

Bizarre 5



BIZARRE is the magazine of the 29th Australian Science Fiction Convention, **Danse Macabre**. The copyright to all contents is retained by the authors.

The address for all correspondence relating to **BIZARRE** or to **Danse Macabre** is:

Danse Macabre
PO Box 273
FITZROY 3065

No other address should be used unless explicitly requested by the Committee member concerned. Please indicate on the top of your letter the nature of the contents, e.g. 'for **BIZARRE**', 'Memberships', etc.

Deadline for material to be included in the next issue of **BIZARRE** is 12 January, 1990. Nominal date of publication will be 26 January, 1990.

Current Membership Rates for the convention are:

Attending (Adult)	\$60.00 till the end of the year.
Attending (Child)	\$30.00 till the end of the year.
Supporting	\$15.00
Voting Only	\$5.00

Attending Membership rate rises to \$70 after 31 December 1989.

An Attending membership entitles the member to all benefits of membership (including the right to attend the Convention, to receive all issues of **BIZARRE** published after the date of acceptance of that membership, and to vote for the Ditmars). A Supporting membership entitles the member to all benefits of membership except for those associated with attending the Convention. Note: **Child** memberships do not include voting rights for Ditmars or site selection. A Supporting membership may be converted to an Attending membership at any time prior to midnight, 31st of March, 1990, or else at the Convention Registration, by payment of the difference between the supporting fee and the then-current attending fee. A Voting Only membership entitles you to vote for the Australian SF Achievement Awards ('Ditmars'). Voting members receive a copy of the Ditmar ballot. A Voting membership cannot be credited against the fee for any other rate of membership.

Thanks for this issue go to Roy Ferguson, Karen Pender, Roger Weddall, Phil Wlodarczyk.

Editorial

This issue of **Bizarre** was produced in something of a hurry to meet a deadline, the start of **Conjunction**. As a result, some articles that I would have liked to include in **Bizarre 5**, such as details of **Danse Macabre's** recent incorporation, will have to wait for **Bizarre 6**, due out at the end of January 1990.

Thanks to Phil Wlodarczyk for the cover art.

If other artists among you would like to have a place in the pages of **Bizarre**, send your illos to me via the **Danse Macabre** postal address. All art up to A4 size will be greedily accepted.

And don't forget about artwork for inclusion in the Convention Program Book.

I still want to hear from artists from all disciplines (including artists in 3-D, textiles and ceramics) who want to exhibit their work at the **Danse Macabre** Art Show.

The only limitations are likely to be those of size. If you think there may be problems with displaying your work, please contact me as soon as possible.

-- Dennis Callegari, 1 December 1989.



Short Notices

The Teams Scrabble® Event

There will be a Teams Scrabble® tournament held at **Danse Macabre**, and Murfett Regency, the makers of Scrabble®, have kindly agreed to provide ten copies of the Scrabble® Travel Version Game as prizes for the winning team.

All Attending Members of **Danse Macabre** are eligible to enter the tournament. To enter, please write to *Danse Macabre Scrabble® Game* care of the PO Box address given elsewhere in this issue. There are a limited number of places available in the game. Entry will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis with the following amendment:

If there are more than forty applicants, the "extras" will be allocated a place in the emergency list, just in case something prevents one of the first forty from taking part.

There will be a maximum of four teams in the Scrabble® tournament, each team being composed of approximately ten players. Rules for the tournament were published in **Bizarre 4**, and will be reprinted at a later time.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Murfett Regency Pty Ltd.

ASFF Short Story Contest

A short story contest, funded by the **Australian Science Fiction Foundation**, will be held with the convention. Original unpublished stories not over 5000 words in length are eligible. A first prize of \$200 and a second prize of \$100 will be awarded. All entries must be typed and should not have any author identification except on a cover sheet.

To enter send three copies of the story to:

Danse Macabre Short Story Contest
PO Box 273
Fitzroy, Vic
3065

Entries must be received by **18 March 1990**. Entries will not be returned; to receive notification of their receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Decisions of the judges are final.

The Convention may arrange publication for the winning stories. First publication rights to the winning stories will be retained by *Danse Macabre*. Thereafter all rights revert to the authors.

The winning stories will be announced during the convention.

Ditmar Design Competition Foreshadowed by the Australian Science Fiction Foundation

The Australian Science Fiction Foundation has decided to press ahead with a design competition for the Ditmar Awards. Details of the competition are not yet to hand, but are expected to be announced in the next issue of **Bizarre**, due out in late January - as well as in the general fanish media.

Earlier in the year, some exploratory letters on the matter were sent to the three current National Convention committees (**Swancon 14**, **Danse Macabre** and **SunCon**). Following a generally favourable reaction, the ASFF is now reported to be organising final details of the competition.

"It is anticipated," writes Mark Loney, the ASFF secretary, "that the competition would be publicised in the relevant departments and faculties of tertiary institutions as well as throughout fandom. A cash prize would be offered."

