



Locked-in Aurelia sends a letter to her sister Vesonina. Later, Marcus faces a difficult decision: Should he run from the volcano or stay and try to save his lover and friends? photos: ang

Rocks Fall and Not Everyone Dies

This year's pawpet show was a wonderfully magic tale in the style of "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court". It told the story of Marcus, a socially inept archaeologist fox, and Vinnie, a go-lucky party rat, who after discovering a hidden temple of the goddess Fortuna in the ruins of Pompeii end up in ancient times just mere hours before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Upon their arrival, they are immediately drawn into the struggle of two beautiful slave girls fighting against their cruel owner, the nobleman Caius Gavius Rufus.

The story was done using all the classical ingredients of an adventurous romp. The heroes get into trouble in a strange unfamiliar

world, escape from hostile locals, find unlikely allies, risk their lives to free a friend, and fall in love with an exotic stranger. All tried and true conventions of the genre, which lend a good pace to the plot with all the pieces neatly falling into place.

But this year's show was not pure escapism. It was also educational, informing the audience during the breaks about habits and culture of ancient Pompeii such as the institution of slavery, public bath houses, and even about sex and religion. Much of the humour in the play was achieved by anachronistic irony such as turning the gladiatorial games into a staged fighting event very much like modern day wrestling matches,

making the fans of various gladiator groups act like drunk football hooligans, waving flags and large foam hands and running through a list of the more cliché plot devices in the style of a video game describing them as "achievement unlocked". One of the most impressive parts of the production was the beautiful music done by Fox Amooore giving the show an epic flavour that a tale set in ancient Pompeii should have. There were also plenty of nods to previous pawpet shows like cameo appearances of the famous Meerkats, as well as a recurrence of the fan favourite "caution wet floor" sign. All in all, this year's production kept it simple, straight forward and solid which was the perfect approach to such a story. (*cur*)

AJA, Fox Amooore and Peter S. Beagle - A Musical Dream Team

The charity concert was without a doubt the second musical highlight of this convention. After the Rock'n'Rome concert thoroughly rocked the main stage the day before, quieter and more personal tunes could be heard yesterday at the Piano Bar. The tickets, priced at 5 Euros, were sold out, leaving no seat unfilled. Around 130 furs listened to the musical talents of Fox Amooore, Alexander James Adams and guest of honor, Peter S. Beagle.



Peter S. Beagle playing the guitar. photo: ang

Each musician brought their very own, distinct style into the concert, and while they only had a few hours to practice their performance, their songs managed to capture the audience within a heartbeat. Guest of Honor Peter S. Beagle proved that he is not just an immensely talented writer, but also quite comfortable with

the guitar. Alexander James Adams joined in with his fiddle, bringing the audience fan-favourites like "Animals all the Same", while Fox Amooore played some of his incredibly beautiful piano pieces.

Listening to each of these musicians alone would have been quite the treat, but all three

together managed to captivate the audience with their charm, their anecdotes and of course their unique blend of musical styles.

It almost goes without saying that the concert finished with a standing ovation, followed by an ever growing chant of "One more!" from the audience. And it's not just the audience that did not want the concert to end: "Truly, playing with these gentlemen has been a highlight for this convention." said Mr. Beagle.

10 000 Euros - A new record!

And if that weren't enough, all the money gathered for the concert goes to this year's charity. In combination with all the other charity efforts during the course of the con, over 10.000 Euros were collected for Far from Fear e.V., almost 4.000 Euros more than last year's charity. (*con*)

Horse- Versus Dogpowers

The motorfurs meet again took place in the parking lot across the street from the hotel. The event gathered approximately thirty cars and a couple of motorcycles, with vehicles widely ranging from newer sportscars to the ever-reliable Volvo 244GL from 1983.

Modifications to the vehicles also ranged from visual to deeply technical. We shortly talked with Tamael from the Netherlands, who had arrived with a Fiat Croma. Installed in the car is an engine originating from an Alfa Romeo 164, the motor having been bought damaged second-hand and overhauled by Tamael himself. He had since then covered five thousand trouble-free kilometers in one and a half months.

