

Fantasticon 2018, Progress Report, #3

July 2018

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Almost there...

It is July 11th 2018. There are now less than 72 days until we all meet at Fantasticon 2018 on September 21st. And we are almost ready!

During the past year we have formed a convention committee, we have chosen our Guests of Honor, we have found and booked our venue, we have reserved space at our chosen convention hotel, planned both a Meet & Greet event Thursday evening as well as a Dead Dog Party Sunday evening. We have advertised the event on facebook, distributed postcards in the Øresund Region and at other conventions, bookshops, meetings, cafes. We have secured sponsoring of our Guests of Honor and have sold memberships from day one. So now, a bit ahead according to our budget, it is time to talk about membership packets, programming, and what to expect from each other at the con.

Convention Committee 2018:

Knud Larn (Chairman), Jesper Rugård Jensen, Bente Riis, Lise Andreasen, Joen Juel Jensen Tue Sørensen, Majbritt Høyrup, Sarah Fürst, Billy O'Shea, Camilla Brygger, Manfred Christiansen, Flemming Rasch, & Lars Ahn Pedersen.

The Basic Rules

For your good stay, please observe that Denmark is a no weapons, no drugs, no smoking inside buildings, kind of country. Just don't.

Also pay for your public transport, and keep the speeding limits. The penalty fees are high, and controls are frequent.

In case of emergency you should call the police on 112

for help. You should call the police on 114 for help that are not life & death critical.

Code of Conduct

While it might not seem necessary to most, we have written a Code of Conduct. It is posted on our webpage www.fantasticon.dk for easy access.

Please DO read it beforehand, as we will enforce it at the con.

For all the non-disabled people

All rooms have reserved seats in the front row. No, those seats are not for photographers, it is for those who take longer time to mount / descend the many stairs in the house. They will almost always arrive after us, and therefore we have given them reserved seats.

Be kind, think of others.

For presenters/ moderators

When you speak on a panel or are giving a talk, you will always use the microphone. Not because you need it, but others do. They should not have to ask you to use a microphone, thus exhibiting their disability.

Also, when posed a question from the audience, you will always repeat the essence of the question before answering. This saves time instead of having to pass down a microphone through the audience.

It is your responsibility to remember this as presenter/moderator.

The Membership Packet

We will send out an electronic membership packet to all registered members in early August. To the email you gave when you paid your membership fee. This will contain the Code of Conduct, the official poster for Fantasticon 2018, a small folder with the complete program overview, the pdf-book with New Nordic Steampunk Stories, as well as other relevant information.

All information (except the story book) will also appear on the webpage for easy access.

Program Plans

Plans are progressing nicely; we have about 35 program items fixed by now – out of the estimated 50 program items we will be offering in total. Just about half of the program items concerns steampunk, while the other half looks more generally at science fiction / fantasy / horror. At least half of the items will be in English, the rest in Danish.

Two-track Program

We will be running two simultaneous tracks, one in the great hall on the first floor, and another in the smaller room on the mezzanine.

Audio Visual presentations with computer projections will be in the smaller room, panels and interviews in the great hall - while some interviews and all readings will take place in the lounge area.

Signings will be held in the Dealer's Room, as well as the Saturday Dinner where we will need to re-arrange a bit before the Dinner. Stay and help out if you can and are going to the dinner.

My God, it's full of stairs!

Sadly the building is not user-friendly to those where stairs

can be a challenge. We are very sorry for those who cannot attend the convention due to this. We are looking for a better site for future cons. Special seats will be reserved in front for all program items for those who need this. Take your time, go straight to the front row, and you will find a seat for you.

We will insist on everyone using microphones for all spoken program items.

We will enforce a general code of conduct that we have adapted from IceCon 2018. It is short and to the point. Read it at our webpage.

Niels Klim Award

We are very proud to announce that the National Danish Science Fiction Award, the Niels Klim Award, will be presented Sunday at this year's Fantasticon!