In the letter, the following points were emphasised:

- A. The Foundation is not attempting to take over the management of, or the responsibility for, the Ditmar Awards. It has neither the resources nor the inclination to do so.
- B. The foundation is not attempting to impose an award design on any current or future National Convention. The intent of the design competition and associated proposals is to provide an attractive benchmark design that Convention Committees can utilise or surpass as they see fit.

One potential benefit mentioned, were a standardised design of award to come into favour, would be the possibility of manufacturing the winning design *en masse* by the Foundation, at a correspondingly cheap-per-award cost. Watch this space for further details.

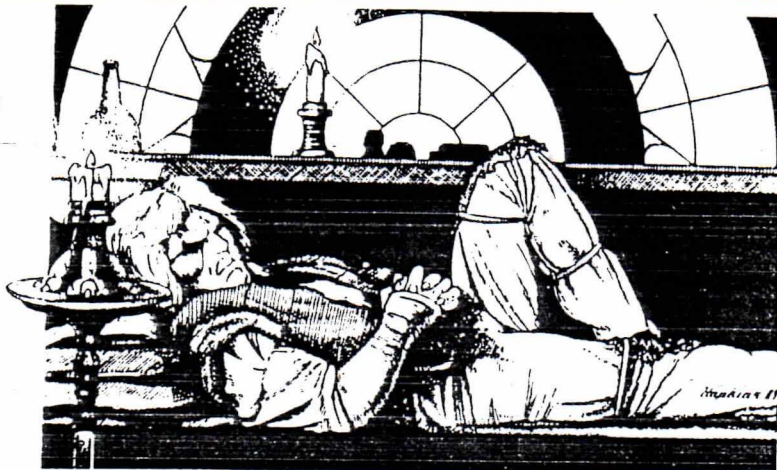
Will You, Won't You, Will You, Won't You, Will You Join the Danse?

No Convention runs itself.

We need VOLUNTEERS (yes, that means you) particularly to help with the Masquerade, but also to man the Registration desk, run errands and otherwise help with organisation. Why should we have all the fun?

Volunteers! Please get in touch with **Andrew Murphy** at **11 Hopkins Street, Dandenong, 3175**.

Now
Hear
This!



The Con at a Glance:

Guests of Honour:

George R R Martin (professional)

Eric B Lindsay (fan)

Convention Dates: Friday 13th April 1990 to Monday 16th April 1990 inclusive.

Con Hotel is the **Diplomat Motor Inn**, in Acland Street, St Kilda. A second hotel nearby, the **Spaceline**, has been completely booked by the Convention for the weekend.

Membership rates per person:

Attending (Adult)	\$60.00 till 31 st December.
Attending (Child)*	\$30.00 till 31 st December.
Supporting	\$15.00
Voting	\$ 5.00

After the year ~~and~~ the rate for an Attending Membership will rise to \$70.

Make all cheques, etc, payable to 'Danse Macabre' and mark them 'Not Negotiable'. A receipt will be mailed to you; please keep it and bring it with you to the Con.

* 'Child' must be less than 15 years old on 13th April, 1990. Children under 5 on this date may attend free.

Hotel Bookings: Please make all bookings through **Danse Macabre**. Please enclose at least one night's room rental with each booking. Make all cheques, etc, payable to 'Danse Macabre' and mark 'not negotiable'. Room rates per night are:

Single room (Diplomat only)	\$54.00
Double/Twin (Either Hotel)	\$59.00
Triple (Diplomat)/Suite (Spaceline)	\$80.00.

Note that only the **Spaceline** has two-room Suites.

Banquet: There will be a Banquet, price \$25 per head. To help us gauge numbers, if you are interested in this event, please tick the box on the membership form.

Hucksters: There will be a separate Hucksters' Room.

The *Professional Huckster Membership* will apply to hucksters who do not intend going to any program items. Pro Huckster Memberships cost \$100 for the full convention, or \$25 per day. The professional membership entitles you and two assistants to obtain entry to the Hucksters' room only for the duration of the convention.

If you're an Attending or Day Member of **Danse Macabre**, you are a Fan by definition -- you do intend to see one or more program items. For the additional sum of \$15 per day, you can take out a *Fan Huckster Membership*. There is no provision for assistants in the Fan Huckster Membership; they'll have to pay their own way.

Area allocation is approximately 2 x 3 metres per huckster table. If you have questions, please write.

Fan Lounge and Party Suite: There will be a Fan Lounge in the Diplomat and a Party Suite in the Spaceline, where members can go to sit and talk, rest, or think.

Art Show: Send any suggestions to D. Callegari, 22 Waltham Street, Richmond 3121.

Ditmars: The 1990 Australian SF Achievement Awards will be voted on by **Danse Macabre** members before and during the con. A Nomination Form appears in this issue of *Bizarre* and will also be distributed generally via normal fannish channels. Anyone may nominate for the Ditmars but you must be a member of **Danse Macabre** to vote. All queries and Nomination Forms should be directed to PO Box 427, Abbotsford, Vic. 3067.

1992 Site Selection: The site for the 1992 Australian SF Convention will be decided at a meeting at **Danse Macabre**. Groups interested in bidding for the right to hold the 1992 Naicon should contact us before the start of **Danse Macabre**. As with the Ditmars, you must be a member of **Danse Macabre** to vote on Site Selection.

