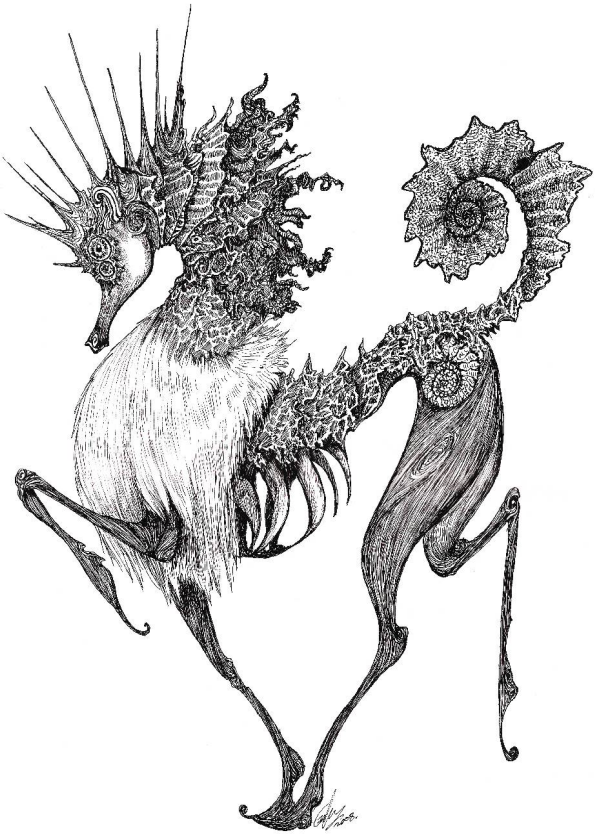
Au Contraire!

science fiction † fantasy † geekery

27-29 August 2010 at the Quality Hotel, Cuba St, Wellington



Progress Report II

– September 2009 –

GoHs

One year to go! We're now pleased to be able to announce our Guests of Honour for the convention:

Sean Williams

Our primary Guest of Honour is a prolific Adelaide-based author and winner of multiple Aurealis and Ditmar awards. His works include the *Books of the Change* fantasy series, the *Astropolis* SF series, several short story collections and standalone novels, and in collaboration with Shane Dix the *Evergence* series and other space operas and the *Star Wars: Force Heretic* trilogy.

Paul Mannering

Our Fan GoH is a Christchurch-based writer and audio drama producer, co-founder of BrokenSea Audio Productions (www.brokensea.com). BrokenSea have released over 500 episodes of fan audio dramas based on shows such as *Doctor Who*, *Logan's Run*, *Planet of The Apes*, and the original *Battlestar Galactica*, as well as a catalogue of original shows and audio books.

You!

While we admire the impressive achievements of the professionals, we believe fan and amateur creations are just as important. Au Contraire is a celebration of fannish creativity, in all fields of endeavour.

Other Programme Participants

As well as our official Guests of Honour, a number of other notable people will be participating in our programme of events. These include: Jonathan Cowie (UK science writer), Jennifer Fallon (*The Tide Lords* and others), Tim Jones (NZ writer), Russell Kirkpatrick (*Fire of Heaven* and *Husk* trilogies), Kathryn Sullivan (EPPIE Award winner), and Sonny Whitelaw (*The Rhesus Factor*, *Stargate* novels).

Events

The con programme is still under development, but we can give you a few ideas about major events. Friday will mostly consist of longer sessions – writers' workshops, gaming, and so forth – with some introductory panels in the early evening. The Opening Ceremony will take place at 8pm, followed by a dance party. Saturday morning

will include the Charity Auction and the Floating Market, and the Masquerade will be held after dinner, followed by the late night Rocky Horror Picture Show (with audience participation, of course). The SFFANZ AGM is scheduled for 11am Sunday; that evening will feature a cocktail party, the SJV Awards, and the Closing Ceremony. And while the con is officially over by Monday, we are planning some group excursions for the day.

If you have any ideas for events, or would like to volunteer to participate in the programme in any capacity, please do get in touch! Your con needs you.

Competitions

Au Contraire is keen to encourage creative activity, so we're putting a lot of resources into our competitions. All entries should have some SF/F content, and may relate to the con theme "the future is a foreign country". See the web site for more details on all competitions.

Cosplay – Deadline 2pm 28 August 2010

The big cosplay event is the Masquerade, and to encourage getting out your sewing machines, we'll be putting up a prize pool with a value of at least **$500** for entries. Entries will be judged on presentation, creativity, and workmanship, where applicable (eg replicas won't be judged on creativity, and performances in store-bought costumes will only be judged on presentation). Cosplay is also welcome throughout the convention, and spot prizes may be awarded for hall costumes.

Video – Deadline 31 July 2010

There are two categories for the video competition: Re-edits, and Original Short Films. Re-edits (music videos and other rearrangements of existing video) must be no more than 5 minutes in duration: Original films (live action or animated) must be no more than 30 minutes. Prizes TBA.

Short Story – Deadline 31 January 2010

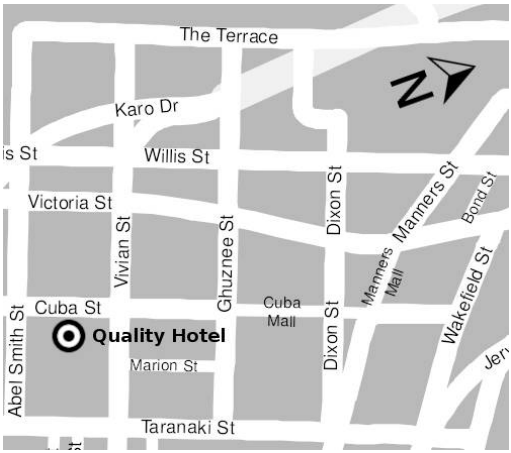
The best entries from the short story competition will be included in an anthology of New Zealand SF/F to be published by Random Static Press. NZ writers only, but Au Contraire membership is not required.

Vital Info

What: Essentially, a weekend-long party for SF fans, geeks, and interesting people in general. It's not a commercial event like the Armageddon Expo; the focus is social rather than retail. Multiple streams of events run throughout the con, dealing with every imaginable aspect of SF/F - panels, discussions, workshops, games, and so forth, with plenty of opportunity for active participation.

When: Friday 27 to Sunday 29 August 2010 – the weekend before the 2010 Worldcon, AussieCon 4 in Melbourne.

Where: The Quality Hotel on Cuba St, in the heart of Wellington, New Zealand. Accommodation rates start at $99/night, and there's a huge range of dining options in the immediate vicinity. Buses are only a short walk away, and parking is available for hotel guests.



How Much: The standard rate is just NZ$60 for the entire convention, and the unwaged rates (for students etc) is only $30. Or if you're feeling wealthy and generous, you can pay the solidarity rate of $120. Day and supporting memberships are also available – see the registration form or website for complete information. We don't plan to increase these rates, but numbers are limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment.

Charity: Au Contraire is a non-profit event run by unpaid volunteers. Proceeds from the convention will be split between the Cats Protection League Wellington and SFFANZ (the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand).

Contact Details: email us at info@aucontraire.org.nz, or write to PO Box 10104, Wellington 6143, New Zealand.

For more details and the latest updates, see our website:

www.aucontraire.org.nz