



By Reclamation of The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
The Prism Comics Table
 (Traveling Headquarters of those Stalwart Champions in the Never-Ending Battle for Truth, Justice and Exceptional Graphic Storytelling) is hereby proclaimed a
Sacred Sanctuary
 May you Promulgate Universal Joy and Expunge Stigmatic Bull in all your Manifestations
 This ordination rendered with love at the San Diego Comic Book Convention of Twenty-Two in the presence of the Community and The Order of The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.
 Sister Wina Siniforts
 Sister Freda Desire
 (Daughters of Saint Billie-Jo-Camp)





PRISM COMICS LGBTQ+ GUIDE TO COMIC-CON 2023

Compiled and Written by Andy Mangels

Designed by Ted Abenheim

CREATOR SIGNINGS AT THE PRISM COMICS BOOTH 2144

Please check at the Booth daily for updates / Openly LGBTQ+ creators appear in **BOLD** type

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

6 – 7 pm – Jeff Krell

7 – 8 pm – Max Spragovsky

THURSDAY, JULY 20

10 - 11 am – Tilly Bridges

12 – 1 pm – Jeff Krell

1 – 2 pm – Sonya Saturday

2 – 3 pm – A.C. Esguerra

3 – 4 pm – Brandon T. Snider

4 – 5 pm – Jake O’Kelly

5 – 6 pm – Ameen Beydoun

6 – 7 pm – Tara Madison Avery

FRIDAY, JULY 21

10 - 11 am – Jeff Krell, Jake O’Kelly

11 am - 12 pm – Tim Sheridan

12 – 1 pm – Cort Lane, Vincent Roth (**Surge of Power**)

1 – 2 pm – P. Craig Russell, Brandon T. Snider

2 – 3 pm – Jack Foster, Sonya Saturday

3 – 4 pm – A.C. Esguerra

4 – 5 pm – Max Spragovsky

5 – 6 pm – Ameen Beydoun, Adam Sass

6 – 7 pm – Tara Madison Avery

SATURDAY, JULY 22

10 - 11 am – Tilly Bridges, Jake O’Kelly

11 am - 12 pm – Jeff Krell, Brandon T. Snider

12 – 1 pm – Mariko Tamaki

1 – 2 pm – A.C. Esguerra, Josh Trujillo

2 – 3 pm – Jack Foster, Max Spragovsky

3 – 4 pm – P. Craig Russell, Tim Sheridan

4 – 5 pm – Nicole Maines, Vincent Roth (**Surge of Power**)

5 – 6 pm – Ameen Beydoun

SUNDAY, JULY 24

9 – 10 am – Max Spragovsky

10 - 11 am – Jeff Krell, Jake O’Kelly

12 – 1 pm – Cort Lane

1 – 2 pm – Vincent Roth (**Surge of Power**)

2 – 3 pm – Tara Madison Avery, A.C.

Esguerra

3 – 4 pm – Ameen Beydoun

4 – 5 pm – Josh Trujillo

QUEER-CENTRIC AND QUEER OWNED BOOTHS AT COMIC-CON

Adalisa Zarate AA-15

Ashleigh Popplewell FF-02

Ave Rose Art & Disasterina Booth #1617

Badali Jewelry Booth #715

BethBeRad EE-18

Comic Book Legal Defense Fund

Booth #1918

Con Rangers Booth #1336

Dan Parent F-12

David Haug Comics C-07-C-08

Fanbase Press 0-03

Fandom Charities Inc. A-06

Flex Comics Booth #1331

Gaaays In Spaace Booth #2306

Homo Heroes K-05

Inki-Drop Booth #1703

Jenny/Jey Parks Illustration Booth #708

Joe Phillips BB-08 (Artist Alley)

Kayden Phoenix FF-10 (Artist Alley)

KikiDoodle & Purrmaids/Christine Knopp
Booth #4819

Meloria Maille Booth #4816

Meraki K-04

Monstatron/Cato Emerson CC-10

Panty Cat EE-19

Real Gone Girl Studios / Miriam Libicki

Booth #945

Sierra Bravo Art/Sierra Barnes BB-04

Sofawolf Press Booth #1236

Stellar Eleventh/ Courtney Camacho & Kevin

Gemser CC-13

Tini Howard GG-19 (Artist Alley)

TokyoPop Booth #4037

Two Lumps Booth #1230

Wuvable Oaf Comics K-06

CELEBRATING PRISM COMICS' 20TH ANNIVERSARY 2003 - 2023

Welcome to Prism Comics' 20th Anniversary! Twenty years ago LGBTQ+ comics stories, characters and creators were marginalized and stereotyped in mainstream comics. Yet pioneering creators like Howard Cruse, Mary Wings, Rupert Kinnard, Jennifer Camper, Alison Bechdel, Paige Braddock, Ivan Valez Jr. and many others were telling exciting, creative and proudly "out" queer stories in independent comics. Twenty years later there are so many wonderful comics creators of diverse identities; comics companies featuring major queer characters and stories; publishers doing pride campaigns; and there are LGBTQ+ comics and graphic novels for all ages. There are more panels of LGBTQ+ interest at Comic-Con this year than ever before. Prism is presenting four of these panels:

*Transgender and Nonbinary Stories in Comics: Past, Present, and Future –
Thursday, July 20, 4 – 5 pm - Room 9*
Queer Horror – Friday, July 21, 3 – 4 pm – Room 4
Out in Comics: Year 36 – Saturday, July 22, 6 – 8 pm – Room 4
*The Rise of LGBTQ Comics And Animation For Young Audiences –
Sunday, July 23, 10:30 – 11:30 am - Room 10*

We thank our panelists and moderators including **Andy Mangels**, co-founder of Prism Comics and founder of the *Out in Comics* panel an incredible 36 years ago. We thank the creators who are appearing with us, our terrific volunteers, and Comic-Con International: San Diego for its longtime support of diversity and inclusion. Queer representation is everywhere at Comic-Con this year, and we're pleased and grateful to have played a part in raising queer and diverse voices in the comics community over two decades. Here's to many more years and many new queer voices and stories!

Ted Abenheim,
President, Prism Comics

PRISM COMICS is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 501c3 organization championing LGBTQ+ visibility, diversity and inclusion in comic books, graphic novels and popular media. Founded in 2003, Prism supports queer and LGBTQ-friendly comics professionals, readers, educators and librarians through its website, social networking, booths and panel presentations and Q Con, Southern California's only queer comic convention.



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[qconprism](https://tiktok.com/qconprism)

Prism Comics Code of Conduct - Prism is dedicated to providing as a welcoming, safe community for LGBTQ+ comics professionals, fans and allies regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, religious background, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, body size, physical appearance, marital or partnership status or any other status protected by federal, state or local laws. Prism Comics adheres to the same codes of conduct as Comic-Con International, and breaches of conduct will be handled accordingly.

THURSDAY, JULY 20 HALL HOURS - 9:30 am - 7 pm

10 - 11 am - WELCOME TO FANTASY LAND

These authors will aid you on a mythical quest for the battle of good versus evil. Comic-Con Special Guest **Darcie Little Badger** (*A Snake Falls to Earth, Elatsoe*) and others share their knowledge of world building, magical elements, and the power of an alluring story in young adult literature. ROOM 9 ROOM 9

10:30 - 11:30 am - ROBOTS AND ALIENS AND BLASTERS, OH MY

Science fiction authors including **Charlie Jane Anders** (*Promises Stronger Than Darkness*) discuss the things that we love best about science fiction, from giant robots to first contact with alien civilizations, terraformed planets, and beyond. ROOM 24ABC

10:30 am - 12 pm - COMIC BOOK LAW SCHOOL 101: IT ALL STARTS HERE

Noted IP attorney **Michael Lovitz**, author of *The Trademark and Copyright Book* comic book, will focus on the basics copyrights, trademarks, and other intellectual property rights available to creators and business owners. ROOM 11

11 am - 12 pm - 4TH ANNUAL HOLLYWOOD GAME CHANGERS

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about the powerhouse women leading the charge behind your favorite film and television projects. ROOM 7AB

11 am - 12 pm - @SUPERHEROIRL: MENTAL HEALTH AND CHANGING THE WORLD WITH COMICS

This panel will explore how current trends have reshaped the portrayal of female characters, highlighting their journey from victims to victors, with experts including **Sonya Saturday** (*The Greatest Thing You've Ever Seen in Your Life*) and others. ROOM 29AB

11 am - 12 pm - CRAZY TALK: FIFTY YEARS OF MENTAL HEALTH, POP CULTURE, AND COMIC-CON

From unprecedented bans of graphic novels (many of which feature mental health and substance use themes) to the stressors of freelance work and toxic fandom, mental health has emerged as a common topic in the comic-book discourse. Experts including **MariNaomi** (*I Thought You Loved Me, Turning Japanese*) discuss the state of mental health and comics. GRAND 10 & 11, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA

