



ASFACTS 2025

APRIL "WARM & WINDY" ISSUE

ENMU WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP ADDS AUTHOR, REVEALS APRIL PLANS

Brian D. Hinson of New Mexico has been added as a participant at the 48th annual Jack Williamson Lectureship to be held Thursday-Saturday, April 10-12, at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. Special guest is Darcie Little Badger of Texas, with Colorado's Connie Willis as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Little Badger, born in 1987, is a member of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas and earned a PhD. in oceanography at Texas A&M University. Little Badger's debut novel, *Elatsoe*, was published in 2020, and *A Snake Falls to Earth* was released in 2021. *Sheine Lende* was named one of the Best Young Adult Books of 2024 by BookPage. Her short fiction has appeared in a range of publications, including *Strange Horizons*, *Fantasy Magazine*, *Mythic Delirium*, and *The Dark Magazine*, among others.

Other confirmed participants include Brian D. Hinson, Darynda Jones, Arkady Martine, Diana Rowland, Vivian Shaw, Melinda M. Snodgrass, John Stith, Lauren C. Tefreau, Ian Tregillis, Sarena Ulibarri, Walter Jon Williams, Cordelia Willis and Courtney Willis.

A campus tradition since 1977, the Lectureship annually draws well-known authors to visit ENMU and discuss the interactions of science and the humanities. The theme of this year's Lectureship is "Worlds Beyond."

Williamson, long-time SF author and professor of English passed away in 2006. Williamson's novella, "The Ultimate Earth," won a 2001 Hugo Award, and his last novel, *The Stonehenge Gate*, was released in 2005.

Programming on Thursday, April 10, includes Cordelia Willis giving a talk on "Forensic Video Analysis: Making You an Eyewitness" at 3:00 pm, and a Cantina Carnival 5:00-7:00 pm in the Greyhound Lounge with activities run by student organizations.

On Friday, April 11, the day begins with an academic panel at 8:30 am, followed by Little Badger's Guest of Honor reading at 10:00 am. The Keynote Lunch starts at 12:00 pm with remarks from Connie Willis, a keynote address from Darcie Little Badger, and sci-fi/fantasy trivia. Seating starts at 11:30 am, and the luncheon cost is \$15.00 with reservations needed by April 4.

At 1:30 pm, there will be a Meet-and-Greet with Little Badger in coordination with the ENMU Multi-Cultural Affairs. At the same time, there will be a tour of the Gold-

en Library Special Collections including Williamson's office and the science-fiction library. Panel discussions take place 3:00-6:20 pm.

The Lectureship finishes up Saturday morning with a Creative Writing Workshop led by Connie Willis.

2024 NEBULA AWARDS BALLOT

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association (SFWA) released the finalists for the 2024 Nebula Awards via YouTube video in mid-March, reports Locusmag.com.

NOVEL: *Sleeping Worlds Have No Memory* by Yaroslav Barsukov, *Rakesfall* by Vajra Chandrasekera, *Asunder* by Kerstin Hall, *A Sorceress Comes to Call* by T. Kingfisher (Ursula Vernon), *The Book of Love* by Kelly Link, and *Someone You Can Build a Nest In* by John Wiswell. NOVELLA: *The Butcher of the Forest* by Premee Mohamed, *The Tusks of Extinction* by Ray Nayler, *Lost Ark Dreaming* by Suyi Davies Okungbowa, *Countess* by Suzan Palumbo, *The Practice, the Horizon, and the Chain* by Sofia Samatar, and *The Dragonfly Gambit* by A.D. Sui.

NOVELETTE: "The Brotherhood of Montague St. Video" by Thomas Ha, "Katya Vasilievna and the Second Drowning of Baba Rechka" by Christine Hanolsy, "Another Girl Under the Iron Bell" by Angela Liu, "What Any Dead Thing Wants" by Aimee Ogden, "Negative Scholarship on the Fifth State of Being" by A.W. Prihandita, "Joanna's Bodies" by Eugenia Triantafyllou, and "Loneliness Universe" by Eugenia Triantafyllou. SHORT STORY: "The Witch Trap" by Jennifer Hudak, "Five Views of the Planet Tartarus" by Rachael K. Jones, "Why Don't We Just Kill the Kid in the Omelas Hole" by Isabel J. Kim, "Evan: A Remainder" by Jordan Kurella, "The V*mpire"

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight (One Week Early):** Troy Stull gives a presentation on *Star Trek* Xenozoology.
- **April 25:** Bubonicon 57 Guest Nominations...
- **May 9:** Ursula Vernon talks on T. Kingfisher's next novel and about living in New Mexico.
- **June 13:** Our Annual Summer Movie Night. Title of the film to be announced. Plus a cartoon!
- **June 27:** Bubonicon Open Financial Meeting.
- **July 11:** Program unknown at present. Plus the Summer issue of *ASFACTS*.
- **August 8:** Bubonicon 56 Preview + Some Fun.
- **August 15:** Bubonicon 56 Gofer Meeting.
- **September 12:** Bubonicon 56 Report and a space presentation from Loretta Hall.

