

2025 HEROES CONVENTION PANEL SCHEDULE*

FRIDAY

12:00 PM

Room 204

COSPLAY: BASIC PUPPET MAKING TECHNIQUES

Hands-on workshop by **Cher Lambeth**, Former Puppet Builder at The Jim Henson Company. Capped at 20; supplies available on the spot for \$6.

12:30 PM.

Room 201

PODCASTING 101

Discover the how's and why's of podcasting. Get tips on equipment, improving your on-mic performance, promotion, and more with a panel of veteran podcasters, **Darrin and Ruth Sutherland** (*Trekker Talk*), **Steve Bird**, (*Marvel Reread Club*) **Brad and Lisa Gullickson** (*Comic Book Couples Counseling*) and moderator **Terence Dollard**, a Mass Comm professor and host of PBS's *Comic Culture*.

12:30 PM

Room 207AB

REMEMBERING MARTIN NODELL - CREATOR OF GREEN LANTERN

Join **Spence Nodell** to hear the history of his father, **Martin Nodell** and how he created the *Green Lantern*. He'll also share some original artwork of Martin's, and host a Q&A session.

1:00 PM

ROOM 208

APPALACHIA COMICS PROJECT

The Appalachia Comics Project (ACP) is an initiative formed by local and national comic and graphic novel creators to (1) create a nonfiction graphic history of the Hurricane Helene disaster in southern Appalachia, and (2) work toward a self-sustaining comics publishing initiative that creates comics works for, from, and about Appalachia.

So far, ACP has paired more than a dozen local survivors with renowned comic creators like Brian Michael Bendis, Gene Luen Yang, Matt Fraction, and others to create 'Islands in the Sky' as a monument to the storm that changed everything. Harrowing, inspiring, humorous, and tragic--this history is being brought to life in comics to create a first-hand account of what really happened by those that lived it. Join **Andrew Aydin** (*March/Run*), **Jonathan Marks Barravechia** (*Bear Pirate Viking Queen*), and **Chris Sparks** (*Team Cul De Sac*) for insights and updates as we launch the kickstarter campaign to fund this momentous work and begin the work of giving voice to Appalachia through comics.

1:00 PM

Room 204

COSPLAY: BASIC LEATHERWORKING WORKSHOP I: MAKE YOUR OWN CUFF

A walk through of the basics of leatherwork led by the designers at **Ribbons and Rivets**. Participants will be instructed on how to edge, burnish, dye, seal, and decorate their very own wrist cuff and leave with a finished product. All tools and materials will be provided, just bring a pair of hands. Participation fee is \$20 (capped at 30 participants). Run Time: 2 hours.

1:00 PM

**Panels and their participants are subject to change*

2025 HEROES CONVENTION PANEL SCHEDULE*

Room 206

STAR WARS DRAWS

This year Star Wars cartoonist **Jamie Cosley** is going to show you how to create your own Jedi or Sith character! It's going to be so much fun! Plus, learn the "secret password" so you can receive a free sketch from Jedi Jamie! Let's all draw together Friday, Saturday, and Sunday! May the force be with you!

1:00 PM

Room 207CD

COMICS EDITING 101

Legendary comic editor **Shelly Bond** will demystify the role of the comic book editor and level up your comics-making game. For indie, DIY creatives and small press/corporate editors alike. Ripped directly from Bond's *Filth & Grammar: The Comic Book Editor's (Secret) Handbook*, the first and only guide to editing comics by an editor with over three decades of red ink on her hands working with luminaries including Grant Morrison, Gail Simone, Mark Buckingham and more.

1:30 PM

Room 209EF

COPRA'S LAST ROUND WITH MICHEL FIFFE!

Fifty issues in twelve years have brought us to this -- **Michel Fiffe**'s hard-hitting and mind-rattling indie superhero series COPRA is ending, and we're here to give it the goodbye it deserves! Moderator **Greg Matiasovich** (*ROBOTS FROM TOMORROW*) aims to have Fiffe both examine AND bury the series that mashed 1980's mainstream action with 00's indie experimentation. Personal files will be unlocked, secrets decoded, artwork revealed, decisions interrogated, and much more. Come join us as we give these mercenary misfits a proper sendoff in true HeroesCon fashion!

2:00 PM

Room 201

SCAD I: DYNAMIC FIGURE DRAWING!!

