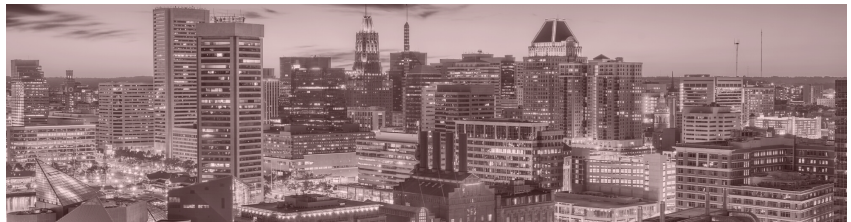




BALTICON 57

MEDIA KIT

May 26-29, 2023 (Memorial Day Weekend)
Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, MD



who we are

Whether you love science with your fiction or costumes with your books, we do too! While our central theme is writing, literature, and authors, our dynamic program has something everyone can appreciate. Join over fifteen hundred fans of all backgrounds as we gather to celebrate Science Fiction and Fantasy with more than 300 hours of diverse programming, from award winning authors and publishers to twitch live-streamers, from cosplay experts to renowned scientists and tech innovators. Sing along with our filkers, soak in our stunning Art Show and Masquerade, laugh and cry at our Film Festival. We've got something for everyone.

our mission

Balticon exists to celebrate the creation and appreciation of science fiction and fantasy in all its expressions, by bringing together fans of all backgrounds in a warm, welcoming environment.

our vision

We believe in a world where science fiction and fantasy expressions can bring us all together, where no one ever has to feel like an outsider, and where those dreams can lead us into a better future.

Media Kit updated May 1, 2023

1,500

AVERAGE ANNUAL
ATTENDANCE

150+

AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS,
ARTISTS, SCIENTISTS, AND
MUSICIANS PRESENTING

11

GUESTS OF HONOR AND
SPECIAL GUESTS

history

The first Balticon was held in 1967, at the Emerson hotel in Baltimore. In 2001, we moved to Memorial Day Weekend and expanded to four days. The Renaissance became our new home in 2016.

In the 56 years since Balticon 1, we've been in ten hotels, hosted more than one hundred Guests of Honor, and entertained tens of thousands of attendees.

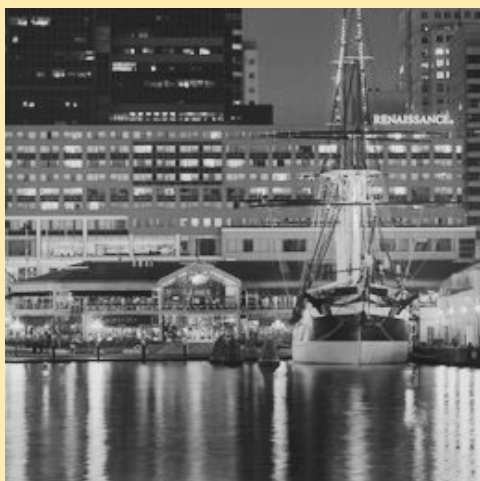
100% VOLUNTEER RUN

EVERY PART OF OUR CONVENTION IS RUN BY OUR CREW OF VOLUNTEERS, WHO WORK FOR THE LOVE OF FANDOM.

WE GIVE BACK

WE RAISE OVER \$2000 EACH YEAR FOR BSFS BOOKS FOR KIDS, AND ANNUALLY HOST THE HEINLEIN BLOOD DRIVE.

renaissance harborplace hotel, baltimore, md



Balticon will be held at The Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, 202 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, USA, inside the Baltimore Inner Harbor Entertainment District.

Balticon has worked with the Renaissance to secure a discounted rate for our guests. If you book through our room block, you are guaranteed a rate of \$155.00 per night (plus taxes) for either a King Bed or Double Queen room. The block closes on 5/5/2023.

More information on parking discounts and public transportation can be found on our website.

contact



<https://www.fb.com/BalticonConvention/>



@Balticon



@balticon.convention



www.balticon.org

quick facts

- Over 300 hours of programming
- Continuously held in Baltimore since 1967
- Home of the Compton Crook Award, the Robert A. Heinlein Award, and the Jack A. Chalker Young Writer's Award.
- Featuring the Balticon Sunday Short Science Fiction Film Festival and the Marty Gear Memorial Masquerade.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: PUBLICITY@BALTICON.ORG

BONUS GUEST OF HONOR!