Program Book Cover: We want to see your ideas for a cover for the convention's Program Book. Interested? Scratch up a design and try it!

- Child Minding

If enough interest is expressed, a *co-operative child minding arrangement* will be established for the convention. Parents would agree to take their turn looking after a number of children in space provided by the convention. This will be done if enough people require child minding and are willing to do their bit. If interested, contact Karen Small at 19 Barunah Street, Glenroy, 3046. [Telephone: (03) 300 1631]

Creche: See the short article above.

Weapons Policy: Put baldly: no exposed edged weapons, no projectile weapons. See also: **Code of Behaviour:** Individuals engaging in unacceptable behaviour may be expelled from the Con without refund of membership. At discretion of Committee, membership fee may be refunded and any individual expelled with or without reason being stated.

Smoking: Only in the lobby adjacent to function rooms at rear of the Diplomat.

Our Committee: Here is the list of people doing things for the convention, and their jobs. If you think that you can help in any way, please do contact the appropriate person. If in doubt, ring Alan on (03) 889 7862 or Roger on (03) 689 6427 or else drop us a letter.

Agents:

Adelaide: Carol Woolmer

Perth Grant Stone

Sydney: Gerald Smith

Art Show: Dennis Callegari

Mail: Roger Weddall

Ditmars: Roy Ferguson

Equipment: Andrew Murphy

Fan Lounge: Michelle Muijsert

GOH Liaison: Stephen Boucher

Hotel Liaison: Roger Weddall

Programme Book: Phil Ware / Dennis Callegari

Programming: David McDonnell

Secretary: Alan Wilson

Treasurer: Phil Ware

Videos: Richard Freeland



Letter

As 'restructuring' and 'openness' work their way jointly through the political institutions and societies of Eastern Europe, even Australian SF Conventions are affected by the consequences. If you find that incredible, read on; you may wish to make 'something like treaty' with our correspondent from the USSR.

Dear Colleague!

We have got to know from *Fandom Directory No. 11* about your famous convention and try to offer to its participants to increase their collection or at least to retell this thing to their friends.

Would you like to read some words about our offer?

Soviet fanzines are the grapes of *perestroika* and appeared like broad event in the very beginning in 1988. Nowadays there numbers more than fifteen monthly, quarterly, every year and irregular fanzines. Edition geography broadens all over USSR.

Fan-Print Agency helps you to complete fanzine collection for the offer: fresh fanzine copies in Russian and other USSR languages; 1988 fanzine copies (with the English contents); information and bibliographic editions of fan clubs; English-written digest of the Soviet fanzines.

In addition we can offer: digest "Soviet Fandom News" (from mass media); digest "UFO and abnormal events"; digest "The Warm Company" (extrasenses, teleport, snowman, etc.); newspaper and magazine articles' copies on these topics; authentic translation of this material.

Perhaps you have difficulties concerning Soviet SF and fandom; don't hesitate to contact us. We'll be extremely glad to serve you. If you are interested in our offers we can make something like treaty.

Yours faithfully,

Anatoly A. Stegalin
PO Box 3692
Kuibyshev-30
443030
USSR

The Second Most Important Question: (Eligible fiction for the 1990 Ditmar Awards)

Whenever a "Best Of" award is to be given for anything, the first question to be settled is that of eligibility for the award. Sometimes that can be a real problem, although generally -- with the Ditmar awards, at least -- it's a straightforward matter, and common sense usually prevails.

In this issue of *Bizarre* you'll find a form for nominating works in each of the six categories of award to be presented at the 1990 National Australian SF Convention, *Danse Macabre*. Conditions of eligibility for each category will also be listed on that form.

The second -- and to my mind, more important -- question to answer is *Which of all the potential nominees in each category deserve to go onto the short list, or final voting ballot?* While Australian fans who have voted for the Hugo Awards (given yearly by the World Science Fiction Society) know that the main problem is usually the unavailability of many of the nominees, another problem must be faced with the Ditmar awards.

Tracking down potential nominees can be a lot of hard work, even when you know what you're looking for. For this reason, we have decided to print a list of all the Australian long or short fiction that we have been able to find, so that people might be better able to decide what to nominate.

There has been some argument in the past as to whether such a list should be published, in case it were to prejudice people against any work not appearing in the list. With this in mind, we caution you that the following is not intended to be the definitive list of works of fiction published in 1989 (and eligible for the awards in 1990). However, it is as complete a list as we have been able to compile, and we hope it is of some help when it comes to finding works eligible for nomination. Happy reading!