11 am - 12 pm - IN THE BEGINNING . . . THERE WAS WORLD BUILDING

Authors including **T. J. Klune** (*In the Lives of Puppets*) discuss all that goes into building a world. ROOM 23ABC

11 am - 12 pm - ONI PRESS: COUNTERCULTURE FOR COMICS CULTURE

Creators from Oni , including 2023 Eisner Award–nominated creators **Jarrett Melendez** (*Chef's Kiss*), discuss Oni's upcoming slate of creator-owned comics and graphic novels. ROOM 28DE ROOM 28DE

11 am - 12 pm - SPOTLIGHT ON MARIKO TAMAKI

Eisner, Ignatz, Printz, and GLAAD award-winning author **Mariko Tamaki** has written comics about everything from mainstream superheroes to turbulent teens. She is also the curator of Abrams' LGBTQIA+ imprint, Surely Books. Her upcoming graphic novel with co-creator **Jillian Tamaki**, *Roaming*, will be on bookshelves this fall. Join Mariko and **Kat Calamia** (Reed Pop's Popverse; creator of *Bi Visibility: A Bisexual Comic Anthology* and WEBTOON's *Slice of Life*) for a Q&A session. **ROOM 32AB**



11 am - 12:30 pm - MAX ORIGINAL ANIMATION

Max Original Animation celebrates new and returning animated series' including the upcoming fourth season for the fan-favorite *Harley Quinn*, with lesbian Harley and Poison Ivy as the leads! **BALLROOM 20**

11: 30 am - 12:30 pm - ADAPTING STORIES TO GRAPHIC NOVELS

How do artists and writers adapt their experiences, short-form ideas, and the words and worlds of others into full-length graphic novels? Find out from creators such as **Chip Kidd** (editor-at-large, The Pantheon Graphic Library). **ROOM 29CD**

12 - 1 pm - STAR TREK: MORE BOLD THAN EVER BEFORE

IDW creators, including **Liana Kangas**, share all the exciting things happening across IDW's line of *Star Trek* comics. **ROOM 28DE**

12 - 1 pm - DEFENDING COMICS TODAY: ANTI-DRAG LAWS AND THE FREEDOM TO COSPLAY

How might new laws aimed at banning drag performances affect cosplay and geek fashion? The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund discusses the latest news in anti-drag legislation and what it means for fandom. **ROOM 11**

12 - 1 pm - FREEDOM FIGHTERS ON THE FRONT LINES: ADVOCATING AGAINST BOOK BANS

Librarians spread awareness about the importance of comics and graphic novels in libraries in the wake of rising bans on comics and graphic materials. **SHILEY SPECIAL EVENTS SUITE, SAN DIEGO CENTRAL LIBRARY**

12 - 1 pm- FROM SCRIPT TO SCREEN: BEHIND THE CAMERA OF STORYTELLING ACROSS DIVERSE MEDIUMS

Step into the world of film, television, comics, musicals, and more with the industry professionals who brought them to life. Includes executive producer and co-creator Elle **León Nostas** (*Mark of Death*), producer **Alex Schmider** (*Chasing Chasing Amy*), and more. **ROOM 7AB**

12:30 - 1:30 pm - NEURODIVERSITY AND COMICS

The creative community contains a neurodiverse population, but it can be a challenge to understand how to approach working in comics while managing ND. Panelists include **Christie Porter** (*The Color of Always*), **Connor Goldsmith** (*Cerebro Podcast*), **Konner Knudsen** (*Killer Queens*) and others. **ROOM 10**

12:30 - 1:30 pm - THE OWL HOUSE: US WEIRDOS HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER

Folx who worked on Disney's *The Owl House* talk about the show, including **Avi Roque** (they/them; *Raine Whispers*) and others. **ROOM 6A**



Tini Howard

12:45 - 1:45 pm - GHOSTS

The queer-inclusive *Ghosts* on CBS offers a special presentation. **BALLROOM 20**

12:45 - 1:45 pm - GOTHAM CITY

Join DC storytellers including **Tini Howard** to find out what's to come for *The Dark Knight* and *Gotham City*. **ROOM 6DE**

1 - 2 pm - DEFENDING COMICS TODAY: HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE COMICS

The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund will share practical strategies for us all to work together to protect the comic arts. **ROOM 11**



Tegan and Sara

1 - 2 pm - TEGAN AND SARA TALK JUNIOR HIGH

Indie-pop twin-sister duo Tegan and Sara discuss their contemporary middle-grade graphic novel *Tegan and Sara: Junior High*, which explores growing up, coming out, and finding yourself through music and sisterhood. Moderated by **Rachel Shatto** (PRIDE.com). **ROOM 29AB**

1 - 2 pm - TOKYOPOP: MANGA FOR EVERYONE

TOKYOPOP team members **Kae Winters**, **Lena Atanassova**, and others discuss the latest and greatest manga releases from *LoveLove* (the new LGBTQIA+ line), *Disney Manga*, and

more. **ROOM 28DE**

1:30 - 2:30 pm - MASTER CLASS: WRITING FOR ANIMATION AND COMICS

Join popular writers **Tim Sheridan** (*Batman: The Long Halloween*, *Masters of the Universe: Revelation*) and others for the inside scoop regarding the crafting of words for animated films and television, as well as comic books and graphic novels. **ROOM 10**

2 - 3 pm - OUT OF THEIR HEADS: GRAPHIC NOVELISTS BRING THEIR STORIES TO LIFE

Everyone has a great idea for a graphic novel, but how do you get those concepts out of your head and onto the page? **Simon Hanselmann** and others discuss the creative process. **GRAND 12 & 13, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

3 - 4 pm - QUEER ANTI-HEROES

Tina Horn (*SfSx*), **Sina Grace** (*Superman: Harvest of Youth*), **Josh Trujillo** (*Blue Beetle*), **Robyn Warren** (*Geek Girl Strong*), and **Jazzlyn Stone** (freelance marketer) discuss how creators portray complex and flawed LGBTQIA+ characters without falling into harmful tropes, and explore what it means to be a fan of queer anti-heroes. **ROOM 28DE**

3:15 - 4:15 pm - SUPERHEROES AND NOT-SO-SUPER VILLAINS WITH PATTON OSWALT AND FRIENDS

James Tynion IV (*The Oddly Pedestrian Life of Christopher Chaos*, *Something Is Killing the Children*) and others discuss creating their own heroes, villains, and worlds in their creator-owned comics. **ROOM 6DE**

3:30 - 4:30 pm - SPOTLIGHT ON P. CRAIG RUSSELL

Eisner Award Hall of Fame artist **P. Craig Russell** discusses “second thoughts” on various second and sometimes third versions of the same images or stories. With moderator **José Villarubia**, Craig will be comparing and analyzing the evolution of a drawing through the years. **ROOM 25ABC**



4 - 5 pm - COMING TOGETHER: HONORING AANHPI VOICES IN POP CULTURE

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about the profound impact of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander representation in pop culture. **GRAND 10 & 11, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

4 - 5 pm - DESIGNING THE X-MEN: A THIS WEEK IN MARVEL SPECIAL EVENT

A live edition of the This Week in Marvel podcast with **Sarah Brunstad** (editor) and others. **ROOM 7AB**

4 - 5 pm - TEACHING WITH COMICS: FAMILY EDITION

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about comics serving as powerful tools for student engagement and literacy across all levels and subjects. **SHILEY SPECIAL EVENTS SUITE, SAN DIEGO CENTRAL LIBRARY**

4 - 5 pm - TEN YEARS OF CHILLS, THRILLS, AND KILLS: STORM KING COMICS

Storm King creators **Cat Staggs** and **Amanda Deibert** (*Death Mask*) and others discuss upcoming books. **ROOM 29AB**



Upper (l-r) - Tara Madison Avery, P. Kristen Enos, Maddie Jacobus
Lower (l-r) - Sonya Saturday, A.C. Esguerra, Rebecca Kaplan

4 - 5 pm - TRANSGENDER AND NONBINARY STORIES IN COMICS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE - A PRISM PANEL

In recent years, transgender and nonbinary comics readers have been fortunate enough to find stories that reflect their own experiences. However, all over the country comics

by trans creators are being banned by culturally conservative authorities, and harsh legal measures threaten the rights and well-being of trans and nonbinary Americans themselves. How can comics address transgender history? How can autobio comics reach not just trans readers but sympathetic allies? How can trans and nonbinary creators thrive despite the threats of book banners and hostile culture warriors? Join Prism Comics and moderator **Tara Madison Avery** (*We're Still Here, The Transgender Heroes Coloring Book*) and panelists **Sonya Saturday** (*The Greatest Thing You've Ever Seen in Your Life, J.K. Rowling and the Ungrateful Fans*), **Maddie Jacobus** (*The Out Side, Bummer Corp*), **A. C. Esguerra** (*Eighty Days*), **Kristen Enos** (*Berserker, Active Voice*), **Rebecca Kaplan** (The Beat, Prism Comics Board Member), and **Gaia WXYZ** (*We Belong*) for a lively discussion of these and other questions. **ROOM 9**