SCAD Professor **Dove McHargue**, artist for Star Wars, Marvel, and the Oni

Press book *All Saints Day*, will demonstrate how to use real world anatomy to create dynamic figures that breath life and emotion to visual storytelling from concept art, illustration, storyboarding, comics and beyond! Bring supplies to draw with and on and prepare to have fun!

2:00 PM

Room 208

FANTASTIC FOUR THROUGH THE YEARS

Are you excited about the new *Fantastic Four* movie? So are we! Join your host, **Badr Milligan** (*The Short Box: A Comic Book Podcast*) as he hosts a panel celebrating Marvel's First Family, with four comic creators who know a thing or two about the FF: **Tom Scioli**, **Paul Pelletier**, **Tom DeFalco**, and **Mark Buckingham**.

2:30 PM

Room 207AB

HEROES' PRIDE

Let's celebrate LGBTQIA+ comics creators and characters! We'll talk about queer joy, representation, and subtext with panelists **Kayla E.** (*Precious Rubbish*), **Sarah Myer** (*Monstrous*, *TMNT*), **Jarrett Melendez** (*Chef's Kiss*), and **Mayday Trippe** (*Something Terrible*). Moderated by librarian **Jennie Law**.

2:30 PM

**Panels and their participants are subject to change*

2025 HEROES CONVENTION PANEL SCHEDULE*

Room 207CD

COLLECTING ORIGINAL COMIC ART

Interested in pursuing original comic art but don't know how to get started? **Aaron Sultan** and **Dewey Cassell** lead **Frank Giella**, **Dave Wilkins**, **Benno Rothschild**, and **Tyler Turner** in a discussion on how they built their collections. They'll discuss uncovering grails; getting commissions from favorite artists; pursuing complete stories and issues; and tips for getting that special piece right here at HeroesCon! There will even be a slideshow of original art from greats like Jack Kirby, John Romita, Gene Colan, Herb Trimpe, Marie Severin, John and Sal Buscema, Carmine Infantino, George Tuska and more!

3:00-4:00 PM

COSPLAY MASQUERADE REGISTRATION

(COSPLAY STAGE - MAIN CON FLOOR, CAPPED AT 50 PARTICIPANTS)

3:00 PM

Room 206

QUICK DRAW—A HEROESCON TRADITION

Sit and sketch anything you want for 20 minutes for a chance to win amazing prizes! Drawing paper and #2 pencils await you. Our fantastic friends and art instructors SCAD will judge the drawings and award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the following age categories: 10 and under, 11-15, and 16 and up. Bring your imagination and inspiration!

3:00 PM

Room 209EF

INDIE ISLAND 20th ANNIVERSARY PANEL

2025 marks twenty years of Indie Island here at HeroesCon. Join AdHouse Books publisher **Chris Pitzer**, as he sits down with **Dustin Harbin** and **J. Chris Campbell**, who between them came up with the idea of Indie Island, the creamy center of the HeroesCon chocolatey treat! There are sure to be some guest panelists joining to talk about the ins and outs of a small press section at a big superhero show, as well!

3:30

Room 201

SCAD II: CONCEPT ART AND WORLD BUILDING TECHNIQUES FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

Prof. **Robert Atkins**, SCAD Professor, artist and illustrator, will talk about the philosophy of world building, and how to ask the right questions and create designs with your visual answers. Having used these practices in 20 years of comic illustration, toy design, and video game concept art, he will demonstrate a precise method of how to add details to your character designs as well as creatures, props, vehicles and backgrounds.

4:00 PM

Room 207AB

KIDS MAKING COMICS

This panel features a live iPad drawing demonstration by young comic artist **Micah Williams** while he and his mom, writer **Stephanie Williams**, discuss the comic creation process for young artists. The session also provides guidance for parents on how to nurture and support their children's interest in making comics.

4:00 PM

**Panels and their participants are subject to change*

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Room 207CD

BRANDING YOURSELF: IDENTITY DESIGN FOR ARTISTS & INDEPENDENT CREATORS

As con-goers aspire to exhibit their own art in increasingly crowded artist alleys, the competition for attention is fiercer than ever. **Sunny Sponder** will share insights as an indie artist and former advertising creative director, discussing essential principles of identity design, branding, and how to apply them to showcase your artwork. This panel is designed for artists and independent creators who want to learn how to create a unique personal brand that stands out and connects with their audience.

4:00 PM

Room 208

ARCHIE'S ERAS: AN HOUR WITH DAN PARENT

Artist and writer **Dan Parent** has significantly impacted Archie Comics over the years. Join us for a conversation about his creation of Kevin Keller, Archie's first gay character; his contributions to the many variations of the Archie universe; and other career highlights. Moderated by Archie mega fan and librarian **Jennie Law**.