Guest of Honors

Our two Guests of Honors:

- Lavie Tidhar (@lavietidhar)
- Jeannette Ng (@Jeannette_ng)

will be celebrated, interviewed, and will participate on diverse panels. We want to hear them, and they want to talk with us!

Lavie's strong influence in publishing foreign fictions



through APEX magazine (www.apex-magazine.com), and the APEX World SF Anthologies (www.apexbookcompany.com), and Jeannette's amazing work in Gaming Design / Cosplay (medium.com/maelstromic-insight) will add to the natural discussions of their own fictional work.

Their publisher Angry Robot Books (www.angryrobotbooks.com) will sell their books (as well as other genre books) in the Dealer's Rooms during the con.

Guest of Honor Speeches at Saturday Dinner

Please do note that the traditional Guest of Honor speeches from both Lavie Tidhar and Jeannette Ng will take place during the Saturday Dinner. If you want to hear their anecdotes and fun facts, you must buy a ticket for the Saturday Dinner (*limited number of seats available*).

The Guest of Honor interviews and diverse panels with our GoHs will be part of the general program, open to all members.

Hair Braiding Workshop

Please also note that Jeannette Ng will do one of her renowned hair braiding workshops, so if you want to

learn to set your hair Game of Thrones-like, or want tips to add the perfect hairstyle to your favorite cosplay, do contact us early to secure your place on this!

Naturally this workshop has been placed just before the Saturday Dinner – so you all can look your best!

The Saturday Dinner

We will have a Saturday Dinner at the convention site, from 19.00 to 22.00. Pre-booked ticket is obligatory. Our venue will be serving a buffet of both vegetarian and non-vegetarian foods, and including desserts. The bar will be open during the dinner, so you can buy your drinks (wine, beer, soft drinks, etc) on site.

During the dinner, our Guests of Honor will hold their traditional GoH Speeches, and we will announce the winner(s) of the Fantasticon 2018 Steampunk Story Competition.

If you would like to add to the festive mood with your own speech, please do so (but please contact us in advance for our planning of the event).

The Bar

The convention site hosts a manned bar serving a

diversity of drinks (wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee/tea, water). As all proceeds from the bar go to charity work, we encourage you all to shop your beverages here.

At lunch time the bar will also serve light sandwiches.

Dealer's Room

Dealer's room is filling up now, so if you want to secure a table for your stuff or a wall for your exhibition, now is the time to let us know!

We will be presenting books from publisher Angry Robot Books (UK) Science Fiction Cirklen, Calibat, Enter Darkness & Tegneserie-kollektivet Urkraft.

Steampunk art will be presented by Lux Artis (SE); Alexandre Savin (SE) will present his steampunk gadgets, and we will have an option to personally test out Virtual Reality!

A selection of used genre books (English, German, and Danish language) will be sold very cheap during the convention for the benefit of Fantasticon.

If you publish books and/or fanzines, we can sell them in commission for you at our Fantasticon Reception Desk in the Dealer's Room. But please contact us in advance.

Convention books

Two brand new Danish steampunk books will be published in connection with Fantasticon 2018:

- *Damphammeren* (SFC 2018), a translated anthology of classic international steampunk stories, edited by Niels Dalgaard.

- *Krinoline & kedsomhed* (SFC 2018), an anthology of commissioned new Danish steampunk stories edited by Knud Larn.



As an added bonus there are also the results of our still untitled collection of New Nordic Steampunk from the Fantasticon 2018 Story Competition. This last book will be a free pdf sent out as preparation to all registered members of Fantasticon 2018 in early August, another good reason to buy your membership before August 1st.

At the con, we will of course be talking with the editors about these books, and with the authors who happen to be present.

Traditional Sunday beginnings

Speaking of books we should mention that the traditional Sunday morning critics are back again this year, so the Sunday program will begin with a two-hour discussion of K. W. Jeter's *Infernal Devices* and Cherie Priest's *Boneshaker*. Signature works in history of steampunk.

We present the titles now so you can read/re-read the books and enter into an informed discussion with the critics in the second part of the event. The critics will add perspective to the discussions from other steampunk stories they have individually read.