-- Roger Weddall

1989 Australian Science Fiction & Fantasy

Novel:

- KELLEHER, Victor: *The Red King* (Ringwood, Viking Kestrel)
 ROBERTSON, Craig: *Song of Gondwana* (Ringwood, Penguin)
 RUBENSTEIN, Gillian: *Skymaze* (Adelaide, Omnibus/Puffin)
 TAYLOR, Keith: *The Sorcerer's Sacred Isle* (New York, Ace)
 WHITEFORD, Wynne: *Lake of the Sun* (New York, Ace)
 SUSSEX, Lucy: *The Peace Garden* (Melbourne, Oxford)

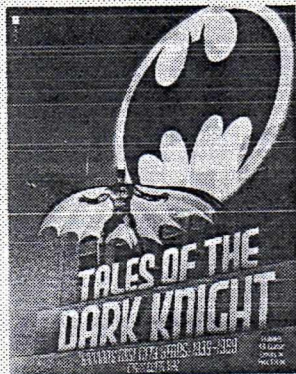
Short Fiction:

- DOWLING, Terry: *The Quiet Redemption of Andy the House* (*Australian Short Stories* #26, June 1989)
 EGAN, Greg: *Beyond the Whistle Test* (*Analog*, November 1989)
 FREW, Wendy: *The Red Cardigan* (*Thyme Fiction* #1)
 HARDING, Lee: *Night of Passage* (*Dreamtime*, Viking Kestrel)
 HENDRICKS, Donald: *A Sea Change* (*Thyme Fiction* #1)
 KELLEHER, Victor: *River Serpent* (*Dreamtime*, Viking Kestrel)
 LOVE, Rosaleen: *Total Devotion Machine*
Batmania
Tanami Drift
Dolphins and Deep Thought
The Bottomless Pit
Where Are They?
The Children Don't Leave Home Any More
If You Go Down to the Park Today
Tremendous Potential for Tourism
 Collected in *Total Devotion Machine*
 (London, The Women's Press)
 MACINTYRE, F. Gwynplaine: *The Ones Who Turn Invisible* (*Weird Tales*, Winter 1988-89)
 MALONEY, Geoffrey: *Hotel Terminus* (*Thyme Fiction* #1)
 MARSDEN, John: *The Dreamer* (*Dreamtime*, Viking Kestrel)
 SIMMONS, Chris: *Illegal Alien* (*Thyme Fiction* #1)
 SMITH, Petrina: *Over the Edge* (*Mirrors: Redress Novellas*, Sydney, Women's Redress Press)
 TAYLOR, Keith: *The Demon Cat* (*Weird Tales*, Winter 1988-89)
 WILLMOT, Frank: *Silent Reporter* (*Dreamtime*, Viking Kestrel)

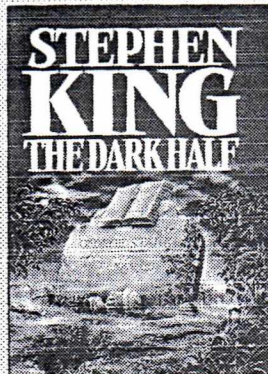
Possibilities:

- CHANDLER, A. Bertram: *From Sea to Shining Star*. This collection of Chandler reprints also contains two previously unpublished stories written in the late 1950s. It is due to be published this year, and production is known to be at an advanced stage.
 COLLINS, Paul: Known to have sold several stories to various non-genre magazines that may publish them in 1989.
 DOWLING, Terry: An anthology of his stories is due to be published by Aphelion. Original material will be included.
 TURNER, George: An anthology of his stories is due to be published by Aphelion. Original material will be included.

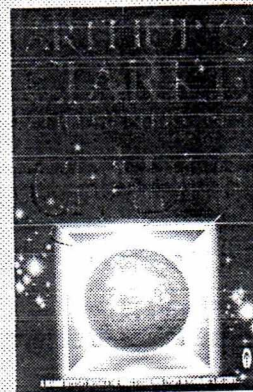
THE BEST BOOKS IN THE GALAXY



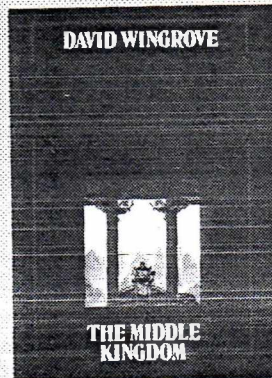
TALES OF THE DARK
KNIGHT: THE FIRST 50
YEARS OF BATMAN
1939 - 1989
Mark Cotta Vaz
\$19.95



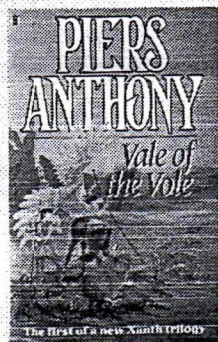
THE DARK HALF
Stephen King
\$29.95



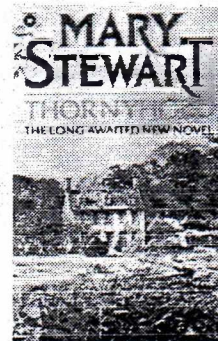
CRADLE
Arthur C. Clarke
& Gentry Lee
Large Format Paperback
\$17.95



CHUNG KUO: THE
MIDDLE KINGDOM
David Wingrove
H/B \$29.95
Large format P/B \$17.95



VALE OF THE VOLE
Piers Anthony
\$10.95



THORNYHOLD
Mary Stewart
\$9.95

FROM
HODDER &
STOUGHTON

NEW FOR
CHRISTMAS

Con Listings

If any of the following info is wrong or out-of-date, or you know of a con not listed here which should be listed, please let us know.

