

THE SENTINEL 8

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DOCTOR WHO - NO SPOILERS

The Commonwealth Room was filled out to see the new Doctor Who, and we were treated to a stonker. We ooh'ed, we aah'ed, we laughed and cheered. Watching a show like this among fellow fans is the true high definition experience.

The first episode of a new Doctor is always a special one. As the whole regeneration concept has evolved we are not only seeing the Doctor coming to terms with his new body, his new being, we are also seeing the actor come to terms with playing and making his own an iconic role. Within a surprisingly short time I felt that Matt Smith had achieved that. He was the Doctor, and he was here to save us.

Without giving away plot details this episode gave us what we want from the Doctor, excitement, strangeness, humour, menace, time travel, sauciness, silliness, and saving the day. Were there small things to quibble over? Well it wouldn't be Doctor Who if there weren't, but they don't matter. This was a great start, I want to see it again, and I can't wait to see the next episode. This was not just the Doctor Who we expect, but the Doctor Who we wish for. The alien amongst the familiar, a Doctor to believe in, and a companion to cheer for.

DR. WHO QUOTES HEARD IN THE ATRIUM

"When did they sign Harry Potter to play the Doctor?"

"I miss David Tennant. At least he wasn't a fetus."

"I swear, if he Tweeted about that redhead one more time..."

"I missed it. Someone tell me spoilers so I can spread them around!"

"It could have been worse. The Doctor could have been American."

ODYSSEY-BY-THE-NUMBERS

By Chris Garcia

Number of Registered things – **1376**

Number of pounds raised by The League of Fan Funds for a signed copy of the CorFlu 2010 Fanthology – **100**

Number of people wandering the Atrium last night during Dr. Who- **4**

Number of copies of 2000 AD ruined by my early morning coffee spill – **3**

Number of Bondage/BDSM panels I've attended – **0**, but the League of Fan Funds Auction had some scary moments...



Although the hotel vending machines contain loot such as bow-ties, spirits, and condoms (Shoot, a fella' could have a pretty good weekend in Vegas with all that stuff), we do not recommend you try to break into them unless your DEX is 16 or above.

HUGO NOMINEES ANNOUNCED LIVE

The nominees for this year's Hugo Awards, to be awarded at WorldCon in Melbourne, Australia this August, will be announced at a ceremony in the Connaught room. Be among the first people in the world to know which novels, stories, artists, writers and others competing for the top prize in the Kingdom of Science Fiction. Nominees may well be on hand to accept the good news!

THE CLARKE AWARDS... NOT!

As is traditional, the Not The Clarke Awards panel runs from 2 to 3:30 in Connaught. Moderated by the wickedly brilliant Claire Brialey, come hear the pointy opinions of Graham "Locus" Sleight, Tony "Too Tough" Cullen, Edward "The Opinionated" James and Ruth "Nickname Pending" O'Reilly as

they dissect and discuss the shortlist for the UK's premiere prize for science fiction literature.

WEAPONS FONDLING

Steve K. apologises for running out of time in the "Swordplay for Writers" talk, and will be in Room 18 at 11am and 7pm Sunday for weapons fondling. Steve can also be reached at steve@whitecrow.demon.co.uk



MASQUERADE WINNERS

1st Prize - Ranger Hilary with Victorian Torchword
 2nd Prize - Quillion with Diictodon Hero Digro Danger
 3rd Prize - Joseph Halse with No face, from Spirited Away
 Best Doctor Who - Simon Furlong
 Best Cat - Jodie Payne

Photo: Bo Hansen

SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Milford Writers Group, past and present, meeting 3pm Sunday in the Polo Bar.
 TWP Tea Party will be in room 4019 Sun 5pm.
 Would Neil Bond and Jane Frank please go to Ops to collect lost property.
 Henley's is not a con bar!
 Happy Birthday to Linda Stratmann, who we understand has reached an indeterminate age.

WRITERS AND THE WEB

Are you an aspiring writer? Have you just published, or do you have a fanbase? Would you like to cultivate one? This session gave lots of pros and cons on promoting yourself and your work on the web.

Joe Abercrombie and Mark Charan were total opposites on this subject. Joe says, don't do too much work on it, it will swallow you up. Internet-addicts beware! Mark on the other hand says it's a great vehicle and you can pump up sales but you know what you're doing, otherwise you'll be wasting your time; and time is what a writer needs to use to write, not to surf the web.

John Meaney says, you might want to get away from the computer after hours of writing are done in a day and go get some exercise. He warns that most writers need to juggle their time sensibly anyway, as most of us still have a day-job.

So what works? Well, says Joe, pick your level of commitment and maintain it. Blog each day, each week, or three times a year, but be consistent about it. Fans will find you, if you have a consistent presence. Whether they will buy more books is up to them, but you and they will have a good time anyway.

REDEMPTION PRIZE AVAILABLE

Any members of Redemption '11 can pick up their copy of Progress Report 1 from the Redemption '11 con table just outside the Dealers' Room. If you are not a member, why not pop along to the con table anyway and join now!



Mysterious structure spotted outside Rooms 17 -19. Information on the mysterious rectangular structure, which appeared with a 'groaning wheezing sound' at the rear entrance lobby and contains a subtly shifted perspective, invited.