4:00 PM

Room 209EF

WRITING ACROSS COMMUNITIES

How do writers approach writing characters in communities they may not be a part of? From research, immersion in those communities, and keeping the boundaries in view at all times, it can be a tricky path. Join *Girls With Slingshots* creator **Danielle Corsetto** as she sits down with **Craig Thompson** (*Habibi*, *Blankets*) and other creators for this talk about empathy, boundaries, and inclusion in storytelling.

4:00 PM

FRIDAY COSPLAY MASQUERADE HOSTED BY AMBERLE LINNEA (COSPLAY STAGE - MAIN CON FLOOR)

5:00 PM

Room 201

MOJO PRESENTS: X-MEN IMPROV

The first age of Krakoa may be over, but X-Men Improv never dies! Join us for an unpredictable comedy show inspired by the comics, cartoons and movies you love plus suggestions from you, the audience. With your players: **Jessica Swanson**, **Max Karr**, **Jackson Holloman** and **Scott Correll**. **THIS PANEL IS FOR A MATURE AUDIENCE ONLY 18+**

5:00 PM

Room 204

COSPLAY: BASIC LEATHERWORKING WORKSHOP II: MAKE YOUR OWN COLLAR

A walk through of the basics of leatherwork led by the designers at **Ribbons and Rivets**. Participants will be instructed on how to edge, burnish, dye, seal, and decorate their very own collar and leave with a finished product. All tools and materials will be provided, just bring a pair of hands. Participation fee is \$20. Run Time: 2 hours.

5:00 PM

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Room 206

SHAKESPEARE, OUR COMIC BOOK CONTEMPORARY

What debt do comic books owe to the Bard, William Freaking Shakespeare himself?

Other than some of the greatest plotlines in the history of literature of course?

Zyg Furmaniuk, the playwright of *MODOK Macbeth* looks at the tropes and devices of Willy Shakes as they've been passed into comics, and examines the deep connection between Marvel's MCU and Shakespeare's MCU (Monarch Continuous Unity).

5:00 PM

Room 207CD

"WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MY COOL STUFF?" TIPS ON PREPARING YOUR COMICS, VINYL, and other COLLECTIBLES FOR YOUR BELOVED HEIRS

You loved collectibles all your life, but eventually, they'll be inherited by someone else. Who gets your stuff, and how will they know what to do with it? Join professors **Tom Eyssell** (UMSL), **Daniel Yezbick** (Wildwood College), and **J. Richard Stevens** (U Colorado-Boulder), dealers **David L. Schmidt** (All American Collectibles) and **Jake Kemp** (Dead Wax), and Archivist **Andrea Degener** (Washington University) for an introduction to strategic planning for bequeathing, liquidating, or donating your collection. They'll discuss current markets, high end collections, special cases, and pedigrees as well as recommendations for dealing with inherited items.

5:00 PM

Room 209EF

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN WORKMAN... A LIFE IN COMICS

We LOVE YOU **John Workman**! Everyone knows John as a letterer, but a few know him as an illustrator, designer, art director and story teller. Moderator **Chris Pitzer** sits down with Workman and all of the lucky attendees to share some great stories and add a few more. And before we forget... HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

5:30 PM

Room 207AB

PRINCE VALIANT

Since its creation in 1937 by Hal Foster, *Prince Valiant* has been among the true masterpieces of comics, setting the standard other dramatic strips have strived to achieve. Its current stewards, **Mark Schultz** and **Gary Gianni**, have ably upheld the high standards set by their predecessors, with writing and art that masterfully evokes the grandeur of the era. Join **Tom Heintjes** as he interviews the creators about their work on the strip, what it's like to follow in the footsteps of cartooning giants, and how they find inspiration in a time when newspaper comics face unprecedented challenges.

5:30 PM

Room 208

ALEX TOTH: A CELEBRATION

Join moderator **John Hitchcock** (*Dear John: The Alex Toth Doodle Book*) in conversation with **Mike Allred** (*Madman*) as they celebrate the ups and downs of their friend and inspiration, the legendary artist Alex Toth.

7:00 PM – THE CON IS CLOSED FOR THE DAY, BUT THE FUN CONTINUES!

