



July 2009 Newsletter

The Devil Made Me Do It

That's Science Fiction

Tuesday, July 7 – 6:45p

Hillsdale Public Library

Murnau's Faust. *Please note slightly earlier start time to accommodate length of film.

Drawing A Crowd

Wednesday July 8, 2009 – 7p

New Moon Comics

(www.newmooncomics.com)

This month we'll be discussing hell, but in the form of 'your own personal hell.' My Name Is Tony Stark and I Am An Alcoholic - Comic books have taken time out to address real life social issues such as substance abuse/addiction, domestic abuse, and AIDS. We'll talk about some of the most notable characters and storylines that have tackled these issues. **We then have a special screening of the movie *Visioneers*.**

Whispers From Beyond & Face the Fiction

Tuesday July 11, 2009

Time: begin arriving between 7:30 – 7:45p

Iron Horse

20 Washington Avenue

Westwood, NJ 07675

201.666.9682

Join us as we return to a favorite watering hole. This is a very special dinner and a guest-featuring author Joey Madia, author of Jester-Knight. Please see www.theironhorse.com for more information.

Suspense Central

Monday July 13, 2009 – 8p

Panera Bread Restaurant

165 Rt. 4 West

Paramus, NJ 07652

Road to Hell by Jackie Kessler. The sizzling sequel to Kessler's paranormal debut ***Hell's Belles***.

Films to Come

Wednesday July 15, 2009 – 7p

Borders Ramsey (Interstate Shopping Center)

4-Star Movie Discussion Group

If it deals with entertainment, our Master of Entertainment Moderator will cover it.

Fantasy Gamers Group

Saturday July 18, 2009

2:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Todd's - directions available upon request/contact

Todd

Join us for terror, monsters, madness and more as GM BJ Pehush explores the city of Arkham MA with our monthly Call of Cthulu (Chaosium 6th edition) game.

Modern Masters

Friday July 24, 2009 – 8p

This month we discuss ***The Devil and Miss Prym: A Novel of Temptation*** by Paulo Coelho.

Infinite Chaos: A Temnia Campaign

Saturday July 25, 2009

2:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Ehrenfels Manor - directions available upon request/contact **Todd**

Welcome to the Western Nations of Temnia, a brutal and vicious tyranny ruled by the Immortal Emperor, the illustrious Naram'tzin, your boss. This game explores life in the far West, where powerful Samurai serve demon worshipping madmen, and expediency and survival are balanced by honor and horror. A new day in the Yenxhai Dominions is dawning, and the peaceful nations of the East should beware!

Themes of the Fantastic

Tuesday July 28, 2009 – 8p

New Moon Comics

463 Main Street

Little Falls, NJ

973.81.COMIC or 973.812.6642

Hell on earth and beyond. Good vs. Evil.

please visit www.sfsnnj.com for full details

July Face the Fiction At Iron Horse Restaurant

Please join us in celebrating a very special dinner and
Guest Face the Fiction at Iron Horse Restaurant with
Guest Joey Madia, author of *Jester-knight*.

8p. We are hoping for an 8:30 start time for our
guest.

Where: Iron Horse Restaurant
20 Washington Avenue
Westwood , NJ 07675
201.666.9682

When: Saturday, July 11 2009

Time: Please begin arriving between 7:30 and
7:45 - we would like to be sitting and ordering by

Menu: There will be a choice of prime rib/chicken or pasta with salad. The menu will be similar to the menu from the last Iron Horse gathering (for those who were there and remember). It will be approximately \$25/person, which covers salad/finger sandwiches/meal and a soft drink. Anyone ordering dessert or items beyond that will pay more.

Schedule: Not only will we enjoy a delicious meal, we have guest Joey Madia presenting to us. We're hoping for an 8:30 start time for Mr. Madia.

Joey Madia is an actor-educator, playwright and poet whose work and life are one with the worlds of shadow, shaman, form and flight. This work is dedicated to his shining Muse, Tonya, to Joseph Campbell, and to Crow. He is editor of www.newmystics.com. Joey is also the author of the novel *Jester-Knight*.

*For info on Joey Madia please visit www.sfsnj.com on the SFS Guests page.

We hope all of our friends will join us for this
event - a fun evening of good food, good friends
and a guest speaker. We hope to see you all
there.

June Meeting Recaps

That's Science Fiction! – Tuesday - June 2, 2009

This month we not only enjoyed *The Hunt for Red October*, but we enjoyed a nice location with food - Panera. Those who came out to see the film grabbed some food, grabbed a comfy seat and watched Sean Connery be Russian with a Scottish burr - interesting and perplexing at the same time.

For those familiar with either the book or the movie you know this is a Jack Ryan story. For those not - ***The Hunt for Red October*** is a novel by Tom Clancy that follows the intertwined adventures of Soviet submarine captain Marko Aleksandrovich Ramius (Sean Connery) and CIA analyst Jack Ryan (Alec Baldwin).

