



**November 9-11, 2018
The DeVos Place
Grand Rapids, Michigan**

www.grcomiccon.com

Educational Kit

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A Note From The Show Promoter...

Friends:

As educators, I know that you have interest in students receiving solid educational experiences both in and out of the classroom. We also know that kids generally speaking learn more effectively and quickly when they are involved in an environment that piques their interest and where they gather some fun and enjoyment at the same time.

Boy, *do we have an educational experience for your students!*

You may think of it as more entertainment, but the Grand Rapids Comic-Con has been hosting numerous educational panels geared toward a younger crowd since its inception in 2013. Our event features national experts making a career in the fields of art, creative writing, art history, and film and video doing educational and informational presentations at the event that are included in the ticket price. The celebrity experts are also available for question and answer sessions after most panels.

We also have numerous other attractions that are educational in nature, including a large comic art display, a display from the largest super hero museum in the United States, two film festivals, one of the largest young adult author conferences in the United States, and numerous other educational opportunities.

Please find the panels that we feel are educational listed in this kit below. We made this kit available to make you aware of the truly unique opportunities available at our event. We want to make sure that you are aware of these events within our show that you can encourage the many students at your school that are already attending to visit a panel or two that would interest them. Maybe turn some of them into extra credit opportunities for students if you feel that would be worthwhile. If you are attending then maybe you could personally pop in to a seminar and enjoy some of the truly unique panels by experts in their field.

Thank you for your time. Hope to see you there!

Mark Hodges
Grand Rapids Comic-Con

Literature & Writing

Friday, November 9 at 3:45 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook C-D

Randy Zimmerman and an Assortment of Indie Comic Publishers

The Trials and Tribulations of Indie Publishing

Hear a gaggle of independent comic book publishers discuss their profession, what got them involved in the comic book field in the first place, the tricks of self-publishing, and what indie publishers are truly looking for in new talent. Moderated by Flint Comic publisher Randy Zimmerman.

Friday, November 9 at 4:00 pm in Grand Gallery D

Bryan Donihue

Worldbuilding 101: Making a World Make Sense

Bryan Donihue is a game designer and published author. If you are an aspiring author, game designer, or even a GM who wants to create their own setting, Bryan will talk about building a consistent world from scratch as a setting for an RPG, novel, or other work. He will also talk about the steps he takes and the mistakes he's made in building his current persistent world, *The World of Incursion*.

Friday, November 9 at 5:15 pm in Monroe Room

Michael Golden

On Storytelling

Sit down and have a session with one of the best storytellers in the business, creator of *Rogue from the X-Men*, & former senior art director of *Marvel Comics*. Good for anyone interested in learning how to write a good story. Be it for comics, film, animation, Michael answers your questions!

Friday, November 9 at 6:30 pm in Grand Gallery D

MarcyKate Connolly

The Method in The Magic

Most fantasy novels have a unique magic system, ranging anywhere from simple and direct to highly complex. In this presentation, MarcyKate will talk about tips and tricks to build one's own fantasy world. The presentation will take a look at examples of magic systems and how they work. Registrants will also participate in an interactive worldbuilding activity with a Q&A to follow.

Friday, November 9 at 8:00 pm in Monroe Room

Christopher Paolini

The Process of Eragon

How does one create and develop a major fantasy franchise as a teenager? World renowned author Christopher Paolini will step you through the journey of *The Inheritance Cycle* and *Eragon* and how perseverance, exposure, and a little luck brought him out of the mountains of Wyoming to the national literary spotlight with a book idea that came to him when he was 14. A truly inspirational story for aspiring writers everywhere!

Saturday, November 10 at 11:00 am on Main Stage

James Tynion IV and Steve Orlando

Being the Scribes For The Batman

James (writer for Detective Comics and the Batman/TMNT crossover) and Steve (Batman: Shadow) discuss the challenges and pitfalls of writing such an iconic character as The Batman, placing him in different universes, and meeting the expectations of a rabid fan base.

Saturday, November 10 at 11:00 am in Monroe Room

Elise Kova

How to be a "Real" Author: Self Publishing v.s. Traditional Publishing

If you're interested in publishing a novel, it can be hard to know who to trust your book baby with. As an author who's stepped on both sides of the publishing fence, Kova shares her experiences, perspectives, and the tales of others to give you helpful tips on how to choose the right publishing path.

Saturday, November 10 at 2:00 pm in Grand Gallery D

Mindee Arnett

Path to Publication: A Guide to Writing and Selling Speculative Fiction

In this workshop, Mindee shares her tips, strategies, and tools on everything from selecting a strong story concept idea, to writing a solid draft, to how to find an agent and publisher. Using a powerpoint presentation, she goes through the ups and downs of her own journey to publication with an emphasis on sharing the learning resources she has found the most helpful. Attendees are encouraged to participate along the way, and the workshop concludes with a question and answer session.

