

SPELLCASTERS' PERIODICAL ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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ISSUE XXXMMMLXIX — 28TH APRIL, YEAR OF THE BACKWARDS-FACING ARTICHOKE

ACTING ARCHCHANCELLOR'S ADVISORY

(And Additional Appendices)

Today, the 28th of April 2017, would have been Sir Terry Pratchett's 69th birthday. For his friends, family, and fans that knew him well, this will be a sad day. Even for those of us not lucky enough to have met him, we'll feel his loss keenly. All over the world, on our own, in small groups, in large groups, online or in person, we shall pay tribute to him. There are many things you can do to mark the occasion: You can wear a black hat (like wot he did). You might be lucky enough to already be attending an organised event in the UK on the day (there are two that we know of – Birdworld in Surrey are having a Discworld Day, and in Wincanton, where the Discworld Emporium is based, a Gathering of the Loonies is taking over at least one of the local pubs). To go virtual, there's a webcast from Puffin Books that will be Feegle-tastic at 2pm, or you can reach out to fellow fans across social media. And of course, sitting down and opening a Discworld book, whether for the first time (a new adventure!) or the fifteenth (an old friend), is a fitting way to mark the day.

Most important of all, if you want to remember Terry, now or in the future, you can take a pledge to 'Be More Terry'. To be the best version of yourself, to be inspired by Terry's crusades against injustice, the embuggerance, the plight of wildlife such as Orangutans, or the fight against man's own stupidity by encouraging literacy. Read a book, raise money for a charity... what would 'being more Terry' mean for you?

For this Acting-Archchancellor, I think my pledge is one many of you are already doing: I will encourage more people to read Discworld, to discover for themselves the depth of joy and the opening of the mind that they bring. First sight & third thoughts; Vimes' 'Boots' Theory of Socioeconomic Unfairness; sin is treating people as things; believing in the little lies so we can learn to believe in the huge ones like Justice and Mercy. What better gift can I give my fellow rising apes than helping them learn what I have? I will Be More Terry by making sure as many people as I can know what that means.

My ramblings thus far have been focused on the Man in the Hat and how we commemorate him, but of course, the Disc keeps spinning and we continue to get ever closer to our own wonderful gathering at IDWCon (160 days to go!). Plotting is going strong. If you missed them, our previous newsletters have featured calls for programme items, calls for actors and calls for auction items – it's not (yet!) too late to get in touch about any of those.

Be More Terry, Speak His Name, & The Turtle Moves!

— *Acting-Archchancellor Shivers*

AN ENTICEMENT TO THE STAGE

An Entreaty by Fergal MacCarthaigh

Do the Maskerade! It's amazing. You'll love it. Acts range from pre-planned original comic pieces to things that you wrote on the weekend and practised on the day (the best kind). Acting alone or as part of a group, first timers or veterans, there is room for you. Everyone is so welcoming and supportive to first time acts, providing advice or helping with impromptu costuming. Speaking from experience, it is nerve-wracking, yes, but it is absolutely amazing and worthwhile. Simply put, it is magical. I cannot recommend it enough.

The first time we took part, we brainstormed it over breakfast, and assembled a team at the con with bits and bobs we had with us. I've seen people in amazing costumes reciting favourite dialogue, or one person performing alone on a stage, nervous, but always welcomed by thunderous applause.

The maskerades are some of my favourite memories from IDWCons past. You add not only to your convention, but to everyone's. You share a part of yourself and become part of something better. You give to the con in a way that is irreplaceable. So come, do your part and get up there and inspire!

Let us know if you'd like to take part in our Maskerade by dropping us an email at info@idwcon.org.

COMING SOON...

On the Glorious 25th of May... Prepare to Pre-order some of our Prodigious and Peculiar Products, or Go ahead and Grab a Glorious Gala Dinner, on www.idwcon.org!

ENCHANTER'S ENIGMA

Rearrange the letters of the following words into a thematically-appropriate word or phrase:

BRAIN LAIR

Clue: The nerve centre of the U.U.'s learning process.

The previous edition's enigma answer was of course CHAIR OF INDEFINITE STUDIES. Check our next edition for the answer to this edition's enigma.

The Irish Discworld Convention 2017 will be held at the Cork International Hotel from the 6th to the 9th of October.

Please email info@idwcon.org if you have any general queries, or programme@idwcon.org if you have programme ideas.

Website: www.idwcon.org

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