

## HARRY POTTER & THE HALF-CUT PRINCE

The audience crowding the Main Hall was not disappointed by Ian Sorenson's latest musical, a tribute to the world of Hogwarts. The cast included versions of Hermione, Draco, McGonagall, Snape, Dumbledore, some dancing Dementors, plus other incarnations of Alan Rickman.

To avoid spoiling the pleasure of those who might see it some other time, I'll just mention a few features. The big screen showed not only the scene locations, but also the lyrics set to well-known tunes which the audience enjoyed singing. Minerva McGonagall's opening recitation, as the audience recognized, was in the style of the poet and tragedian McGonagall. There were loads of delicious puns and sight-gags, and when Ian as Snape swore 'By Grabthar's Hammer', there was large applause.

*Jessica Yates*



Photo: Jaap Boekestein

## DEFACE THE MUSIC V: THE RESULTS

We did not have time to announce the results from Sunday morning's *SF Music Quiz*. The points scored by the three teams were:

'Oops I did it again'	36
'Random'	32
'Accidents'	31
(Audience	40!)

Congratulations to team captain Gaspode and team members Neil, Mike, and Lemming Man. Thanks to everyone who came along and joined in. We look forward to seeing you all at *Satellite 3* in Glasgow.

*Christine and Michael Davidson*



Photo: Chad Dixon

## IT'S A WONDERFUL UNIVERSE

Dave Clements gave a super brief run down of where/what/who/how of the Herschel space telescope (don't talk about the Planck telescope!). Unfortunately, he repeatedly talked about the embargo on talking about pretty much all the new and interesting stuff until mid May, when the Herschel community will make a series of announcements. So we were left with a very modest amount of images and data from the December 2009 release.

Dave made it very clear that space-based infrared astronomy is the only way to look inside the huge dust clouds that are involved with the birth of stars, or to look inside the more dusty corners (more like smoke than dust really) of the galaxies. So far he has not been able to confirm the existence of 'the great white handkerchief', or 'the cleaner at the end of time'. But stay tuned until mid May!

## MEMORABLE QUOTE

"Chick lit is not feminist, it just has women in it!" at the *What makes a Feminist Heroine* session on Sunday afternoon, which did not settle the original question.

## PHLOSQUE PRESENTATION

Phlosque award winner is Jackie Burns with 'Celtic Spaceship'.

The award was be presented by two cutely dressed children, to be accepted by Susan Peak for absent Jackie Burns, next to the steampunk sculpture in the atrium after the closing ceremony.



## HALL COSTUME WINNER

Maredvdd ap Gwylim  
(Ed Boreham)  
2nd: Anderson Sisters  
3rd: Stainless Steel Fox

## RASFF

The Winged Victory of Samothrace near the atrium has been turned into a memorial shrine for rec.arts.sf. f a n d o m . A l l RASFFers invited to pay their respects. Offerings of chocolate or cats optional.

## ASPIRATIONS

The BBC Writer's Room is the place for aspiring tv, film, radio and stage writers, so sayeth Piers Beckly. "We will read anything, so send us your unsolicited scripts!" he repeated a few times, and we believe him. They maintain a team of freelance writers to look at each and every script that comes in, barring a few exceptions, such as a script that's been sent in before, or anything over 130 pages.

We don't want to make their freelance readers cry. Actually these readers aren't just Joe Blogs trying to make a buck; these are script writers who have at least five years of experience.

Piers explained the methods, which can be found along with loads of other information at the BBC Writer's Room website. Their function is to help new writers get into the business. It sounds better and better, really! But don't be fooled, you first have to write your great script, then send in your great script. And while you wait for a response you should go on to write your next great script."

Do's. Active, compelling main characters, and a visceral reaction from the reader, are musts!

Don'ts. Don't rehash old concepts, such as dead cop comes back from the dead to set up his own CSI unit, unless you are absolutely amazingly different (*Life On Mars* as a spin on the old time-travel concept - granted it took 40 rewrites and 7 years to turn 'let's do a time-travel show' into 'Year 2000 cop wakes up in the 70s and he knows it!').

Advised reading: *Adventures in the Screen trade* by William Goldman. *Ilana*

## WORKSHOPPING

The Calligraphy workshop on Sunday 4pm was so popular it burst out of room 18, and was very swiftly relocated to Newbury 1, by Judith Proctor. There were 35+ people attending and even the people running the session were amazed. "We expected 5 people to show up!"

Because the Calligraphy was moved out of 18, the Costume workshop on how to adapt patterns, run by Teddy, was upgraded from 19 to 18, as he also had many more people than the convention expected. By the end of the excellent session the room was crammed full and people were spilling over into the hallway, with the door open, trying to see and listen.

The common theme here is, these crafting workshops are far more popular than anyone expected! Next year take note!



*From the balloon workshop*

## WE'VE DRUNK THE HOTEL OUT OF SPARKLING WATER

The hotel is trying to get a supply of soda water up to the Atrium bar. They have run out of the small bottles but they should be able to get something up there, hopefully at less than the Polo bar prices.

So we have drunk the hotel out of Old Rosie, soda water, and Worcester sauce. Must try harder. *Gaspode*

## OVERQUOTED

Paul Cornell at the Mike Carey GoH interview (taking questions):

"Lady over there,  
... no - gentleman over here,  
... and you've got a beard as well!"

## GUARDIAN! GUARDIAN!

If anyone has a copy of the Saturday *Guardian* to spare, SMS is desperately looking for one, after the Marriott was only able to deliver *The Times* and Sky television.

## STOP PRESS—PROGRAM CHANGE

*Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog* will be reshown with the commentary after *Galaxy Quest* in Royal C+D.