Frankenstein at 200

The story of *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley enters its 200th year in 2018; we will be looking at both the story and the applications of it in other media through the ages.

We will also be remembering Ursula K. LeGuin (1929-2018) who died in January this year, as well as the late Brian Aldiss who left us just in August 2017.

New Books this season

2018 saw the publication of several important titles in our genre in Denmark. We will be talking about Marie Ladefoged (*Moderskibet*, Det Poetiske Bureau 2018), Jane Mondrup (*Zeitgeist*, Vandkunsten 2018), Olga Ravn (*De Ansatte*, Gyldendal 2018), Dennis Gade Kofod (*Folkemøg*, Rosinante 2018), and Peter Adolphsen (*Rynkeknepesygen*, Gyldendal 2017).

Closer to Fandom's Heart, Nikolaj Johansen is finishing his steampunk YA trilogy that began with *Transformationsmaskinen* (2016) and *Moderlandets Drage* (2017), both published by Calibat, and Billy O'Shea have finished his English-language adult steampunk trilogy, *Kingdom of Clockwork* (2014), *Clockwork Moon* (2015), *Clockwork Carol* (2017), all from Black Swan. We also expect Henrik Harksen to present some new titles from his dark printing press...

Formal presentations

Flemming Rasch will look deep into Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine, and Joen Juel Jensen will be looking at the curious afterlife of H. G. Well's *The Time Machine*. Astrophysicist Dr. Edmund Schlüssel from Helsinki University will talk about the *actual* science of steampunk

clockworks, Lise Andreasen will guide us through what steampunk stories actually already exists in Danish, and Tue Sørensen will present steampunk in comics. More on its way here, just not confirmed at the moment!

Fannish contents

In the more informal fannish segment, we find Billy O'Shea & friends who will present the many aspects of Scandinavian steampunk, and an assortment of Nordic fans will present Scandinavian Fandom Now. Also real geeks – I kid you not ! - join up to make us understand why we all should squee along with them!

Friday Late Night Movie

We will be showing the steampunk movie *April and the Extraordinary World* Friday evening – and maybe some other steampunk short films throughout the convention.

Masquerade

With steampunk as our theme, we expect to see many members in remarkable outfits during the convention. This means that we will not host a specific masquerade. That said, we just might present an award at the

Saturday dinner to the best dressed attendee...

Prices increase

Finally, do note that membership prices go up after July 31st, from current 325 DKK to 400 DKK – Dinner price stays at 200 DKK, but spaces are running out.... Remember to buy your ticket(s) soon!

You can buy your ticket right now through this link: www.enkelbillet.dk/Fantasticon

We look forward to seeing you all in Copenhagen in September!

Members as of July 1st 2018 (44 members registered):

Knud Larn
Lise Andreasen
Alexandre Savin (SE)
Thomas Winther
Jan Patrik Sahlstrøm (SE)
Jan Patrik Sahlstrøm2 (SE)
Lars Grill Nielsen
Anne Petersen
Jóannes Á Stykki
Anne-Marie Vedsø Olesen
Jeppe Larsen
Tue Sørensen
Andreas Søe
Niels Gjerløff
Camilla Brygger

Gothstaff Beuttenmuller (SE)
Lars Ahn Pedersen
Carl Gustav Werner (SE)
Stig W. Jørgensen
Bente Bernhard Riis
Sanna Bo Claumarch
Sofia Karlsson (SE)
Manfred Christiansen
Frida Otterhag (SE)
Nicklas Brandin (SE)
Klaus A Mogensen
Yvonne Hansen
Jeannette Ng (HK)
Lavie Tidhar (IL)
Joen Juel Jensen

Rolf Christian Andersen (NO)
Jannich Allan Stæhr
Eva Holmquist (SE)
Ian Sales (UK)
Jan Reimer (SE)
Sidsel Nørgaard Pedersen
Jane Mondrup
Paul Treadaway (UK)
Edmund Schluessel (FI)
Majbrit Høyrup
Nikolaj Johansen
Marie Ladefoged
Henrik Harsen
Einar Leif Nielsen (IS)