

Running Panels

Day	Time	Location	Subject	Panelists	Description
Friday					
	9:00:00 AM	Troy	Writer's Workshop: Building Characters	Ciaffone, Gannon*, Chowdhury, Belilovsky, Hammond	How do you create memorable characters? What techniques and tricks do you use?
	10:00:00 AM	Troy	Writer's Workshop: Making it believable	Altabef*, Beall, Arthen, Schoen, Connell	What makes a work believable? What ruins the suspension of disbelief?
	11:00:00 AM	Troy	Writer's Workshop: What publishers -- and readers -- want.	Spoor*, Ventrella, Ollerman, Silverman, Gannon	A look into what makes a story appealing
	12:00:00 PM		Lunch		
	1:00:00 PM	Troy	Writer's Workshop: Writing Techniques -- revising, editing, outlining	Spoor*, Ventrella, Ollerman, Silverman, Gannon	Some tips on how to work better. The panel will answer questions from the audience about issues that they have problems with.
	2:00:00 PM	Troy	Writer's Workshop: Self publishing vs. traditional	Altabef*, Spoor, Lee, Schoen, Willis	Pros and cons of taking each path
	3:00:00 PM	Troy	Writer's Workshop: Business and Promotion	Arthen*, Willis, Huston, Burroughs, Burnside, Silverman	Dealing with business issues and discussing ways to promote your work
	4:00:00 PM	Troy	Critiquing panel	Spoor, Ventrella, Rothman*, Cambias, Belilovsky, Connelly	Workshop participants will bring their work. The panel will read it and then make suggestions.
	6:00:00 PM	Troy	Lost SF Themes	Ollerman*, Huston, Cambias, Connelly, Benedict,	Psyonics was a common SF theme in the 50s. What other themes of the genre have become dated -- but might come back in the right hands.
	7:00:00 PM	Troy	The Golden Age of SF TV	Silverman*, Calkins, Lieven, Fludd, Lee, Shvartsman	Are we living it? Is the trend for SF-based stories at a peak? Why now? What makes it successful?
	8:00:00 PM	Colonie	Ice Cream Social	All	
	9:00:00 PM	Colonie	Art Show Reception	All	
	10:00:00 PM	Troy	Improv storytelling panel	Spoor, Strock, Ventrella,* Sakers, Huston, Burroughs	An old Albacon favorite! Authors create stories from suggestions from the audience.

Saturday

Day	Time	Location	Subject	Panelists	Description
	10:00:00 AM	Troy	Fantasy from different cultures	Benedict, Mead, Sargent, Palmatier, Altabef*	Let's move beyond the European medieval model. What other cultures can be used? Is it an issue if people write about a culture not their own?
	10:00:00 AM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Arthen	
	10:00:00 AM	Colonie	Has military SF taken over the genre?	Ciaffone, Lee*, Macdonald, Hickman	The bookshelves in your local Barnes & Nobel are stuffed with military SF. What is the appeal of the subgenre? Will it continue to remain strong? Who are the authors to watch in the genre?
	10:30:00 AM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Cambias	
	11:00:00 AM	Lobby	Autographing	Cambias	
	11:00:00 AM	Colonie	The Berlantiverse: DC done right?	Sakers*, Fludd, Hammond, Vajra, Lieven	What makes their shows -- Supergirl, Flash, Arrow, Legends of Tomorrow -- while DC is struggling to make satisfying movies? Why do we like the shows so much?
	11:00:00 AM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Rothman	
	11:00:00 AM	Troy	Costuming/Cosplay 101	Hooper, Arrow, Connell*, Chowdhury, Atkinson	What is the difference? Are the two groups at odds, or do they complement each other?
	11:00:00 AM	Lobby	Autographing	Gannon	
	11:30:00 AM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Spoor	
	12:00:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Belilovsky	
	12:00:00 PM	Lobby	Autographing	Lee	
	12:00:00 PM	Colonie	Consolidate Terran Republic: Tech Brief 2120 & Tales	Gannon, Gannon*, Waters, Shvartsman, Schoen	
	12:00:00 PM	Troy	We're Off to See L. Frank Baum	Spoor*, Huston, Cambias, Rothman, Burroughs	An appreciation of the Oz books, movies, and TV adaptations.
	12:00:00 PM	Lobby	Autographing	Ventrella	
	12:30:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Ollerman	
	1:00:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Lee	

