



Rocket Mail Page

Sunday Edition

Balticon 58 Rocket Mail



Program Schedule

May 26, 2024

Program Updates & Announcements

TIME CHANGE! "Concert: Ben Newman" is now at 11:30 AM Monday, was 1:00 PM Sunday
2:30 PM Sunday "Artist Guest of Honor Interview" C D Brown Added
2:30 PM Sunday "Concert: Salacious Crumbles" CANCELED
2:30 PM Sunday NEW! "Concert: Songs of the Music Staff" in room Kent

Congratulations to the Masquerade winners (who will be in Monday's Rocket Mail)

Sunday Night Film Festival

Film Descriptions:

Troll Bridge (2019) Cohen the Barbarian seeks a final adventure. Story by Terry Pratchett (Kickstarter supported by Marty Gear) Dir. Daniel Knight PG Australia 28:32

Triskelion (2021) Stop Motion Celtic Tale Dir. Jessica Raes PG Belgium 09:37

Mi in Orbit: Received (2024) Animation UMBC Dir. Riley A. Heath G USA 0:43

Cosmic Travelers (2023) Animation Pilot Dir. Yilin Huang G Macao 03:11

Vida & The Chocolate Cake (2023) A Mom teaches her daughter to be brave. Dir. Rodrigo Elizalde Spanish with Subtitles G Argentina 14:56

Falling Forward into an Unknown and Dangerous Future (2022) conversation with an A.I. based on a True Story Dir. Mike Ambs PG USA 14:29

Siren (2023) Government regulates Fairy Tale Creatures and punishes sheltering illegals. Dir. Katariina Škurinski Subtitles PG Estonia 20:52

S/N:05 (2023) An amputee girl befriends a robot. Dir. Hans Jakob Harms Subtitled PG-13 Germany 09:07

Defeated (2012) A Soldier and his family face a threatening future. Dir. Jose Manuel Meneses PG Spain 7:43

INTERMISSION 1 10:00 minutes

Wind Princess (2023) Live Action version of Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind Dir. Chris Tex PG Brazil 16:34

Splinter (2023) A boy who must never touch the Earth, is kept at at 30,000 feet. Dir. Marc Bernardin PG USA 15:16

Bisected (2023) A Couple driving in the desert, encounter lights in the sky. Dir. Danny Pineros PG USA 7:43

BLUR: A HuMech Story (2021) Never Rely on an algorithm. Dir. DK Greenley R USA 09:31

The Tin Wife (2017) In a Retro Future, The woman of yesterday meets the woman of tomorrow. Dir. Travis Neufeld PG-13 Canada 26:52

Awake (2023) A Couple driving in the night, encounter lights in the sky. Dir. Andrea Cordaro PG-13 USA 17:44

INTERMISSION 2 10:00 minutes

Coming Attractions 2025 Trailers for 3 films on our list.

Night of The Cooters (2022) Produced by George RR Martin from a story by Howard Waldrop Dir. Vincent D'Onofrio PG-13 USA 33:34

Help Needed: Film School Majors wanted to Apprentice as Short Film Festival Organizers. Goal is to raise Quality Scores by 300% in 2025. Mining IMDB and BFI Databases. Practical usage of Sturgeon's Law. Filtering Submission Websites and headhunting favorites. Enumerate audience preferences. Apply to filmfestival@balticon.org.

Survey Helps Balticon: Maria Thompson is conducting a survey about the events you attend. If you participate, that helps to get grant money for the con in future years.

Volunteers Still Needed: Stop by the volunteer desk, or ask for Kelly or Jim at the dealers room or Denise in the con suite. Don't forget to record your hours; we need them for grants and to reward you.

New Life Member: BSFS welcomes its newest Life Member - Steven Aines, who signed up yesterday. Stop by the BSFS Fan Table and ask about BSFS Membership.

Farpoint Con News: Farpoint has just announced their 2025 convention will be at the Doubletree Hotel in Pikesville, Maryland on February 7-9, 2025. Tickets went on sale yesterday.

Box Office Report from MovieTrekker

Fri, May 24th: *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga* (\$10.2m). *Garfield* (\$8.4m). *IF* (\$4.3m, \$46.9m). *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes* (\$3.4m, \$112.9m). *The Fall Guy* (\$1.6m, \$67.9m total). *SIGHT* (\$1.1m).

Sports Scores

MLB: Sat: Orioles 5 @ White Sox 3; Mariners 1 @ Nationals 3. Sun: Orioles @ White Sox 2:10 MASN; Mariners @ Nationals 1:35 MASN2.

UFL: St. Louis Battlehawks 22, Arlington Renegades 36. Birmingham Stallions 9, San Antonio Brahmas 18. Sun games: Michigan Panthers @ Houston Roughnecks 2:30 PM Fox; DC Defenders @ Memphis Showboats 2:30 PM Fox.

NHL Playoffs: Sat: Western game 2: Oilers 1, Stars 3 Sun: Rangers @ Panthers 3p ABC

NBA Playoffs: Sat: Eastern Conference Championship, game 3: Celtics 114, Pacers 111 (Boston 3-0). Sun: Western Conference Championship game 3, 8 PM on TNT.

Biography of Sheila Williams
Editor Guest of Honor

Sheila Williams is the two-time Hugo Award winning Editor (in 2011 and 2012) of *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, which has won the Locus Award for Best Magazine multiple times.