1989

Dec 1--Dec 3: **Conjunction**

Diplomat Motor Inn, Melbourne.
Theme: The Meeting of Two Worlds.
GoH: Wendy Ratter, Michelle Muijsert.
Sup \$5, Att \$30 (Door \$40), Sup \$5.
Rooms: \$52 single, \$54 twin/doub.
PO Box 41, West Brunswick 3055.

1990

Apr 13--Apr 16: **Danse Macabre**

29th Australian SF Natcon.
Diplomat Motor Inn, Melbourne.
GoH: George R R Martin. FGoH: Eric Lindsay
Sup \$15, Att \$60 (\$70 after 31December 1989).
Rooms: \$54 single, \$59 twin/doub, \$80 triple.
Box 273, Fitzroy 3065.

Apr 13--Apr 16: **Kiwicon**

Gateway Lodge, Mangere, Auckland.
GoH: Harry Harrison.
Sup \$?, Att \$40, Door \$45.
PO Box 711, Pukekohe, NEW ZEALAND.

May 11--May 13: **Conflagration '90**

Waiwera Resort Hotel, Waiwera.
GoH: I believe several are planned --
one of whom is the Wizard of Christchurch?
13 Juniper Rd, Auckland 1310, NEW ZEALAND.

Jun 1--Jun 4: **ConVerge II**

1990 NZ Natcon.
Airport Hotel, Wellington.
GoH: Richard Arnold. FGoH: James Benson.
Sup \$15, Att \$35, Door \$40 (after 1mar90).
Rooms: \$79 sgl, \$99 dbl, \$109 trp, \$119 qad.
PO Box 30905, lower Hutt, NEW ZEALAND.

Aug 23--Aug 27: **Confiction**

48th World SF Convention.
Netherlands Congress Centre, The Hague
GoHs: Joe Haldeman, Andy Porter,
Wolfgang Jeschke, Harry Harrison.
Toastmaster: Chelsea Quinn Yarbro.
Sup SA35, Att SA85.

PO Box 95370, 2509 CJ, Den Hague.
THE NETHERLANDS.

Australian Agent: Justin Ackroyd,
GPO Box 2708X, Melbourne 3001

Aug 30--Sep 3: **Con Diego**

1990 North American Natcon.
Marriott Hotel, San Diego.
GoH: S R Delaney. FGoH: Ben Yalow.
Box 15771, San Diego, CA 92115, USA.

Nov 23--Nov 25: **Huttcon '90**

1990 Australian National Mediacon.
The Diplomat Motor Inn, Melbourne.
GoH: Simon Jones. FGoH: tba.
Sup \$25, Att \$45 (\$50 after 30jun89).
12 Flinders St, Matraville 2036
or PO Box 41, East Brunswick 3055.

1991

Easter 1991: **SunCon**

30th Australian SF Natcon.
GoH: Harlan Ellison.
FGoH: Leigh Edmonds/Valma Brown.

Aug 29--Sep 2: **Chicon V**

49th World SF Convention.
Hyatt Regency, Chicago.
GoH: Hal Clement, Richard Powers,
Martin H Greenberg. FGoH: Jon & Joni Stopa.
Sup US\$20, Att US\$75 to 31dec89.
Box 218121, Columbus, OH 43221-8121, USA.

MORE INFORMATION:

For more (or updated) info on any of the above, please write to the convention concerned. To correct, update, or add to the information listed here, please write to **Danse Macabre**.



Convention Review: Starwalking

September 8-10 1989 at the Melbourne Town House

Report by Karen Pender

I must admit I did enjoy **Starwalking**. It quite rapidly became known as "Stair Walking" as the hotel's only lift had suffered a breakdown and the convention facilities were on the fifth floor. We were all very fit by Sunday.

There was, of course, a huge amount of Star Wars Merchandise for sale; I hadn't realised that so many varieties of toys and other things had been produced. The auction was chock-full of Star Wars stuff as well.

Jeremy Bullock was one of the most charming people I have ever met. Wonderfully British. You could imagine him playing the role of a Lord or an English gentleman to perfection. I hadn't realised he played the psychologist in *Chocky*. His wife, Maureen, was very attractive. The GoH spot was lively -- it could have gone on longer without anyone becoming bored.

For me it was a great convention as it was the first at which I received some awards. I won Third Prize in the Art Show for my "Things Party" (there will be more of those at **Danse Macabre**) and the first Artisans Award from Threads, the Handicraft and Design society.

I was also involved in the prize-winning Bill and Ben entry in the Masquerade - First Prize for Presentation and Third Prize for Design/Reproduction.

Bill (Ian Gunn) and Ben (Danny Heap) were dressed with real flower pots for their arm- and leg-sections (guess who had the job of stringing those together). The Vogon (James Allen) had great delight in destroying the Weed (Beky Tully was on the bottom of that, holding it up). I was trying to narrate but the audience kept laughing so much the skit went on much longer than expected. It was all great fun!

