



DePaul University presents

Joss Whedon
a celebration



Introduction

Welcome to the second annual DePaul Pop Culture convention, hosted by the Media and Cinema Studies program! This year nothing in the 'verse can stop us, because we're discussing the works of Joss Whedon. From *Buffy* to *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, from *Firefly* to *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*, from *Cabin in the Woods* to *Much Ado about Nothing*, the Whedonverse is vast and shiny. And we get to spend the whole day talking about it!

Enjoy the screenings of key episodes and thoughtful discussions themed around important topics in the work of Whedon. Don't miss our special Workshops. And join us in welcoming our special Keynote speaker, Cheryl Cain, author of *Firefly's "War Stories."*

Thanks for coming!

Paul Booth

Contact

Tweet	#DePaulPopCulture
DePaul Public Safety	(312) 362-8400
Chicago Police	
emergencies	911
non-emergencies	311
Local taxi	(312) 829-4222

Schedule

All rooms on the 11th floor of 14 E. Jackson

Room 1128

- 9am **Screening**
Cabin in the Woods
Introduction by Walter Metz
- 11am **Screening and Sing-Along**
Buffy: "Once More With Feeling"
Introduction by Ian Peters
- 12pm **Screening**
Firefly: "War Stories"
Introduction by Cheryl Cain
- 1pm **Keynote Speaker**
Cheryl Cain
- 2pm **Writers Workshop**
with Cheryl Cain
- 3pm **Props Workshop**
with Mat Irvine
- 4pm **Panel**
Gender in Whedon
Moderator Amber Davisson
Guests Tamy Burnet
Cary Elza
Alysa Hornick
Michele Leigh
- 5pm **Screening**
Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog
Introduction by Jef Burnham

Schedule

All rooms on the 11th floor of 14 E. Jackson

Room 1137

- 9am **Screening**
Buffy: "The Wish"
Introduction by Allison McCracken
- 10am **Screening**
Buffy: "Hush"
Introduction by Eleanor Pye
- 11am **Panel**
Religion and Ethics in Whedon
Moderator Scott Paeth
Guests Gerry Canavan
Jonathon Lundy
Katie Wilson
Candace West
- 12pm **Panel**
**Whedon's Characters: Villains,
Heroes, and Everypeople**
Moderator Sherry Ginn
Guests Rachel Eells
Damian Serbu
Megan Connor
Patrick Smith
Steven Silver
- 1pm **Screening**
Firefly: "Jaynestown"
Introduction by Scott Paeth
- 2pm **Screening**
Much Ado About Nothing
Introduction by Walter Metz
- 4pm **Panel**
**Mythological, Cultural, and
Narrative Roots of Whedon**
Moderator Walter Metz
Guests Kristen Micek
Courtney Neal
Simone Becque
Michael Nelson
Eleanor Pye
- 5pm **Screening**
Angel: "Apocalypse Nowish"
Introduction by Amber Davisson

Schedule

All rooms on the 11th floor of 14 E. Jackson

Room 1140

- 9am **Screening**
Angel: "Smile Time"
Introduction by Michi Trota
- 10am **Screening**
Dollhouse: "The Attic"
Introduction by Amber Davisson
- 11am **Panel**
Fan Works on Whedon
Moderator Conner Good
Guests Chloé Campbell
Katie L. Ramos
video by eilowyn
with others TBA
- 12pm **Panel**
Fans Weigh In: Problematic Portrayals in Whedon
Moderator Anne Petersen
Guests Michi Trota
Jennifer Cross
Gordon Dymowski
- 1pm **Screening**
Buffy: "The Zeppo"
Introduction by Katie Wilson
- 2pm **Panel**
Whedon and Fandom
Moderator Lynne M. Thomas
Guests Allison McCracken
Thom Gaughan
Steven Silver
- 3pm **Panel**
Teaching and the Academic Study of Whedon
Moderator Jason Winslade
Guests Sharon Ross
Tanya Cochran
Ian Peters

Schedule

All rooms on the 11th floor of 14 E. Jackson

Room 1140 (continued)

4pm **Panel**

Student's Perspectives on Whedon

Moderator Jason Winslade
Guests Sara Birchler
Caleb Bunselmeyer
Nikki Kaplan
Kennedy Odulio-Papa
Sloane Smith
Vanina Valadez

5pm **Screening**

Dollhouse: "Echo (Unaired Pilot)"
Introduction by Paul Booth

Chicago Geek Bar Lounge
Games, food, and drinks

Acknowledgements

Sponsored by DePaul University's Media and Cinema Studies program in the College of Communication and the American Studies program in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Grateful acknowledgement to Katie Booth, Kathleen Browne, Jef Burnham, Cheryl Cain, Gina Christodoulou, Michael Deangelis, Mat Irvine, Fatenah Issa, Allison McCracken, Wilma Rodriguez, and Latrina West-Shields.