8:00 PM – THE HEROESCON DRINK AND DRAW BEGINS ACROSS THE STREET IN THE PROVIDENCE BALLROOM AT THE WESTIN

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2025 HEROES CONVENTION PANEL SCHEDULE*

AT OUR ANNUAL DRINK AND DRAW YOU CAN CREATE AND BUY SOME GREAT GREAT AND HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR TEAM CUL DE SAC AND PARKINSON'S RESEARCH!

SATURDAY

11:00 AM

Room 201

SCAD III: PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE - FROM BASICS TO DIGITAL TOOLS

John Lowe, SCAD professor and artist for DC Comics, Marvel, Image, Archie, and Dark Horse Comics, will help participants understand how to apply traditional perspective principles (1-, 2-, and 3-point), learn how to integrate those principles using Clip Studio Paint's perspective tools, and empower them to build environments and scenes with confidence and efficiency.

11:00 AM

Room 204

COSPLAY TO DRAG: AN INTRO TO CHARACTER PERFORMANCE

Attendees will learn how to incorporate music, makeup, and storytelling to create a fully conceptualized masquerade piece or drag number. Panel is led by Carolina Creepshow Ghoulish School Winner **Liam Laughlin**, Co-Founder of Crown Kings of Charlotte **Will Charmer**, **Mr. Charlotte Pride Oso Chanel**, and **Vincent Sational**. **THIS PANEL IS FOR A MATURE AUDIENCE 18+ only**

11:00 AM

Room 207AB

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS' 150TH BIRTHDAY

TARZAN AND JOHN CARTER: EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS' IMPACT ON POPULAR CULTURE

Edgar Rice Burroughs introduced his iconic characters, John Carter of Mars and Tarzan of the Apes in 1912. The Tarzan and Mars novels have had a profound impact on 20th-century imaginative fiction and popular culture. Join us to discuss why Burroughs' stories and characters have endured, and how they continue to compete in current and future markets. Featuring legendary creators **Roy Thomas**, **Mark Schultz**, **Gary Gianni**, and moderator **Henry G. Franke III**, Editor of the Burroughs Bibliophiles. At the end of the panel, artist William Stout will be presented the Golden Lion Award by The Burroughs Bibliophiles literary society.

11:00 AM

Room 208

QUICK SKETCH! WITH JOSE LUIS GARCIA-LOPEZ, KEVIN NOWLAN, PAUL PELLETIER, AND BILL MORRISON

Join these legendary artists as they talk and draw – LIVE! Here's your chance to watch and learn from these greats as they sketch some of your favorite characters and answer your questions. Plus, a free raffle for attendees to have the chance to win one of these sketches! Moderated by ringmaster **Fred Chamberlain**.

**Panels and their participants are subject to change*

2025 HEROES CONVENTION PANEL SCHEDULE*

11:30 AM

Room 207CD

FORGOTTEN HEROES: THE UNSUNG STORY OF THE JAPANESE-AMERICAN 442nd REGIMENT IN COMICS

Step into history with artist and creator **Tony Moy** for a powerful presentation on the untold heroism of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) and the making of his watercolor comic, *4Forty2nd: The Lost Battalion*. Through striking visuals and firsthand research, Tony will weave together art, history, and personal reflection to illuminate the Japanese American experience during World War II—from the injustice of internment camps to the battlefield sacrifices of the 442nd, the most decorated unit in U.S. military history.

12:00 PM

Room 204

COSPLAY: STAR WARS COSTUMING WITH THE 501st LEGION, THE REBEL LEGION, and the MANDO MERCS

Have you ever wondered what it takes to put together a costume from the Star Wars universe? Join members of the three largest Star Wars costuming groups—the 501st Legion, the Rebel Legion, and the Mando Mercs—as they discuss how to put together a costume of your favorite Star Wars characters! Showing real-life costumes, the panel will provide information on choosing a costume/character to suit your style, and where to find materials and resources to help guide your journey on becoming a character from a galaxy far, far away!

12:00 PM

Room 206

STAR WARS DRAWS

This year Star Wars cartoonist **Jamie Cosley** is going to show you how to create your own Jedi or Sith character! It's going to be so much fun! Plus, learn the "secret password" so you can receive a free sketch from Jedi Jamie! Let's all draw together Friday, Saturday, and Sunday! May the force be with you!

12:00 PM

Room 209EF

KEITH KNIGHT IN CONVERSATION WITH de'ANGELO DIA

Indie comics legend **Keith Knight** has been chronicling life in America since the early 90's, in *The K Chronicles* and *th(ink)*, and on television as the creator of *Woke*. Local spoken word artist **de'Angelo Dia** sits down to talk about Keith's body of work, creating art in troubled times, and ups and downs of success in the small press and on the small screen.