4:30 - 5:30 pm - FX'S WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS

The hilarious queer-inclusive show about vampire roommates will air a new episode and have surprises! **BALLROOM 20**

5 - 6 pm - TELLING OUR STORIES: MAKING LGBTQIA+ COMIC ANTHOLOGIES

Michele Abounader (*The Color of Always, Sharp Wit & the Company of Women*), **Liana Kangas** (*Know Your Station, Trve Kvlt*), **Jazzlyn Stone** (*Trve Kvlt, Joan Jett & the Blackhearts 40x40*), **Tilly Bridges** (*The Color of Always, Begin Transmission: The Trans Allegories of The Matrix*), and **Kat Calamia** (*Bi Visibility, Slice of Life*) explore the process of creating LGBTQIA+ comic anthologies with LGBTQIA+ creators, highlighting and encouraging authentic stories and voices within the community. They will discuss the planning and creation of crowdfunded anthologies and the importance of allowing creators to tell their own stories without sanitizing the content or messaging. **ROOM 9**

5:30 - 6:30 pm - CHASING CHASING AMY: HOW FANDOM INSPIRES CREATIVITY

A conversation about the new documentary *Chasing Chasing Amy* and how one closeted queer kid's love of the controversial comics & lesbians film *Chasing Amy* resulted in the journey of a lifetime. Moderated by *Chasing Amy* director Kevin Smith, panelists include Award-winning filmmaker/subject **Sav Rodgers** (*Out Here in Kansas, Dragtivists*), principal subject **Regina "Riley" Rodgers** (*The Remus Gang*), lesbian writer and culture critic **Trish Bendix**, and others. **INDIGO BALLROOM, HILTON SAN DIEGO BAYFRONT**

6:30 - 7:30 pm - GAY GEEKS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

Josh Trujillo (writer, *Blue Beetle: Graduation Day*), **David Booher** (writer, *Canto, Killer Queens*), **Ted Biaselli** (television producer, toy collector), **Chrissy Lynn** (cosplayer, stylist, hair/makeup artist), **Ember Vain** (drag queen), and **Jordan Blaza Olsen** (cosplayer, performer), gather to discuss how to turn your favorite geeky fandom's into flourishing careers, the challenges and rewards of growing up LGBTQIA+, seeking diversity and representation, and how being a member of the community influenced their work. Moderated by **Julian Jetson** (stylist and host). **ROOM 26AB**

**GAY GEEKS
AND WHERE TO FIND THEM**
AN LGBTQIA+ PANEL
THURSDAY JULY 20 6:30PM ROOM 26AB

DAVID BOOHER TED BIASELLI CHRISSE LYNN

JORDAN BLAZA OLSEN EMBER VAIN

MODERATED BY JULIAN JETSON

SPONSORED BY WHAT'S YOUR PASSION JEWELRY

SAN DIEGO COMIC CON INTERNATIONAL

7 - 8 pm - FIL-AM DIASPORA IN POP CULTURE

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel features Fil-Am talent, covering topics like unique industry struggles, content creation, and how they can bridge understanding with their unique backgrounds and experiences. **ROOM 23ABC**

7 - 8 pm - THE CONCEPT TO CREATION WORKSHOP

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel features many writers talking about creating stories. **ROOM 11**

8 - 9 pm - THE INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS PANEL

Directors and creatives such as **Michael Varrati** (*There's A Zombie Outside, Fangoria Chainsaw Awards*) have a lively discussion and preview their upcoming films. **GRAND 6, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

“OUT IN THE COMMUNITY” EVENTS ARE AT THE END OF THE GUIDE

FRIDAY, JULY 21 HALL HOURS - 9:30 am - 7 pm

10 - 11 am - CLASSIC STORIES, NEW FRONTIERS: LITERARY SCI-FI AND HORROR COMICS

Join comic creators including **Mattie Lubchansky** (*Boys Weekend*) as they discuss their modern takes on classic genres. **ROOM 4**

10 - 11 am - SPOTLIGHT ON STEENZ

St. Louis–based nationally-syndicated cartoonist **Steenz** talks about their journey through the comics industry. From retail to librarianship to cartoonist to educator, Steenz has a unique perspective on the industry. They're the cartoonist on the syndicated comic strip *Heart of the City*, and are currently working on their latest graphic novel, *Side Quest: A Graphic Novel History of TTRPGs*. Stop by for a conversation with Steenz moderated by **Jazzlyn Stone**. **ROOM 29AB**

10:30 - 11:30 am - SELF-PUBLISHING AND WORKING WITH A PUBLISHER

What's it like to go from self-publishing your art to working with a publisher? Comics creators **Simon Hanselmann** and others discuss. **ROOM 10**

10:30 am - 12 pm - COMIC BOOK LAW SCHOOL 202: STRIKING OUT

Attorney **Michael Lovitz** and others tackle some of the more advanced issues creators will face when seeking to monetize their creations. **ROOM 11**

11 am - 12 pm - CREATORS OF COLOR

Professional creators of color, **Chrissy Lynn** (MUA, published cosplayer), and others discuss what it takes to live the dream of working in the geek pop culture space. **OMNI HOTEL, OMNI GRAND BALLROOM DE, 4TH FLOOR**

11:15 am - 12:15 pm - WRITER'S BLOCK

Scott “babydaddy” Hoffman (co-founder of the multi-platinum selling rock/disco/glam/pop band Scissor Sisters; *Nostalgia*), and others discuss their creative inspirations, their routines, and overcoming writer's/artist's block. **ROOM 6DE**

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - ADVENTURES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Mariko Tamaki (*I Am Not Starfire*) and others discuss the power and joy that goes into crafting strong protagonists that future generations can look up to. **ROOM 24ABC**

12 - 1 pm - COMIC STRIPS AND COLLECTIONS

Dive into the comic strips you love with **Simon Hanselmann**, **Steenz**, and others.
ROOM 29AB

12 - 1 pm - DEFENDING COMICS TODAY: CIVIL RIGHTS AND CENSORSHIP

Recent attempts to restrict access to comics, graphic novels, and manga have overwhelmingly targeted books with themes about racial discrimination and identifying as LGBTQIA+. Join Comic Book Legal Defense Fund as they address one of the critical issues of our time. **ROOM 11**

12 - 1 pm - GROWING AND BECOMING

Creators **Deb JoJo JJ Lee** (*In Limbo*), **Jose Pimienta** (*Twin Cities*), and others share these tales of protagonists' coming-of-age experiences, including grappling with family dynamics, identity, and mental health; border community life; tween and teen milestone moments; and body image, offering readers opportunities to see themselves or gain insights into others' experiences. **SHILEY SPECIAL EVENTS SUITE, SAN DIEGO CENTRAL LIBRARY**

12 - 1 pm - HOW FAR CAN FANDOM TAKE YOU?

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about fan-based organizations. **GRAND 10 & 11, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

12:30 - 1:30 pm - DAWN OF DC

Hear directly from some of the superstar writers and artists behind your favorite DC stories, including **Joanne Starer** (*Fire and Ice*), **Josh Trujilo** (*Blue Beetle*), and more.
ROOM 6DE

1 - 2 pm - DEFENDING COMICS TODAY: COMIC BOOK LEGAL DEFENSE FUND UPDATE

Challenges to graphic novels, manga, and the comic arts have reached a level not seen in decades, and the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund is on the case. CBLDF board members discuss the latest developments. **ROOM 11**

1 - 2 pm - PRODUCTION DESIGN FOR INDIE FILMMAKERS AND CONTENT CREATORS

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about production design, set decoration, prop design, and location scouting to enhance the world building of your web series, indie film, cosplay videos and photos, and more.
GRAND 6, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA

1:30 - 2:30 pm - SLAUGHTERVERSE: THE WORLD OF SOMETHING IS KILLING THE CHILDREN

James Tynion IV and **Tate Brombal** discuss *Something Is Killing the Children* and *House of Slaughter* and the *Slaughterverse*. **ROOM 5AB**

1:30 - 2:30 pm - SYZGY PUBLISHING'S TALES OF SYZPENSE

Panelists include multiple-Eisner nominee and *Rain* co-creator **David M. Booher** (*Rain*) and others. **ROOM 24ABC**

2 - 3 pm - LET NATIVE, BLACK, BROWN, ASIAN, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR TELL THEIR STORIES!

