



DUBLIN 2019 BIOGRAPHIES

Guests of Honour



Diane Duane is a *New York Times* bestselling novelist and a screenwriter. Her first novel, *The Door Into Fire* (1979) was nominated for the John W. Campbell Award for best new writer. She has since published more than 50 other novels, in her own universes and numerous others. Duane's best-known works include her long-running (since 1983) *Young Wizards* series and nine bestselling *Star Trek* novels. Born in the USA, she moved to County Wicklow in the 1980s.

Twitter: @dduane



Ian McDonald has lived in Belfast since the age of five, and his acclaimed short stories and novels explore themes about nanotechnology, post-cyberpunk settings, and the impact of rapid social and technological change. He also worked in development for Northern Irish TV production companies, from documentary to animation and children's programmes. His many awards include a Locus Award for his first novel, *Desolation Road*, a Hugo Award for best novelette, and the Gaylactic Spectrum Award for *Luna: New Moon*.

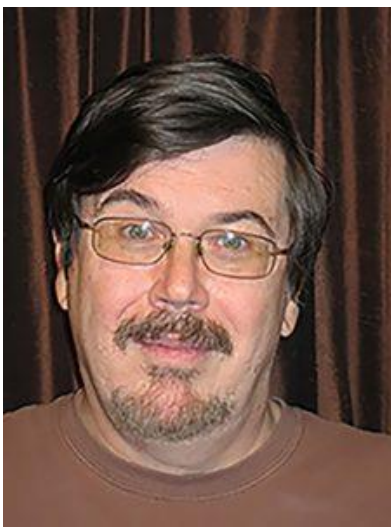
Twitter: @iannmcdonald



Ginjer Buchanan edited science fiction at Ace Books in New York City for 30 years, retiring as editor in chief. She has been a fan and professional editor for five decades in total, attending her first convention and her first Worldcon in 1968. She began running conventions in her home city of Pittsburgh and has held official posts at several world science fiction conventions. She has published an authorised Highlander tie-in novel, *White Silence*, and critical commentary on the works of Joss Whedon. She was named Best Editor, Long Form in the 2014 Hugo Awards.

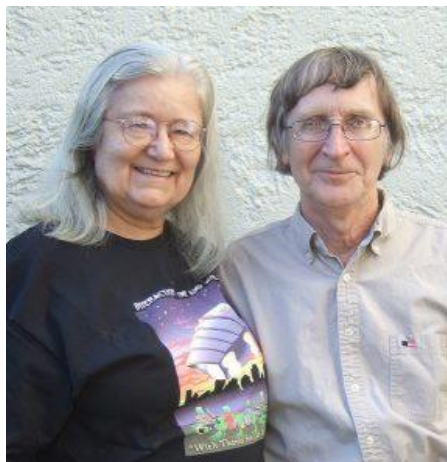


Professor (Dame) Jocelyn Bell Burnell is a Northern Irish astrophysicist. As a postgraduate student, she discovered the first radio pulsars while studying and advised by her thesis supervisor Antony Hewish, for which Hewish shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with astronomer Martin Ryle. Bell Burnell was excluded, despite having been the first to observe and precisely analyse the pulsars. Bell Burnell was President of the Royal Astronomical Society from 2002 to 2004, president of the Institute of Physics from October 2008 until October 2010. In March 2013 she was elected Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin. In 2018 she was awarded the Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. She donated the £2.3 million prize money to help female, minority, and refugee students seeking to become physics researchers.



Steve Jackson has been playing games for at least 50 years, and designing them since 1976. His first published games were *Ogre*, *Melee* and *Wizard*, released from 1977 by Metagaming as part of the Microgames series. He formed Steve Jackson Games in 1980. Subsequent releases include *Car Wars*, *Illuminati*, the Generic Universal Roleplaying System (GURPS), *Munchkin*, and *Zombie Dice*. He raised nearly a million dollars on Kickstarter for a Designer's Edition of *Ogre*. A member of the Adventure Gaming Hall of Fame, Steve has 12 Origins Awards among his honours for game design. Steve became active with the Electronic Frontier Foundation after the U.S. Secret Service invaded his office and confiscated materials. (He won a lawsuit against them, see SJgames.com/SS.) Based in Austin, Texas, Steve is not to be confused with the UK games designer of the same name.

Twitter: @SJGames



Bill and Mary Burns both attended the 1967 New York Worldcon, but did not become acquainted until the 1970 Heidelberg Worldcon, the first in continental Europe. It was the beginning of a permanent partnership for the trans-Atlantic pair, who have attended many more Worldcons and all of the UK national convention Eastercons since 1971. Their contributions to the community are significant: Mary is known for her art show and other volunteer work at Eastercon while Bill founded the eFanzines.com website to help traditional fanzine publishers make the transition to on-line publication. The site now hosts over 300 titles and thousands of fanzine issues. Bill was the recipient of Eastercon's Doc Weir Award for fan service in 2003, and in 2009 Mary and Bill were joint Fan Guests of Honour at Eastercon LX in Bradford. They live in New York.