12:30 PM

Room 201

SCAD IV: AN INTRODUCTION TO STORYBOARDS

with SCAD Professor, storyboard artist, and illustrator **Ray Goto**.

Storyboards are a great way to communicate an idea, allowing everyone on your team to have the same vision. This workshop will be an introduction to visual storytelling. Storyboards save time and money and help prevent mistakes on your production. Open to all skill levels.

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12:30 PM

Room 207AB

MAPPING WAKANDA WITH DON MCGREGOR

In 1973, an untested writer was given the chance to write a solo series about a marginal character who'd debuted with a splash in *Fantastic Four* but soon faded into the background of the Marvel universe as a guest star and a second-string member of the Avengers. In "Panther's Rage," a two-year storyline in the awkwardly-titled *Jungle Action*, **Don McGregor** changed all that, redefining the Black Panther as a complex, powerful character and mapping Wakanda for the first time, in the first Marvel series to feature an almost entirely Black cast. Return to Wakanda with McGregor and **Professor Mike Kobre** as they talk about the acclaimed writer's work on *Black Panther*, as well as *Killraven*, and other series.

12:30 PM

Room 207CD

COVER ARTISTS SPOTLIGHT

Sit down with a veritable who's who of comics' most innovative cover artists as *Comic Culture*'s **Terence Dollard** talks with **Jenny Frison**, **J. Gonzo**, **Maria Wolf**, **John Giang**, and **Jeffrey Alan Love** about how they approach their work and bring their inimitable styles to classic characters from every corner of comics.

1:30 PM

Room 201

DISABILITY IN COMICS

A discussion with comic writer **Stephanie Williams** and disability advocate **Vilissa Thompson** about disability representation in the comics industry. Together, they examine both disabled characters in comics and the experiences of creators with disabilities working in the field.

1:30 PM

Room 204

COSPLAY: BASIC ARMOR PATTERNING

Come see how the process of armor making begins as the designers at **Ribbons and Rivets** lead participants through making their own bracer pattern that can later be transferred to foam, plastic, or leather. Participants will also learn about seam allowances, rigid crafting mediums, and adhesion methods. All tools and materials are provided for this free workshop, just bring a pair of hands. Run time: 1.5 hours.

1:30 PM

Room 208

CHRIS CLAREMONT AND ART ADAMS IN CONVERSATION

Join moderator **Brian Martin** as he sits down with living legends **Chris Claremont** and **Art Adams** to discuss their classic work on *X-men* and countless other titles over the years.

2:00 PM

Room 207AB

AMY CHU AND JOE KELLY: WRITING ACROSS MEDIUMS

Writers **Amy Chu** (*DOTA: Dragon's Blood*, *Carmilla: The First Vampire*) and **Joe Kelly** (*I Kill Giants*, *Sonic Prime*, *Big Hero 6*, *Ben 10*) talk about the differences in writing for each medium and what it takes to break in and stay in the industry.

**Panels and their participants are subject to change*

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2:00 PM

Room 209EF

HOW TO MAKE COMICS WHEN YOU'RE A KID

Cartoonist and stand-up comic **Doogie Horner** will deliver a multimedia presentation on how he approaches drawing a middle-grade graphic novel, plus clear demonstrations of the five most important elements of visual storytelling—elements that kids can use to create their own comics! Ideal for ages 7-14.

2:30 PM

Room 207CD

THE HERO'S JOURNEY: MYTHS, MOTIVES & MODERN TWISTS

At HeroesCon, where craft is king and storytelling reigns, what better place to explore one of the most recognizable storytelling frameworks in modern fiction—the Hero's Journey? Join our panel of acclaimed creators as they share their unique perspectives on the Hero's Journey as a storytelling device. Join **Pierre-Alexandre Comtois** (*Sunder*), **Dave Chisholm** (*Spectrum*), **Jimmy Palmiotti** (*Pop Kill*), **Justin Jordan** (*Breaklands*), and **Tommy Lee Edwards** (*Gatchman*) for a deep dive into how the journey still shapes the stories we love—and the ones we're just beginning to tell. Moderated by editor **Chas Pangbur**.

3:00 PM

Room 201

THE ART OF CURATING ANTHOLOGIES & CROWDFUNDING

Shelly Bond has successfully crowdfunded over a dozen original graphic novels via crowdfunding through Off Register Press, a boutique Comics Lab that she runs with her husband, Philip Bond. Learn Shelly's tips and tricks for assembling memorable anthologies including her Eisner Award-nominated *Femme Magnifique: 50 Magnificent Women Who Changed The World*, *Heavy Rotation*, and *Hey, Amateur!* and how to build and maintain a loyal, crowdfunding audience.