Many thanks to Alien Entertainment and Deborah Liebow from DePaul University's Loop Barnes and Noble

Cover and layout design by Jeremy Kanne. See his other work and contract his services at:

www.jeremykanne.com

Bios

Simone Becque is a Phd candidate at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale in the Department of Mass Communication and Media Arts.

Sara Birchler is currently a first year Women and Gender Studies major at DePaul. She first became interested in Joss Whedon's work when she saw Buffy the Vampire Slayer because it was one of the few shows she knew that portrayed feminist themes, and since then she has grown to appreciate his other works for similar reasons.

Tamy Burnet is a popular culture scholar whose research focuses on gender in genre television including Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Angel, and Veronica Mars. She currently serves on the Whedon Studies Association's Mr. Pointy Award Jury, which annually recognizes outstanding work in Whedon Studies scholarship.

Cheryl Cain began her working experience with Joss Whedon as an Assistant Production Coordinator for Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and was thrilled to return a few years later as a writer for Firefly. She's also written for Roswell and Threat Matrix. Cain studied writing at UCLA Extension and currently lives in the Pacific Northwest, where she is working on two feature film projects and a short story adaptation.

Chloé Campbell wrote "The Chosen Ones: Feminism and Gender Studies in Buffy the Vampire Slayer" for Water-cooler Journal's April issue and hails from University of Sunderland, where she is a current undergraduate and blogger at Spectral Visions maintaining an interest in the intersection of feminism and witchcraft.

Gerry Canavan is an assistant professor in the English department at Marquette University, teaching 20th and 21st century literature. His current research projects include Science Fiction and Totality and Modern Masters of Science Fiction: Octavia E. Butler, as well as co-editing The Cambridge Companion to American Science Fiction. His edited collection of critical essays, Green Planets: Ecology and Science Fiction, is out this month.

Tanya R. Cochran is the president of the Whedon Studies Association (2012-14) and one of its cofounders as well as an editorial board member for Slayage: The Journal of the Whedon Studies Association and its undergraduate partner, Watcher Junior. With Rhonda V. Wilcox, Cochran edited Investigating "Firefly" and "Serenity" (2008) and she and coeditors Wilcox, Cynthvea Masson, and David Lavery completed Reading Joss Whedon (2014).

Megan Connor is graduate student in the Media Studies program at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Her research interests include television studies, young adult media, and fandom.

Jennifer Cross is an aspiring SF/F writer and occasional geek blogger who has a serious problem saying "No" to new and awesome activities and interests. She is the Lead Organizer of Just Write Chicago, the city's only writing group dedicated to providing writers a safe, supportive space to write, as well as a Co-Organizer for Chicago Skeptics.

Bios

Amber Davisson is a Lecturer of Digital Communication and Media Arts at DePaul University. Her recent book, *Lady Gaga and the Remaking of Celebrity Culture*, deals with the intersection between monster myths and celebrity culture. If she could be any character in the Whedonverse, she would be Willow.

Gordon Dymowski is a writer/blogger/podcaster who writes for a variety of outlets including *Comic Related*, *I Hear of Sherlock*, and *Chicago Now* about comic-related media, television, popular culture, and other matters. Currently, he serves as board member of the Chicago Nerd Social Club, and organizes a multitude of events. Check out: <http://www.gordondymowski.com>

Rachel J. Eells teaches psychology at Concordia University Chicago and drops pop culture references into her class content maybe too much. Whedon and Moffat take up a lot of her down time. Her worlds collide when she teaches her daughter about gender roles by introducing her to Willow, Penny, Zoe, and Donna Noble.

eilowyn, a LiveJournal-er, wrote "A Vindication of the Rights of Shippers" for *Watercooler Journal's* April issue, which gave her the chance to examine some of her experience interacting online with fellow Buffy fans. She is currently a student at California State University, Monterey Bay, where she expects to graduate in 2015.

Cary Elza received her PhD from Northwestern's Screen Cultures program, and currently teaches film history and genre classes at DePaul University, though she'll be teaching at University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point in the fall. Her publications include an article on Disney's Alice Comedies recently appearing in *Animation*, as well as various anthology chapters on *The X-Files*, *Veronica Mars*, and the figure of the romantic vampire in popular culture.