When our Guest of Honor, Jane Yolen, became unable to attend this year's convention in person, she was so dedicated to appearing at Balticon that she chose to pre-record several panels for us and then send her son, Adam Stemple, in her place. Not only is he offering to answer questions about Jane "you wouldn't dare ask her", he's also an award-winning author himself!



Jane Yolen

GUEST OF HONOR

Jane Yolen is a novelist, poet, and prolific children's book author. She sold her first children's book *Pirates in Petticoats* when she was 23. Early in her career Jane worked as an editor for publishers in New York. As her fame as a children's writer spread, she eventually handled her own imprint, "Jane Yolen Books", at Harcourt Brace. Today Jane's 400+ books, novellas and short stories have won many awards including two Nebulas, three Mythopoeic Awards, and the Caldecott Medal. In 2009 Jane was awarded Life Achievement Award at the World Fantasy Convention. In 2017 she received the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award. Jane is a past president of the Science Fiction Writers of America.

Adam Stemple

SPECIAL GUEST

Adam Stemple, who will represent his mother Jane Yolen at Balticon, is himself an award-winning author, poet, and musician. Of his first novel, *Singer of Souls*, SFWA Grandmaster Anne McCaffrey said, "One of the best first novels I have ever read." Of his later works, Hugo Award winning author Naomi Kritzer said, "No one writes bastard-son-of-a-bitch characters as brilliantly as Adam Stemple". In addition to writing novels and short stories for adults, YA, and children, Adam's most recent writing venture has been a series of guides on writing fantasy.



The Maryland State Arts Council has provided a grant to support BSFS activities including Balticon. To discover more about the Maryland State Arts Council and how they impact Maryland, visit msac.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

In March of 2020, Balticon 54 was nearly fully planned. Our team of volunteers made a heroic pivot, and we were among the first conventions to transition to fully virtual. We turned around and shared what we learned, and became a model for how to run a Virtual Convention in a pandemic.

Ariel Burgess

ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR

Ariel Burgess, a D.C. area native and dyslexic, was an Official Wheel of Time artist for eight years and has been published internationally.

Her first publication was in Stan Lee's How to Draw Comics. Ariel has won a Geeky award for "best licensed toy/product for the Wheel of Time playing cards", was published in The Wheel of Time Companion which was nominated for a World Fantasy award, and won a Gold Award for Digital Expression in 2019 from International Film Festival DC Web Fest. She is known for her fantasy art, having been a professional freelance artist for fourteen years and has been traveling to conventions for eleven years, winning numerous best in show and judges choice awards, most recently at Multiverse Con. Additionally she was part of the 2022 JordanCon Anthology book. Currently focused on her Patreon community, she is creating original works and is known for her hyper-realistic digital painting style, often including easter eggs for her fans.

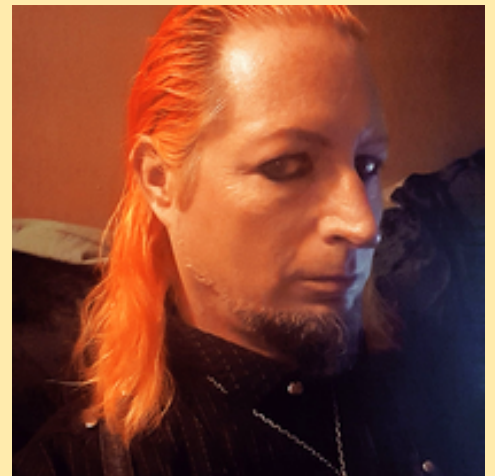


Bryan "Bellz" Jordan

FAN GUEST OF HONOR

Bellz has been going to Sci Fi/Fantasy Conventions since the Mid '80's. In 1988 he moved to the DC area where he was a fixture at all of the Cons and Ren Faire.

Some years hitting up to eleven Cons a year Including a decade of Balticon. If you go wandering around the hotel looking for something fun to do, there was a good chance you would find Bellz in the middle of it. If there was an empty lobby you could guarantee it wouldn't be for long once Bellz sat down. He always seems to be the center of all the most interesting people.



DID YOU KNOW?

Balticon's Filking Program is introducing a Filk Lounge this year! Filk originated as a type of 'folk' music, but has grown to mean any science-fiction, fantasy, or horror themed song, created by fans, for fans.