As with most conventions, slip-ups and mistakes did occur, but on the whole it seemed to go very well. There was a specially constructed star-ship bridge which glowed under ultraviolet light. Registration went well and ran smoothly. The closing ceremony, as with most conventions I've been to recently, ran too long. The special film preview was *Blind Fury*, which has since appeared in the cinemas. It was full of cliches, was vaguely Japanese and corny in spots.

Starwalking was a friendly con and I hope to have as much fun at the next convention I go to.

The Danse Macabre Programme Book

Contents

The *Danse Macabre* Programme Book is being planned as an A4 two-column black and white production printed on glossy stock, within a cover of glossy card.

There should be a minimum of 32 pages in the programme book, and the contents will include the details and timetable of convention events, artwork, articles on different aspects of science fiction in Australia, and information about the Guests of Honour.

We want to make it a publication open to all members of **Danse Macabre**. All relevant proposals you put forward will be seriously considered. (For example, two recent suggestions have been: a guide to restaurants near the con hotel; sf computer bulletin boards.)

Send your ideas to **Danse Macabre** at the general mailing address.

Advertising

Advertising space is also available. The deadline for *camera-ready advertising copy* for the Programme Book is February 9 1990. We prefer bookings for ads to reach us some time before then; this will ensure you better placement.

The professional rate for advertising in the Programme Book is given below; the fan rate is half that of the professional rate:

Full Page	\$ 150.00
Half Page (portrait or landscape)	\$ 90.00
Quarter Page (portrait only)	\$ 50.00

Full-page advertising on the inside front cover will cost \$250.00. (Space on the outside back cover has already been taken.) Advertising on the inside back cover will be at the normal rate.

The Convention Banquet

- Following negotiations with the Diplomat Hotel, the price for the convention awards banquet has been fixed at what we believe is a most reasonable \$25 per head. It will be a serve-yourself smorgasbord affair with a hot & cold buffet. There will be bar service running during the event and people will be responsible for buying their own drinks. The 1990 Ditmar Awards and the 1990 William Atheling Jr Award will be presented during the course of the evening.

Film Review: Startrekking

Star Trek V: The Final Frontier

Review by Roger Weddall

At *Danse Macabre* next year there will be a number of programme items on different aspects of the *Star Trek* phenomenon. I for one will be fascinated to see if anyone has come up with a satisfactory way of critically evaluating the product that we're now seeing. It's all a matter of context, I'm sure

If I were to review the fifth *Star Trek* film using the same set of standards that I would for any general film, I would be telling you that it is a film with a ludicrously feeble plot that races furiously to no conclusion, a film with a lot of colour and action that cannot hope to disguise its many gaping flaws.

This is not, however, any general film. It is not only a film based on a television series; it is the fifth film in a row based on a series. As such, many questions normally asked can be set aside, or rather transformed. 'Is the characterisation adequate' becomes 'are the characters exactly the same as they've always been'. (The happy answer for fans of the series is: yes.) 'Is it a credible and original story' becomes 'is the plot and setting entirely derivative'. And so on.

In fact, this film is faithful to the original series to the point that if it were to have been filmed as a half-hour serial then it would hold up well to the product of so many years ago. Come to think of it, it would also have been vastly superior as a film.

The guts of the plot is that a fellow in search of knowledge of god & the universe & all that jazz manages to grab hold of the *Enterprise* and head it off towards the edge of the galaxy and through the (hitherto impenetrable, it is im-

plied) Barrier surrounding it, in order to find and have a chat with this god thingo.

In a half hour episode, the fellow would have been an alien with Mysterious Powers that Forced People to Do His Bidding, and that would have been the end of it. In the two hour version, alas, we are unfortunately given much more information - and much more time in which to mull over how silly the whole idea is. The fellow does indeed have a Mysterious Power: the power to force people to undergo personal growth as they are made to face up to the pain and trauma they've faced in the past (I'm not making this up, you know). What this also does, apparently, apart from making people feel good, is render them incapable of disagreeing that whatever our antagonist might want to do is quite the very best course of action they've ever heard of. Until, that is, Spock - who else - points out that this need not be the way that people react. And so it isn't. Of course.

In a half hour version, the whole first half hour of this version would have been dispensed with, including the pathetic attempt to recreate the *Star Wars* barroom scene - a scene that had nothing to do with the film and which could only ever have detracted from the credibility of the effort.

This would probably not worry the producers of the film much. They must know that, no matter how badly any particular *Trek* film is botched, there are enough people around who are or were devotees of the source material - the original episodes - who will fork out money just to see what the latest *ST* offering is like, no matter how bad they've heard it to be. I should know; I'm one of them, and I'll be back to see number six in the series even should - god forbid - William Shatner be given another chance to direct himself. But then, I've always been one to revel in the heights of kitsch and inanity reached by fifth-rate, Z-grade science fiction films.