Thom Gaughan is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago and a prominent performer in the Chicago improv scene. Thom has trained and performed at Second City, iO, The Annoyance, ComedySportz, and the Playground Theater. Thom directed *Improvised Joss Whedon* at Gorilla Tango Theater in 2010.

Sherry Ginn is author of books on women in science fiction television, sex in science fiction, *Joss Whedon*, and *Farscape*. She has also published essays on *Torchwood* and *Doctor Who*, and is editing work on *Fringe* and *Dollhouse*.

Conner Good is the editor-in-chief/president of *Watercooler Journal*, a multimedia publication powered by Columbia College Chicago's TV Department, where he is a current undergrad. That moment when all the elevators open at the same time in *The Cabin in the Woods*? It just slays him.

Alysa Hornick has been a Whedonverse fan since early-1997, and has maintained *Whedonology: An Academic Whedon Studies Bibliography* online since 2005. She is a member of the Whedon Studies Association, on the editorial board of *Watcher Junior*, and a member of the Organization for Transformative Works.

Bios

Mat Irvine was a Visual Effects Designer for the BBC for nearly 25 years. He has worked on such programs as Doctor Who, Blake's 7, Tomorrow's World, Horizon/Nova, Patrick Moore's The Sky at Night and the award-winning original TV Edge of Darkness. He has been long associated with the beloved "robot dog" K-9 from Doctor Who.

Nikki Kaplan is a second year biology student from Los Angeles/Las Vegas, studying at DePaul University. In her spare time, she creates gluten free vegan works of culinary art. Nikki fell down the Joss Whedon rabbit hole when some high school friends introduced her to BtVS, and has been hooked ever since.

Michele Leigh is an Assistant Professor of film and media studies at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. She specializes in the historical formulations of gender in film and television. In addition to working on Whedon, she is working on contemporary gender in shows like Doctor Who and Archer.

Jonathon Lundy, an admitted and long time science fiction acafan, teaches courses in introductory communication, public speaking, communication technology and social change, and media aesthetics and culture at Boise State University and the College of Western Idaho. Although he enjoys researching and teaching all aspects of Communication his favorite concentration area is the intersection of and reciprocal relationship between media and culture.

Allison McCracken is an Associate Professor and Director of the American Studies Program at DePaul University. She writes about gender, media and fandom; her essay about Angel's body was published in the anthology *Undead TV: Essays on Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (2007), edited by Elana Levine and Lisa Parks.

Walter Metz, Chair of and Professor in the Department of Cinema and Photography at Southern Illinois University, is the author of three books: *Engaging Film Criticism: Film History and Contemporary American Cinema* (2004), *Bewitched* (2007), and *Gilligan's Island* (2012). His new book is about Pixar Animation Studios, Dr. Seuss, and The Simpsons.

Kristen Micek is a Media and Cinema Studies graduate student at DePaul. Her interests include complex narrative structure, fan studies, media specificity, and the manifestation of cultural anxieties in popular cinema. She is working on her thesis on the evolution of the vampire and werewolf in supernatural teen dramas. She has been a fan of everything Whedon since seeing Buffy in grade school.

Courtney Neal is a DePaul alum who studies death and resurrection in sci-fi and fantasy TV. She is also forever terrified of cellars and casually strewn knick-knacks.

Michael Curtis Nelson lives in Bloomington, IN, where he leads the team of content specialists at Indiana University Communications. He writes about film and television for PopMatters.com, and regularly torments his friends and loved ones with screenings of low-budget domestic and foreign horror films. Nelson earned a Ph.D. in American Literature from IU.

Bios

Kennedy Odulio-Papa is a first year Art, Media & Design major who simply enjoys the works of Joss Whedon.

Scott R. Paeth is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at DePaul. He works in the fields of Christian Social Ethics and Public Theology. He holds a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School. He is the author or editor of five books, including his most recent book, *The Niebuhr Brothers for Armchair Theologians* (WJK 2014).

Ian M. Peters is a PhD Candidate in Moving Image Studies at Georgia State University, and three-time 2CI New Media Fellow. Combining media/new media studies, museum studies, leisure studies, and education studies, his dissertation explores popular culture themed space exhibitions and site-specific pedagogy.

Anne Petersen is a board member of the Chicago Nerd Social Club and co-hosts CNSC's book club. She also served as 2011 president of Pumping Station: One, Chicago's largest and oldest makerspace. A digital strategist and photographer by day, she also writes for live lit events like Story Club South Side and playtests for local game designers.

Eleanor Pye teaches courses in digital filmmaking and the television industry at Endicott College in Beverly, MA. The students in Ellie's classes have discovered that simply mentioning a Whedon project will successfully get her off-topic for a good ten minutes.

