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WORLD 3D FILM EXPO

The World 3D Film Expo was a once in a lifetime chance to view the majority of the surviving 1950s 3D films. A total of 33 of the 50 3D movies made in that time period were shown. The Expo was held at the Egyptian Theater in Hollywood Sept 12 – 21, 2003. The Egyptian is a good theater for showing 3D because it is laid out with narrow aisles and a high screen meaning there are very few “bad” seats for 3D. It was a good thing to, because about 1/3 of the shows were total sell-outs.



The famous Egyptian Theater

Films ranged from the science fiction movies *Creature From the Black Lagoon*, *Revenge of the Creature*, *It Came From Outer Space*, *Cat-Women of the Moon* and *GOG*, to love stories like *Kiss Me Kate* starring Kathy Grayson and *Miss Sadie Thompson* starring Rita Hayworth. *The French Line*, starring Jane Russell, was released in 3D without MPA approval. After its showing the title song was shown in 2D as approved by the MPA, what a difference, most of the verses were dropped and it was shot from about a football field away!



Bear Bear talks with Charlie Chaplin at the Hollywood Entertainment Museum

The Westerns included *The Stranger Wore a Gun* starring Randolph Scott, *The Charge at Feather River*, *Arena*, *Jesse James vs. The Daltons*, *Gun Fury* and *The Nebraskan*. The only feature length comedy

was Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis in *Money From Home*. This does not mean these were the only comedies we saw. Cartoons, which originally played with the movies, were also shown when available, this included two of *The 3 Stooges*, *Casper*, *Woody Woodpecker*, Donald Duck in *Working for Peanuts*, and *Sam Space*.



When available, movie posters were displayed before the movie

Other movies, like *Robot Monster*, couldn't really be taken seriously when the monster wore an ape suit with a diving helmet. *The Maze* was a good suspense story until they revealed the monster at the end: it was a ludicrous frog. Other suspense stories included two of the most shown 3D films, *House of Wax* and *Dial M for Murder*.



A special guest appearance by "Robot Monster"

The most surprising thing about attending this event was the quality of most of the movies. *Hannah Lee* was the only one that was actually a chore to watch, the color had faded tremendously, the stereo was not done well and the plot was definitely a bit lame. On the other hand, the colors in *Gorilla at Large* were so vivid that you could almost forget that you were watching a movie that was 50 years old. Of course, Sony Pictures made new prints of each of the Columbia films so we were seeing "new release" quality prints.

Seeing so many 3D films was very enlightening. The 33 films we saw were a representative slice of 50's movies. Instead of a gimmick, 3D was simply a part of the movie like sound or color. Of course, sitting through 5 movies a day could be considered too much of a good thing!

CONSTELLATION XXII



John Ringo and his "groupie"

Suzanne and I missed DSC so we really wanted to make it to Constellation. Unfortunately the Friday it started on was a 3D club competition night. Since I'm just a tiny bit competitive I didn't want to miss the club meeting. So we compromised by driving down to Huntsville Friday night after the 3D club meeting. It reminded me of all the times I left for SF conventions after night classes at Georgia State with Joe Celko and Glen Brock.

The convention was held at the Holiday Inn Express, oddly I don't feel any smarter for having stayed there, which is really two hotels merged into one. The nav system in Suzanne's car didn't know that and got itself pretty confused. It was a good location for a convention with nice facilities. We got in too late to do anything except crash.

We got up Saturday just in time to catch Guy and Rosy's, they were the fan guests of honor, slide show on their trip to Australia.

It was fun to see someone else's report of the kind of trip we take. It turned out to be just about the only program item we attended. There were too many people there we hadn't seen in a long time we wanted to talk to.

Randy was running the art show and had a lot of good stuff on display. Unfortunately for my taste it was mostly fantasy-oriented pieces and I didn't find anything I liked enough to buy. Since I only make one convention a year I don't exactly see a representative sample of what's available but it seems to me that truly SF related art is becoming rarer.

The two highlights of the convention for me were both meals. We went to lunch with "the gang" and spent a very pleasant hour or so catching up on fannish gossip. Then we went to dinner with Toni and I got to talk with Mercedes Lackey and Larry Dixon. It was a pretty dull conversation for a while, travel mostly, then someone made some reference to cars and it turned into a lively discussion of high performance automobiles and the people who love them.

After dinner Saturday we did the party thing spending most of our time with Toni, Hank and Julie. I guess it's a sign of advancing age that I find I like to spend time just sitting around talking to people. It used to be something I found very hard to do and I always tried to find a card game or some other way to pass time when other people were room hopping. We



Top: Naomi and Bear Bear
Middle: Sam Smith and Suzanne
Bottom: Mercedes Lackey



both enjoyed the day enough that we are rethinking our decision to skip the next DSC in Memphis. It's the same weekend as our anniversary and we normally try to spend it doing something romantic. This year the trip we have planned in February may require a quiet weekend at a con.

Sunday, around noon, we checked out and drove to Trenton to the hang gliding park. The weather was perfect and I got some very good flights in. Unfortunately I also racked up my elbows but that's another story.

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