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about why it's essential for BIPOC to tell their stories—and why it's important you read, watch, and hear them. **GRAND 12 & 13, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

2 - 3 pm - BREAKING INTO COMICS AND STAYING IN

Join creators, including **Liana Kangas** (*Star Wars Adventures*), as they break down the walls and offer practical advice that will jumpstart your comics career. **ROOM 11**

2:30 - 3:30 pm - IMAGE COMICS: THE FUTURE OF RADIANT BLACK'S THE MASSIVE-VERSE

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about what's in store for the Massive-verse.

ROOM 5AB

3 - 4 pm - ALL TOGETHER NOW: FIND YOUR VOICE!

Graphic novels offer stories to connect and inspire. **Steenz** (*Lost and Found—Book #2 of Heart of the City*) and others discuss. **SHILEY SPECIAL EVENTS SUITE, SAN DIEGO CENTRAL LIBRARY**



3 - 4 pm - GIRLS VS. BOYS VS. NONE OF THE ABOVE

Gender/sexuality experts and a group of youth discuss how well popular media are keeping up with teen culture in terms of gender expression and sexual orientation. Have they seen themselves accurately represented? In what ways is pop culture still behind the times? How have media representations of gender and sexuality helped them understand themselves? **GRAND 10 & 11, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**



Upper (l-r) - Michael Varrati, Andy Mangels, Teri Gamble, Juan Valencia

Lower (l-r) - Viktor Kerney, Adam Sass

3 - 4 pm - QUEER HORROR - A PRISM COMICS PANEL

BeAs a genre, horror has always attempted to bring us to the threshold of our fears and use a dark lens of the fantastic to force us to come face to face with issues the mainstream may otherwise dare not address head-on. For those in the LGBTQIA+ community, this sense of otherness within the genre is not only terrifying and titillating, it's quite often

also relatable. The queer community has had a long history with the horror genre, from the lesbian vampires of Gothic literature to modern fares like *Hellraiser* and *The Boulet Brothers Dragula*. Does a queer horror genre exist, and if so, what makes it different from mainstream horror? Join Prism Comics and moderator/filmmaker **Michael Varrati** (*There's a Zombie Outside*, *The Midnight Mass Podcast*) and an array of panelists including **Juan Valencia** (*Poking Holes*, *Plagued by Visions*), **Teri Gamble** (*Horror Movie Survival Guide*, *Mrs. Davis*), **Viktor Kerney** (*StrangeLore*, the upcoming Black queer anthology *We Belong*), **Andy Mangels** (*A Nightmare on Elm Street/Child's Play* comics, the upcoming *Castle of Horror: Queer Dread* anthology), and **Adam Sass** (award-winning author, *Surrender Your Sons*, *Your Lonely Nights are Over*). **ROOM 4**

3 - 4 pm - SF IN COMICS

Venture into the vast universe of storytelling options at the sweet spot of genre and media with **Charlie Jane Anders** (*Unstoppable*, *New Mutants*) and others. **ROOM 29AB**

3 - 4 pm - SO YOU WANT TO BE A COMIC BOOK RETAILER?

If you've ever thought about owning your own comics shop, then this is the panel for you. Panelists will include ComicsPRO board member **Katie Pryde** (*Books with Pictures*, Portland) and others. **ROOM 23ABC**

3:30 - 4:30 pm - HISPANIC CREATORS AND RETAILERS DISCUSS THE COMIC BOOK INDUSTRY PRESENT AND FUTURE

Jarrett Melendez (Eisner nominee *Chef's Kiss*) and others discuss their careers and the comic book industry from a Hispanic perspective. **ROOM 24ABC**

4 - 5 pm - HORROR WRITERS AMA (ASK ME ANYTHING) WITH THE CREATORS OF STORM KING COMICS

This panel of veteran comic book and film industry writers and artists from Storm King Comics, are ready to answer (almost) any questions about what it takes to break in and stay in the business. Panelists include **Cat Staggs** (artist, Storm King Comics, DC Comics), **Amanda Deibert** (writer, *Star Wars*, Marvel, DC Comics), and more. **ROOM 29AB**

4 - 5 pm - MEET YOUR MATCH: CREATIVE COLLABORATION

Creative team **Liana Kangas** (*TRVE KVLTL*, *Know Your Station*) and **Sarah Gailey** (*Eat the Rich*, *Know Your Station*) discuss the divine circumstance of being paired by an editor and becoming close creative collaborators. **GRAND 12 & 13, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

4 - 5 pm - SPOTLIGHT ON DARCIIE LITTLE BADGER

Lipan Apache author **Darcie Little Badger** (*Elatsoe*, *A Snake Falls to Earth*) talks with Diné poet **Kinsale Drake** (NDN Girls Book Club) in a personal and dynamic conversation about writing, family, publishing, Indigenous futurisms, and more. **ROOM 28DE**

4 - 5 pm - THE GREAT NORTH

The queer-inclusive animated series, *The Great North*, promotes its upcoming fourth season on FOX. **INDIGO BALLROOM, HILTON SAN DIEGO BAYFRONT**

4 - 5 pm - UNSTOPPABLE FORCES

Graphic novels discussed feature finding safe space as a queer teen, and a fantastic take on underrepresented history provide inspirational and empathetic stories of overcoming adversity. Hear from **Kate Glasheen** (*Constellations*), **Jasmine Walls** (*Brooms*), and others. **SHILEY SPECIAL EVENTS SUITE, SAN DIEGO CENTRAL LIBRARY**

4:15 - 5:15 pm - GEN V CANCELLED DUE TO ACTORS' STRIKE

From the world of *The Boys*, Prime Video debuts its outrageous upcoming spinoff for the first time, set at America's only college exclusively for young adult superheroes.

BALLROOM 20

4:30 - 5:30 pm - BOUNDLESS ADVENTURES WITH THE SAN DIEGO FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

Authors **TJ Klune** (*In the Lives of Puppets*), **Charlie Jane Anders** (*Promises Stronger Than Darkness*), and others discuss the thrilling adventures, extraordinary worlds, and vivid characters that come to life in their latest books. **ROOM 10**

4:30 - 5:30 pm - WHAT MAKES A GREAT COLLABORATOR?

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about 9B Collective, the first Black-owned concept art studio for film and TV. **ROOM 29CD**

4:30 - 5:30 pm - WOMEN IN ENTERTAINMENT: HOW TO BLAZE YOUR OWN PATH

Women including **Christine Rose Schermerhorn** (actress and VO artist, *Puppy Place*, *Thirsty Suitors*) share how they have blazed their own paths to success in film, television, gaming, and entertainment. **ROOM 5AB**

5 - 6 pm - @SUPERHEROIRL: HARNESSING THE POWER OF POP CULTURE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Hear from **Tara Madison Avery** (Stacked Deck Press) and others on the impact of pop culture in raising mental health awareness. Explore how superheroes and their stories can destigmatize mental health issues, inspire personal growth, and foster empathy.

ROOM 32AB

5 - 6 pm - PSYCHOLOGY AND OUR LOVE (OR HATE) OF MOVIE SEQUELS

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about a psychological study about how people relate to movie sequels. **GRAND 12 & 13, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

5:45 - 6:45 pm - A CONVERSATION WITH THE CAST AND CREATOR OF PRIME VIDEO'S INVINCIBLE

Will Zachary Quinto and **Andrew Rannells** be with the cast and crew as they break news and discuss key storylines from the upcoming and highly anticipated second season of Prime Video's hit animated series *Invincible*? Show up to see! **ROOM 6BCF**

6 - 7 pm - OUR FLAG MEANS DEATH: 'SHIPS ON SHIPS'

A panel full of experts discuss the 2022 gay pirate series *Our Flag Means Death*.