Katie L. Ramos was a guest submitter in *Watercooler Journal's* April issue for her paper, "Heroes Are Over With: Possibilities for Folk Hybridity in *Dr. Horrible*," a detailed breakdown of how fans co-created the narrative of *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*. She graduated with her Master's from University of Wisconsin-Madison and currently runs Subtle Ink Editing.

Sharon Ross is an associate professor in the TV Department at Columbia College Chicago, where she teaches classes in TV history (currently a class on Nickelodeon). She studies on modern TV audience reception and is working on a book about the ways in which the American teen has been defined by TV from MTV on, drawing on surveys from over 100 tweens and teens over the past 2 years.

Damian Serbu lives in Chicagoland with his husband and dogs, Akasha and Chewbacca. The dogs control his life, tell him what to write, and threaten to eat him in the middle of the night if he disobeys. He is author of *The Vampire's Angel Series*, as well as *Dark Sorcerer Threatening*, *The Pirate Witch*, and *Secrets in the Attic*. Check out: www.DamianSerbu.com.

Steven H Silver has published a handful of short stories, edited anthologies for DAW Books and NESFA Press, and served as the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of ISFiC Press for eight years. His sister-in-law convinced him to watch *Firefly* and in 2013, he accepted the Hugo Award for *The Avengers* on behalf of Joss Whedon.

Bios

Patrick Taylor Smith is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University's Center for Ethics, having received in his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Washington-Seattle. He works primarily in global and intergenerational justice and has published in journals such as *Philosophy and Public Issues* and *Transnational Legal Theory*. He also prefers Angel to Buffy, which causes some tension amongst his friends.

Sloane Smith is a sophomore in the College of Computing and Digital Media studying Graphic Design and Computer Science. Beyond her obsession with Whedon's work, she enjoys seeing art, exploring the library for new books and movies, and listening to a variety of music and podcasts.

Lynne M. Thomas is the former Editor-in-Chief of *Apex Magazine* (2011-2013). She co-edited the Hugo Award-winning *Chicks Dig Time Lords*, as well as *Whedonistas* and *Chicks Dig Comics*. In her day job, she is the Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections at Northern Illinois University, where she is responsible for the papers of over 60 SF/F authors. Check out: lynnemthomas.com.

Michi Trota is a Chicago blogger, essayist and speaker who covers topics of diversity and representation in geek culture on her blog, *Geek Melange*. She is a member of the Chicago Nerd Social Club Board of Organizers and spins fire (sometimes in cosplay) with the Raks Geek fire+bellydance showcase, and at the Chicago Full Moon Jams.

Vanina Valadez is a business administration major that wishes to open up her own bakery shop while somehow managing her expensive hobbies of cosplaying, convention going, and coming book reading. First introduced to Joss Whedon through his work in *The Avengers*, she is currently running a blog dedicated to cosplay of Whedon characters.

Candace E. West holds a PhD in religious studies from Stanford University, where her research and teaching centered on ethics and storytelling. She taught Whedon in her course on religious ethics and speculative fiction, and her essay on Whedon's exploration of humanistic heroism was published at *PopMatters* and in *Joss Whedon The Complete Companion*.

Katie Wilson is a PhD Student in the University of Louisville's Interdisciplinary Humanities program focusing her research on fan, geek, and nerd culture. She credits her academic career to her love of Joss Whedon's work.

Jason Winslade published an essay in the first issue of *Slayage* in 2001. Since then, he has taught popular first year program courses at DePaul on Buffy and the works of Joss Whedon. He has been published in the anthologies *Buffy in the Classroom* and *Joss Whedon and Religion*. He is adjunct faculty in the department of Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse and his Joss Whedon class students are awesome.

Anti-Harassment

Joss Whedon: A Celebration is dedicated to providing a harassment-free conference experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age or religion. This is in keeping with DePaul University's own Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment policies. We do not tolerate harassment of conference participants in any form. Conference participants violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the conference at the discretion of the conference organizers.

Harassment includes offensive verbal comments, sexual images in public spaces, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention. Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.

In particular, exhibitors should not use sexualized images, activities, or other material. Booth staff (including volunteers) should not use sexualized clothing/uniforms/costumes, or otherwise create a sexualized environment.

If a participant engages in harassing behavior, the conference organizers may take any action they deem appropriate, including warning the offender or expulsion from the conference. If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of conference staff immediately. Conference staff can be identified by t-shirts.

Conference staff will be happy to help participants contact hotel/venue security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the conference. We expect participants to follow these rules at all conference venues and conference-related social events. We value your attendance!

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