fleming
Pamela Tuner
M.B. Weston
Lee Martindale (M)
Dave Creek

11:30 Panels

Successful Self pub

Self-publishing does not carry the stigma that it used to, but those who have bought many self-published titles know that it can be quite a minefield in terms of the range of quality offered. Self-publishing successfully involves some key elements, and this panel will explore them.

Featuring:

Janet Harriet
Amy McCorkle

John Dawson Jackson
Travis Surber
Lee Martindale (M)
John Mulhall

Challenges of Co-Authoring

Co-authoring a book has many unique aspects, and this panel features authors familiar with the co-authoring process. What should you expect? How do you develop an effective collaboration? How can you keep organized during a project? Methods and tips on the dynamics of co-authoring will take center stage in this session.

Featuring:

Jennifer Malone Wright
K.B. Miller
Bethany Halle
Christian Jensen
Selah Janel
Susan Roddey

Animals in Fiction

This panel will explore the topic of animals in fiction, including animals that are characters and the use of animals in stories. Some of the most heartwarming stories in literature have involved animals who have been main characters (Watership Down, for starters), or important parts of the cast (Shadowfax in LOTR). Join this panel for a fun and interesting overview of the use of animals in fiction.

Featuring:

JH Glaze
T. Lee Harris
Scott Sandridge
J.L. Mulvihill
Brad Parnell
Ren Garcia

1 PM Panels

The Future of Physical Books

In a realm increasingly dominated by eBooks, physical books and bookstores still have a very viable place in the literary world. This panel will explore the reasons why physical books will continue to survive, and perhaps even thrive!

Featuring:

Eric Garrison

Janet Harriet

T.L ee Harris

Shon Jason Medley

M.B. Weston

Writing Good Book Reviews

Whether you are leaving a few sentences on Goodreads or Amazon, or run a regular book blogging site, good book reviews are an art in their own right. This panel will explore insights and techniques for writing engaging and effective book reviews.

Featuring:

Alicia Justice

Scott Sandridge

Rachel Smith

Alexx Miller