Ramius, who has risen to high levels of trust in the Soviet Navy, intends to defect to the United States with his officers and the experimental nuclear submarine *Red October*. He has not been happy with the Soviet for many years. His anger boils over when he blames the Soviet for his wife's death.

Jack Ryan, a naval historian turned CIA analyst, deduces Ramius' plans and must try to convince the powers that be in the U.S. They are not convinced and believe the sub coming into their waters is an act of aggression. Tensions rise between the U.S. and Soviet fleets. Meanwhile, the crew of the *USS Dallas*, an attack submarine, figures out a way to detect the *Red October* through sonar and gives chase with the intent to blow Red October to bits. Not only is the US giving chase, so is the Soviet - they do not want to the US to get their hands on that nifty high-tech sub.

Ryan becomes responsible for seeing the sub - and Ramius/crew - to safety from both the pursuing US and Soviet fleets. The United States, in order to make the Soviets believe that the *Red October* has been destroyed, rescues its crew after Ramius declares a shipboard emergency. Ramius and the officers heroically stay aboard to 'scuttle' the submarine. Shortly thereafter, a decommissioned U.S. ballistic missile submarine, the *USS Ethen Allen*, is blown up underwater. These two events fool the Soviets into thinking that the *Red October* has been lost. Could it be that simple? Nope - spy on board the sub, hi-jinks ensue...had to leave early to get Jo's cell phone and house keys that she left at work - someone tell me the ending!!

Although I missed the ending, Panera was nice. We enjoyed the relaxing evening with food and really comfortable chairs. Todd said next time we use Panera for a movie we'll use the screen for even bigger viewing. **(AM)**

Suspense Central – Monday – 6/8/09

Monday marked Suspense Central's return to Panera Bread in Paramus. Due to work scheduling last year, I missed all of the meetings here until last week when we screened *The Hunt For Red October* for That's Science Fiction! in their private room. It's like meeting in the cafe at Borders without all the people walking around us. We have a much bigger space there as well. The room has a bunch of tables so we can spread out; get a bite to eat or just some tea or coffee (or other beverages) from the Panera Bread menu. It seems to bring back the original focus of this meeting (way back when Todd and Aurelia first started this) as a dinner and a book discussion.

Our book this month tied in with That's Science Fiction! as we discussed *The Hunt For Red October* by Tom Clancy. This was actually Clancy's first novel but it was also the first work of fiction published by the US Naval Institute Press.

The Hunt For Red October follows the story of Marko Ramius, a high-ranking Soviet Naval Officer and Lithuanian by birth, and his plan to defect in a high tech experimental submarine (The Red October). The Red October is a Typhoon-class sub equipped with an experimental stealth propulsion system, nicknamed "Caterpillar Drive". This type of propulsion would be undetectable using sonar, which gives it the ability to sneak into American home waters undetected to launch nuclear missiles with little or no warning.

When the sub goes "missing", this is exactly what the Joint Chiefs of Staff assume is Ramius' intent. Jack Ryan, a former US Marine and naval historian, now a CIA analyst, attempts to prove to them that Ramius' actual plan is defection while the entire Soviet Northern Fleet has been deployed to sink the Red October, under the guise of a "search and rescue" mission.

As part of our discussion, we compared the movie to the book and discussed the other novels by Tom Clancy, particularly the Jack Ryan stories.

Aurelia, despite just having had oral surgery, was there to lead the discussion, though she turned much of it over to the rest of us. Todd read a bit about Tom Clancy's writing career and Chris read from his handout about the book. Gene and I hadn't read the book, but had seen the movie more than once (does that count?), so we were familiar with the stories and enjoyed hearing about the plot differences.

Join us next month as we discuss *The Road to Hell - Book 2* in the *Hell on Earth* series, by Jackie Kessler. Hopefully, Jackie will be able to discuss her book with us that night. She has already expressed an interest in doing so. It's always good to see her! (Jo)

Drawing A Crowd – Wednesday – 6/10/09

Best Drawing A Crowd! Our June DAC meeting discussed the theme of aquatic comic book characters and beyond. We had MUCH fun discussing the plethora of recommendations Barry provided (*Aquaman Time & Tide*, *Atlantis Chronicles*, *Seaguy*, *Namor the Sub-Mariner* and *Sea Devils*). We also discussed *Sub-Mariner issue no. 01* that several of us had purchased beforehand to discuss.

Barry opened the discussion by providing a background of the aquatic comic book characters being highlighted for the meeting. This was particularly beneficial for those of us not entirely knowledgeable about them. Josephine and I provided several handouts on the recommended characters, and Barry integrated the handouts into his summary. He also passed around a graphic of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* with an introduction by Ray Bradbury! Pretty cool. The sea monster kept Gene busy for some time.

