



Space Cowboy Books Presents: Simultaneous Times Newsletter

#25 May 2022

61871 29 Palms Hwy. Joshua Tree, CA 92252 - www.spacecowboybooks.com

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to issue 25 of Simultaneous Times! In this issue we bring you an interview with Guy Hasson about his Geekdom Empowers podcast. If you haven't heard his podcast yet you are in for a treat, he interviews creatives from around the world about their creative processes and the empowerment that comes with embracing your inner geek, it's really wonderful. We're also excited that next month we will be announcing the winner of the third annual Space Cowboy Award, so stay tuned for some great news and another fascinating interview.

As always, we'd love to hear from you, so please get in touch at spacecowboybooks@gmail.com Jean-Paul L. Garnier



What made you decide to start the Geekdom Empowers podcast, and what is your mission with the project?

I began the Geekdom Empowers podcast thinking that almost

all of the interesting people in the geek world are out of sight. We hardly ever hear about them or see them in the news or in podcasts. Only the celebrities are interviewed. So, I thought I'd start a project where I only interview geeks, fans and creators both, who are often overlooked.

However, once I interviewed a few people, the depth of what I'm doing struck me. The people I find are so fascinating, and each one has a completely different journey. Many of them are super talented, yet only a few hundred or a few thousand people have heard of any one of them.

I also chose to highlight geeks in countries all across the world, not just the English-speaking countries. And that, too, has been an amazing journey of discovery.

What are some of the most inspiring moments you've had while working on the podcast?

There are two types of 'inspiring'. You can be inspired by success and talent, or you can be inspired by hardship.

On the success side, here are a few cool stories: Ace Ruele got out of prison and became an actor who does body work for creatures in big movies. But he wasn't done with that success. He built a company that creates prosthetics that help him move better and help the director see the movement better. And now he's teaching teams of creature actors to work with these prosthetics.

Demetrius Witherspoon is creating his own cinematic universe through short movies, comics, books, and merchandising. It's an amazing story of pursuing one's dream.

The folks at Kugali (kugali.com) in Nigeria started as fans of African comics and animation. Through the last few years they became a company that creates Pan-African comics and animation. One of their series, Iwaju, is now being developed by Disney.

The other type of inspiration comes from hardships. A few months ago I interviewed author Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki from Nigeria, who had just now been nominated for both the Hugo and the Nebula, but is facing an economic blockade around Nigeria. Only recently Amazon refused to pay him for sales of his anthology of African SF, which is self-published on Amazon.

Italian SF author and publisher Francesco Verso has made it his life journey to find science fiction authors across the world who have never been translated to English or to any language outside their country. He finds gems from all over the world and publishes those in Italy and China. Just thinking about the amazing books and stories that get lost because they're not translated outside their country is astounding and inspiring.

GEEKDOM EMPOWERS



How do you go about deciding who to interview, and what attributes do you look for in a guest?

Almost every person I interview is a stranger. So, I rely on my gut. I find people either through recommendation or by searching randomly on social networks. I then try to see if this person has a story behind them, a history as well as depth. And then I just ask them to be on the show.

Looking back, I can't believe how many amazing people I just randomly came across.

What are some of the greatest challenges and joys that come with being an SFF podcaster?

Greatest joy: As an introvert, I basically get to go to a cool party twice a week, where I meet another amazing person with another incredible life story. I love that!

Greatest challenge: Marketing. I am terrible at raising awareness of this project or any other. Terrrrrrible!

You've interviewed people from all over the world, what issues in SFF continue to come up, and how are they similar, or differ, from what's going on in Israeli SFF?

Almost everyone outside the English-speaking world says the same thing: SF is considered an American/British genre (two Chinese guests have called it a Western genre). The greatest difficulty is in

overcoming the readers' prejudice that local authors could write just as well. Then comes the attempt to find the unique voice from whatever culture you come from.

In Israel, I was part of the movement that changed that preconception in many of the readers. I never had a problem with finding a voice, because I always wrote stories aimed simultaneously at the two societies I grew up in: American and Israeli.

Tell us about your writing, and some of the main differences you experience between writing in English and in Hebrew?

I'm a very strange creature. I write my science fiction and fantasy in English and my plays in Hebrew. That's because my prose is better in English than in Hebrew, but my spoken Hebrew is better than my spoken English.

The online encyclopedia of science fiction in its entry about me (which is years out of date) says one of the truest things about my writing: I walk a very personal path in my writing and I disregard almost any pressures from the outside.

