

Finncon X - Eurocon 2003, guests of honour confirmed. The event named also as Baltcon 2003.

BALTCON 2003

The science fiction and fantasy event Finncon X – Eurocon 2003 received Baltcon status in the election that took place in the LatCon III – Baltcon 2002 event in Latvia. Baltcon is a science fiction convention in the Baltic Countries, alternately organised in countries of the western and eastern region. Finland received the second consecutive Baltcon of the western region; the previous one was Finncon 2001 in Jyväskylä. In addition to Finncon X, also the Swedish Fantastika 2003 applied for Baltcon status this year.

GUESTS OF HONOUR CONFIRMED

Foreign and Finnish guests of honour represent the traditional international contribution to Finncon. They are usually chosen according to the central themes; for Finncon X – Eurocon 2003, the following guests of honour have been confirmed:

Mr Michael Swanwick is an American science fiction author, who has previously visited the Swedish Swecon and is also eager to become acquainted with the Finnish fandom. He has won several awards, and has in his display cabinet such prizes as the Nebula, the Hugo, the Theodore Sturgeon Award and the World Fantasy Award. Some of his short stories have been published in Finnish.

Mr Steve Sansweet is the world's most famous Star Wars fan and collector, who has turned his passion into an occupation. Nowadays he works for Lucasfilm and is responsible for their fan connections. He has written (or co-written) ten books, eight of which are about Star Wars.

Mr Boris Hurtta is the Finnish guest of honour. He is a well-known and appreciated SF writer of long standing. He has written both short stories and novels, some of which belong to the genre of SF, some to mainstream literature.

Mrs Karolina Bjällerstedt Mickos is the Scandinavian guest of honour. She is Sweden's most appreciated science fiction author and augments especially the Swedish programme. She writes both SF and fantasy, and two of her novels have been published so far: "Mantor" and "Larona", comprising the "Till Esperani" series.

Mr Jonathan Clements is the anime guest of honour. He has translated more than 70 pieces of anime and manga, worked as an author and directed the dubbing projects of anime films. He is also the permanent anime expert for the British Sci-Fi Channel, and his published works include "A Kid's Guide to the Movies" and "The Anime Encyclopedia".

Finncon X - Eurocon 2003 in Turku 1.-3.8.2003

<http://www.finncon.org/>

- Europe's most important science fiction and fantasy event now for the first time in the Nordic Countries.
- Entirely put together by fans and free for visitors.
- The aim is to have 4000 visitors, and the target audiences are Finnish fans, the general public from south-western Finland and foreign fans especially from Sweden and the rest of Europe.
- The main themes of the programme will be Tolkien, Star Wars, science and fiction, SF as a hobby and fan activity, science fiction and fantasy literature, and Japanese animation i.e. anime.
- Trilingual programme: programme sections in Finnish, English and Swedish.
- Organised by the Turku Science Fiction Society along with a number of other associations and fans.

Chairperson of the organising committee **Miss Johanna Ahonen** (jokaah@utu.fi, +358 40 532 9298)
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