1990 AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION ("DITMAR") AWARDS

The 1990 Ditmars for work in Science Fiction and Fantasy during 1989 will be awarded at **Danse Macabre**, the 29th Australian National SF Convention, to be held in Melbourne from April 13 to 16, 1990.

The Constitution of the Australian National SF Convention states, re awards:

"The Convention Committee ... will, by a vote of the Convention's members, after a nominating process involving Australian Fandom generally, award up to five Australian Science Fiction Awards (of which, at least one must be for fannish endeavours) and the William Atheling (Jr) Award for Criticism and Review."

For this purpose the **Danse Macabre** committee has appointed a sub-committee. On the reverse side of this form there is a nominating form, which may be filled out by any member of Australian Fandom. The Sub-Committee will accept up to five nominations in each category from each nominator.

Voting forms compiled from these nominations will then be sent to all members of **Danse Macabre**.

Completed forms must be sent to:

Ditmar Sub-Committee
PO Box 427
Abbotsford
Vic 3067

NOMINATIONS CLOSE on
2nd February 1990

Definitions of Categories

1. **BEST AUSTRALIAN LONG FICTION:**
A science fiction or fantasy story of

17,500 words or more, written by an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia and which was published for the first time, and distributed in Australia by an Australian book publisher or distributor during the 1989 calendar year.

2. **BEST AUSTRALIAN SHORT FICTION:** A science fiction or fantasy story of less than 17,500 words, written by an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia and which was first published in Australia during the 1989 calendar year.
3. **BEST FANZINE:** A non-professional publication devoted to science fiction, fantasy or related subjects, produced by an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia which was produced and generally available in 1989.
4. **BEST FAN WRITER:** An Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia who wrote material which appeared in a fanzine produced and generally available in 1989.
5. **BEST FAN ARTIST:** AN Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia whose artwork (of whatever description) appeared in a generally available fanzine or through other public display in 1989. An artist does not qualify for this award for any artwork which they were paid to produce. Artwork for public display must have as its theme, science fiction, fantasy or related subjects.

THE WILLIAM ATHELING JR. AWARD FOR CRITICISM OR REVIEW: For a particular piece of criticism or review of science fiction or fantasy, or a body of shorter items, where the work or works first appeared in Australia in 1989.

For further information on **Danse Macabre**, please write to

Danse Macabre, PO Box 273, Fitzroy 3065, Victoria

1990 AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION ("DITMAR") AWARDS

NOMINATION FORM

1. BEST AUSTRALIAN LONG FICTION (title, author, publisher)

2. BEST AUSTRALIAN SHORT FICTION (title, author, publication)

3. BEST FANZINE (title, editor/publisher, address)

4. BEST FAN WRITER (name, published examples)

5. BEST FAN ARTIST (name, published examples)

WILLIAM ATHELING JR. AWARD FOR CRITICISM OR REVIEW
(Please supply the source of nominees in this category)

NAME: _____

Danse Macabre Membership No: _____

ADDRESS: _____

If you are not a Danse Macabre member and may be unknown to the Sub-Committee please supply the name of a fan or fan organization to whom/which you are known:

SIGNATURE: _____

NOTE: The Sub-Committee is the final arbiter on the eligibility of a nominee.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE: 2ND FEBRUARY 1990

SEND NOMINATIONS TO: PO BOX 427, ABBOTSFORD 3067, VICTORIA

REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS ENCOURAGED PROVIDED IT IS VERBATIM

Danse Macabre General Application Form

Remember that completed forms should be sent to Danse Macabre, PO Box 273, Fitzroy 3065, Victoria

Danse Macabre is the 1990 Australian National Science Fiction Convention being held in the Diplomat Hotel over Easter of 1990 - four days of fun, frivolity and *fear*?. The convention theme is 'Mardi Gras in New Orleans' - party, party, party. But seriously, we will have panel discussions, films, a full video programme, games, competitions.....

MEMBERSHIPS

Attending - Adult: \$60 until 31 December 1989, \$70 thereafter.

Attending - Child: half the adult rate for children 15 years or younger at 13 April 1990. A *Children's Membership* can only be issued with a supervising *Adult* membership. The supervising adult will undertake full responsibility for the child at the convention and will accompany the child at all times during the convention.

Children less than 5 years old will be allowed free entrance to the convention provided they are accompanied and supervised at all times by an adult member of *Danse Macabre*.

Supporting (non-attending): \$15. A supporting membership may be converted to an attending membership at any time on paying the difference between the two membership rates.

Voting Only: \$5.

Name(s) and Address(es)

.....

.....

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at *Danse Macabre* has been arranged with both the **Diplomat** and at the nearby **Spaceline** hotel. The **Spaceline** has been provisionally block booked by the convention to ensure no hotel management hassles - the only residents in the **Spaceline** will be *Danse Macabre* members. This arrangement must be confirmed with the hotel by the end of February. Book now (there are also only a limited number of rooms) so that the convention can guarantee full occupancy of the **Spaceline**.

Double / Suite (= two-room triple) room(s) (\$59/\$80 per night) at the **Spaceline**.