GRAND 12 & 13, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA

6:30 - 7:30 pm - THE POWER OF COLOR

With controversies over Black elves, a Latino Sub-mariner, dark-skinned Orcs, and a Black *Little Mermaid*, the issue of color is a hot topic of debate in the pop culture community. A group of comic artists, writers, and historians discuss the diversity trends in pop culture. Panelists include **Kayden Phoenix** (*Latina Superheroes*) and others. **ROOM 26AB**

7 - 8 pm - CONTENT CREATION BRAND MANAGEMENT FOR BEGINNERS

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about how you can build a personal brand, inject that brand into what you're making, and help foster a like-minded community. **ROOM 32AB**

7:30 - 8:30 pm - HOW TO MAKE VIDEO GAMES AND DESIGNS MORE INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE

iAsia Brown (storyteller and producer, Xbox Game Studios) and others share stories of designing more accessible, inclusive, diverse, and welcoming video games for a wider audience. **ROOM 3**

7:30 - 8:30 pm - WHERE'S THE FRONT DOOR? GETTING STARTED IN COMICS

Creators discuss the many ways to get started in the comics industry with seasoned pros including **Amanda Deibert** (*Wonder Woman*) and others. **ROOM 26AB**

8 - 9 pm - DIVERSITY IN HORROR: FROM CREATOR TO CHARACTER

As the horror genre's resurgence continues, readers and viewers are seeing greater diversity within the stories themselves as these new names elevate the genre with strong storytelling that shines a light on once-marginalized communities and cultures like never before. **ROOM 9**

8 - 10:30 pm - WILL EISNER COMIC INDUSTRY AWARDS

This year's annual Eisner Awards (the "Oscars" of the comics industry) honors comics creators and works in 32 categories. The gala ceremony features celebrity presenters and a multimedia extravaganza. Queer creators up for awards this year include **Kevin Conroy, J. Bone, James Tynion IV, Jarrett Melendez, Tillie Walden, Alice Oseman, David M. Booher**, and others. **INDIGO BALLROOM, HILTON SAN DIEGO BAYFRONT**



Alice Oseman, Jarrett Melendez, Tillie Walden

SATURDAY, JULY 22 HALL HOURS - 9:30 am - 7 pm

10 - 11 am - COMICS, CULTURES, AND CLASSROOMS

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel discusses embedding comics and pop culture into responsive high school curricula in order to build a collectivist culture of literacy. **SHILEY SPECIAL EVENTS SUITE, SAN DIEGO CENTRAL LIBRARY**

10 - 11 am - DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: AN ANIMATED ANNIVERSARY

David M. Booher (writer, IDW's *Dungeons & Dragons: Saturday Morning Adventures*), and others discuss the legendary tabletop game's 40th anniversary as a Saturday morning cartoon. **ROOM 6DE**

10 - 11 am - INTRO TO TV WRITING: FROM FIRST DRAFT TO GETTING STAFFED Moderator **Spiro Skentzos** (*Arrow*) talks with writer/producers about writing for TV. **ROOM 9**

10:30 - 11:30 am - SNOOPY LIVES IT UP ON APPLE TV+

Enjoy an exclusive reveal of some exciting new Peanuts projects with **Paige Braddock** (chief creative officer, Charles M. Schulz Creative Associates) and others. **ROOM 6BCF**

10:30 - 11:30 am - WHAT'S THE BEST SUPERPOWER?

Come and hear the expert opinions of guests **Darcie Little Badger**, **Steenz**, **Mariko Tamaki**, **Jazzlyn Stone** and others on what truly is the best superpower. **ROOM 10**

10:30 am - 12 pm - COMIC BOOK LAW SCHOOL 303: SOCIAL MEDIA, AI, NFTS, PARODY, AND OTHER HOT TOPICS

Noted attorney **Michael Lovitz** and his cadre of legal eagles focus on real-world issues of importance to fans and creators. Topics include: the intersection of trademark rights, parody, and first amendment; the bounds of fair use; a discussion on AI and the impact it is having on the creative arts; and news straight from the U.S. Copyright and Trademark Offices. **ROOM 11**

11 am - 12 pm - MUSIC AND COMICS COLLIDE

Scott Hoffman (a.k.a. Babydaddy), the co-founder of the multi-platinum selling rock/disco/glam/pop band Scissor Sisters, discusses the intersection of music and comics in his debut series, *Nostalgia*. Moderated by **Phil Jimenez**, comics artist and writer. **ROOM 28DE**

11:15 am - 12:15 pm - BOOM! STUDIOS: DISCOVER YOURS

Join Boom! creators like **Joanne Starer** (*Sirens of the City*) as they give you an in-depth look at their creative process and a preview of what's to come. **ROOM 6DE**

12 - 1 pm - A SCARE IS BORN

Creators including **Chuck Tingle** (*Camp Damascus*) discuss all that goes bump in the night and all the tricks and treats of writing horror. **ROOM 7AB**

12 - 1 pm - DIVERSITY IN FANTASY

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel has creators discuss diversity in fantasy and what diverse authors owe their own cultures when writing diverse characters. **NEIL MORGAN AUDITORIUM, SAN DIEGO CENTRAL LIBRARY**

12:30- 1:30 pm - THE WORLD OF METROPOLIS

Superman isn't the only force to be reckoned with in Metropolis. The top comic book writers and artists working on stories in the city, include **Sina Grace** (*Superman: The Harvests of Youth*), and others. **ROOM 6DE**



1 - 2 pm - DRAWN & QUARTERLY

The Canadian publisher previews its upcoming list, with a look at **Jillian and Mariko Tamaki's** *Roaming*. **ROOM 25ABC**

1 - 2 pm - LICENSED: OVERSTREET'S LICENSED COMICS

From *Uncle Scrooge* to the *Power Rangers*, from *Planet of the Apes* to *Star Wars*, licensed comics are a vibrant part of the fan experience and the comics industry. Join **Andy Mangels** (*Wonder Woman '77 Meets The Bionic Woman*) and others for a foray into the world of licensed comics. **ROOM 28DE**

1 - 2 pm - SCIENCE FICTION (AT LEAST FOR NOW)

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel has speculative fiction authors showing us new horizons. Including **Emma Mieko Candon** (*The Archive Undying*) and others. **ROOM 29AB**

1:30- 2:30 pm - CROWDFUNDING COMICS WITH ZOOP!

Creators from Zoop discuss the crowdfunding landscape, and upcoming books such as the queer Black anthology, *We Belong*. **ROOM 29CD**

1:30- 2:30 pm - DSTLRY: DRINKING FROM THE DEVIL'S CUT

DSTLRY is a new publisher that plans to redefine creator-owned comics, including some by creators like **James Tynion IV** and more. **ROOM 24ABC**

1:30- 2:30 pm - STAR TREK UNIVERSE

Over a decade after PRISM co-founder **Andy Mangels** helped break the mold by including queer characters in Star Trek books, now it seems that every star trek tv show finally has LGBTQ+ characters and actors! This panel features exclusive back-to-back conversations with the casts and executive producers from *Star Trek: Discovery*, *Star Trek: Lower Decks*, and *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* to discuss the latest seasons of their hit series and tease what's ahead. **HALL H**

2 - 3 pm - SHAPING COMICS

Comic-Con special guest **P. Craig Russell** and others have helped shape the comics industry and the comics you love today. **ROOM 29AB**

2 - 3:30 pm - COMICS ARTS CONFERENCE SESSION #12: THE POSTER SESSION

As part of the CAC poster session, David Jurvelin (University of Nevada) analyzes the Final Girl trope in **James Tynion IV** and Werther Dell'Edera's *Something Is Killing the Children*. **ROOM 26AB**



Simon Hanselmann

3 - 4 pm - BEHIND THE SCENES OF COMICS PUBLISHING: A DISCUSSION

Industry professionals from all sides of comics creation discuss the ins and outs of publishing, including **Simon Hanselmann** (*Werewolf Jones & Sons Deluxe Summer Fun Annual*) and others. **ROOM 29AB**

3 - 4 pm - BUILDING YOUR OWN THEMYSIRA: NETWORKING IN YOUR NICHE

Mallory Shoemaker (malarayofsunshine, Adobe) and others explore the worlds of networking and collaboration while sharing tips on how to start building professional relationships and promote community over competition. **GRAND 10 & 11, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

3:45 - 4:45 pm - ANNE RICE'S INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE SEASON 2 - CANCELLED DUE TO ACTORS' STRIKE

Gay vampires say "Fangs for sticking around for Season Two!" **BALLROOM 20**

3 - 4 pm - BUILDING YOUR OWN THEMYSKIRA: NETWORKING IN YOUR NICHE

Mallory Shoemaker (malarayofsunshine, Adobe) and others explore the worlds of networking and collaboration while sharing tips on how to start building professional relationships and promote community over competition. **GRAND 10 & 11, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

4 - 5 pm - ABRAMS COMICARTS

Upcoming Abrams titles for include works from **Josh Trujillo** and **Levi Hastings** (*Washington's Gay General*), and more. **ROOM 29AB**

4 - 5 pm - COMICS CHANGE THE WORLD: COMICS ACTIVISM THEN TO NOW

This panel includes librarians and professors discussing the ways in which comics have been used to address civil rights and social issues since their inception and how they're still being used to address contemporary issues such as censorship, racism, LGBTQ+ rights, and more. **SHILEY SPECIAL EVENTS SUITE, SAN DIEGO CENTRAL LIBRARY**

4 - 5 pm - WELLNESS FOR GEEKS WHO SIT

Are you a gamer, writer, cosplayer, artist, or simply someone who spends a lot of time sitting at a desk? **Robyn Warren** (B.S./M.S.Ed., founder of Geek Girl Strong) leads this workshop designed to help you with those aches and pains developed from being hunched over! **GRAND 10 & 11, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

4 - 6 pm - CREATORS ASSEMBLE: COMICS CAMARADERIE, A NETWORKING EVENT

Take a break from hectic convention life to experience "speed dating" style networking with diverse comics enthusiasts from all backgrounds. Participants include **David M. Booher** (*Killer Queens*), **Barbra Dillon** (Fanbase Press), **Phil Jimenez** (*Wonder Woman Historia*), and more. **MARINA D, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