Shelia started off as a fan from a young age. Her interest in science fiction began in her early years in western Massachusetts, when her father read Edgar Rice Burroughs books to her as a child. She once said, "My father had a membership in the Science Fiction Book Club, so books would come every month. I read everything we had, and everything in the library. After a while I discovered that, in the library, everything I loved had spaceships on the spines—what I loved was mostly science fiction." She recently wrote, "It's been said that the Golden Age of Science Fiction is twelve. It is certainly true that the stories that I read in my tweens and teens by writers like Ursula K. Le Guin, Samuel R. Delany, Arthur C. Clarke, Roger Zelazny, Isaac Asimov, Kurt Vonnegut, James Tiptree, Jr., Norman Spinrad, and many others left deep imprints on my psyche."

She began working at *Asimov's* as an editorial assistant in June 1982 and quickly was promoted to managing editor. She worked with Isaac Asimov for ten years. In 2004, after the retirement of long-time editor Gardner Dozois, she became the editor of the magazine.

In addition to her editorial stewardship of the magazine, Sheila Williams is the editor/co-editor of more than two dozen best-selling science fiction anthologies including co-editing *A Woman's Liberation: A Choice of Futures by and About Women* (2001) with Connie Willis. One of Sheila's proudest accomplishments is co-founding, with Rick Wilber in 1993, the Dell Magazines Award for Undergraduate Excellence in Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing, co-sponsored by Dell Magazines and The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts. The award—with its cash prize, conference appearance, and in-depth consultation with Sheila and other established authors—encourages young writers and helps them form lasting relationships with other aspiring writers. Many of these finalists go on to become published authors.

Shelia Williams was born 1956 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Sheila graduated from Elmira College, New York, studying at the London School of Economics her junior year, and received her Master's in Philosophy from Washington University in St. Louis in 1982.

The Sheila Williams Only She Knows
by Michael Swanwick

Let's start by placing Sheila Williams' career in context.

There were women editing SF magazines long before Sheila joined *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, as it was then called. Dorothy McIlwraith had edited *Weird Tales*. Bea Mahaffey edited or co-edited *Science Stories*, *Universe Science Fiction*, and *Mystic Magazine*. Cele Goldsmith Lalli's time at the helm of *F&SF* was legendary. Nor was Sheila the first female editor of *Asimov's*. Before her came Kathleen Maloney and Shawna McCarthy, both of whom she worked with. For that matter, Ellen Datlow had started at *Omni* just the year before.

Buried in that flood of names, however, is an interesting fact. Sheila has held the title of Editor since 2004, when Gardner Dozois retired. But for nineteen years before that, she was the Managing Editor for Asimov's Science Fiction, as it's now called. Which means that she has had an editorial career at one magazine for some thirty-nine years. This is two years longer than John W. Campbell's reign at *Astounding* and *Analog*, and I believe longer than that of any other fiction magazine editor in the field. During that time, Sheila has worked with almost every science fiction writer of note from Isaac Asimov—who invariably referred to her as “Sweet” Sheila Williams—all the way down to, well, me. That's a lot of cumulative influence.

And here I am left scratching my head. Because this is where I should insert an anecdote from life. Yet the very best such stories involve bad behavior: sitting on the floor of a hotel bathroom at 3 a.m., passing around a bottle of whiskey with Joe Haldeman and crew; barreling down the DC Beltway at 100 miles per hour with Tim Sullivan, pursued by a carful of angry writers; or the kindly act that caused my book editor to throw their drink in my face during Janet Kagan's Hugo celebration party. The problem is that not only can I not imagine Sheila doing anything like that, I cannot imagine her *wanting* to.

Nor can I describe in detail her interventions with the stories she buys. Writers are like cats—unwilling to admit to anything less than perfection in themselves and their works. Editors have perforce learned to be discreet. But I have observed from a distance how, under her guidance, *Asimov's* has survived some extremely close calls. You may have noticed that certain stories in the magazine have warnings for content that may shock or offend some readers. That was Sheila's invention and it came about after an angry letter from a parent almost got the magazine canceled by a bygone corporate master who didn't understand that the stories in *Asimov's* were written for grown-ups, rather than children. There are some who dislike the warnings. Not me. When I see one on something I've written, I feel that it's a badge of honor.

Sheila's restraint is famous. She never once told Asimov what she must surely have thought of the “Sweet Sheila” epithet. And suddenly I realize that I *do* have an anecdote, though not a scandalous one. She and I and Terry Bisson were at a Worldcon party, talking about the last science fiction conference in the Soviet Union, which he had attended. Terry told us that he'd said to the Russian fans, “I realize you guys are all capitalists now, but I want you to know that I'm still a Stalinist. I still hold to the old values.” Then, after he had risen and wobbled unsteadily away, Sheila smiled—sweetly, of course—and said, “I had such a hard time not saying, ‘You and Fidel, Terry.’” What a wicked wit Sheila keeps secret! What stories she could tell, if she wanted! But of course she never will.

Statement from Patti Kinlock, BSFAN Editor: The bio and appreciation of Sheila Williams were accidentally omitted from the *BSFAN*, the Balticon 58 Souvenir Book. I sincerely apologize to Sheila Williams, Michael Swanwick, and the members of Balticon 58 for the error.