



The Great Lakes Comic-Con
Friday, February 23, 2024 (5PM to 9PM)
and
Saturday, February 24, 2024 (10AM to 6PM)
<http://www.GreatLakesComicConvention.com>

Located at Macomb Community College,
South Campus, Sports and Expo Center in Warren, MI

The Great Lakes Comic-Con is back!

Special Guests include:

- **WWE** HALL OF FAME ERIC BISCHOFF
- NOAH HATHAWAY (ATREYU FROM ***THE NEVERENDING STORY***)
- the 40th Anniversary of the ***TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES*** with MIRAGE STUDIOS' veterans STEVE LAVIGNE, JIM LAWSON, AND DAN BERGER
- the 40th Anniversary of the ***TRANSFORMERS*** with *MARVEL COMICS* EDITOR, ILLUSTRATOR AND WRITER BOB BUDIANSKY
- the 50th Anniversary of the ***LAND OF THE LOST*** with cast members WESLEY EURE (WILL MARSHALL), KATHY COLEMAN (HOLLY MARSHALL) and PHILLIP PALEY (CHA-KA the PAKUNI)
- GUY GILCHRIST – **JIM HENSON'S CARTOONIST**
- RICK GOLDSCHMIDT – OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHER/HISTORIAN FOR ***RANKIN/BASS***
- CREATORS OF ***TRIBE*** – LARRY STROMAN and TODD C. JOHNSON - The *TRIBE* series holds the record for the largest selling African American comic book by African American creators.
- OTHER AFRICAN AMERICAN comic book creators include KEITH POLLARD and ARVELL JONES.
- CREATORS OF ***FAUST*** – TIM VIGIL and DAVID QUINN, and more!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Warren, Michigan (February 7, 2024) – Join the 2024 Great Lakes Comic-Con as we celebrate everyone's favorite comic book characters and comic book-culture!

The Great Lakes Comic-Con takes place on Friday, February 23 (5PM to 9PM), and Saturday, February 24 (10AM to 6PM), 2024 at the Macomb Community College Expo Center located at 14500 E. 12 Mile Road in Warren.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting:

<http://greatlakescomicconvention.com/tickets.html>

The event features more than 150 vendors, artists, and crafters, as well as actors/celebrities who will greet fans, sign autographs, provide photo ops, and participate in panel presentations. This is a family-friendly and kid-oriented event.

All events can be found here:

<http://greatlakescomicconvention.com/allevvents.html>

Scheduled events include the following:

- **Costume Contests** on Saturday, February 24th – for both children (12:30PM) and adults (3:15PM);
- **Super Smash Bros. Tournament** – hosted by i-Con Tournaments;
- **Magic the Gathering** and **Pokémon** – open play on Friday, then a tournament on Saturday – hosted by Game Players;
- **A Dungeons and Dragons Campaign** – No experience necessary! Available both Friday and Saturday – hosted by Game Players;
- **Face Painting by Chantel** – bring the little ones, and the older ones, to have their faces painted;

Panel Presentations are hosted by some of your favorite celebrities and comic-industry talent. All panel presentations can be found here:

<http://greatlakescomicconvention.com/glccpanels.html>



Special Guests Include:

All Special Guest information can be found here:

<http://greatlakescomicconvention.com/guests.html>



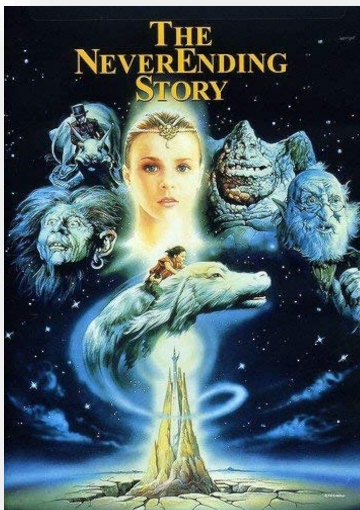
WWE HALL OF FAME ERIC BISCHOFF – Detroit area native, Eric Bischoff is a television producer, professional wrestling booker, promoter, and performer. He is best known for serving as Executive Producer and later Senior Vice President of World Championship Wrestling (WCW) and subsequently, the on-screen General Manager of WWE's Raw brand. Bischoff has also worked with Total Nonstop Action Wrestling (TNA) where he served as Executive Producer of Impact Wrestling. He was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2021.