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Darth Vader, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Contact: (505) 266-8905 or via cwraig@nmlia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April/May, July & October for ABQ SF Society, *SITHFACTS* each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Sunday, July 6. **2025 Club Officers:** Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Eric Klammer, Moderator. Tanley McMullan, Alternator. Easter Bunny, holiday host. **Bubonicon Chair:** Craig Chrissinger (505) 559-0931.

by PH Lee, and “We Will Teach You How to Read | We Will Teach You How to Read” by Caroline M. Yoachim.

ANDRE NORTON AWARD: *Daydreamer* by Rob Cameron, *Braided* by Leah Cypess, *Benny Ramirez and the Nearly Depraved* by José Pablo Iriarte, *Moonstorm* by Yoon Ha Lee, *Puzzleheart* by Jenn Reese, and *The Young Necromancer’s Guide to Ghosts* by Vanessa Ricci-Thode. RAY BRADBURY AWARD: *Doctor Who: “Dot and Bubble,” Dune: Part Two, I Saw the TV Glow, KAOS, Star Trek: Lower Decks Season 5, and Wicked.*

GAME WRITING: *A Death in Hyperspace, Elden Ring: Shadow of the Erdtree, The Ghost and the Golem, 1000xRESIST, Pacific Drive; Restore, Reflect, Retry; Slay the Princess – The Pristine Cut, and Yazeba’s Bed & Breakfast.*

Winners will be announced at the 2025 Nebula Conference and Awards June 5-8 in Kansas City, MO.

2025 LIBBY BOOK AWARDS WINNERS

Winners of the 2025 Libby Book Awards, “as chosen by... over 1,100 librarians and library staff from across North America,” were announced in early March, including winners of genre interest, reported *Locusmag.com*.

BOOK OF THE YEAR – ADULT FICTION: RUNNER UP: *James* by Percival Everett.

BEST SCIENCE FICTION: WINNER: *The Ministry of Time* by Kaliane Bradley. RUNNER UP: *The Stardust Grail* by Yume Kitasei. BEST HORROR: WINNER: *Bury Your Gays* by Chuck Tingle. RUNNER UP: *I Was a Teenage Slasher* by Stephen Graham Jones.

BEST FANTASY: WINNER: *The Spellshop* by Sara Beth Durst. RUNNER UP: *The Familiar* by Leigh Bardugo. BEST ROMANTASY: WINNER: *House of Flame and Shadow* by Sarah J. Maas. RUNNER-UP: *Faebound* by Saara El-Arifi.

BOOK OF THE YEAR – YOUNG ADULT FICTION: WINNER: *Heir* by Sabaa Tahir. DEBUT AUTHOR OF THE YEAR: WINNER: *The Ministry of Time* by Kaliane Bradley.

BEST HISTORICAL FICTION: WINNER: *James* by Percival Everett. RUNNER UP: *The Seventh Veil of Salome* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. BEST THRILLER: WINNER: *One of Our Kind* by Nicola Yoon. BEST MEMOIR AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY: WINNER: *Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder* by Salman Rushdie.

BEST MIDDLE GRADE BOOK: WINNER: *Impossible Creatures* by Katherine Rundell. BEST PICTURE BOOK: RUNNER UP: *We Are Definitely Human* by X. Fang.

The Libby Book Awards are hosted by library-lending apps Libby and OverDrive.

AUTHOR L.J. SMITH DIES

L.J. Smith died March 8 in Danville, CA, after a long illness. She was 66 years old, and best known for the best-selling *Vampire Diaries* series and the *Night World* series.

Lisa Jane Smith was born September 4, 1958, in Fort Lauderdale, FL, and grew up in Southern California. She attended the University of California, Santa Barbara and San Francisco State University, and worked for three years as an elementary school teacher before leaving to focus on her writing. Smith took a hiatus from publishing in 1998 to care for sick family, but returned to writing in 2008.

Debut YA novel *The Night of the Solstice* (1987) was followed by sequel *Heart of Valor* (1990). Her next work became her most famous: *The Vampire Diaries*, later adapted as a television series that ran for eight seasons from 2009 to 2017. First title *The Awakening* appeared in 1991, followed by *The Struggle* (1991), and continuing through 2011’s *The Return: Midnight*. Subsequent volumes were ghostwritten.

Other works include the *Dark Visions* series, with *The Strange Power* (1994), *The Possessed* (1995), and *The Passion* (1995); and the *Forbidden Game* series, with *The Hunter* (1994), *The Chase* (1994), and *The Kill* (1994). *The Night World* sequence started with *Secret Vampire* (1996), and continued through 1998’s *Witchlight*. *The Secret Circle* began with *The Initiation* (1992) and continued with *The Captive* (1992) and *The Power* (1992).

Smith is survived by longtime friend Julie Divola, her sister, nieces, and nephews.

BOOK GROUP KEEPS READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, April 21, at Cocina Azul, 4243 Montgomery Blvd NE (west of Jefferson) to discuss *Elder Race* by Adrian Tchaikovsky. The group then focuses on *Midnight at the Houdini* by Delilah S. Dawson on Monday, May 19, at Cocina Azul, Flying Star Café or Slice & Dice Pizzeria.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the third Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount at Page One Books in the Mountain Run Shopping Center. For more info, contact Leah at msransom@hotmail.com or Craig at 266-8905.