Technical Difficulties 2.0

MUSIC GUEST OF HONOR

The filk trio Technical Difficulties was formed in the mid 1980s, when TJ Burnside and Sheila Willis encountered fellow Star Trek and music fan Linda Melnick at a convention, and immediately bonded over a shared love of three-part harmony.

The trio eventually released two album-length recordings: Please Stand By, in 1986, and Station Break in 1988, which contained songs by all three band members and several of their friends, including composer and arranger Jean Stevenson. Since Sheila's untimely death in 2013, Jean has rejoined TJ and Linda to form Technical Difficulties 2.0. The three are delighted to appear as the Musical Guests of Honor to perform songs both classic and new for the attendees of Balticon 57.

Daphne Eftychia Arthur

GHOST OF HONOR

Daphne Eftychia Arthur, née D. Glenn Arthur, Jr., (1963-2023) grew up near Bowie, MD and was involved in science fiction fandom and historical re-creation, especially in the areas of filk and historical music. She was a regular at the Maryland Renaissance Festival and Pennsic as well as Arisia, Balticon, Disclave, and Darkover.

Daphne seemed always to have at least one guitar with her wherever she went (and often other instruments, too) and she was known around fandom for her fabulous skirts and dresses.

Around the late 1990s, Daphne turned her attention to music full time. She had already been deeply involved in music ensembles such as Thir Venstri Foetr (Three Left Feet), Wild Oats, and the Homespun Ceilidh Band. She composed her own music and enjoyed playing solos and duets. Daphne enjoyed traveling to cons and house parties up and down the East Coast throughout the late 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s. Sometimes she even brought her menagerie – at a couple of the Northeast Filk Conventions she set up a Wall of Instruments and was delighted to see them used!

In recent years her health kept her closer to home but still attended Balticon and Chessiecon when she could. During the pandemic, Daphne continued to play music in the open air and on video. Her friend Karen Osborne remembers sitting on Daphne's front porch and playing music for themselves and passers-by as they talked for hours. Some of the videos from those sessions are posted on YouTube.



Robert A. Heinlein Award

For outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings to inspire the human exploration of space.

The award committee consists of science fiction writers and was originally chaired by Dr. Yoji Kondo, a long time friend of Robert and Virginia Heinlein. Prior to 2013 the Baltimore Science Fiction Society provided logistical support for this award. Selection of winners was by a committee originally selected by Virginia Heinlein and not by BSFS as a group. As of 2013 the award is fully administered by, and funding ensured by, the Baltimore Science Fiction Society. The committee members originally selected by Virginia Heinlein have joined BSFS and continue to serve as judges in the selection committee. The current Chair of the committee is Michael F. Flynn.

BSFS thanks the Heinlein Society for providing a yearly grant to fund half of the expenses of this award. We also thank the family of Dr. Yoji Kondo for long time support of this award.

Virginia Heinlein authorized multiple awards in memory of her husband. The Robert A. Heinlein Award is not the one fully funded by Virginia Heinlein's estate. This award is supported by independent donations from the interested public. To donate contact dale@bsfs.org for details.



John Scalzi

2023 ROBERT A. HEINLEIN AWARD WINNER

John Scalzi debuted in 2005 with *Old Man's War*, a novel that *Publishers Weekly*, in a starred review, compared directly to Robert Heinlein's work ("Scalzi's astonishingly proficient first novel reads like an original work by the late grand master."). In the time since, Scalzi has published sixteen other novels, including five others in the *Old Man's War* series and three novels in the *Interdependency* series, all of which take place in a universe where humans have reached into the stars. He won the Hugo Award for Best Novel in 2013 for *Redshirts*, and has won several other notable awards including the Locus Award, the Dragon Award, and the Campbell/Astounding Award. In 2016 he was presented with the Governor's Award for the Arts in Ohio.

Outside of writing, Scalzi has contributed to the field of science fiction in other ways. From 2010 to 2013, he was president of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA), the pre-eminent writer's association in the field. In 2012 he was Toastmaster of Chicon 7, the 70th World Science Fiction Convention and emceed the Hugo Awards. On his own site, which has been online since 1998, making it one of the long-running personal sites on the internet, Scalzi hosts the "Big Idea" feature, which over the years has given hundreds of writers in the SFF genre a platform to talk to readers about their latest work.

In addition to fiction, Scalzi has written numerous non-fiction books on the subjects of astronomy, science fiction film, writing and humor. He has written several episodes of the Emmy-winning Netflix animated series *Love Death + Robots*, and was the Creative Consultant for the *Stargate: Universe* television series. His *Old Man's War* novel is currently in development for a feature film. Scalzi lives in Ohio with his family.