Website: eFanzines.com

Featured Artists



Afua Richardson is best known for her work on *Genius* and *World of Wakanda*. She recently created a variant cover for Shuri #2, the Wakanda-based series written by Nnedi Okorafor. Her work across other stories includes drawing for X-Men 92, Captain Marvel, Captain America, and the Mighty Avengers for Marvel Comics; Wonder Woman Warbringer and All-Star Batman for DC Comics; and Mad Max. She also worked with U.S. Representative and civil rights leader John Lewis to illustrate Run, a volume in his autobiographical comic series co-written with Andrew Aydin. In 2011, Afua won the Nina Simone Award for Artistic Achievement for her trailblazing work in comics. She grew up in New York City and studied flute and singing before getting into writing and illustration. She has performed at Carnegie Hall and Off Broadway and remains active as a musician. Afua Richardson will co-host the 2019 Hugo Awards at Dublin 2019.

Twitter: [@AfuaRichardson](https://twitter.com/AfuaRichardson)



Jim Fitzpatrick in 1968 created the two-toned Che Guevara image copied on walls, T-shirts and tattoos around the world. His other artwork includes intricate Celti-cinspired images, including *The Book of Conquests*, as well as portrait drawings of iconic Irish writers, and album covers for Thin Lizzy. He designed the base for the 2019 Hugo Award trophy.

Twitter: [@jimfitzpatrick](https://twitter.com/jimfitzpatrick)



Maeve Clancy is the author and illustrator of the financial crisis travelogue *A Hibernian in Hellas* (Cardboard Press) and the web comic *Flatmates*. She also creates large scale works in cut paper, mural and other forms. She has produced commissioned artwork for Tall Ships Dublin and a puppet show set for the children's theatre Branar Téatar do Pháistí. She worked with young Syrians in Monasterevin, County Kildare, on the exhibition *The Moon Belongs to Everyone*, shown in April at Riverbank Arts Centre.

Website: maeveclancy.com



Sana Takeda is a Tokyo-based artist best known for drawing the prizewinning *Monstress* series, written by Marjorie Liu and published by Image. The heroine of *Monstress*, Maika Halfwolf, survives bereavement, slavery, and disabling injury to take control of her psychic powers and change her people's history. Since it premiered in 2015, *Monstress* has won three Hugos, five Eisners, three British Fantasy Awards and a Harvey Award. Takeda's artistic reference points range from Japanese woodblock prints to Marvel Comics, where she has drawn for franchises including X-Men and Ms. Marvel.

Tumblr: sanatakedaart

Special Guests



Dr Jeanette Epps is a NASA astronaut who works in the International Space Station Operations Branch. She has been a Crew Support Astronaut for two expeditions and has been lead spacecraft communicator (CAPCOM), the only mission control official who can communicate directly with astronauts on a mission. She has participated in a nine-day undersea NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operation (NEEMO), simulating exploration and materials extraction on an asteroid. She speaks fluent Russian. She was born in Syracuse, NY, and gained her PhD in aerospace engineering at the University of Maryland.

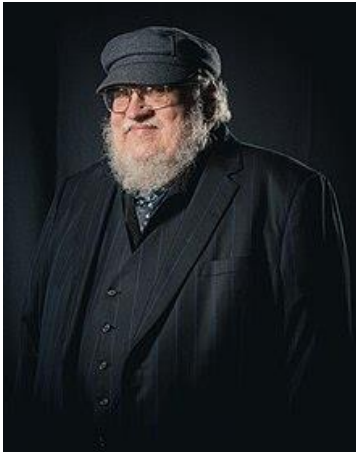
Twitter: [@Astro_Jeanette](https://twitter.com/Astro_Jeanette)



Dr. Norah Patten is a faculty member at the International Space University and is a citizen scientist-astronaut candidate with Project PoSSUM (Polar Suborbital Science in the Upper Mesosphere). In 2014 Norah directed the first student experiment from Ireland to go up on the International Space Station. She's an award-winning STEM advocate and in September 2019 her illustrated novel, *Shooting for the Stars*, will be published by The O'Brien Press. Norah is a native of Ballina.

Twitter: @SpaceNorah

Friend of the convention



George R.R. Martin is the international bestselling author and screenwriter who created *Game of Thrones* and the *Wild Cards* project, among other series across several genres. Based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, George attends Worldcon as a member and participates in the programme every year - he has missed only one Worldcon since 1971. He says: "Worldcon remains the original, and the best, the heart of the fannish community. Worldcon is like a family reunion."

Twitter: @GRRMSpeaking



James Bacon is chairman of the 77th World Science Fiction Convention, Dublin 2019. Growing up on the north side of Dublin, James discovered science fiction through comics fandom and began attending pub meetings of the Irish Science Fiction Society at the age of 16. He became involved in running conventions soon afterwards, volunteering at his first attendance at Octocon, the Irish science fiction convention in 1991. James is also known for his writing and work on fanzines, including the Hugo Award-winning *The Drink Tank* (2011) and *Journey Planet* (2015), with Christopher Garcia and others. In 2004 he was the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund (TAFF) delegate to Worldcon 62 in Boston. He co-chaired Octocon in 1996 and has chaired or co-chaired numerous other conventions, including the SF/humor con *Aliens Stole My Handbag* in 2000 and the British national convention *Eastercon* in 2009. He has been driving Dublin 2019 since 2011, leading hundreds of committed volunteers from all over the world. In his day job he drives trains for Great Western Railway. James lives in London.

Official convention Twitter: @Dublin2019