DETAILS ON NEW OWNERS OF FICTION MAGS

Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine, Analog Science Fiction and Fact, Asimov’s Science Fiction, Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, and The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction have been acquired by Must Read Magazines, a division of a new publishing company, Must Read Books Publishing, reported *Locusmag.com* in mid-March. All editorial staff from the magazines have been retained in the acquisitions. Jackie Sherbow has been promoted to editor of *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. P.L. Stevens joins the group as publisher.

From Stevens’ statement to *Locus*: “There are writers who have asked if the magazines have somehow been taken over by unusual interests and we want to reassure people that’s not the case. Ultimately the magazines’ content will remain editorially driven as they have always been, and they might be interested to know that one of our largest single outside financial backers, Michael Khandelwal, is a lifelong regional con attendee. We feel these magazines are extremely important to the legacy and future of these genres, and hope to continue each magazine’s mission while updating the business behind the magazines in order to reach more readers and writers.

“The company plans to bolster the magazines by expanding their distribution in trade bookstores, increasing their digital footprint, investing more in marketing to new readers and writers across channels, and using their plat-

form to promote genre fiction authors in general.”

Peter Kanter, publisher of Penny Publications, said, “We have been proud to publish the four iconic magazines – *Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine*, *Analog Science Fiction and Fact*, *Asimov’s Science Fiction*, and *Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine* – since 1996, bringing fans the very best science fiction and mystery short stories available. Recently, we at Penny / Dell decided to focus on our core business: publishing puzzle magazines.”

Gordon Van Gelder, former publisher of *F&SF*, has joined the new group in a consulting capacity. He said, “During the pandemic, it became obvious to me that there needed to be changes in the way *F&SF* operated. I’m very happy that Must Read Magazines has taken over ownership of the magazine and I’m delighted to be handing over the reins to the new group. It has been an honor and a joy for me to run the magazine for the last quarter-century and I look forward to seeing where it goes in the coming years.”

The parent company will take over sponsorship of the Astounding Award for Best New Writer, the Black Orchid Novella Award (with The Wolfe Pack), the Dell Award for Undergraduate Excellence in Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing, *Asimov’s* Readers Awards, AnLab Awards, The *Analog* Award for Emerging Black Authors, and *Ellery Queen* Readers Awards, among others.

Must Read Magazines is financially backed by a small group of genre fiction fans. A major investor and board advisor is Michael Khandelwal, the founder of a writing nonprofit and Virginia’s Mars Con toastmaster. Macmillan Learning Ebook consultant and developer Franco A. Alvarado has joined the group as director, design & operations. Leading the executive board is former Curtis Brown literary agent Steven Salpeter, who will manage the distribution, translation, and Film/TV rights for the company, as he does for other companies at his new firm 2 Arms Media.

PUPPETLAND’S MISS YVONNE DIES

by Escher Walcott, *People.com* 2-21-2025

Lynne Marie Stewart, star of *Pee-Wee’s Playhouse* and *It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, died on February 21 as a result of cancer. She was 78 years old.

“She had just finished filming the movie *The Dink and It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia*,” representative Bette Smith said in a statement. “That was mid-December. She was exhausted, so she went to the doc, and to everyone’s shock, she had a tumor between the liver and gallbladder. She went very quickly.

“The day before she passed, the director of the movie sent over a cut of the movie so Lynne and her family got to watch,” Smith continued. “That was so kind, and it was nice for everyone to see her last work.”

“My heart is breaking upon hearing the news of my dear friend Lynne Stewart’s passing,” Cassandra “Elvira” Peterson wrote, with a photo of Stewart embracing her. “One of the kindest, sweetest, funniest women ever. The iconic Miss Yvonne of *Pee-Wee’s Playhouse*. She’ll always be ‘the most beautiful woman in Puppetland.’”

Jonathan Stark posted on FB, “I lost a friend today. And the world lost a great soul. Lynne Marie Stewart is gone. Miss Yvonne, ‘The Most Beautiful Woman in Puppetland.’ It seemed impossible as I felt that her goodness and light would live forever. I’m beyond heartbroken.”

Stewart played Miss Yvonne on *Pee-Wee’s Playhouse* 1986-1990 alongside star and creator Paul Reubens, who died in July 2023. She originated the role in the 1981 stage show *The Pee-Wee Herman Show*, and appeared in the 2010 Los Angeles stage revival and the 2010 Broadway production. She also appeared in the Pee-Wee movies *Pee-Wee’s Big Adventure* (1985) and *Big Top Pee-Wee* (1988).

Stewart was born in Lynwood, CA, on December 14, 1946. Stewart majored in theater arts at Los Angeles City College, where she met her best friend, Cindy Williams. She first met Reubens (and Phil Hartman) in the 1970s after joining the sketch comedy troupe, the Groundlings.

Stewart made her onscreen debut in 1971’s *Drive, She Said*. She appeared in *American Graffiti* (1973), *Laverne & Shirley* (1977-1983), *M*A*S*H*, playing several different nurses (1975-1977), *The Running Man* (1987), *Life with Louie* (1996-1997), *Arrested Development* (2004), *Raising Hope* (2010-2014), and *Bridesmaids* (2011).