Barry discussed each aquatic comic book character individually using the handouts and books (if available). He started with *Sub-Mariner issue no. 01* as the majority of us had read it. This was part of the 70 years of Marvel series. Chris and Jo told us what they liked about both the story and the character. Jo seemed to like that Sub-Mariner could fly. Chris was disturbed by his pointy ears. The setting and storyline was explained (WW setting in the 1940's, Nazis, U-boats). The writers, artists and subsequent follow-ups were also talked about. Barry read through the *Namor the Sub-Mariner* handout to fill in any missing information.

Next up was Aquaman, in particular *Aquaman Time & Tide*. Talk about an angst-filled whiner! We talked about Aquaman's constant whining about one thing or another. "Don't label me a hero. I hate that label." "I don't trust boats." "That polar bear bit me." Wah wah. Barry did point out that other comics/cartoons did have a less mamby pamby Aquaman. In some stories he's more stoic than whiny. I would hope so! We read information about *The Atlantis Chronicles* (another recommended read). We spent a good deal of time on Aquaman as he was the most familiar character.

Next up was Seaguy. I thought Seaguy sounded identical to a book called *From the Notebooks of Dr. Brain* by Minister Faust (which we will be doing in an upcoming *Modern Masters*). The premise in both stories is what would happen if superheroes had no more evil to fight? What's a superhero to do after the last super-villains have been defeated? What would they do? While the Notebook of Dr. Brain is good, Rob interjected that Seaguy was not well received.

Next, Sea Devils. Sea Devils was published by DC and featured a team of conventional adventurers (no super powers) in undersea adventures. It was around this time we somehow wound up discussing *Lost in Space* and the burning question, "what was the father's name?" - Barry didn't think my answer of 'Dad' was quite it.

The group discussed the recommended reads, passed around handouts and books, and reminisced about childhood cartoons matching the theme. We were having a great time and began expanding to characters outside the comic realm. I brought up Sponge Bob Squarepants who not only lives under the sea, but also has the recurring characters Mermaid Man (voiced by Ernest Borgnine) and Barnacle Boy. They are now-retired superheroes from Sponge's favorite TV show. Unfortunately for Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy, Sponge Bob and his friend Patrick won't let go of the two superheroes heyday and keep trying to get them out of their "retirement home" with ridiculous scenarios. It's too funny when poor Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy come running to a 'scene' in slippers only to find it a contrived fake by Sponge Bob and Patrick (who Barnacle Boy refers to as 'oh no, it's that crazed stalked fan again').

Barry suggested taking a break and we browsed for bit. Barry once again had titles for us: *Preacher* and *Planetary*. They are part of the ongoing 'After Watchmen...What's Next?' He'll make us literate whether we like it or not - lol.

We returned to the meeting room and picked up the discussion. Barry rehashed all of the characters and continued adding to the list. He branched out to the various cartoons, movies, and TV shows featuring an underwater concept. We spent some time talking about *Batman: The Brave and the Bold* currently on Cartoon Network. Chris suddenly announced it was almost 10:15 and we should probably head out so poor Rob could go home! We were having such a good time we never realized it was so late. At Barry's suggestion we continued the night at a diner.

had Abyss as well as Deep Blue Sea. Todd added Waterworld and Off Armageddon Reef by David Webber. Jo topped things off with Island At The Top Of The World by Disney. Thanks to all for their input!

SFSNNJ Member Movie Reviews

Up

To say *Up* is uplifting (pun intended) is a real understatement. I've always been a big fan of Edward Asner, and he's great here as the voice of Carl. As Barry said after viewing this film, Pixar is 10 for 10! **(Chris H)**

Up

Brian and I just saw *Up!* The early part made me cry and Brian sniffle, and one line toward the end, "It's just a house," made me throw my head back and laugh! Man, it was just what I needed to make me feel better! **(Ana)**

Fifth Element

Anthony of the HiWay Hobby in Ramsey on Saturday, June 20, 2009, showed in Blu-Ray the film *The Fifth Element*. I have the regular DVD and just played most of the special features. It included make-up, the aliens, the stars, the Diva and so forth. A very imaginative film. B+ **(Chris H)**

Night at the Museum 2

I finally got around to seeing it. I will agree with Bill Wagner that Ben Stiller isn't funny (he is better than Adam Sandler, Pauly Shore and Wil Ferrell, but that's not saying much). The second film is about the same as the first. A little more frantic - and, yes Amy Adams is a lot of fun as Amelia Earheart. B+ **(Chris H)**

Public Enemies

I was never into gangster pictures that much. But I did want to see Johnny Depp as Dillinger. It's very well done. Christian Bale is also very good as Melvin Purvis. I'll make a Barry-like prediction and say Johnny Depp will be nominated for Best Actor. Film grade: A. Good production values and recreation of the 1930s, including the music (i.e. Billie Holiday). **Chris H**
