

Auction

We have acquired some very collectible items for the charity auction but we are still looking for more to sell, to raise funds for our causes [Greenpeace and The Pediatric AIDS Foundation]. If you have any QL items you would be prepared to donate - they don't have to be rare, or expensive, just in good condition - please let Peter know as soon as you can, via the Sterry Road address or email. You can bring these items with you to the convention. Remember, 100% of the proceeds of this auction will go to charity. Any contribution you can make will increase the amount we are able to donate.

Our Guest of Honour, John D'Aquino, has made a very special donation to the auction: himself!!! Calm down, people - what you'll actually be bidding for is afternoon tea with John in Henley's Restaurant at the Radisson. So if you've ever imagined the opportunity of an hour alone with a guest, to ask all those questions there's never time for when they're on stage, here's your chance. This 'prize' is open for up to four persons, so you can bid alone or as part of a small group. Start saving now!! *[John - you are a brave man! Lee]*

Sponsored Events

Just to remind you there will be two sponsored events at Accelerate, the Jacuzzi Marathon and the Aerobic Workout.

The Jacuzzi Marathon is slated to run from 9am-6pm on Saturday and Sunday. We envisage groups of 1-4 people in the water for continuous half-hour stints, apart from stoppages for certain guest talks. Sign up for as many or as few slots as you like, by putting your name[s] on the timetable at the Information Desk. Turn up at the hot tub - in your swim gear - just before the appointed time and 'tag' the departing team as you get in!

The Workout will last approximately 30 minutes [time and location will be in your convention package]. We hope for a celebrity leader for this event, but if you are an instructor or experienced class participant and would like to help lead the workout, please phone or write to Lee asap! You do not need to be Jane Fonda or Mr Motivator to take part - take it at your own pace and we won't tell if you stop for a breather! Sign up at the Information Desk.

You will find a **SPONSORSHIP FORM** enclosed with this PR - why not collect a few sponsors before you come to the con? You can photocopy the form as many times as you like! Even if you are not going to take part in either event, your friends or family might like to sponsor those who are, anyway - say a fixed amount if we complete the Jacuzzi marathon. And, of course, you can put your own name down on there, too!!

The Programme

Is bursting at the seams! Start/finish times are; Friday 12noon - 2am, Saturday 8.30am - 2am, Sunday 9am - 2am, plus the Decelerate Brunch on Monday from 11am - 2pm.

New events on the programme are:

"Tales of the Lost Formicans" - an award-winning play by American author Constance Congdon. The play follows the story of Cathy, a New Yorker who returns home because her father, Jim, is behaving strangely. At first, he appears to be the unwitting victim of "nice but dim" B-movie aliens, who believe the key to understanding Humanity lies in answering questions such as "Why do Formica tables always wobble?" But the zany production reveals a more serious plot: Jim is, in reality, experiencing the first symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease. With a story which reflects all the humour, pathos and caring of so many QL episodes, we are pleased

to welcome members of the newly-formed Starship Enterprises Theatre Company to perform excerpts from the play live at Accelerate, before they commence their London run.

"**The Invaders**" is Scott Bakula's latest mini-series, shown recently on American TV but, as yet, unaired in the UK. Thanks to Polygram Video, we have an advance copy of "The Invaders" for an exclusive screening.

Role-Playing Games - freelance journalist and Gamesmaster extraordinaire, Jim Swallow, has created two new games specifically for Accelerate: *The Quantum Sanction* (Quantum Leap) and *Deephold* (SeaQuest DSV). Check out the timetable for the Alternative Programme Room at the Information Desk and give it a go. It's great fun and no experience is necessary!

First-Timers / Those coming alone: Don't forget our informal "mixer" in the Polo Bar at 9pm on Friday, hosted by Bo and Gail Maxwell. Please come along and mingle, make new friends, meet some "old hands" and find out how to make the most of your weekend. When the mixer wraps up, you can linger in the bar to chat or join in the main party.

Leap Themed Parties - a reminder of our evening themes:

Friday: "Good Evening, Peoria!" 50's and 60's Rock 'n Roll

Saturday: "Disco Inferno" - 70's Disco and Glam Rock

Sunday: "Welcome To The Millennium" - New Years Eve 2000. PQL welcome Sam home.

Appropriate costume is, of course, optional, but why not give it a go? You might win a spot prize!

"**If I'd known that, I'd have got there earlier...**" So you can plan your arrival time, "Tales of the Lost Formicans" will be on at approx. 2.30pm on Friday afternoon and "Lord Of Illusions" will be screened at approx. 4.45pm. - [LOI will be repeated in a video room on Saturday.] The Opening Ceremony is planned for 8pm and the party to begin at 9.30pm. All these timings are subject to change up until the con weekend, so phone Lee nearer the time if in doubt.

Auction/Art Items

Items for the Charity Auction should be handed in at the Information Desk by 12 noon on Saturday. Items for the Art/Craft Gallery and Competition should, ideally, be taken to the Gallery [in the hotel shopping parade] during the following setting-up times: Friday; 1-3pm or 10-11pm Saturday; 7.30-8.30am. If you are unable to make these times, please take your items to the Control Room. Although we will do our best to accommodate late entries, it would be easier if you could fill out the appropriate form and let us have details in advance. This lets us plan the approximate length of the Auction and the layout/space needed for the Art Gallery display. Forms are available from Sterry Road.

Competitions

We are looking for more entries for the Art/Craft, Fiction/Poetry, Music Videos and Fancy Dress competitions! Forms are available from Sterry Road. Again, prior notice is better for us, but we will do our best to take late entries on the weekend of the con - so get writing/sewing/painting now!

Dealers

There are still some tables left in the Dealers Room, at £15 each for the weekend. Many of our attendees have never been to a con before and are eager to buy! So whether you run a fully-fledged shop or produce a zine/stationery/badges or the like, you'd be welcome. Forms from Sterry Road.