4:30 - 5:30 pm - SPOTLIGHT ON SIMON HANSELMANN

Simon Hanselmann (*Crisis Zone*) will talk about their new collaborative Werewolf Jones book, self-publishing versus the direct market, and more. **ROOM 5AB**

5 - 6 pm - HEY, THAT'S JUST LIKE ME! WHEN SUPERHEROES REPRESENT THEIR READERS

Led by **Barbra Dillon** (editor-in-chief, Fanbase Press), this panel includes **David M. Booher** (writer, *Killer Queens*), **Ashley V. Robinson** (writer, *Jupiter Jet*), and more in a thoughtful conversation about why the superheroes in comic books must become more representative of their diverse readership. **ROOM 23ABC**

6 - 7 pm - HOW TO CRAFT COMPLEX AND DIVERSE CHARACTERS: UNLEASHING REPRESENTATION

Learn tips on how to explore crafting narratives that challenge preconceptions and foster empathy, celebrate the tapestry of diverse identities, and amplify underrepresented voices from **Tara Madison Avery** (Stacked Deck Press) and others! **ROOM 3**



Upper (l-r) - Andy Mangels, Tim Sheridan, Nicole Maines, Jimmy Sherfy
 Lower (l-r) - Darcie Little Badger, William O. Tyler, Lena Atanassova

6 - 8 pm - OUT IN COMICS: YEAR 36 - A PRISM PANEL

The comic world's longest-running panel is back for its 36th record-breaking year. The Comic Book world has become a celebrated part of the Pop Culture world. LGBTQ comics and graphic novels for all ages are being produced and acclaimed in incredible numbers, and queer characters are finally starting to show up in genre movies and TV shows. And yet, in our politicized and polarized world, LGBTQ comics and graphic novels and LGBTQ characters in popular media are facing more censure and opposition than in previous years. This means that telling stories of queer characters of diverse backgrounds and identities is more important than ever before. Join Prism Comics, moderator **Andy Mangels** [he/him/his] (the founder of the "Out in Comics" panel; bestselling author of *Wonder Woman '77 Meets The Bionic Woman*, *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* books and comics) and special guest panelists as they discuss what being "Out In Comics" means now and in the future. Panelists include: **Nicole Maines** [she/her] (actress and writer - "Dreamer" on *Supergirl*, *Yellowjackets*, *DC Pride*); **Tim Sheridan** [he/him] (comic writer and screenwriter - *Alan Scott: The Green Lantern*, *Masters of the Universe*, *Superman: Man of Tomorrow*, *Flashpoint Beyond*); **Darcie Little Badger** [she/her] (award-winning writer - *Elatsoe*, *A Snake Falls To Earth*); **William O. Tyler** [he/him] (artist and cinephile - *Siren.o*, *Anxious Ax*, *The Goth Queen Needs A Mate*); **Lena Atanassova** [she/her] (editor for Tokypop's *Love x Love* imprint and other manga); and **Jimmy Sherfy** [he/him] (San Diego's Cosplay King AND Princess)! **ROOM 4**

6:30 - 7:30 pm - ENTER THE LATINA SUPERHERO

Gabriela Lugo (producer of *Palm Springs*), **Kayden Phoenix** (creator of *A LA BRAVA*), and others discuss how to bring Latina superheroes into the entertainment industry. **ROOM 7AB**

7 - 8 pm - WHEN POP CULTURE FAVES BECOME PROBLEMATIC

How do we process pop culture — even when it's genius — that's stuck in time? We talk with a diverse panel of creators about media that hasn't fully held up, including **Tilly Bridges** (*Begin Transmission: The Trans Allegories Of The Matrix*) and others. **GRAND 10 & 11, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

7:30 - 8:30 pm - 3D PRINTED ACTION FIGURES

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about the world of action figure 3d printing. **ROOM 26AB**

7:30 - 8:30 pm - BATTLE BRACKETS: BEST PIXAR CHARACTERS

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel debate who is the best Pixar characters in pop culture! Vote "Gloppy," Disney's "unapologetically gay character" from The Other Two! **ROOM 10**

7:30 - 8:30 pm - EMPOWERING DIVERSE STORYTELLERS/ CELEBRATING INCLUSION & EQUALITY

Creators including **Joanna Blackhart** (they/them; game developer; disability, accessibility, and inclusion specialist) dig into how filmmaking, comics, games and transmedia can give voice to underrepresented folks and seek greater justice, empathy, and equality. **RM 5AB**

8 - 9 pm - THINGS COULD BE WORSE

What draws readers to books that offer even darker scenarios than real life's news -- and how can those works provide catharsis and hope and other positive effects? Ask **Chuck Tingle** (*Camp Damascus*) and others. **ROOM 25ABC**

9 - 10 pm - THE TROMA PANEL

Michael Varrati (screenwriter/filmmaker) and others discuss the risks and rewards of independent filmmaking. **ROOM 25ABC**

SUNDAY, JULY 23 HALL HOURS - 9:30 am - 5 pm



Upper (l-r) - Cort Lane, Mariko Tamaki, Sam Maggs, Brittney Williams
Lower (l-r) - Tilly Bridges, Michael Vogel

10:30 - 11:30 am - THE RISE OF LGBTQ COMICS AND ANIMATION FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES - A PRISM COMICS PANEL

Animation and publishing storytellers discuss their projects and answer the questions: How do they approach LGBTQ content and characters for kids and teens? How do new LGBTQ creators find their voice and get their start? What are the new and upcoming

projects to watch for? Join Prism Comics, moderator **Cort Lane** (*My Little Pony: Make Your Mark, No Straight Lines: The Rise Of Queer Comics*) and panelists **Tilly Bridges** (*Monster High, Begin Transmission: The Trans Allegories of The Matrix*), **Sam Maggs** (*Star Wars Jedi: Battle Scars, Tell No Tales: Pirates of the Southern Seas*), **Mariko Tamaki** (*This One Summer, Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me*), **Michael Vogel** (*Strawberry Shortcake, My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic*), and **Brittney Williams** (*Craig of the Creek, Marvel and DC Pride* compilations) as they look at the world of LGBTQ storytelling for the young fans of today and creators of tomorrow. **ROOM 10**

10 -11 am - COSPLAY AND COSTUME PROFESSIONALS

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel has professional costume designers and theater artists discuss the many skills that cosplayers can learn and then apply in careers such as theater, film, live events, music, and beyond. **ROOM 3**

10:30 -11:30 am - WOMEN OF MARVEL

What is it like for women working in the industry today, and what is next for Marvel's woman-led projects? Hear from **Sarah Brunstad** (editor), **Charlie Jane Anders** (*New Mutants: Lethal Legion*), and others. **ROOM 6A**

11 am -12 pm - THE SHORT OF IT: ANIMATION IS A MEDIUM

Oscar-winning story artist **Pearl Low** (*Hair Love, Craig of the Creek*, they/them), independent animator **Christina Moreland** (*Afro Gurl*, they/them), and fellow industry animation professionals discuss the art and appeal of animated shorts and their impact on storytelling and culture at large. **ROOM 4**

11:15 am -12:15 pm - DC BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

DC showcases some of the creators behind the publisher's popular middle-grade and young adult graphic novels, including **Nicole Maines** (*Bad Dream: A Dreamer Story*), **Sina Grace** (*Superman: The Harvests of Youth*), and more. **ROOM 6DE**

12 - 1 pm - CONGRESSIONAL POPULAR ARTS CAUCUS

U.S. Congressman **Robert Garcia** will announce the launch of the Congressional Popular Arts Caucus, a new bi-partisan caucus in the United States Congress. A discussion will include writer **Josh Trujillo** (*Blue Beetle*). **ROOM 4**

12 - 1 pm - LET'S HIT CRITICAL

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about the challenges of balancing the elements of a gaming campaign. **ROOM 7AB**

12 - 1 pm - MENTAL HEALTH AND COSPLAY

How can cosplay help to cope with mental health issues such as trauma, mental illnesses, and grief? A veteran panel offers advice, including **Sean Chong-Umeda**. **GRAND 10 & 11, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

12 - 1 pm - THE ROGUES' GALLERY: MY FAVORITE VILLAIN

Who is your favorite villain? Find out what **Steenz**, **Jazzlyn Stone**, and others think. **ROOM 25ABC**

1 - 2 pm - ALL-STAR ARTISTS PANEL

BOOM! Studios talent, including **Liana Kangas** (Know Your Station), chat. **ROOM 25ABC**