Stewart’s more recent well-recognized role was as Charlie Kenny’s mother Bonnie, in *It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia* (2005-2024).

Former cast member Mary Elizabeth Ellis wrote in tribute to Stewart on her Instagram Stories, “This woman. So lovely, so funny ... I can’t believe I got to know and work with her after falling for her as a child watching Pee-wee. Lots of love to you Lynne Marie.”

Stewart never married nor had children. She and Reubens were active participants with the Make-a-Wish Foundation and often appeared in character to bring happiness to terminally ill children. She and Reubens remained “the closest of friends” the rest of his life, with Stewart attending to Reubens at the end of his life.

REDFORD/MARTIN MAKE *DARK WINDS* CAMEO

by Meaghan Darwish, *TVInsider.com* 03/09/2025

Dark Winds is back, and while Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn (Zahn McClarnon) is tackling a new mystery with the help of detective Jim Chee (Kiowa Gordon), Season 3’s premiere makes way for one of TV’s most epic double cameos as executive producers Robert Redford and George RR Martin pop in to play a couple of jailbirds.

After starting an investigation in the desert, Leaphorn and Chee return to the station where the Lieutenant checks in on the Navajo jail’s prisoners who happen to be in the middle of a game of chess. Observing their plays, Leaphorn watches as Redford tells Martin, “George, the whole world’s waiting. Make a move!”

Leaphorn chimes in with a move for George to take, giving him the edge against his competitor. “Thanks a lot,” Redford says to Leaphorn, who walks away with a smile.

It was a big moment for McClarnon, who says, “[It was a] very exciting day for me. A dream come true. Working with two legends. I grew up with Robert Redford and his films. He was one of my idols growing up in the ’70s, there was a movie, *Little Fauss and Big Halsey*, that was a big inspiration to me at six years old.

“Robert plays a motorcycle racer and he has his toothbrush in his mouth the whole movie,” he continued. “And I walked around with a toothbrush in my mouth at six years old until my parents finally took it out. I was so inspired by who that character was... So I never thought in my life I’d be doing a scene with Robert Redford.” He also heaps

praise on Martin, whom he calls, "one of the best fantasy science fiction writers of our generation. They're both warm people, and I'm always in awe and have to pinch myself when I'm in their company."

His costar Gordon confirms McClarnon's excitement on the day of filming, sharing, "As soon as the camera would cut, you'd see Zahn just put on this big cheesiest grin and he just looked like a little kid... He's living the dream for all of us. And it was just so cool to watch him watch his hero and be in the same shot with him."

"It's great to have legends in your show and a little nod to them," Gordon adds, sharing, "It's really cool of them to make it happen because George hates cameos, but he did it for us. He loves the show, and I think that goes a long way."

As for Redford's line, which is most certainly a joke about Martin's *Game of Thrones* book writing schedule, showrunner John Wirth tells us, "Those words came out of Mr. Redford's mouth, and he is the author of those words. So I guess I just threw him under the bus, which I didn't mean to do." Wirth adds with a laugh, "I found it very amusing, and I think George did, too."

The cameos were years in the making as Wirth notes they've been trying to figure out a scene or moment that could work for the executive producers to take part in. Ultimately, the idea for jail prisoners came from Martin. "George came to me one day and said, 'I know how we do this. Bob and I are going to be in the jail cell playing chess,'" Wirth recalls.

And while he admits he doesn't know how these two characters ended up in the jail cell with a chessboard, Wirth says, "It kind of made sense."

"I mean, the whole thing is probably less than 90 seconds, and then we're right back into the *Dark Winds* story," he continues. "It was delightful. It was really a pleasure to see those two gentlemen on stage and to hear them talking and acting in our series. It's very meaningful."

And that's just one highlight fans can enjoy as the latest season of *Dark Winds* unfolds, so stay tuned for more. *Dark Winds* Season 3 airs Sundays on AMC and AMC+.

GENE HACKMAN & WIFE FOUND DEAD

(USA Today) - Actor Gene Hackman was found dead in his Santa Fe home on February 26 alongside his wife, pianist Betsy Arakawa, the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office announced. Hackman was 95 years old.

At first, mystery surrounded the deaths, but it later was revealed that Arakawa, 65, died from Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome. Hackman had heart disease and complications caused by Alzheimer's disease, and died from natural causes, possibly after a fall.

It appears that Arakawa died first, according to the medical examiner, likely around February 12. Hackman was believed to have died about a week later, with his pacemaker last showing activity on Feb. 18.

In a statement to *USA Today*, Hackman's daughters – Elizabeth and Leslie Hackman – and granddaughter Annie said they were "devastated by the loss."

An intense character actor, Hackman brought a rogue charm and everyman believability over 60 years to iconic roles such as his best acting-winning performance as Jimmy "Popeye" Doyle in *The French Connection*.

The versatile craftsman also brought unbowed sincerity to his role as a small-town Indiana basketball coach in the beloved 1986 drama *Hoosiers* as well as pure comedy to 2001's *The Royal Tenenbaums*.

Hackman was born January 30, 1930, to printing press operator Eugene Ezra and wife Anna Lyd, who divorced when he was 13. Hackman grew up with movies serving as his main source of escapist entertainment.