Compton Crook Award

The Compton Crook Award is presented annually to the author of the best debut novel in the field of Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror, in the English language. Since 1983, the award has been presented by the members of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society (BSFS), at our annual convention, Balticon.

The list of eligible novels is compiled by the Compton Crook Committee, and all BSFS members have an opportunity to read each selection and vote on the best. The winning author is invited to Balticon for two years, where they receive a cash award and plaque.

Compton Crook, who wrote under the name of Stephen Tall, was a long-time Baltimore resident, Towson State University professor, and science fiction author. He died in 1981.



Alex Jennings

2023 COMPTON CROOK WINNER

Alex Jennings' writing has appeared in Current Affairs Magazine, podcast, Strange Horizons, and New Suns, volumes 1 and 2. He is the Director of DreamFoundry's Con or Bust Program and an instructor of Popular Fiction at the Stonecoast MFA program. His debut novel, *The Ballad of Perilous Graves*, was released by Orbit/Redhook last summer. Born in Germany, he trotted the globe until settling in New Orleans. Before the pandemic, he MCDed a literary readings series called Dogfish.

Alex plans to attend Balticon in person.



Photo credit: Nkechi Chibueze.

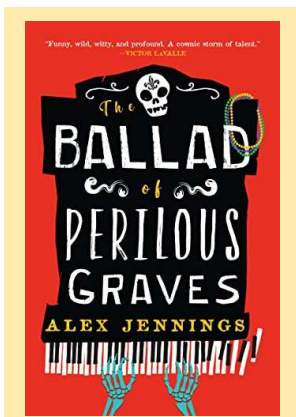
THE BALLAD OF PERILOUS GRAVES

A fun and fantastical love letter to New Orleans unfolds when a battle for the city's soul brews between two young mages, a vengeful wraith, and one powerful song in this wildly imaginative debut.

Nola is a city full of wonders. A place of sky trolleys and dead cabs, where haints dance the night away and Wise Women help keep the order. To those from Away, Nola might seem strange. To *Perilous Graves*, it's simply home.

Perry knows Nola's rhythm as intimately as his own heartbeat. So when the city's Great Magician starts appearing in odd places and essential songs are forgotten, Perry knows trouble is afoot.

Nine songs of power have escaped from the piano that maintains the city's beat, and without them, Nola will fail. Unwilling to watch his home be destroyed, Perry will sacrifice everything to save it. But a storm is brewing, and the Haint of All Haints is awake. Nola's time might be coming to an end.



Compton Crook Award Past Recipients

P. Djèlí Clark

2022 COMPTON CROOK WINNER

Phenderson Djèlí Clark is the author of the novel *A Master of Djinn*, and the award-winning and Hugo, Nebula, and Sturgeon nominated author of the novellas *Ring Shout*, *The Black God's Drums* and *The Haunting of Tram Car 015*. His short stories have appeared in online venues such as *Tor.com*, *Heroic Fantasy Quarterly*, *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, and in print anthologies including *Griots* and *Hidden Youth*. You can find him on Twitter at @pdjeliclarck and his blog *The Disgruntled Haradrim*.

Born in New York and raised mostly in Houston, Texas, he spent the early formative years of his life in the homeland of his parents, Trinidad and Tobago. When not writing speculative fiction, P. Djèlí Clark works as an academic historian whose research spans comparative slavery and emancipation in the Atlantic World. He melds this interest in history and the social world with speculative fiction, and has written articles on issues ranging from racism and H.P. Lovecraft to critiques of George Schuyler's *Black Empire*, and has been a panelist and lecturer at conventions, workshops and other genre events.



Seven Compton Crook winners have gone on to be nominated for a Hugo, including last year's Compton Crook winner, P. Djèlí Clark.

Micaiah Johnson

2021 COMPTON CROOK WINNER

Micaiah was raised in California's Mojave Desert surrounded by trees named Joshua and women who told stories.

She received her bachelor of arts in creative writing from the University of California, Riverside, and her master of fine arts in fiction from Rutgers University–Camden. She now studies American literature at Vanderbilt University, where she focuses on critical race theory and automatons.

Her debut novel, *The Space Between Worlds*, from Hodder in the UK and Crown in the US, is a science-fiction novel that uses the concept of the multiverse to examine privilege.