Saturday, November 10 at 3:15 pm in Grand Gallery D

Derek Padula

How to Name Your Comic Book Characters, Dragon Ball Style

Learn how to name the people, places, and things in your comics like the ones in Dragon Ball, the world's most-recognized anime and manga. Derek Padula, the author of nine books on the Dragon Ball franchise, will teach you the process.

Saturday, November 10 at 4:00 pm in Grand Gallery E-F

Makiiia Lucier

The Writing Life: From Inspiration to Publication (and Everything In Between)

Every writer is different. Not only in terms of what they write, whether it is fantasy, mystery, historical fiction, or sci-fi. But how they write differs greatly. In this presentation, Makiiia discusses how a story goes from being a vague idea rattling around in her head to an actual book on a bookstore or library shelf. Included is a behind the scenes look at the revision process, cover design, title selection, and thoughts on why authors should never (ever!) read their reviews.

Sunday, November 11 at 11:00 am on Main Stage

Shea Fontana and Agnes Garbowska

Talking DC Super Hero Girls to the Kids

The co-creator and major artist for the DC Super Hero Girls franchise will discuss the creation of every little girl's favorite super hero team and their influence on the future readers of comic books everywhere. This panel is specifically geared towards children and you have to be a kid to ask a question.

Sunday, November 11 at 12:15 pm on Main Stage

Tony Isabella

Black Lightning and My Road To Diversity

The creator of Black Lightning (now a hit series on the CW) and Misty Knight (who appears in Netflix's Luke Cage and other Marvel shows), talks about the career path that led him to seek out writing assignments on characters of color and to create characters like Black Lightning and Misty Knight. You'll learn secrets behind the comics as Tony talks about his career and answers your questions.

Sunday, November 11 at 12:30 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook A-B

Rebecca Ross

The Shape of Stories: How Emotional Stakes Can Help You Structure Your Novel

This workshop will focus on three points that Rebecca has found helpful in structuring a novel—the staircase (elevation) of stakes, the breath, heart and bones of a plot, and the rule of three climaxes. She'll be sharing a powerpoint that will assist with graphics, a plot template, and further examples. Rebecca will also welcome audience questions at the end.

Art

Friday, November 9 at 4:30 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook A-B

Robert Pope

The Life of a Cartoonist

Cartoonist and animator ROBERT POPE will discuss his career and explain the ins and outs of making your favorite animated characters come to life on the comic book page—from Charlie Brown to Wile E Coyote, it's not as easy as it looks!

Saturday, November 10 at 1:30 pm on Main Stage

Kevin Eastman

The Creation of Pop Culture Legends

The co-creator of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles franchise will show a slideshow in relation to his career and take questions from the audience.

Saturday, November 10 at 1:30 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook C-D

Comfort and Adam

Let's Make a Character (with Dirk Manning)

Comfort and Adam, along with special guests Dirk Manning will not only talk about how to make a great character, but will create a new character on the spot with the audience's help. The seminar will be broken into two halves: first, Comfort and Adam will take you through the concepts of what it takes to make an awesome character. In the second, all the panelists will invite audience participation in creating a new character which will be conceptualized and drawn on the spot.

Sunday, November 11 at 11:15 am in Grand Gallery Overlook A-B

Dan Monroe

Creating and Drawing Characters for Children

Well known children illustrator Dan Monroe shows the process of creating characters and art that children will love. From the initial concept to final rendering, a quick course on my workflow when working with clients and projects.

Sunday, November 11 at 1:30 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook C-D

Comfort and Adam with Thom Zahler

Let's Build a Team

Making one great character is challenge enough – but what if you need to create an entire team of characters? Whether building a team of equals or just building a supporting cast for your protagonist, there is an art to fleshing out a complete roster of characters. Join Comfort and Adam with guest Thomas Zahler to learn the basics of teambuilding and design. Then, we will invite the audience to help in creating a small team which will be designed and drawn live.

History

Friday, November 9 at 3:45 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook E

Allen Stewart and the Hall of Heroes Museum

Comic Books And The Cold War: A Retrospective

If you love comic book history then you won't want to miss this exciting and informative panel by Allen Stewart Executive Director of The Hall of Heroes Super Hero Museum. We will start at the end of WWII and discover comic books secrets such as: how a Superman comic almost revealed the secret of The Atom Bomb, how the super heroes and comic books almost ceased to exist due to a lone child psychiatrist's book "Seduction of the Innocent," how the Cold War was being fought during both the Silver Age and Bronze Age Era of comics, and how many early Marvel villains were Communists. We'll also discuss Wonder Woman's goofiest villain Egg Fu and what if Superman landed in Russia instead of the United States? Don't miss this fun and educational panel!

Sunday, November 11 at 11:00 am in Grand Gallery Overlook E

Brent Clark Rogers

Native Americans In The DC Universe

DC Comics historical scribe Brent Clark Rogers takes a look at the numerous depictions of Native American superheroes. These will be reviewed and will show how these cultures have been depicted in the pages of DC Comics over the years.