Single / Double / Triple room(s) (\$54/\$59/\$80 per night) at the **Diplomat**.

for the nights of (12 - 16 April):

I/we intend to share our room with:

Please find enclosed \$ as one nights deposit for accommodation.

Accommodation bookings will only be confirmed and placed with the hotel on receipt of one nights deposit.

.....

OTHER DETAILS

I/we intend to book seats at the banquet (cost is approximately \$25)

I/we intend to contribute to the art show. Yes No

OTHER COMMENTS

I/we would like to help out:

Other suggestions and ideas:

.....

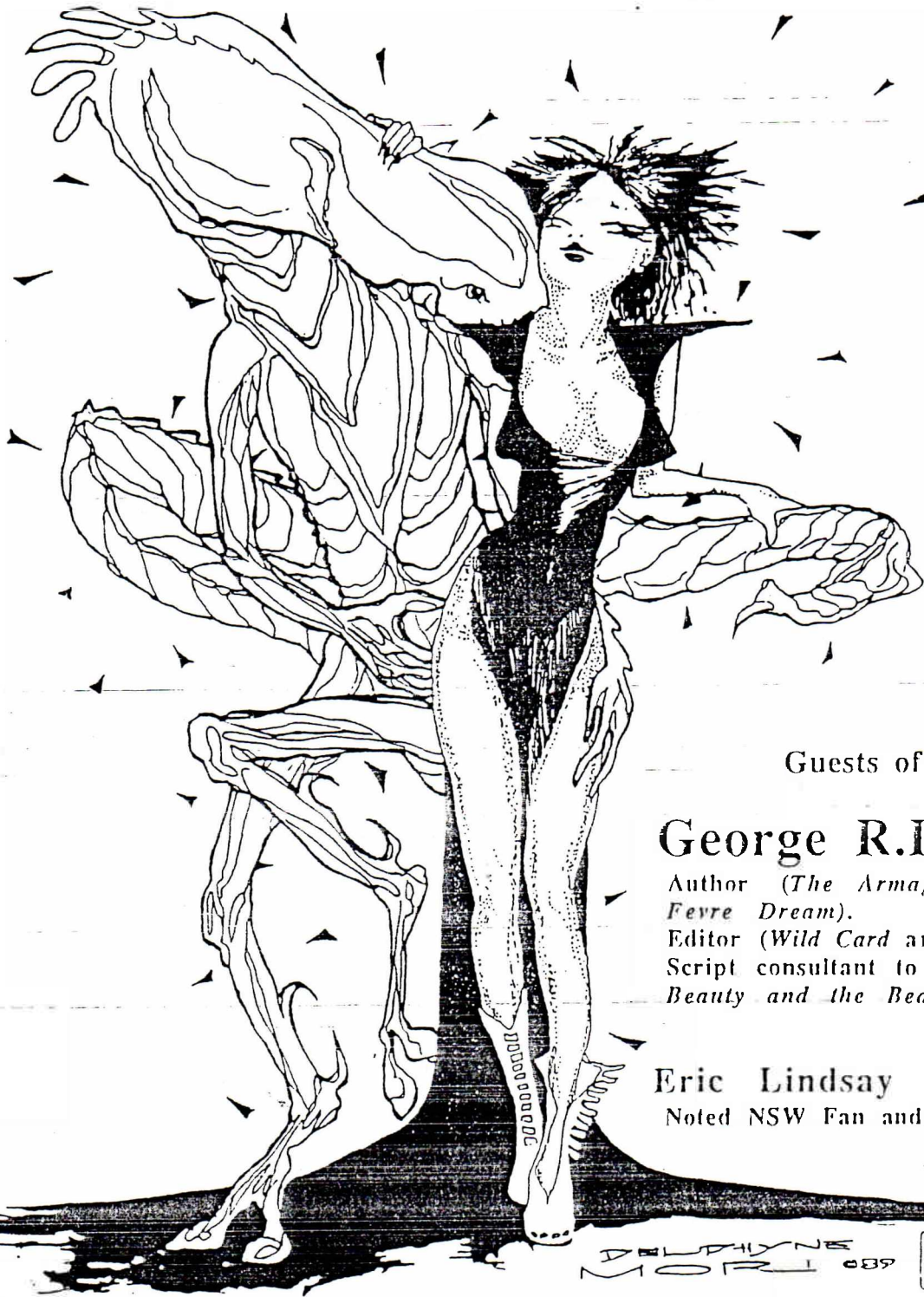
Agents: Adelaide - Carol Woollmer

Perth - Grant Stone

Sydney - Gerald Smith

Danse Macabre

The 29th Australian Science Fiction Convention
13-16 April (Easter) 1990
At: The Diplomat, St Kilda, Victoria



Guests of Honour

George R.R. Martin

Author (*The Armageddon Rag*,
Fevre Dream).

Editor (*Wild Card* anthologies)

Script consultant to the TV series
Beauty and the Beast.

Eric Lindsay

Noted NSW Fan and editor

Membership \$60 until 31/12/89, \$70 thereafter.
"Danse Macabre".

Cheques to
Danse Macabre, PO Box 273, Fitzroy 3065.