He left high school at 16, lying about his age to enlist in the Marines for four years, before eventually heading to Los Angeles to pursue acting. There were setbacks for the aspiring actor who lacked leading-man looks. Hackman eventually earned a role in 1964's experimental film *Lilith*, which featured rising star Warren Beatty.

Three years later, Beatty would enlist Hackman in the role of Clyde Barrow's brother Buck in *Bonnie and Clyde*, a breakout role that earned him his first Oscar nomination.

He had lead roles in 1972's star-filled disaster film, *The Poseidon Adventure*, and in Francis Ford Coppola's best picture-nominated *The Conversation* (1974). That same year, Hackman appeared, in what would become one of his most famous comedic roles, as a blind priest in *Young Frankenstein*, a role he did for scale.

Self-described diabolical genius Lex Luthor marked Hackman's heady plunge into villain roles in 1978's *Superman: The Movie*. He continued through 1980's *Superman II* and the critically reviled bomb 1987's *Superman IV: The Quest for Peace*. The latter role is best remembered for Hackman dramatically removing Lex's wig, revealing his baldness before being carted off to prison. The wig removal showed a skull cap that covered Hackman's actual hair.

Then, after five Academy Award nominations and 80 films, Hackman simply stopped making movies after 2004's *Welcome to Mooseport*, and retired to Santa Fe

In a 2008 Reuters interview, Hackman confirmed he would not be returning to acting: "I haven't held a press conference to announce retirement, but yes, I'm not going to act any longer."

In Santa Fe, he enjoyed fishing and painting while continuing to write historical action novels. His third collaboration with Daniel Lenihan, *Escape From Andersonville: A Novel Of The Civil War*, came out in 2008.

Hackman explained the appeal of writing to Reuters. "I like the loneliness of it, actually. It's similar in some ways to acting, but it's more private and I feel like I have more control over what I'm trying to say and do," he said. "I find it relaxing and comforting."

Hackman was married twice and had three children – Christopher, Elizabeth Jean and Leslie Anne – with his late ex-wife, Faye Maltese, whom he divorced in 1986 and who died in 2017. He married Arakawa in 1991.

COYOTE VS. ACME MOVIE RISES FROM THE DEAD FOR RELEASE

by Sydney Bucksbaum, ew.com 03/31/2025

Just like Wile E. Coyote, the previously-shelved *Coyote vs. Acme* can't be killed.

After Warner Bros. dropped an anvil on the completed movie *Coyote vs. Acme* – shot mostly around Albuquerque – by scrapping it for a tax write-off, the studio found the live-action/animated hybrid film a new home. Ketchup

Entertainment announced on March 31 that it acquired the worldwide distribution rights thanks to director Dave Green shopping it around. The company is planning a theatrical release for a to-be-determined date.

"We're thrilled to have made a deal with Warner Bros. Pictures to bring this film to audiences worldwide," Ketchup Entertainment CEO Gareth West stated. "*Coyote vs. Acme* is a perfect blend of nostalgia and modern storytelling, capturing the essence of the beloved Looney Tunes characters while introducing them to a new generation."

Based on a comedic piece published in *The New Yorker* in 1990, *Coyote vs. Acme* is produced and co-written by James Gunn and stars John Cena, Will Forte, Lana Condor, and Tone Bell. The movie centers on a lawsuit filed by Wile E. Coyote and his lawyer (Forte) against the Acme corporation for the countless faulty products that have hindered his relentless pursuit of the Road Runner.

News of the movie's potential sale broke in November, just days after Warner Bros. shelved it, seemingly dooming it to the same fate as *Batgirl* and *Scoob! Holiday Haunt*, which were abruptly pulled from WB's release schedule for tax write-downs in 2023. Those moves were widely criticized at the time, and the decision to shelve *Coyote vs. Acme* was similarly controversial, especially given Looney Tunes' status as an iconic brand.

Green and others lamented the initial cancellation on social media. "For three years, I was lucky enough to make a movie about Wile E. Coyote, the most persistent, passionate, and resilient character of all time," the director wrote. "I was surrounded by a brilliant team, who poured their souls into this project for years. We were all determined to honor the legacies of these historic characters and actually get them right. Along the ride, we were embraced by test audiences who rewarded us with fantastic scores. I am beyond devastated by WB's decision."

DRAGON BOSS TALKS SEASON 3

by Nick Romano, ew.com 03/31/2025

Ryan Condal appreciates your patience. The showrunner behind *House of the Dragon* knows that much of his audience is foaming at the mouth to see all-out warfare – Targaryen vs. Targaryen, dragon vs. dragon, a nuclear-level battle for the Iron Throne. They could smell the blood from season 2's Rook's Rest dogfight, and after watching the pieces slowly fall into place, they are hungry for more.

There are practical reasons for that wait. Part of it is the adaptation process. *House of the Dragon* chronicles the Targaryen civil war known as the Dance of the Dragon, an event that didn't just happen overnight. George R.R. Martin's book *Fire & Blood*, a fictionalized history of the famed silver-haired House, tracks the events that toppled the once flourishing empire over the course of years. And even as the show plays with time differently, a lot of bricks needed to be laid in order to get to this point.

