

Fantasticon 2021 newsletter 1



June 3rd 2021

The Weird Fantasticon is happening in only three months! Last year we had to make Fantasticon an online event on Zoom, but unless the covid-19 pandemic surprises us with even worse variants than the current ones, we can have a Fantasticon almost like the one we thought we could have, back when Coronavirus was something that happened in faraway China and didn't concern us.

We have two guests of honour to present to you, an attempt to define “weird fiction”, something about what Fantasticon is for those who haven't been to a Fantasticon, what is new in Fantasticon 2021, and information about how to sign up and how to get to Fantasticon.

Anne-Marie Vedsø Olesen

Anne-Marie is our Danish Guest of Honour. She has written many novels in the fantastic genres, including the fantasy-trilogy *Gudestorm*, the horror-novel *Lucie* (winner of Danish Horror Society's horror publication of the year prize in 2018) and the weird/science fiction novel *Månen over Øen*.
Blog: <https://amvo.wordpress.com/forfatteren/>

Laura Mauro

Laura is our foreign Guest of Honour from the United Kingdom. She has written weird, horror and science fiction, and has won the British Fantasy Award twice for short fiction, in 2018 for “Looking for Laika” and again in 2020 for “The Pain-Eater's Daughter”. Her short story collection *Sing Your Sadness Deep* also won the British Fantasy Award in 2020.
Blog: <https://lauramauro.com/>

What is “weird fiction”?

The label “weird fiction” was probably first used systematically to name a genre of fiction in an essay by H.P. Lovecraft “Notes on Writing Weird Fiction” from 1933. It is also almost the title of the pulp-magazine *Weird Tales*, published from 1922-1954, featuring stories by many authors now considered weird fiction writers. It is closely connected to the earlier gothic fiction by authors like Edgar Allan Poe, and to what is now known as horror fiction. More recently, “weird” have been used to label works by contemporary authors like China Mieville and Jeff VanderMeer as “new weird”. The criteria for when something is new weird seems to be that it must feel weirder than

fiction that is not weird, that it tends to mix tropes from different genres, and that it usually have strong elements of the kind of horror that makes us doubt what is real.

Fantasticon

The Danish Fantasticon is an annual convention for fantastic literature, started in 2004, and held every year since, except 2007, where it was replaced by the Danish Eurocon. We meet other fans and practitioners of the fantastic genres (science fiction, fantasy and horror), listen to interviews and talks, watch and participate in panel discussions, buy books and perhaps have a beer or two. Though Fantasticon is mostly about books, we also have program content about other media like movies, and although we have a theme most years, not everything is about the theme.

Get a free ticket if you are under 26!

If you are no older than 25, you can get a free ticket, if you buy it before the convention.

Fantasticon junior

This is also something new that we try in 2021. Fantasticon doesn't have much content for children, but if you bring your children (aged 8-12 years) to Fantasticon on Saturday afternoon, some very nice roleplayers and table top gamers will look after them while you listen to boring adult stuff. More details about this in the next newsletter.

Reading group

To get warmed up for Fantasticon, we have an online reading group where we read short stories from the collection [Year's Best Weird Fiction, Vol. 5](#) from Undertow Publications. Link to Zoom will be posted on Facebook and our webpage. The event is free for everyone. The stories from the book selected for discussion are: "The Unwish" by Claire Dean, "Corzo" by Brenna Gomez, "You Will Always Have Family: A Triptych" by Kathleen Kayembe, "The Way She is With Strangers" by Helen Marshall and "Red Hood" by Eric Schaller.

How do I sign up for Fantasticon?

You can buy a ticket at this website: <https://billetfix.dk/da/e/fantasticon-2020/>. (The link says 2020, but that's because this actually is a delayed 2020-con, and the convention last year was a free online event).

If you are on Facebook, we recommend that you also sign up for the Facebook-event – that won't give you any tickets, but you will get reminders and updated info there.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/178289420969012>

How do I get to Fantasticon?

Our venue *Serapions Ordenen*, is located in Copenhagen (Frederiksberg), a little over one kilometer from Copenhagen Central Station. You can get almost all the way from the central station by Metro – take the M3 in direction Frederiksberg, and get off at Frederiksberg Alle station (not to be confused with the Frederiksberg station!). If you come via Kastrup Airport, you can take the M2 Metro from the airport and change to the M3 Metro, direction København H, at Kongens Nytorv.

See our homepage for more information: <https://fantasticon.dk/>

Next Newsletter will be out in early August.

Questions can be answered by emails to 2021@fantasticon.dk, or via Facebook.