



# Space Cowboy Books Presents: Simultaneous Times Newsletter

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## Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year! In this issue we bring you an interview with Adrian M. Gibson of SFF Addicts podcast and organizer of TBRCOn. This online con is coming up at the end of January and is not to be missed, see back page for more details. We also have a new release from Space Cowboy Books available as a free download. And feel free to get in touch at [spacecowboybooks@gmail.com](mailto:spacecowboybooks@gmail.com)

Jean-Paul L. Garnier



*What made you want to start SFF Addicts Podcast, and what was your relationship with SFF before launching the program?*

**ADRIAN:** For years, I had wanted to do a podcast, but I never had the guts to buckle down and do it. After joining the book blog FanFiAddict in May

2021, my mind churned with ideas and I landed on what is now SFF Addicts. I love SFF and have read it all my life, and I also write my own fiction. So, a podcast was the perfect way to discuss books, network with authors, podcasters and bloggers, chat with my literary heroes and learn a ton about writing in a fun setting. Thus, SFF Addicts was born in August 2021, and it has been my (selfish) crash course in all things SFF and writing.

*Tell us a bit about your team and how you manage the workflow?*

**ADRIAN:** I am actually a team of one. I produce, record and edit the podcast all on my own. My workflow was pretty messy at first, but around 6 months into podcasting I found a solid routine: record at least two weeks before an episode would release, then edit audio (GarageBand) and video (Premiere Pro) in small chunks with my own pre-made templates for a faster, drag-and-drop workflow.

It also helps that I was a tattoo artist for many years, and did a ton of graphic design and illustration, so I've applied that knowledge to all of the show's graphics, thumbnails, etc.

*How do you go about deciding who to interview and booking your guests?*

**ADRIAN:** Before I launched SFF Addicts, I made a long list of panel topics that interested me—stuff related to sci-fi, fantasy, writing craft, publishing and whatnot. When doing author panels, I went through that list and came up with a good balance between different genres and topics, then researched authors or thought of ones that I knew who would be a good fit. For interviews, I would

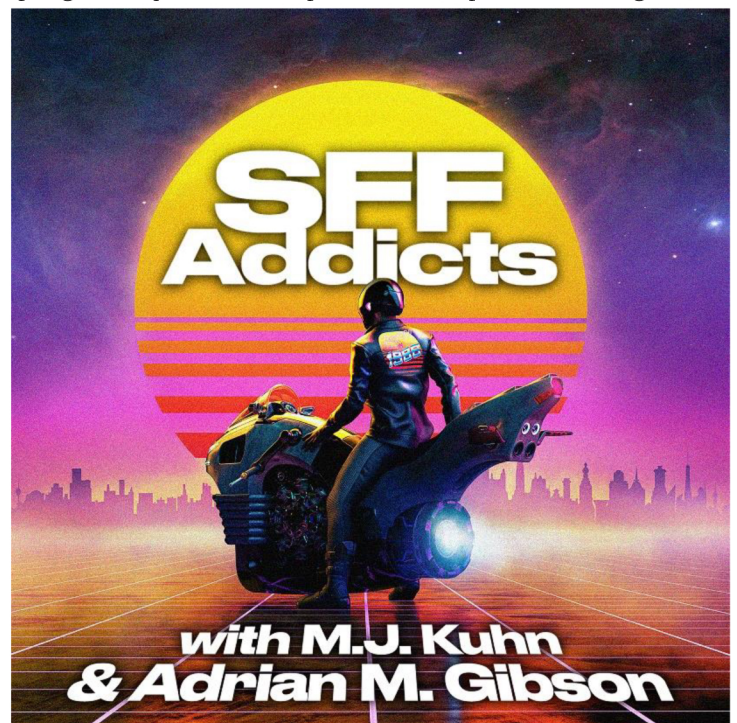
look ahead at the year's release schedule and pick authors that I wanted to chat with (or authors I had become friends with and wanted to support). On top of that, I made it a goal to have both traditional and self-published authors—for panels and interviews—as a way of showing the breadth of the modern publishing market.