The event was well-visited by the convention attendees, and comments from them were highly positive, enjoying seeing the variety of vehicles and meeting their owners and considering the meet a great addition to the convention. Also some locals had once again found their way to the parking lot. Asking a couple of them what had caught their interest, it proved that both had been attracted by seeing the fursuiters, and actually didn't have any interest towards the vehicles.

Different creative ways to utilize vehicles were once again seen. Nightfox demonstrated the electric front-mounted winch on his Jeep by having it tug against several fursuiters. A French team was again observed warming sausages on top of the engine and radiator of their Citroen, already becoming a tradition. (*hhp*)



Sheepdogs and superdogs unite to pull Nightfox's Jeep across the parking lot. photo: ang

Today's Timetable

Checkout

For regular guests.....12:00

Dead Dog Party

Piano Bar.....20:00 - Open End

Missed an issue? We hold some spare prints ready for you at the reception!

"First Time We Had a Code Black"

This year's Eurofurence has been a quiet one for the security staff - with one exception.

Chief of security Gyroplast is pleased with how Eurofurence went so far. "Generally, it has been a very calm and peaceful convention. Me and my deputy, Dhary, got almost six hours of sleep every night!"

The big exception was a fight that took place on Tuesday night, before the con had officially started. Three intoxicated attendees got into a quarrel at the piano bar, which later led to flying fists upstairs. All three were questioned by the police and the aggressors were sent home that same night, along with a third, separate person who had been overdrinking despite repeated warnings.

The incident on Tuesday was the first time that a Code Black emergency was declared. When this happens, all security guards - except for a bare minimum that keeps on guarding doors, etc. - are alarmed by radio and asked to hurry to the intervention zone. 'Team Offensive' then approaches the troublemakers while the defensive team evacuates guests from the danger zone.

Thankfully, things went a lot calmer from here. Besides the usual routine work, security staff also took the pleasant duty of guiding interested spectators around the lobby. "We don't discourage them from having a look," says Gyroplast. "Most of them are polite and friendly and the fursuiters generally enjoy the extra attention." (*lux*)

Successful Auctions

"Going once. Going Twice. Sold!"

With a little encouragement by Uncle Kage, furs launched into intense bidding fights. The most sought-after piece was Blotch's "Drust on the Run" which went for 1200 Euros. The charity auction, which took place for the first time this year, was a big hit. It featured original artwork by celebrated artists that had not been on display beforehand. Altogether, it raised more than 5000 Euros for the charity. A thousand were washed in by Titash's "Roman Fantasy" alone. The French artist had had an accident some months ago and, despite intense pain, sketched it for the conbook. It was coloured by Vekke and sent in - two days after the deadline. Now it has found a worthy place. (*lux*)

Room Parties - Good for Convention Experience?

Pro:

Room parties are sometimes what makes a convention a lot more fun. The chance to meet up with friends and get together for a few nights of food, drink & entertainment. Obviously the Hotel can also provide that, but Room Parties offer a different sort of environment. Less public, and you can have whoever you want there, without other people crashing your table, or drunken revellers getting in the way.

The stigma behind room parties is that they're loud and unruly, but they only become this way if the host allows it to happen. If a private gathering is attended by sensible people who are simply there to enjoy their friends' company in a relaxed & private atmosphere, then why should that be a problem? (*hed*)

Contra:

Conventions are like high-school all over again. Remember how the "cool" gang threw secret parties that only other "cool" people were invited to? Nowadays, if you're neither a popufur nor part of some close-knit clique, you're bound to be left out of most of the fun.

Eurofurence used to be different. You could just come to the hotel and have a great time, as you met friendly faces in every corner. Now there are more than a thousand furs, but the lobby feels half-empty. The artists are gone to party with other artists, fursuiters with fursuiters, and kinksters with kinksters. But all groups stay apart. True, roomparties can be fun. But when they become the only way to have fun, we're losing something valuable: a sense of community. (*lux*)



"Be nice to your neighbours" - a comic by Pegla

**Last but not Least, a public service announcement:
Alexander James Adams loves you all!**