Another part of it is budgets. "There's been no television show in history that ever said, 'We have too much money and too much time to make this,'" Condal tells *Entertainment Weekly* in an exclusive interview. "You're always making decisions as you go along as to, how are we going to use the resources we have right now to tell the best story we can possibly tell? But I appreciate everybody's patience." Now, as *House of the Dragon* season 3

officially fires up filming a new batch of eight episodes in the U.K., Condal previews what's to come.

"This is certainly our biggest season to date, both in terms of ambition and just the practical size, the amount of sets," he says. "We're cresting that narrative parabola here and starting to come down into, if not the endgame, the midpoint and getting into the late Act 2 and moving onto the start of Act 3. Anybody that's read that book knows that the narrative gets bigger and grimmer as it goes along."

As for the *Dance* itself, "I will say that the war this season goes very hot, very quickly," he teases. "I think the people that were waiting for all of the horrible, brutal, pitiless bloodshed will be getting it in copious amounts."

ACTOR VAL KILMER DIES

From people.com 04/01/2025

Val Kilmer, best known for movies such as 1986's *Top Gun* and 1995's *Batman Forever*, died on April 1. He was 65 years old.

His daughter, Mercedes Kilmer, told *The New York Times* he died of pneumonia. He was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2014 and later recovered, she added.

Kilmer made his final appearance on film in 2022's *Top Gun: Maverick*, a sequel to the 1986 classic. Kilmer briefly appeared in the film, sharing a poignant moment with Tom Cruise onscreen.

Kilmer was born in Los Angeles in 1959 to parents Eugene and Gladys. Tragedy struck the Kilmer family in 1977 when his younger brother Wesley drowned at the young age of 15. Shortly after his brother's death, Kilmer became the youngest person at the time to be accepted into the famed Juilliard School's Drama Group.

Though Kilmer had a few roles on Broadway, his big-screen break came in the 1984 movie *Top Secret!* – a parody of spy films in the Cold War era and the musicals Elvis Presley used to star in. Kilmer plays an American rockstar who travels to East Germany and gets caught in the fight and resistance towards reunification. The next year, Kilmer played a genius CalTech student in comedy *Real Genius*.

After gaining critical acclaim for his supporting role in *Top Gun*, the actor achieved starring success by helming Oliver Stone's 1991 movie, *The Doors*. Kilmer starred as The Doors frontman Jim Morrison alongside Meg Ryan, committing fully to the role of the late troubled rocker.

In 1988, Kilmer married Joanne Whalley after they met while working together on the movie *Willow*, in which he played Madmartigan. The couple divorced in 1996.

In 1995, he played Bruce Wayne/Batman in Joel Schumacher's *Batman Forever*, fighting Two-Face and the Riddler. He played Doc Holliday in 1993's *Tombstone*, and also appeared in 1996's *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, 1997's *The Saint*, *Heat*, *Thunderheart*, *The Prince of Egypt* (voice), *Alexander*, *At First Sight*, *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, *Déjà Vu*, *Wonderland*, *The Missing*, 2000's *Red Planet*, horror films *The Traveler* and *Twixt*, 2010's *MacGruber* (as villain Dieter Von Cunth), was the voice of the car KITT for the 2008 *Knight Rider* reboot TV pilot film and the following TV series of 17 episodes.

In 2011, Kilmer sold his 6,000-acre New Mexico ranch, where he would trek, hike, fish, and raise bison. Kilmer also was an avid painter and musician; he released a demo album called *Sessions with Mick* in 2007.

Kilmer is survived by daughter Mercedes and son Jack, both from his marriage to Whalley.

BUBONICON 56 HAS THEME

by Craig W. Chrissinger, con chair

The first full week of April is here, and Bubonicon 56 has a Theme for 2025 - it's "Mages & Mad Scientists."

Examples of such include *The Lord of the Rings* by JRR Tolkien, *A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, *The Crystal Cave* by Mary Stewart, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum, *The Mad Scientist's Guide to World Domination* edited by John Joseph Adams, *Dr. Dimension* by John DeChancie & David Bischoff, *The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells, *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik, *The Mad Scientist's Daughter* by Cassandra Rose Clarke, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Raven*, *The Brain That Wouldn't Die*, *Excalibur*, *Back to the Future*, *Re-Animator*, *Wizards*, *The Mad Monster*, *Onward*, *Bride of the Monster*, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *Wicked*, *Attack of the Puppet People*, and more.

Weekend Passes for adults remain at \$43.00 through April 19, and then go up \$48, and at the door \$55.00. Youths, ages 13-19, are \$29.00 through August 8. Again, they can be purchased in person at club meetings - or by mailing payment (with the PDF form) to "Bubonicon Inc" at 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108; or by paying online with a credit card.

Bubonicon 56 will be August 22-24 (our traditional weekend) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE, just north of I-40. The Marriott is offering sleeping rooms at \$159 single-quad occupancy, with free WiFi in sleeping rooms. Reservations are needed by Friday, August 8, at 1-800-228-9290.