3:00 PM

Room 206

QUICK DRAW—A HEROESCON TRADITION

Sit and sketch anything you want for 20 minutes for a chance to win amazing prizes! Drawing paper and #2 pencils await you. Our fantastic friends and art instructors SCAD will judge the drawings and award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the following age categories: 10 and under, 11-15, and 16 and up. Bring your imagination and inspiration!

3:00 PM

Room 208

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ALLREDS

Michael and **Laura Allred** took comics by storm with indie comic *Madman*, Mike's journey into pop culture and existentialism that popped with Laura's inimitable coloring, and have since brought their distinctive visuals to all the publishers. Allred biographer **Christopher Irving** talks with Mike and Laura about everything from *Madman* to *X-Force*, *iZombie*, *Silver Surfer*, *Superman: the Silver Age*, *Welcome to Twilight*, and more!

**Panels and their participants are subject to change*

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3:00 PM

Room 209EF

SPOTLIGHT ON KAYLA E.

Kayla E.'s breakout memoir graphic novel *Precious Rubbish* is a brilliant and shockingly skilled debut. Kayla sits down with poet **de'Angelo Dia** to talk about the book, portraying trauma in art, and her work as an Eisner-nominated book designer.

3:00-4:00 PM

COSPLAY MASQUERADE REGISTRATION

(COSPLAY STAGE - MAIN CON FLOOR, CAPPED AT 50 PARTICIPANTS)

3:30 PM

Room 207AB

HERO/COMPLEX: WHAT COMICS TEACH US ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH, INCLUSION, and BELONGING

Comics have always done more than entertain—they help us see ourselves, heal, and imagine new possibilities. **Dr. Felix Morton** explores how the emotional journey of beloved characters across comics mirror real-life experiences with identity, trauma, resilience, and the need to belong. He'll unpack how comics can offer powerful lessons about mental health and create space for fans to feel seen, understood, and empowered. Join us for an engaging, thoughtful conversation about how the stories we love help us make sense of our own—and remind us that healing and heroism often go hand in hand.

4:00 PM

Room 207CD

JOHN ROMITA, JR. SPOTLIGHT

Few artists have been as influential across multiple decades and properties as **John Romita, Jr.** Join Heroes' **Jason Wheatley** as he sits down to discuss the many classic moments from Romita's career, what's next in his extensive body of work, and the immeasurable legacy of the Romita family.

4:00 PM

SATURDAY COSPLAY MASQUERADE HOSTED BY KALLISTE COSPLAY

(COSPLAY STAGE - MAIN CON FLOOR)

4:30 PM

Room 201

VISUAL STORYTELLING PRINCIPLES & TECHNIQUES FOR COMICS

Join **Carl Potts** (Professor and former executive editor, artist and writer for Marvel Comics) for a comprehensive overview of the principles and techniques at the heart of comics. Based in part on his book, "The DC Comics Guide to Creating Comics: Inside the Art of Visual Storytelling," this presentation is sure to enlighten fans, writers and artists alike.

4:30 PM

Room 208

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON AND NICK DRAGOTTA!

It's a HeroesCon tradition on our panel schedule each year to bring the best and brightest artists together on stage to share insights and stories with their fans. Join best-selling, powerhouse artists **Daniel Warren Johnson** (*Transformers*) and **Nick Dragotta** (*Absolute Batman*), along with Felix Comic Arts' own **Felix**

**Panels and their participants are subject to change*

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Lu, as they talk about how they continue to push the comics marketplace to new heights, while still creating always-inspiring new work in their various projects.

4:30 PM

Room 209EF

LIVE PODCAST SHOW: 'THE SHORT BOX' & 'COMICS ARE DOPE' CROSSOVER

Two fan-favorite comic podcasts will meet in-person for the first time on Saturday: **The Short Box: A Comic Book Podcast** and **Comics Are Dope**, and to celebrate, they're recording a live crossover episode about the best comics of the year (so far!), with plenty of other surprises!

5:00 PM

Room 207AB

INDIE WORLD BUILDING FROM SCRATCH

Explore the boundless creativity of indie creators as they develop captivating worlds without the constraints of established universes. Join **J Chris Campbell** in a discussion with **Andy Runton** (*Owly*), **Joey Weiser** (*The Littlest Fighter*), **Jason Horn** (*Settle*) and **Jeremy Brooks** (*The Loon*). They will talk about the inspirations, processes, and visions building entirely new universes from the ground up.

