



Tardum Flumen #4 — Saturday Morning



by Ric Bretschneider

Big Day for Music

Friday featured concerts by sitar player Cliff Winnig, cellist and vocalist Unwoman, local instrumental surf band The Sneaky Tikis, and science-fiction rockers The Phenomenauts.

There were good crowds and lots of interest and energy at all the concerts, even though they competed with other programming, and the evening concerts also competed with the parties.

A splendid time was had by all. See Chuck's review of how he was wowed by Unwoman. In the The Sneaky Tikis set, fans danced in the window of the Fanzine Lounge behind the stage. It was quite a show. The band was thrilled. The Phenomenauts amped it up even more with their fabulous props, energetic dance moves, catchy tunes, versatile vocals and science-fictional lyrics. Then DJ Neshamah spun records and fans danced late into the night.

Tom Becker

Friday Night Party Reviews

The Sime~Gen party, promoting Jacqueline Lichtenberg's Sime~Gen novels, was hosted by the Star Trek Welcommittee. They served hibiscus tea.

The "no bids, food, kids, or bright lights" party was hosted by Sir Lance, and delivered as advertised. Champagne and margaritas were served. "This is the kick-ass party!" — a con newcomer.

Detroit in 2014 promoted their NASFiC bid. They served "Detroit and stormy" cocktails (made with Bermuda black rum, Sanders chocolates, better made potato chips (all Detroit food). "The sea salt caramels are outstanding!" — Siladi

Utah SF put on a Westercon 67 party with a "Trailblazer to the Future" theme. They served standard hors d'oeuvres (crackers, veggies & dip). Chris G. brought about thirty people to laugh it up!

"Putting the party/world into Worldcon" hosted by the Helsinki in 2015 Worldcon bid. Served beer, Finnish candy, cider, and soda.

The chairs, Andy & Kevin, served robot cocktails and celebrated the success of Westercon 66. Golden West Adventures "tour olive country" poster inspired it all! Site selection voter guide from two years ago posted. Also "the way the con should thrill" poster. *Al Megas*

Unsung Heros

The restaurant staff have been working 12-hour shifts, minimum, without breaks. This could be the reason why servers have been looking very tired; yet they have been very helpful. To show your appreciation, please tip generously.

Mouse

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Unwoman!

In 1992, I attended a concert at the Great American Music Hall, a small venue in San Francisco, ostensibly to see a Finnish folk group called Varttina. As well as they performed, I left the event completely enraptured by Dar Williams, a young folk singer, up on stage with her acoustic guitar, regaling the audience with songs like “When I Was a Boy” and “The Babysitter’s Here.” Perhaps her style didn’t and still doesn’t reach the iconoclastic levels of Annie DiFranco or Phrank, but I’d never heard anything like it and thought nothing would surpass it . . . until now. Ladies and gentleman, the fabulous Unwoman! Sorry, Dar. I still love you, but I think Unwoman would wow you too.

Many in the science-fiction community worship at Unwoman’s every performance. Before the concert, Tom Becker opined that she’s the next big thing in folk music, but I couldn’t agree, since before today I’d never heard her play. Now having experienced this phenomenon, I would agree only with the “next big thing” portion of his statement, since, like any great musician, Unwoman defies pigeonholing. As I type this, Ric Bretschneider is walking by and asking, “Are you writing her a proposal?” Well, not specifically, but if she chooses to read this that way, then all right. Even when the eventual “no” hits my ear, I’ll feel grateful that she at least offered me a moment’s consideration.

What a stage image: a young woman, playing an electronic cello, clad in Steampunk finery, hitting tones evocative of the Dresden Dolls, singing as dramatic personae such as a woman heartbroken by a “scoundrel and a rake,” or a pirate, or a woman during wartime whose lover fails to appear for an assignation, leaving her to wonder if he’d died or simply abandoned her. Johnny Cash comes to mind, not because he and Unwoman perform similarly, but because they create honest voices that resonate on archetypal levels. It’s not hard to imagine that Unwoman’s originality could elevate her to the heights of a Johnny Cash.

Fans enjoyed many favorites and new songs, as of yet unrecorded. The best of the day was “Haunted,” where she intones, “I don’t want to tell you I’m in love, because I’m still haunted” as the audience provides accompaniment by moaning like ghosts. I shudder in memory of the effect. Special thanks go to Merv Staton and Judith Richardson for sponsoring this afternoon’s performance. In November 2013, Unwoman will perform at Convolution, a convention held in the San Francisco Bay Area. Buy a membership just to see in action.
Chuck Serface

Fannish Inquisition Well Attended

Over sixty fans packed the room to hear presentations by representatives of all three groups bidding to host the 2015 World Science Fiction Convention. Presenters were well prepared, and answered detailed questions about smoking regulations, hours of daylight, hospitality options and corkage, and of course, room rates. Host cities bidding for 2015 are Helsinki, Orlando and Spokane. Each group is bidding for a different weekend.

Kevin Standlee moderated the event. Today, Standlee was conservatively dressed in khakis and beige WSFS golf shirt, eschewing the stunning pink cocktail dress he was wearing the last time I saw him in this hotel, circa 1991.

“As far as I’m concerned, the Bids are evenly matched,” said Gene Rayburn. Orlando’s rep wore a lovely chapeau, the new bid t-shirt worn by the Helsinki rep was a real crowd-pleaser and the jewelry worn by the Speaker-for-Spokane was shiny yet tasteful.

Site selection voting will take place at LoneStarCon 3, the 71st World Science Fiction Convention, in San Antonio, Texas. There is a small fee for voting, and attending and supporting members of LSC3 are invited to vote, by mail or in person. More information is available at www.lonestarcon3.org/wsfs/.

Spike

Messages

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