We've had some folks confirm their participation already! In addition to special guests Joe Haldeman, Delilah S. Dawson, Jeffe Kennedy, and artist John Sumrow, we are expecting Lou J. Berger, Ness Brown, Stephen R. Donaldson (tentative), Brian D. Hinson, Jane Lindskold, Kevin Sonney, John E. Stith, David Lee Summers, Lauren C. Teffeau, Ian Tregillis, Sarena Ulibarri, Ursula Vernon, and Walter Jon Williams. More will be coming, of course. With the Worldcon in Seattle just five days before us, we're checking on who can make it to Albuquerque!

We're asking for all Fan Programming proposals/requests for time & space to be submitted by the end of Sunday, May 11, so we have time for any questions or clarifications before we build the tentative schedule.

In keeping with tradition and to honor the memory of NM's own Pioneer Author, we plan to make financial donations, at least, to the (Jack) Williamson SF Library Collection at Eastern NM University - plus the Roadrunner Food Bank, World Central Kitchen, the American Red Cross, and NM PBS. Others may be added.

Dealers' space applications go live after Easter with emails to past dealers, and a link on the website to a Google-form survey. The rates are \$150 with a weekend pass, and \$190 with two. There is a maximum of two spaces per dealer, and spaces are not considered sold until payment and contract are received. For more Dealer info, please email Luke DeProst at dealers@bubonicon.com.

Meanwhile, Kathy K. Kubica, Kevin Hewett and their staff are gearing up for the 2025 Art Show. As usual, art show packets will be available online at the beginning of July. We don't plan to mail out packets, but if you don't have internet access we can take care of you. Info is available from artshow@bubonicon.com.

More general info is available from the website: www.bubonicon.com, by writing to the San Mateo address, by calling our Google Phone (voicemail) at 505-559-0931, and by emailing us at bubonicon@gmail.com.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS —

DEC 2023: DESSERTS & FILMS

Thirty-Four people came together to watch various comedic film shorts and film trailers, and to enjoy various foods in our Holiday Potluck.

Shown during the evening were 29 shorts including *Tonight Show* skits, *Simon's Cat*, *Muppets & Sesame Street* segments, *Owlkitty*, *Tom & Jerry* cartoons, part of a *Big Bang Theory* Christmas episode, *Looney Tunes*, *Saturday Night Live* sketches, *Weird Al* and *MST3K* music videos, *Pinky and the Brain*, *Shaun the Sheep*, a *Penguins of Madagascar* cartoon, and a music scene from *Wicked*.

For the Potluck, there were 22 dishes from Amy Mathis & Charles Applegate, John Patrick, George Bates, Patricia Rogers, Brenda Wolfenbarger, Roberta Johnson, Becky Davis, Brenda Cole, Mark Gillespie & Eric Klammer, Danielle & Arthur Maurici-Pollock, Al Kulp, Michelle Guthrie, Marian Skupski, Dawn Barela, Mike McCommas, Craig Chrissinger, and Perry Rodent (Bubonicon leftovers and sodas/water).

Selected as the Best Dish was Amy Mathis & Charles Applegate's "Pulled Pork Sandwiches," and Runner-Up went to Patricia Rogers' "Sausage Stuffing." Honorable Mentions went to Mark Gillespie's "Roasted Green Beans," Marian Skupski's "Lemon Braid," and Brenda Wolfenbarger's "Beef Posole."

THANK YOU RECOGNITION for assistance in setting up and/or cleaning up goes to Patricia Rogers, Scott Denning, Eric Klammer, Mark Gillespie, Becky Davis, Marian Skupski, Greg Herring, Roberta Johnson, and Danielle & Arthur Maurici-Pollock (and if we missed anyone else, many apologies). It all was much appreciated!

BOOK REVIEW CORNER

The Village Library Demon-Hunting Society by C.M. Waggoner, 2024 (September) Ace, tp \$19.00, 352 pages.
Review by Jessica Coyle

C.M. Waggoner's *The Village Library Demon-Hunting Society* is a fun cozy mystery with a supernatural twist. The book follows Sherry Pinkwhistle, a small-town librarian in the town of upstate New York, with a penchant for solving murders. As the body count in picturesque Winesap grows to epic proportions, Sherry begins to expect that something unnatural is happening. When someone close to Sherry is murdered and she refuses to help the local police investigate, it becomes clear that a demon is possessing their small town and forcing the residents to act out murders ala *Murder She Wrote*. Sherry must join forces

with the town's new priest and her two best friends to form the Village Library Demon-Hunting Society to expel the demon and save the residents of Winesap.

I absolutely adored this novel. Waggoner's novel takes the tropes of cozy mysteries and turns them upside down. Sherry is a well-developed character who is revealed to have a complex personality and somewhat dark past as the story progresses. Her sidekicks are equally fun, especially the beleaguered and slightly in-over-his-head Father Barry and the sophisticated and fun gallery owner Charlotte. I highly recommend this book to anyone looking for something light, fun, and utterly enjoyable.

