PARALLEL PRESS

SUNDAY EARLY ISSUE | JULY 6, 2025

In this official issue: Westercon Site Selection, Short Films, spSF Charity

Programming Changes

The following panel has been added to the schedule:

Costume Propmaking, 2:15 PM, Newport Beach

Card of the Day (Hermit)

Art by Abigail Larson, from the Dark Wood Tarot
Reading by SallyRose Robinson

Day three may make you want to hide away and reflect on the path that you have taken. However, now is the time to keep moving forward and follow the light to the things that draw your imagination and feed your soul. Find others to connect with and discuss the panel topics or games that expanded your viewpoint. Find the time to contemplate what you have learned and can keep you going once the con has ended. Find silent moments to absorb all that is going on around you. Follow your light.

Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who gave blood to yesterday's BayCon Blood drive. Nearly 30 units of blood were donated!

Afrofuturism Lounge Sunday

The Afrofuturism has more great programming planned for Sunday. Scan the QR code for info!

Panelists pose in the Afrofuturism Lounge Saturday

Charity Auction: Day One and Two

Thank you to the all the generous souls who donated to the spSF General Fund! Our karaoke raised $45, and our auction another $580!

The second charity auction will be held Monday, 2:15 PM on Main Stage. We still have some amazing collectibles, experiences, and gifts from our vendors to bid on. Bid early, bid often, bid high! Every dollar donated will go toward a speculative fiction cause, either for creators, communities, or events here in the Bay Area.

To donate to the charity auction, please stop by ConOps in Redwood (next to the lobby bar). There's still time!

Westercon Site Selection Results

37 ballots were cast in the election to select the site of Westercon 79 (2029), of which 36 expressed a preference. 19 votes (a majority of 36) was required to win.

Santa Clara in 2027 (BayCon 2027): 20
Write-ins:
Tokyo Disneyland: 8
Fruitvale: 1
Haines-in-2021: 1
Tonopah: 1

None of the Above: 5
No Preference: 1

Results not official until received by the Westercon Business Meeting, Sunday 11:30 am in the Ponderosa Room.

spSF Board Elections

Elections for the three open board member seats in the Society for Promotion of Speculative Fiction close today at 6PM. If you have a membership, please vote. If there are any questions, you can reach out to our spSF table next to InfoDesk.

Name That Drink Winner

BayCon 2025's themed drink has a winning name! The hotel banquet staff has chosen Kit's submission "Bite Me!" as the winner. We can't wait to sink our teeth (tongues?) into another round of this cocktail.

Excerpt from the Sea Beyond Duology

Marie and Alyc have been working hard on the initial drafts for the first book in the *Sea Beyond* duology. They were kind enough to share an early excerpt!

At this point Estevan, our changeling character (a faerie masquerading as a human), is at university in Salamanca. When our research turned up the boggling factoid that recipients of a doctoral degree back then were expected to fight a bull, we knew we had to include that in a scene . . .

*

The stands had been erected some weeks earlier, in celebration of medicine from the Sea Beyond saving the king from a near-fatal illness. For all that the Church frowned on the pagan overtones of bullfights, any attempt to separate them from what ought to be moments of pious gratitude -- let alone to outlaw them entirely -- was a heresy no true Spaniard would accept. Now the temporary arena was being repurposed for a smaller event, the students and townsmen of Salamanca piling into the flimsy stands for the chance to see blood.

"Does Sánchez fail to get his degree if people die before he kills the bull?" Estevan asked, still not entirely certain what the former had to do with the latter. Bullfighting was a sportfor noblemen, and university doctors were ennobled by their degrees, but why did that meanthey had to fight? It was as arcane as any challenge set by a faerie. Empty the sea into this walnut, and you will be crowned king.

'Dunno!" Alejandro said cheerfully. "Let's not be how he finds out. Oh, here they come!"

They was Sánchez, atop his horse and looking more than a little pale beneath hisfeather-decked cap, surrounded by what Estevan assumed were his friends and favored students. Together they paraded around the arena, Sánchez dutifully saluting his audience, as the legendary Frog of Salamanca watched from its perch atop a skull carved into the gate. That sculpture was supposed to bring luck in examinations to anyone who spotted it. Estevan wondered if that extended to corridas, too.

Sánchez's last salute was to a large man across the arena from Estevan and Alejandro.

"That's Geryon over there," Alejandro shouted to Estevan, over the cheering. "Not literally, of course -- no more than Sánchez is Hercules -- it's just what they say. And the bull --"

Whatever he'd been about to say was lost in the roar of the crowd as a bull was let through into the arena. To Estevan it seemed monstrously large, gleaming in the sunlight, a furious demon loosed out of a hellish realm to kill the poor scholar in front of him.

Behemoth.

It was a melding of stories worthy of faerie tradition. Hercules' tenth labor, stealing the cattle of Geryon from the island of Erytheia in the Sea Beyond; a myth straight out of Greek

paganism. Sansón slaying Behemoth; good Biblical fare. The pillars of the Philistines' templewere the Pillars of Hercules -- only Estevan remembered when it had been Melqart instead, and

the Phoenicians were the ones telling the tale. Round and round the stories went, but all of themsung in the same key, which was the death of the beast of the land.

Short Films Presentation

Sinohui Hinojosa, the co-founder and programmer of the San Jose International Short Film Festival, made his first presentation of shorts Saturday. Hinojosa presents his second selection Sunday at 9:30PM in Sequoia, including "I'm Not a Robot", the most recent Academy Award winner in the short film category.

"People think films are always the same kind of thing", said Hinojosa, "but short films have a different structure."

In the standard 3-act structure, he said, the first act provides background, while the second defines the story's central problem. Providing no background, shorts "require the audience to get involved during the second act. There's a puzzle to be solved."

Hinojosa said he likes sharing "refrigerator movies", whose subtleties might dawn on the viewer the next day, who thinks "oh, now I get it" while reaching into the fridge.

Costume Stash Giveaway

Denise Tanaka, author and award-winning costumer, is cleaning up her over-stuffed storage unit! Ren Faire, Dickens Fair, Halloween, accessories, and more! They're all FREE!

In the Maker's Workshop, every day.

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