6:00 PM – CONVENTION FLOOR CLOSES

HEAD ACROSS THE STREET TO THE GRAND BALLROOM AT THE WESTIN FOR OUR ANNUAL HEROESCON ART AUCTION!

BIDDING BEGINS AT 8 PM, BUT GET THERE EARLY TO SEE ALL OF THE INCREDIBLE ART BEFOREHAND!

SUNDAY

12:00 PM

Room 201

SCAD V: CHARACTER DESIGN

Join SCAD professor, comic artist, and fantasy author **Will O'Donnell** for a hands-on character design workshop built for aspiring comic creators, animators, game designers, and storytellers of all kinds. You'll start by developing a unique character from the inside out—exploring their physical traits, psychological depth, and backstory. Then, bring your creation to life through a concept art sheet, including turnarounds, expressive heads, props, and more. This fun, fast-paced session will spark your creativity and help you build characters that practically leap off the page. All ages and experience levels are welcome!

12:00 PM

Room 206

STAR WARS DRAWS

This year Star Wars cartoonist **Jamie Cosley** is going to show you how to create your own Jedi or Sith character! It's going to be so much fun! Plus, learn the "secret password" so you can receive a free sketch from Jedi Jamie! Let's all draw together Friday, Saturday, and Sunday! May the force be with you!

12:00 PM

Room 208

JIM SHOOTER SPOTLIGHT

From beginning his comic career as a writer on *Legion of Super Heroes* for DC Comics at age 13, to being Marvel Comics Editor-in-Chief during monumental stories like Claremont and Byrne's *X-men*, Miller's *Daredevil*, and *Secret Wars*, **Jim Shooter** influenced some of the most significant moments in

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comics over the past 60 years. Join **Andy Kunka** in conversation with Jim about the many milestones in his storied career.

12:30 PM

Room 207CD

PAGE AND PANEL CONSTRUCTION IN COMICS

Four of comics' most dynamic artists and designers convene to discuss the versatile methods of how they bring their work to life on a page. **Tradd Moore** (*Doctor Strange: Fall Sunrise*), **Kayla E.** (*Precious Rubbish*), **Michel Fiffe** (*Copra*), and **Jesse Lonergan** (*Hedra*) join professor **Aaron Kashtan** for this varied discussion on the craft of comics.

1:00 PM

Room 207AB

BITTER ROOT: THE NEXT MOVEMENT

Multiple Eisner Award-winning artist **Sanford Greene** and his *Bitter Root* editor, **Shelly Bond**, talk comics history, 80s DJs, and the ultimate comic book party experience that is *Bitter Root: The Next Movement*. Go-Go boots optional.

1:00 PM

Room 209EF

WRITING CLEVER COMICS FOR YOUNGER READERS

More and more indie cartoonists are finding work writing and drawing books for younger readers. What are the differences between writing "small press" comics and writing stories for younger readers? Join **Doogie Horner**, **Drew Weing**, **Ben Sears** and **Mason Dickerson** for a rollicking conversation about keeping kids' stories fun.

1:30 PM

Room 206

THE BIG OWLY HOOTENANNY RETURNS!

Join *Owly* creator **Andy Runton** and librarian **Jennie Law** for the triumphant return of the BIG OWLY HOOTENANNY! We'll sing, learn how to draw like a cartoonist, make some comics, do crafts, and have an absolutely amazing time! All ages welcome. You don't have to be a kid to join in the fun, just young at heart!

1:30 PM

Room 207CD

MARVEL EDITORS ANNUAL ROUNDUP

A HeroesCon tradition! Hear great stories from some of the most influential editors in comics' history, as **Tom DeFalco**, **Danny Fingeroth**, **Terry Kavanagh**, **Ralph Macchio**, **Al Milgrom**, **Carl Potts** sit down with local writer **de'Angelo Dia** to discuss the many highlights from their varied careers.

1:30 PM

Room 208

GERRY CONWAY SPOTLIGHT

From Power Girl to the Punisher, Ms. Marvel to Firestorm, and countless other memorable characters and stories, Gerry Conway's mark on comics is unmatched. Welcome Mr. Conway to his very first HeroesCon appearance, and enjoy this career-spanning conversation with **Andy Kunka**.