1 - 2 pm - FROM BURNOUT TO BRAINSTORM

Comics editor **Amanda Meadows** (Oni Press/Lion Forge, she/her) and others discuss how they've navigated publishing to produce work that excites them, and how industry mindsets must change to offer creators more support and fans more stories that reflect a wider range of experiences. **ROOM 29AB**

1:30 - 2:30 pm - LITTLE FISH: CONNECTING COMICS, CINEMA, BOOKS, AND SCIENCE

San Diego's own Little Fish Comic Book Studio will lead you through all the exciting connections that comics can forge with schools, libraries, science, film festivals, and so much more. With **Phil Jimenez** (*Wonder Woman: Historia*) and others! **ROOM 23ABC**

1:30 - 2:30 pm - X-MEN FANDOM PANEL

The 4th annual X-Men Fandom panel brings together the X-Men Fan community to express what they love about Marvel's mutants. This panel features **Chandler Poling** (*The Uncanny Experience, X-Reads Podcast*), an exclusive art print by artist **Lukas Werneck** (*Immortal X-Men, Trial of Magneto*), and more! **ROOM 6A**

2 - 3 pm - DRAW ME LIKE ONE OF YOUR DISNEY GIRLS

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about drawing from models and working in the animation industry. **ROOM 11**

2 - 3 pm - SELLING SUPERMAN: THE STORY BEHIND THE UPCOMING FEATURE

Tagged in the CCI schedule as being of LGBTQIA+ interest, this panel is about the upcoming documentary *Selling Superman* which uses the lure of comics to examine the heroic power of choosing what we give meaning to. **GRAND 12 & 13, MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN DIEGO MARINA**

2:30 - 3:30 pm - ROMANTASY: WHEN SFF AND ROMANCE KISS

Authors discuss romance in science-fiction and fantasy, moderated by **TJ Klune** (*In the Lives of Puppets, Wolfsong*). **ROOM 23ABC**

3 - 4:30 pm - BUFFY: ONCE MORE WITH FEELING: AN INTERACTIVE WHEDONVERSE MUSICAL

An interactive screening of the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* musical episode "Once More with Feeling" as Comic-Con's big closing event! **ROOM 6BCF**

3:30 - 4:30 pm - TRIVIA FOR CHOCOLATE

Trivia maven Tom Galloway (game show winner) asks lots of short comics trivia questions assisted by **Peter S. Svensson** (Comics YouTuber and LARP designer). You can win chocolate bars! **ROOM 26AB**

4 - 5 pm - GAAAYS IN SPAACE

The reality of the burgeoning space tourism industry has blurred the lines between today's world and the sci-fi future of series like *The Orville* and *Star Trek*. But how do we ensure that universal equality is part of this new frontier for humanity? Deborah Sass (Space Hero, co-CEO), Phil Wocken (World View Enterprises, vice president), Michelle Hanlon (Space Lawyers, For All Moonkind, CEO), Karissa Winters (Innovation Collective), and two of your favorite sci-fi actors (TBA) discuss what can be done today to build a future that goes beyond inclusion. Moderated by **Dan Deevy** (Gays In Space founder). **ROOM 32AB**

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

7 pm - COSPLAY DREAMGIRLS REVUE: COMIC-CON COSPLAY EDITION

Join *RuPaul Drag Race All-Stars* Winner **Chad Michaels**, plus **Jimmy Sherfy**, **Smooches Galore**, **Trinna Modele**, and **Kickxy Vixen Styles** for a stupendous night of Cosplay drag and entertainment. **MO'S URBAN, 308 UNIVERSITY AVENUE**

7 pm - 1:30 am COMIC-CON FREE DRAG BINGO

Drink specials. Hosted by **Maddie Moses**. **AMERICAN JUNKIE, 628 FIFTH AVENUE**

8 pm - 2 am READY PARTY ONE: 8 BIT LEGACY, SDCC KICK OFF PARTY

All-inclusive - Travel to the Mushroom Kingdom planet, where the 8-bit legacy adventures of *Zelda*, *Mega Man*, *Metroid*, and a mushroom-smashing plumber run rampant. **PARQ NIGHTCLUB 615 BROADWAY** - \$50-\$300 cover

10 pm - 2 am MISCHIEF: COMIC-CON No cover and a fiery cosplay event hosted by **Kickxy Vixen Styles** and **Smooches Galore!** Bring your valid Comic Con Badge! **RICH'S NIGHTCLUB, 1051 UNIVERSITY AVE**

THURSDAY, JULY 20

7 pm - 12 am - COMIC BOOK LEGAL DEFENSE FUND PARTY SPONSORED BY ONI PRESS

Mix and mingle with comics professionals and readers, bid on the amazing auction for the cause of fighting comics censorship. Free admission for CBLDF members and all others asked to make a voluntary contribution. **WESTGATE HOTEL'S TERRACE UNDER THE STARS, 1055 2ND AVE.**

8:30 pm - 12 am - HOT HEROES - PRISM COMICS' COSPLAY NIGHT AT PEC'S

A fun-raiser for Prism Comics! Come in costume as your favorite hero, villain, film or TV character! Drawings for comics swag! Enjoy the large outdoor patio area. **PECS BAR 2046 UNIVERSITY AVE.**

9 pm - 2 am - NOSTALGIA NIGHTCLUB: THE 90'S TV TAKEOVER SDCC AFTERPARTY 2023

All-inclusive - 90's kids' TV-themed nightlife experience with a grown-up twist! **PARQ NIGHTCLUB 615 BROADWAY** - \$50-\$300 cover

FRIDAY, JULY 21

9 pm - 2 am - COMIC-CON DRAG SHOW WITH GASLAMP DIVAS

\$10 at door. With **Jessica Kayne**, **Jimmy Sherfy**, **Willow Jax**, **TJ Barr**, and more. **CASABLANCA LOUNGE, 836 FIFTH AVE.**

9 pm - 2 am - POKEBALL ANIME COMIC-CON PARTY

Ned Cato Jr. produces this anime-themed event, with two dance floors and a 360-degree photo booth. Performances by **Kickxy Vixen Styles** and **Shania Satisfaction**. No cover with your valid Comic-Con badge OR if you're are in costume! **RICH'S NIGHTCLUB, 1051**

8 pm - 2 am - THE MONSTERS BALL SDCC 2023 AFTER PARTY

All-inclusive - the ultimate party for the creepy, kooky, sparkly, and spooky. Unleash your inner demon and find your perfect match at this one-of-a-kind event.

PARQ NIGHTCLUB 615 BROADWAY - \$50-\$300 cover

SATURDAY, JULY 22

12 pm - COMIC-CON BUBBLES FOR BRUNCH

Join *RuPaul Drag Race All-Stars* Winner **Chad Michaels**, plus **Kickxy Vixen Styles**, **Keex Rose**, **Trinna Modele**, and **Jimmy Sherfy** for a stupendous brunch of Cosplay drag and entertainment. **MO'S URBAN, 308 UNIVERSITY AVENUE**

8 pm - COMIC-CON COSPLAY BATTLE EXTRAVAGANZA

Join *RuPaul Drag Race All-Stars* Winner **Chad Michaels**, plus **Kickxy Vixen Styles**, **Nadya Simone**, **Strawberry Corncakes**, and **Jimmy Sherfy** for a dazzling evening of Cosplay drag and entertainment. Plus CASH PRIZE Cosplay contests for Best Villain, Best Super-Hero, Best Gender Bender, Best Sci-Fi, and Best Gaymer! **MO'S URBAN, 308 UNIVERSITY AVE.**

9 pm - 2 am - 18TH ANNUAL HEROES & VILLAINS COMIC-CON PARTY

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On the occasion of **Prism Comics' 20th Anniversary** Prism would like to share this article written by Rebecca Kaplan, Prism Comic's Communications Chair and long-time volunteer with the organization, for thepopverse.com. We thank Jessica for all of his volunteer contributions to Prism Comics, and we thank Popverse for allowing us to share this article!

WHY PRISM COMICS MATTERS: A PERSONAL STORY INSIDE THE PIONEERING LGBTQIA+ COMICS NON-PROFIT

A personal look inside the queer comics organization that has grown and blossomed as the comics industry has grow

by

**Rebecca Kaplan, Contributing Writer, Popverse
Published on June 30, 2023 on thepopverse.com**

Paige Braddock is the chief creative officer of Peanuts' late creator Charles. M. Schulz and his family's immense creative empire, and an award-winning comic strip artist in her own right. But as she tells Popverse, she probably wouldn't still be a cartoonist if it weren't for the people at Prism Comics.

2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the all-volunteer non-profit championing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, and LGBTQIA+-friendly comics, comics professionals, readers, educators, and families. And although Prism has undergone some changes in leadership and structure since Braddock's Northern California get-togethers with underground queer comix heavyweights like Alison Bechdel, it still



provides a community for queer creators to tell their stories and a place for queer fans to find stories featuring characters like them.

