Dystopian Visions

Conversations about Science Fiction and Fantasy at The Bay Area Book Festival

Cory Doctorow, Annalee Newitz, John Scalzi, Nisi Shawl, and more

June 3-4, 2017

Sci-fi and fantasy always get a bump during turbulent political times. What happens when reality already feels like science fiction? The Bay Area Book Festival's extraordinary lineup of sci-fi and fantasy authors is sure to attract everyone from the expert trekkie to the newbie just looking for an escape.

All sessions will take place in venues in downtown Berkeley. Highlights of this year's conversations on **science fiction and fantasy** include:

- **When Reality Meets Science Fiction** — Large-scale, far-in-the-future stories tend to get most the glory in the sci-fi canon. But what happens when reality already feels like science fiction? Like George Orwell's '1984,' near-future narratives exploit current technology, politics, and fears to explore what life could be like in 10 years, one year, or even a hour. Our panelists, **Cory Doctorow, Meg Elison,** and **Zachary Mason,** consider how to predict the tantalizing possibility of what might be. (Sunday, June 4, 10:00am, at the David Brower Center - Goldman Theater)

- **The Lessons of History, Alternate or Otherwise** — When we think of science fiction and fantasy, we think of alternate realities and futuristic cities—avatars and AI and Coruscant. But these genres look to what happened in the past as much as what might lie ahead. Go back to the future with leading sci-fi and fantasy authors **Ellen Klages, John Scalzi, Nisi Shawl,** and **Gregory Benford** to explore what writers and readers can glean by going backward in time to move forward. (Sunday, June 4, 11:45am, at the David Brower Center - Goldman Theater)

- **Imagining the Other: Using Fantasy to Build Empathy** — You've no doubt heard the adage, "Write what you know," but what if you want to write about aliens, dragons, wizards, or people from an entirely different culture? **Randy Henderson, Erika Lewis,** and **Chuck Wendig** debunk the myth that "knowing" trumps all, and how it's far more important to write what you imagine, what inspires you, and what story you want to tell. (Sunday, June 4, 1:30pm, at the Hotel Shattuck Plaza - Crystal Ballroom)

- **Tor Books presents Science Fiction and the Resistance!** — Join **Charlie Jane Anders, Cory Doctorow, Annalee Newitz,** and **John Scalzi** as they kick ass, take names and decide who goes down first, and hardest, in an epic discussion about new directions in science fiction and fantasy. (Sunday, June 4, 3:15pm, at the Alta Stage at Freight & Salvage)

For more on science fiction and fantasy sessions see the full schedule.

Festival speakers, including the science fiction and fantasy authors, are available for interviews by credentialed members of the press via email in or Skype in advance of the festival, or in person over the weekend event. Outlet must be identified and assignment secured before the interview.

The festival logo and other images are available here, and author photos are available by request. Please contact Anna Pulley, anna@baybookfest.org.