Sunday, November 11 at 2:00 pm in Grand Gallery E-F

Mark Fertig

Take That, Adolf! The Fighting Comic Books of the Second World War

Through a series of vibrant, stirring, and often shocking cover images, Fantagraphics author Mark Fertig will explain how the fledgling comic book industry came into its own during the war years. From Captain America to Wonder Woman, government propaganda to cringe-inducing racism, and isolationism to victory, Fertig will explain how comics helped win the war, and how the war helped comics cement an everlasting place in American culture.

Entertainment Business

Friday, November 9 at 4:00 pm in Grand Gallery E-F

Joyce Chin and Friends

Breaking In and Staying In The Entertainment Industry

Joyce and the rest of the panelists discuss being “discovered” in mainstream entertainment, the importance of those first chances within the field, and how to stay relevant within your chosen love and profession. Joyce will be joined by Agnes Garbowska and Steve Orlando.

Sunday, November 11 at 12:15 pm in Monroe Room

TheOdd1sOut and SomeThingElseYT

Making a Living on YouTube

The guys discuss their unique career choices by making a living on YouTube making videos about life in general. They discuss the pros and cons of such a career choice, the pitfalls that this career can bring, the evils of demonetization, and what they feel their futures hold.

Saturday, November 10 at 2:45 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook A-B

Mike Grell

A Thirty Year Comic Career Discussed

Famed Green Arrow and Warrior artist Mike Grell will discuss his career including his influence on the hit CW show “Arrow”. A question and answer session will follow.

Sunday, November 11 at 12:15 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook C-D

Dirk Manning and K. Lynn Smith

From NIGHTMARE to HOPE: The Journey of Making Creator-Owned Comics

Join creators Dirk Manning (NIGHTMARE WORLD, TALES OF MR. RHEE) and K. Lynn Smith (PLUME, HOPE) as they discuss the parallels and differences of their journeys in making creator-owned comics while sharing advice for aspiring creators about self-publishing, collaboration, and balancing paying work and “day jobs” with creating original comic work with no guarantee of immediate financial returns. Expect advice, laughter, and some major surprises!

Film & Video

Saturday, November 10 at 12:15 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook C-D

Len Uhley and Eric Lewald

NIGHTCRAWLER: An Animated X-Men Consideration of Faith

Meet the writer of the first superhero cartoon to tackle the theme of faith. Len Uhley, writer of the X-MEN:TAS episode "Nightcrawler", will show and discuss his work with showrunner Eric Lewald. Find out how they dealt with a topic that Hollywood often considers taboo.

Saturday, November 10 at 4:00 pm in Grand Gallery A-C

David Hayter, Eric and Julia Lewald, and Len Uhley

Writing The X-Men For The Big And Small Screen

Screenwriters David Hayter (X-Men, X-Men 2) and Len Uhley ("X-Men: TAS") as well as producer Eric Lewald ("X-Men: TAS") discuss translating the classic mutant group from the pages of comic books to the big and small screen and the challenges that pre-conceived notions, tradition, and expectations create for the writers.

Sunday, November 11 at 12:15 pm in Grand Gallery A-C

Eric and Julia Lewald with Len Uhley

X-MEN: THE ANIMATED SERIES Celebrates 25 Years

In 1993, the Fox network premiered a cartoon that would change Hollywood and Pop Culture. Within weeks, the network shot from distant last place to number one, Marvel got their first hit, and tens of millions of people were introduced to the world of comic book superheroes. Hear behind-the-scenes stories from people who made the show happen.

Sunday, November 11 at 1:30 pm in Grand Gallery A-C

Chiodo Bros.

The Art Of Traditional Special Effects

The Chiodo Bros. created the look of a lot of nerd-based films including Team America: World Police, Pee Wee's Big Adventure, the Critters franchise, and Killer Klowns From Outer Space. Hear from the traditional special effects masters on the creative process on how to make the incredible and unexpected come to life.

Science

Friday, November 9 at 5:00 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook E

Rob Miller

Armor Fabrication On A Budget

A participant in the SyFy show "Face Off" as well as giant prop builder, Rob discusses the art of making armor and larger fabrication items with limited funds and resources.

Friday, November 9 at 5:45 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook A-B

KnightMage, Envy the Green Fairy Cosplay, House of a Thousand Glue Sticks

Foam Smithing 101

Foam is a cosplay builder's best friend and if you're ready to get started with it, this is the panel for you! Come and learn the basics of working with foam for building props, armor, and all sorts of crazy cosplay contraptions.

Saturday, November 10 at 1:30 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook A-B

Chaotic Neutral Cosplay and Santana Maynard

Thermo Plastics 101

Ready to learn about the basics of thermo plastics, where and when to use them? Got some questions you want answered before you're ready to start plastic smithing? Need some cheaper alternatives to the name brand plastics? Come and join us and we'll talk about how not to burn yourself with a heat gun!

Sunday at 12:15 pm in Grand Gallery Overlook E

That ONE Team

Introduction to FIRST Robotics

FIRST Robotics team #4967 That ONE Team will be demonstrating their competition robots and talking about FIRST Robotics and their team. FIRST is a program to get students ages K-12 to pursue engineering and STEM interests.



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