When it comes to booking authors, well, that has been a bit all over the place. For some, I reached out through the PR teams at various publishers (whoever was publishing their most recent work), or asked my friends at FanFiAddict if they had a means of contact. With other authors, I would go to the contact form on their website, email them if an address was available, DM them on Twitter or send a private tweet inviting them to an interview or panel. It was surprising how often I'd hear back from authors, both big and small, so if you want to talk to someone, just go for it and see what happens.

*How do you go about preparing for interviews?*

**ADRIAN:** The big thing when it comes to an interview is *read the damn books*. If you're talking with an author, do them the courtesy of reading their stuff, such that you have a firm grounding on which to speak truthfully with them about their stories and craft. It helps to read their most recent release, since that's usually the one they are going to be promoting, but it's always beneficial to get familiar with some of their back catalogue too.

Once I've read an author's work, I would come up with questions that give me a sense of where they've come from and where they are now. Things like, "What's your history with SFF and reading?" or "How did you get into fiction writing?" Those are the kinds of springboard questions that promote fun, spontaneous tangents, as





well as showing the sheer randomness and chance of many authors' career trajectories. After that, I love digging into writing craft, asking authors how they approach their work in terms of worldbuilding, characters, pacing, plot and all that.

But the *real magic* is nestled between the cracks of craft, evident in the subtle, intricate details of a story that evoke a passion beyond writing. We're all nerds about very particular things, so it's cool to see how an author might incorporate their love of, say, biology or martial arts or history. Find what makes an author tick, and open the door to that conversation.

*Tell us about TBRCon and what it takes to organize such a large-scale online event?*

**ADRIAN:** TBRCon is a beautiful beast. Doing SFF Addicts for a year-and-a-half most certainly helped to prepare me for the monumental task of directing a virtual convention. Then again, the size of it has been entirely in my control. I challenged myself and the bloggers working with me to do TBRCon2023 bigger and better than TBRCon2022. Using my contacts across the industry, I've booked 150+ authors, booktubers, bloggers, audiobook narrators and more to take part in 30 virtual panels, plus author readings, podcasts and D&D sessions. So, I think 'bigger and better' is something we'll be able to achieve.

The key, as far as I've come to understand, is understanding your technical limits (livestreaming, time management, etc.) as an organizer, but reaching beyond that when it comes to the people you want to participate, or the goals you want achieve. It also helps to have a kickass team of passionate bloggers at your side, and the openness of folks in the SFF community to dedicate their time for free.

*What advice do you have for beginning podcasters and youtubers?*

**ADRIAN:** Find the thing you're passionate about, and just fucking go for it. You will never achieve anything if you don't at least give it a shot, and it's almost a guarantee that you'll mess up along the way. But that's the best part: mistakes are the moments where true understanding, of yourself and what you do, rises to the surface. They are opportunities to learn, so don't waste 'em. Plus, whoever is listening to or watching your stuff, they won't care about some sloppy editing or glitches or whatever—what they will care about is someone who clearly loves what they do.

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

**ADRIAN:** Starting in January 2023, SFF Addicts will have a new co-host (author M.J. Kuhn), and we've switched the format to something more manageable (especially as a father of one with another baby on the way). We also launched a Patreon and a merch store, for anyone who wants to support us that way. If you want to learn more about that, check out the podcast feed or the FanFiAddict YouTube channel.

Also, as I mentioned earlier, I write my own fiction and am currently working on my debut novel. It's a blend of post-cyberpunk, biotech and fungi set in a secondary world, with a big dash of hope thrown in there. The hope is that I can use all that I've learned through podcasting to make this book as good as I can possibly make it, with the help of beta readers and friends as well. Then, when it's ready, use the network I've built to either self-publish or query the book to agents. - Find Adrian on Twitter or Instagram @adrianmgibson

**T  
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2023**

Virtual author panels, readings, Q&As, podcasts + D&D sessions, streaming LIVE on the FanFiAddict YouTube channel from Jan. 22-29, 2023

@SFFAddictsPod FanFiAddict.com #TBRCon2023

## ***New Release from Space Cowboy Books***

**Time's Arrow**

Poetry by **Jean-Paul L. Garnier**

Music by **Phog Masheeen**

**Free download**

**Time's Arrow** - a musical audiobook. Poetry by Jean-Paul L. Garnier and music by Phog Masheeen. Download includes a PDF version of the chapbook. Get your copy at: <https://spacecowboybooks.bandcamp.com/album/times-arrow>