

Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS

Meeting #4506

Dec. 21, 2023

Scribe: Heath "Scribbles" Row

Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

- Artist Hubert Rogers (b. Dec. 21, 1898; d. May 12, 1982)
- Actor Samuel L. Jackson (b. Dec. 21, 1948)
- Actor and musician Kiefer Sutherland (b. Dec. 21, 1966)
- Actor Michelle Hurd (b. Dec. 21, 1966)

Dispatchings

- Actor James McCaffrey (b. March 27, 1958; d. Dec. 17, 2023)
- Actor and stuntman Kenpachiro Satsuma (b. May 27, 1947; d. Dec. 16, 2023)
- Writer, humorist, and journalist Dan Greenburg (b. June 20, 1936; d. Dec. 18, 2023)
- Guitarist, singer, and songwriter Bob Johnson (b. March 18, 1944; d. Dec. 15, 2023)

Media anniversary

60 years ago, *Doctor Who* first aired the serial "The Daleks" on Dec. 21, 1963. Also on this date in 1981, the last episode of *Blake's 7* aired. Two of the actors still alive, Sally Knyvette and Jan Chappell, will be at Gallifrey One in February.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Nov. 9 and Dec. 14, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

- Nov. 9: None
- Dec. 14: Nick Smith clarified that he'd also mentioned *1984*, which was released in 1985.
 - Charles Lee Jackson II offered additional commentary on the Disney two-finger point. He posted about it on the Disneyland Former Cast Members and Fans Facebook group and received about 200 responses.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Nov. 9: Debra Levin bid \$5, won, and named them "Grumble Mumble Grumble Mumble."

Dec. 14: Lyn Maners bid \$5, won, and named them "We Have Rain Predicted for the Next Two Nights in Tucson. Thank You, California."

Call for Approval

Nov. 9: Moved to accept as read, and approved.

Dec. 14: Moved to accept as amended, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Steve McGinty was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II. McGinty received three cheers.

Heide Nichols was celebrated and recognized by Cathy Johnson, Debra Levin, and Eylat Poliner. Nichols received three cheers.

Committee Reports

- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
 - Dec. 28: Loscon Retrospective
 - Poliner asked that the Dec. 28 program take place during Old Business.
 - Poliner volunteered to pay the dues for that meeting for anyone who can't pay their dues that week.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by CLJII's Christmas Carols, Confections, and Caprices.

(<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064562504969>)

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We have no guests tonight.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. It's creeping on to 2024. Yearly dues cost \$135.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

Michelle Pincus thanked outgoing board member Nick Smith for doing a good job. The next board meeting is Sunday, Jan. 14, at 11 a.m.

Old Business

Nick Smith has found the LASFS a meeting space. It's a meeting room with a small elevated stage for the president and scribe, chairs and tables, and Wi-Fi for the hybrid meeting. The space belongs to a theater organization, New Musicals Inc. (<https://nmi.org>), and is located at 5628 Vineland Ave. in North Hollywood. We have it reserved for Jan. 25 from 7:30-9:30 p.m., and if we like it, we can book future meetings there.

The location is within walking distance of public transportation, and there are multiple restaurants nearby for an aftermeeting. Members are encouraged to bring cash for the honor-box snacks on site as well as a Big Auction. There isn't a separate parking lot, but there should be street parking on Vineland.

The rental cost is about \$100 a meeting.
Members applauded Smith for finding the meeting location.

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

- Nick Smith
 - American Cinematheque at the Egyptian Theatre will screen *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World* on Friday. On Saturday, they'll show *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Batman Returns*, and *Die Hard*.
 - The New Beverly Cinema will screen *Prometheus* on Friday, *Arthur Christmas* on Saturday, *Die Hard* on Sunday, and the Marx Brothers' *A Night at the Opera* and *Go West* on Monday.
 - Vidiots plans to screen *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, *Elf*, and *Black Christmas*. On Sunday they'll show *The Wizard of Oz* and *Die Hard*. They're closed Monday. On Tuesday, they'll screen *Star Trek: First Contact*.
 - Landmark's Nuart Theatre will screen *Edward Scissorhands*.
- Scribbles announced that he will be out of town next week. Please record the Dec. 28, 2023, meeting.

Moments of Science

- Nick Smith: In 1859, an indigenous woolly dog named Mutton died, the last member of a Native American breed. His pelt was sent to the Smithsonian Institution, and only recently, scientists looked at its genetic information. The study of Mutton's gene structure is being used to find out why and how the breed died out.
(<https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/mutton-an-indigenous-woolly-dog-died-in-1859-new-analysis-confirms>)
- After debating whether he had time to do so, Lyn Maners shared two related stories. There's a signal of Australian aboriginal DNA that showed up in the Amazon. A precursor to those people who had that gene in between didn't pass those genes on. It wasn't a matter of close contact.
 - About 900,000 years ago, there was a genetic bottleneck among humans. The entire population of the ancestors of *Homo sapiens* was down to 1,280 individuals. That sounds like a tremendous bottleneck. That was based on sampling from sites largely in Africa, so it might have been that particular group's genetics, not the entire group of ancestors.

Regular Announcements

- Chris Marble went to see George Mulligan, who continues to get stronger. A day pass for Christmas is not a possibility, but perhaps in about four weeks.
 - Selina Phanara also says hello.

Reviews

- Nick Smith: *Immediate Family* is not technically a fannish film, but most of you have heard of the musicians that the movie is about. The band, the Immediate Family, might be the most famous band you don't think you know. They served as the backing band for many of the singer-songwriters from the 1970s; or interesting jazz, folk, or pop from the 1980s.
- Charles Lee Jackson II reviewed Amazon's new policy of only posting one review of a book instead of publishing all of the reviews. The review is: It sucks.
- Cathy and Dean Johnson went to the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures on Monday and found it pretty keen. They even have a science fiction section that screens lots of sf movies as well as space footage.
- Matthew B. Tepper has been enjoying watching *The Crown*.

Miscellaneous

- Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.
- Charles Lee Jackson II wished members a happy winter, which just started.

Call to Adjourn

Eylat Poliner so moved. That was seconded. The ayes had it.