While opportunities have improved for queer creators since the non-profit was founded in 2003, as a transgender writer, I recently had a personal experience that reminded me why an organization promoting inclusion in comics and

entertainment is still necessary. So, as Prism's managing editor and co-communications officer (alongside my wife, Avery Kaplan), I have been thinking about the non-profit's history, impact, and why Prism Comics is still needed today.

A Brief History of Prism Comics

And now, for something completely incomplete: a short history of Prism Comics, which began with Comic-Con International's commitment to marginalized voices, a San Diego Comic-Con panel, and a zine.

Star Trek scribe, Gay Comics editor, and one of the first 'mainstream' creators 'out' in comics, Andy Mangels, moderated the first 'Gays In Comics' panel at SDCC in 1988.

It featured Max Allan Collins (Ms. Tree), Terry Beatty (Ms. Tree), Roberta Gregory (Naughty Bits), Mike Grell (Green Lantern/Green Arrow), John Ostrander (Suicide Squad), Kay Reynolds (Fortune's Friends: Hell Week), Robert Triptow (Gay Comix), and Kate Worley (Omaha the Cat Dancer). Now run by Prism and known as 'Out In Comics,' the panel ran for its 35th year in 2022, making it the "longest-running Comic-Con panel," according to Comics Beat.

With the success of the 'Out In Comics' panel and a growing number of openly queer creators, Mangels started self-publishing a guide of queer comic creators and their bios, Out In Comics, in 1999. The first zine was 16 pages. But with the help of Zan Christensen, Joe Palmer, Kyle Minor, and Dwayne Best, the zine more than doubled in size by 2001. This project was the precursor to Prism Comics.

In 2002, Mangels and publisher Jai Sen (Shoto Press) worked alongside Minor, Palmer, and Christensen to create the non-profit group, Out In Comics, to publish a yearly guide at each SDCC and to promote queer creators and comics. In 2003, the group was officially renamed Prism Comics, with the tagline 'Seeing Comics in a different light!' and had a table (shared with Jai Sen's Shoto Press) at SDCC for the first time.

Over the years, Prism has published books, bestowed the Queer Press Grant, nurtured the careers of hundreds of queer comic creators, hosted drink and draw events, exhibited at conventions nationwide, and founded West Hollywood Pride Arts Festival's Q Con, the first LGBTQIA+ comic convention in Southern California since 2014. Each year the non-profit recognizes diversity and excellence in queer comics with the Prism Awards, an awards group co-sponsored by the Cartoon Art Museum and the Queer Comics Expo. All this support for the queer comics community is made possible through the work of many volunteers and some of the group's most active supporters: Maia Kobabe (Prism Award co-founder), Patty Jeres, Roger Klorese, Nina Kester, Gladys Ochoa, Elizabeth Beier, Tara Madison Avery, and especially the non-profit's current president, Ted Abenheim.

"I found Prism Comics nine years ago at a booth at San Diego Comic-Con," Abenheim told Lambda Literary in 2013. "I was amazed to find that there were comics that dealt with LGBT topics—coming out, youth issues, school issues, family relationships, dating, and relationships—personal subjects that television, film, and other popular media didn't touch in any depth at the time. I felt at home because in the huge sea of thousands of people at the convention, here were other people like me with stories I could relate to.... That's when I got involved with Prism."

Prism Comics and Me

My story is like Abenheim's. In 2015, Avengers: Age of Ultron changed my life's trajectory (read about it here). So, my cousin invited my wife, Comics Beat features editor Avery Kaplan, and me to my first comic convention: Stan Lee's Comikaze (now Los Angeles Comic Con). Well, at least, I think it was. At the time, I was a noob who didn't know San Diego Comic-Con from the Santa Ana Art Walk.

That year, I was out as bisexual (only) and engrossed in California State Bar Exam prep (mistakenly, but I did pass). As a law clerk, I had a challenging experience working with demanding clients and even more difficult lawyers, so I had an inkling that I wanted to



Ted Abenheim, President, Prism Comics; Rebecca Kaplan, Journalist and Communications Chair, Prism Comics; Avery Kaplan, Journalist; Kevin Alpert, Star Volunteer with Prism Comics

be something other than a career lawyer. However, when I saw the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund booth, I was intrigued by the organization's mission to protect the First Amendment rights of the comic book art form and its community. And for 0.68 seconds, I was tempted to become a lawyer.

At 0.69 seconds, I discovered Prism, located on the other side of the CBLDF booth. Signing that day was bisexual illustrator Elizabeth Beier, who also had self-published copies of *I Like Your Headband: A First Crush Story* and *Bisexual Trials and Errors* (later turned into a graphic novel by Northwest Press in 2017). Beier's books feature bisexual characters, and I still remember my audible excitement when I saw the rainbow-colored booth lined with books with 'BISEXUAL' splashed across the cover. Although I'd seen a couple of bisexual characters in mainstream comics, I'd never seen my identity so boldly displayed on a comic cover. I wanted to know more about the artist who created it (and the organization supporting her). So, I immediately bought copies of Beier's books, and Avery and I put our names in the plastic bin to be future volunteers.

One year later, at Stan Lee's Comikaze in 2016, I officially volunteered with Prism for the first time. Although I seem like an extrovert (thanks to ADHD), my sweaty dance performance when I meet someone new betrays my severe social anxiety. However, I could stop performing at the Prism booth and be myself, as the other volunteers immediately made me feel welcome. More than welcome; it was like a party! I spent two days dancing – because I wanted to, not because of nerves – with a 'homo superior' bag and meeting my idols (although I generally didn't know whom I was talking to until the conversation ended). Over the next few years, I attended as many conventions as my endometriosis-riddled body would allow. And with each comic con, I looked forward to seeing the other volunteers more and more, such as the dedicated Kevin Alpert and Missy Cohen.

continued...

Today, as an active member of the non-profit, I hope when people visit the booth that, I can provide reading suggestions and conversation that recreates what Abenheim and I felt when we first found Prism: the feeling of being engulfed in a giant bear hug. With school library book bans targeting LGBTQIA+ content, Prism provides queer creators, readers, and allies a safe space to reliably find queer comics and graphic novels. More importantly, when people step into the rainbow-colored booth, they know they won't be judged for who they are.

When I volunteer at conventions, I see the difference that Prism makes in lives. Once, someone visited the booth to practice coming out before telling their friends and family. Conversely, many supportive families come by the booth asking what graphic novels and comics would be appropriate for a loved one who recently came out. Then, Braddock isn't the only creator who told me how Prism was a vital community when they started in comics. Finally, countless librarians stop by the booth at every convention to ensure they have graphic novels featuring every flavor of queer protagonists. These are all lives touched by Prism's work, and that's why the organization endures. Looking forward, Prism has some exciting new projects in the works, and I can't wait for y'all to see what's next!

About the Author

Rebecca Oliver Kaplan (she/he) is a bigender comic critic and judicial scholar and co-author of *Double Challenge: Being LGBTQ and a Minority with his wife, Avery Kaplan*. His work can regularly be found at [Geek Girl Authority](#), [Comics Beat](#), [Prism Comics](#), [PanelxPanel](#), and [MovieWeb](#).

LEGEND FOR FRONT AND BACK COVERS - PRISM OVER THE YEARS

Many thanks to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence for christening the Prism Comics Booth as a Sacred Sanctuary in 2022. We love you all!

FRONT COVER

Top row photos: Chris Brown, Zan Christensen, Ted Abenheim, David Stanley, Andy Mangels; Viktor Kerney, Justin Garrett and friends;

2nd row photos (l-r): Storm and Brian J. Patterson, Josh Trujillo, Julissa Loza-Josephson, David Booher

3rd row photos (l-r): Howard Cruz, Prism Comics family including (back row l-r) Joe Glass, Jason Lesser, Ann Uland, Tara Madison Avery, Dylan Edwards, Josh Trujillo, Raymundo Padiernos, Pink Wookie, Samantha Newark; Front row l – r Justin Hall, Zan Christensen, Pink Tuscan Raider, J D Saxon, Dusty Jack, Alex Wolfson /

Bottom row: 90's queer comics fans at Comic-Con including Sabin Grey, Andy Mangels, Ted Abenheim, Roger Klorese and Brinke Stevens, Alison Bechdel, Maia Kobabe, Tara Madison Avery

BACK COVER

Top row photos (l-r): Zan Christensen, Chris Brown, Joe Palmer, Katherine Keller, Ajuan Mance, Chip Kidd with Northstar

2nd row photos (l-r): Trung Le Nguyen, Jay Justice as Medusa, Emily Willis and Ann Uland

3rd row photos (l-r): Ed Luce; Josh Trujillo

Bottom row: Jeff Krell, Patty Jeres, Marc Andreyko, Perry Moore, Stan Lee, Gail Simone, Judd Winnick, Bob Schreck

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