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	1:00:00 PM	Colonie	How NOT to get published	Shvartsman, Cohen, Reeve, Hammond*, Strock, Hansen	Mistakes to avoid.
	1:00:00 PM	Lobby	Autographing	Spoor	
	1:00:00 PM	Troy	Diversity in fantasy & SF	Vajra, Fludd, Mead, Sakers, Chowdhury, Palmatier*	How can we show more diversity in the genre?
	1:30:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Sakers	
	2:00:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Hammond	
	2:00:00 PM	Troy	Great but Forgotten SF	Vajra, Finegold, Cohen, Waters, Rothman*, Hickman	SF and fantasy works that deserve to be rediscovered.
	2:00:00 PM	Colonie	Guest of Honor Reading	Gannon	
	2:00:00 PM	Lobby	Autographing	Shvartsman	
	2:00:00 PM	Lobby	Autographing	Ollerman	
	2:30:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Burnside	
	3:00:00 PM	Troy	Games into fiction; Fiction into games	Calkins, Spoor, Ventrella*, Gannon	How does one format enhance the other?
	3:00:00 PM	Colonie	Guest of Honor: Fantasy Art of Stephen Hickman	Hickman	
	3:00:00 PM	Lobby	Autographing	Sargent	
	3:00:00 PM	Lobby	Autographing	Burroughs	
	3:00:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Schoen	
	3:30:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Shvartsman	
	4:00:00 PM	Lobby	Autographing	Delmater	
	4:00:00 PM	Troy	Beyond The Boob Window: Practical and Stylish Fighting Clothes For Your Intrepid Heroine	Fludd, Arrow, Ciaffone* Mead, Atkinson, Lee	Practical and stylish fighting clothes for your intrepid heroine.
	4:00:00 PM	Colonie	The Marvel Comics Universe	Silverman, Ollerman*, Vajra, Calkins	What are you looking forward to? Is the universe still working, or does it create problems of its own?
	4:00:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Waters	
	4:00:00 PM	Lobby	Autographing	Schoen	

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	4:30:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Finegold	
	5:00:00 PM	Colonie	Costume Judging	Arrow	
	5:00:00 PM	Lobby	Autographing	Altabef	
	5:00:00 PM	Lobby	Autographing	Sakers	
	5:00:00 PM	Troy	Hard science vs. Science Fiction	Belilovsky, Gannon*, Frederick, Benedict, Lieven	How close does SF have to hew to science fact.
	6:00:00 PM	Troy	Case Studies in Handwavium	Beall	traces the interplay between scientific discoveries/inventions and science fiction from Electricity through Atomic and onto the Alcubierre FTL drive, with over 50 slides and videos.
	6:00:00 PM	Troy	Reading	Willis	
	6:00:00 PM	Troy	The most influential games of all time	Cambias*, Lee, Spoor, Waters, Burnside	What games influenced gaming and even movies? As an author, what influenced you?
	8:00:00 PM	Colonie	100 Years of Dead Magicians	Macdonald	
	9:00:00 PM	Colonie	Charles Gannon Roast	Schoen*, Burnside, Shvartsman, Gannon, Silverman, Vandenberg	As part of our Saturday Night Extravaganza, we'll be doing a roast of Charles Gannon. If you'd like to take part, let us know.

Sunday

	10:00:00 AM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Silverman	
	10:00:00 AM	Colonie	Is "being realistic" overrated?	Gannon, Ciaffone*, Hansen, Beall	SF and fantasy are, by nature, unrealistic. Yet realism is king. Is an insistence on realism hurting storytelling? How much realism does a story need?
	10:00:00 AM	Troy	Twisted History	Hammond, Kauderer, Rothman*	Writing about alternate history and changing the meaning of historical events.
	10:30:00 AM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Ventrella	
	11:00:00 AM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Burroughs	

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	11:00:00 AM	Colonie	199 years of science fiction: An appreciation of Mary Shelley	Kauderer*, Cohen, Silverman, Fludd, Doyle, Hickman	2018 is the 200th anniversary of "Frankenstein," often cited as the first SF. Let's get a jump on things: does the character still resonate? Is it still relevant today? How might Shelley look at her creation?
	11:00:00 AM	Troy	Psyonics and other lost arts.	Ollerman*, Sakers, Lee, Hansen	What science fiction ideas have become passe? Which should be brought back?
	11:30:00 AM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Delmater	
	12:00:00 PM	Colonie	The Ethics Behind the Story	Gannon, Delmater*, Burroughs, Kauderer, Vajra	Moral dilemmas in SF & Fantasy
	12:00:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Altabef	
	12:00:00 PM	Troy	Mixing SF and Literary Fiction	Benedict, Sargent, Ciaffone, Fredrick, Doyle*, Hickman	How do you make SF more literary? Is this a good idea? How do you do it well? Examples?
	12:30:00 PM	Hotel Bar	Reading	Huston	
	1:00:00 PM	Troy	Saving The World After Fifty:	Delmater*, Fredrick, Rothman, Calkins, Burroughs	Are SF/Fantasy adventures a young hero's game?
	1:00:00 PM	Colonie	Medicine in SFF	Vajra, Huston, Belilovsky, Lee*, Altabef, Finegold	How do we depict the future of medicine? It it going to all be tricorders?