If you find a copy of 'Secret Thoughts', you'll find 3 novellas that explore the human psyche in a world of telepaths. The last novella has a telepath reading her fetus' mind through the nine months of growing in her womb. The mother feels the baby's neurons forming, her first half-emotions, her senses becoming senses. One time, the mother sings to her baby while listening to how her baby hears her mother's song.

My next novel was 'Tickling Butterflies' which you won't find in English yet. It is 127 fairy tales that are actually one big fairy tale. It's an exploration of beauty and an explosion of imagination.

What's next for you, and what are you currently working on?

Now I'm working on a series of fantasy books called 'Lost in Dreams' (the first book will be out soon in English) which follows Joy Shelley, a girl who lives in her father's dream, from birth to death. Each book jumps forward 3 years. As if that's not a big enough project, I write a daily podcast about her called 'The Squashbuckler Diaries Podcast' which covers her day-to-day life in-between the books, each season covering 3 years of her life in the Dream.

The books cover the big adventures and the life-changing events in her life. The podcast covers her everyday life. It's never been done before. It is literally a life project that will take me at least 20 years to finish. It's inspired by my three daughters, on which Joy is based, and written for them. It's part of the legacy I'll leave for them. So, I am happy to choose it as my life project.

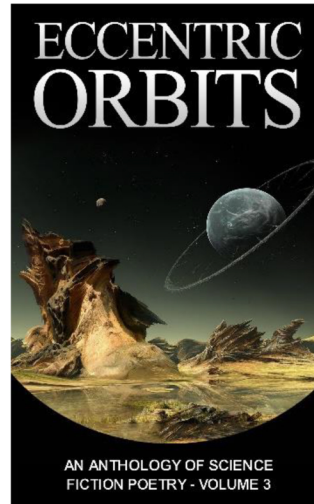
Geekdom Empowers Podcast: geekdomempowers.com

The Squasbuckler Diaries Podcast: guyhasson.com



Find many of the books mentioned in our newsletter at our online shop www.bookshop.org/shop/spacecowboybooks

New from the Small Press



Eccentric Orbits Vol.3

Ed. Wendy Van Camp

The function of speculative poetry is to engage the mind to a new understanding, not rehearse the past or the ordinary. This anthology of science fiction, fantasy, and horror poetry explores new concepts, folklore, myth, and the fantastic, by some of the most exciting, speculative poets of our time. Discover the insights of these contemporary wordsmiths that are surging from the pages of science fiction into the reality of our world.

This speculative poetry anthology is perfect as a gift for poetry lovers, readers of science fiction, fantasy, or horror literature or to complete your own book collections.

Speculative Poets represented in this anthology:

JANUARY BAIN * STEWART C BAKER * ROBERT BEVERIDGE * CATHERINE BROGDON * FARUK BUZHALA * DALE CHAMPLIN * LINDA M. CRATE * BILLIE DEE * KENDALL EVANS * GARY EVERY * MARK A. FISHER * JEAN-PAUL L. GARNIER * LEE GARRATT * KEN GOUDSWARD * FIN HALL * MICHAEL HOFFMAN * DEBORAH L. KELLY * DEBORAH P. KOLODJI * DAVID C. KOPASKA-MERKEL * BLAISE LANGLOIS * GERRI LEEN * RICHARD MAGAHIZ * JACK MASSA * ALLENE NICHOLS * MICHELLE OUCHAREK-DEO * RK RUGG * RYFKAH * JUSTIN SLOANE * JOSHUA ST. CLAIRE * SEAN STUBBLEFIELD * REX SWEENEY * LISA TIMPF * LAMONT TURNER * WENDY VAN CAMP * MIKE VAN HORN * RUTH E. WALKER * TD WALKER * LYNN WHITE * JEFF YOUNG

By Your Side: The First 100 Years of Yuri Anime and Manga by Erica Friedman

The Untold Story of Lesbian Love in Japanese Anime and Comics

From the pen of Erica Friedman, lesbian icon and possibly the foremost expert on Yuri (lesbian) Anime and Manga in the Western Hemisphere:

"By Your Side is the complete Yuri resource I only ever dreamed could exist. Decades in the making, this glorious collection surveys, analyzes, and contextualizes Yuri with unparalleled detail and enthusiasm. Friedman graces readers with illuminating insights as they follow her through a century of the genre's evolution and revolution. By sharing her extraordinary knowledge, she provides inquirers, scholars, and aficionados alike with a deeper appreciation and understanding of lesbian anime and manga while galvanizing them towards the next era of Yuri."

-Nicki Bauman, Yurimother

"The first in-depth study of Yuri in English."

-James Welker, Professor of Cross-Cultural and Japanese Studies, Kanagawa University