2:00-3:00 PM

**Panels and their participants are subject to change*

2025 HEROES CONVENTION PANEL SCHEDULE*

COSPLAY MASQUERADE REGISTRATION

(COSPLAY STAGE - MAIN CON FLOOR, CAPPED AT 50 PARTICIPANTS)

2:00 PM

Room 201

FRANK FRAZETTA FANS—THIS ONE’S FOR YOU!

Join **Sara Frazetta** (Frazetta Girls), comic historian **Michael Finn**, illustrator **Mark Schultz** (*Xenozoic Tales*) and artist/designer **Steve Conley** as they unveil the untold story of how “Fritz” Frazzetta—with two z’s and two t’s—became the legendary fantasy artist we now know as FRAZETTA. This panel dives into Frank’s early life, his love of baseball, his comic book beginnings, and the artistic mentors who shaped him: Professor Michele Falanga, his decorated fine arts teacher, and John Giunta, his first comics collaborator. You’ll also get a behind-the-scenes look at their new book *Becoming Frazetta*, including never-before-seen art that charts Frank’s incredible evolution.

2:00 PM

Room 209EF

SKOTTIE YOUNG SPOTLIGHT!

You guys know how this goes... Skottie comes in and hasn’t prepared anything and fills an hour with off the cuff stories. So PLEASE bring your questions and musings about baby covers, Skottie’s BIG Marvel event, *Ain’t No Grave*, the new arc of *I Hate Fairyland* and every other major accomplishment that’s happened over the last year. You’ll want to grab a seat because *Stupid Fresh Mess* is bringing an exclusive print to the panel (one per person while supplies last)!

3:00 PM

SUNDAY COSPLAY MASQUERADE HOSTED BY AMBERLE LINNEA

(COSPLAY STAGE - MAIN CON FLOOR)

3:00 PM

Room 206

QUICK DRAW—A HEROESCON TRADITION

Sit and sketch anything you want for 20 minutes for a chance to win amazing prizes! Drawing paper and #2 pencils await you. Our fantastic friends and art instructors SCAD will judge the drawings and award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the following age categories: 10 and under, 11-15, and 16 and up. Bring your imagination and inspiration!

3:00 PM

Room 207AB

BUTCH GUICE MEMORIAL PANEL

Comics sadly lost some luminary talents in recent weeks. **Butch Guice** was not only an inspiring artist on countless titles over the years (*Micronauts*, *Flash*, *Action Comics*, *Winter Soldier* and more), but also a friend of HeroesCon stretching back to the very first one back in 1982. Join HeroesCon founder **Shelton Drum**, along with several of Butch’s friends and contemporaries, **Pat Broderick**, **Bob McLeod**, **Al Milgrom**, **Chris Sparks**, **Henry Vogel**, and **Rick Davis** as they reminisce about memories of Guice’s timeless contributions to comics. They’ll also discuss the impact of another old friend of HeroesCon, the late **Peter David**, whose classic work influenced comics storytelling for generations.

**Panels and their participants are subject to change*

2025 HEROES CONVENTION PANEL SCHEDULE*

3:00 PM

Room 207CD

IT'S ALL RELATED

Join comic writer **Stephanie Williams** as she explores unexpected connections between various nerdy media properties, featuring her unique theories like how Halle Berry's *B.A.P.S.* character is secretly pre-X-Men Storm or how Josie and Jean Grey share Phoenix Force connections. The panel offers insight into Stephanie's creative process and how these pop culture tangents inspire their comic work, particularly *Living Heroes*.

3:00 PM

Room 208

A SUPERMAN RETROSPECTIVE

It's a big year for the Man of Steel. With the character back in the spotlight in an upcoming new film, we're happy to shine a spotlight on some of the great creators who left a lasting mark on the comics. Join **Chris Brenneman** in conversation with a dream team of Superman creators over the years, **Dan Jurgens**, **Brett Breeding** and **Ron Frenz**, and hear about their memorable times working with the character.

3:00 PM

Room 209EF

WHAT PEN IS THAT? HOW MUCH DO TOOLS MATTER ANYWAY?

Dustin Harbin sits down with **Natalie Andrewson**, **Danielle Corsetto**, **Jim Rugg** and **Drew Weing** to discuss how important—or unimportant—the tools indie creators use to make comics are. There is sure to be at least one fight over which is best: pen or brush or stylus?? The answer is of course: whichever works for you!

6:00 PM

CONVENTION ENDS!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR FOR HEROESCON 2026!

**Panels and their participants are subject to change*