***But Not Too Bold* by Hache Pueyo, 2025 (February) Tordotcom, hc \$24.99, 128 pages.**

Review by Danielle and Arthur Maurici-Pollock

Anatema, Lady of the Capricious House, is not a human lady, but rather a giant, ancient spider creature with a penchant for devouring her brides. Dália, who serves in the Capricious House, has just become Anatema's new Keeper of the Keys after the Lady devoured the old Keeper following a theft. Dália knows that her mentor, the old Keeper, was innocent, but now finds herself in the position of having to solve the mystery before she winds up as Anatema's next meal. She also has to navigate her growing fascination with the Lady herself and the fact that Anatema seems equally fascinated with her.

Part dark fantasy, part mystery, and all sapphic monster romance, *But Not Too Bold* pulls you in with vivid prose and a richly imagined alternate world in which eldritch beings exist as a respected part of everyday society. The worldbuilding is tight and the growing relationship between Dália and Anatema is both stranger than you might imagine and fully believable, leaving us rooting, not only for Dália to remain uneaten, but for this couple to overcome their awkwardness and actually find a happily ever after. Hache Pueyo accomplishes a lot in 128 pages. However, many of the secondary characters and relationships do remain somewhat underdeveloped and the central mystery doesn't always get the focus it needs. That said, we thoroughly enjoyed this book and recommend it to fans of gothic fantasy, horror, queer romance, or anybody who has ever wanted a giant, sexy spider woman in their life.

***Service Model* by Adrian Tchaikovsky, 2024 (June) Tor Books, hc \$28.99, 384 pages.**

Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

With all the talk of A.I. these days, Adrian Tchaikovsky uses his novel *Service Model* to explore the idea of self-governing robots that have outlived humanity but are stuck in their programming loops and task queues.

One day, domesticated valet robot Charles cuts his master's neck while shaving him. He is totally unaware of the murderous deed until he notices red stains on clothes, the car, and the bedsheets. How has this error happened?

Charles decides to do something he had never considered before: Run away. To Central Services for analysis, where he discovers other robots waiting in a never-advancing line and administration units waiting for a human of a certain grade level to move things along. He also meets a weird robot that calls itself "the Wonk."

Fleeing Central Services, Charles and the Wonk enter a wider world they never knew existed, where the age-old hierarchy of humans is disintegrating into ruins. Can they

evolve to reach independent sentience?

There's a satirical tone to Tchaikovsky's writing at the same time as a respect for these metal workers. I found *Service Model* to be an interesting read, and entertaining.

***The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Mad Science* by Kate McKinnon, 2024 (October) Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, hc \$17.99, 256 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Kate McKinnon's debut novel, *The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Mad Science*, is a very silly and fun book in the vein of *A Series of Unfortunate Events* or *The Mysterious Benedict Society*. The story follows orphaned sisters Gertrude, Eugenia, and Dec-Dee Porch; the sisters live with their aunt and uncle and six perfect cousins who are all named Lavinia. The Porches do not fit into the town of Antiquarium, where all girls are expected to attend finishing school and the only dogs allowed are bichon frises. After the Porch Sisters are expelled from Mrs. Wintermacher's etiquette school, which was the last etiquette school that would take them, they fear being sent away from Antiquarium for good.

Then the girls are invited to a mysterious new school, which turns out to be run by the infamous mad scientist Millicent Quibb. There they discover talents and skills that they never realized they possessed, and which they will need to save Antiquarium from a group of evil mad scientists. Will they be able to use their new found talents to save their town before it is too late?

The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Mad Science is every bit the ridiculously hilarious book you would expect from Kate McKinnon, the Emmy-winning *SNL* breakout star. It is an absolute delight to watch the Porch sisters, especially insecure Gertrude, grow and become confident in their abilities and learn how to confidently navigate the world on their own terms. Millicent Quibb, their misunderstood Mad Scientist teacher, is absent-mindedly kooky and delightful. The villains in the story are also over-the-top in the best way possible. I highly recommend this book to those who enjoy quirky laugh-out-loud comedy aimed at kids and adults alike.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

- SPRING IS HERE, which means strong winds and fluctuating temperatures! Plus the (Jack) Williamson Lectureship at Eastern NM Univ in Portales. And this year, it also means more than 120 days without any significant precipitation in ABQ (at the airport).

- WATCHING LOTS OF TV lately. *Paradise* on Hulu is a very well done near-future thriller with twists & turns. We've discovered *Mystery Science Theater 3000* streaming "live" on the Shout Factory app, and it's fun to see which episode is playing. We want to watch *Daredevil: Born Again* on Disney, the 2nd season of *The Last of Us* on Max, and *Evil* season 4 on Paramount.

- IN THE BOOK WORLD, Elvira is coming out with a cookbook. Very cool! Mary Robinette Kowal and Joe Abercrombie will be in Albuquerque in May. Lots to read, lots to read...

- LESS THAN 100 DAYS IN and things are kind of scary in America with unconstitutional orders, and crazy, illogical cuts to personnel, programs, services and grants. So far, a lot of actions are against poorer people, often done cruelly. Liars and Tariffs and Bullies (and DOGE), oh my! Support Science, Teachers, Federal Workers, Food Banks, Education, Logic, and Diversity (and get vaccinated!) We live in a diverse country & all people matter.

- HAPPY PASSOVER/EASTER! Thanks to Jessica, Danielle & Arthur for submissions. Stuff is needed next issue. - Craig C



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