With an amateur background in martial arts, Bischoff also sporadically performed as an in-ring competitor, becoming a one-time WCW Hardcore Champion, and headlining the 1998 Road Wild pay-per-view event, teaming with "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan against Diamond Dallas Page and Jay Leno. He wrote an autobiography titled *Controversy Creates Cash*, which was released in 2006 under WWE Books, and a second book, titled *Grateful*, which was released in 2022.

NOAH HATHAWAY (ATREYU FROM *THE NEVERENDING STORY*) – Noah Hathaway is a multi-award winning American actor and former teen idol. He is best known for appearing as Atreyu in the film 'The NeverEnding Story.'



Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Noah started his career when he was 3 years old. He appeared in a few commercials until he made his TV debut in 1978 at the age of 6, with a key role as Boxey in the series 'Battlestar Galactica.'



He made his film debut with the 1980 film 'It's My Turn' and then appeared in many small film and TV roles until he earned his big break. In 1984, he scored his first breakthrough with the fantasy film

'The NeverEnding Story.' His portrayal of Atreyu won Noah the 'Saturn Award' for the 'Best Performance by a Younger Actor' as well as a nomination for a 'Young Artist Award.'

In 1986, Noah earned a leading role in the comedy-horror film 'Troll,' which featured him as Harry Potter Jr. At nearly age 20 Noah was forced to stop acting due to a previous injury. After a hiatus of a little over a decade Noah returned to acting in 2012, with the film 'Sushi Girl,' and later in 2013 'Blue Dream.'

Currently Noah is living in Los Angeles with his wife Kayla. He currently is acting as well as writing/producing TV and feature films.

The 40th Anniversary of the *TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES* with MIRAGE STUDIOS' veterans **STEVE LAVIGNE, JIM LAWSON, AND DAN BERGER**

STEVE LAVIGNE - Steve Lavigne was the very first artist employee hired by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird in 1985 during the original TMNT/Mirage Studios comic run. He started out lettering the comics, then became colorist for graphic novels and Mirage issue covers. He also colored a majority of the TMNT Archie Adventure covers.

As the franchise grew into huge success, he became the Licensing Artist & Licensing Art Director. He was responsible for creating a majority of officially licensed TMNT artwork on packages and products seen across basically very medium in the late 80s and early 90s. He created art for Konami, Pizza Hut, Burger King, to name a few. If you had TMNT products such as clothing, bedding, backpacks, lunchboxes, greeting cards, birthday party decorations, furniture, or video games, he likely created the art on those items.



Steve created the TMNT characters Sergeant Bananas, Cuddly Cowlick, Code Name Chameleon, Screwloose and others.

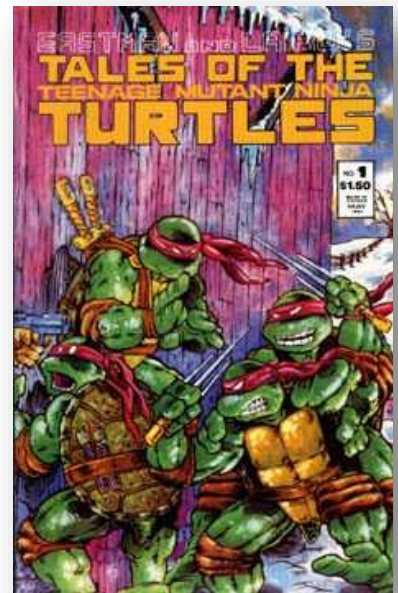
Fun Fact: Michelangelo's character/personality is based on Steve.

Currently, Steve continues to create covers for IDW TMNT books. In recent years he's also created art for Limited Run Shredder's Revenge and the 2019 TMNT

Topps Trading Cards. He currently appears at conventions and shop signings. He owns Shellback Artworks which is a Facebook page where fans can view current projects and his event schedule, order commissions and purchase a variety of vintage and new comics/art/memorabilia. You may find Shellback Artworks on Instagram as well.

JIM LAWSON - Jim's career in comics began in 1986, when he first joined Mirage Studios (owner and publisher of The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles). At the time Jim came on board, things were really beginning to take off for the TMNTs and their creators, Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird. In an effort to ease the growing workload, others jumped in and before long, they were a small but real publishing and licensing empire.

As for Jim, he remained dedicated to the comics, which continued to be black and white. His first job was inking which then grew into penciling and then later the writing for the main title, from the years 1993-95. These books were officially known as volume 2. Besides volume 2, Jim wrote and illustrated many sub-titles (including Tales of the TMNT), various mini-series and one-shots. It was a crazy, busy time. There were 32 issues that comprised volume 4 (last of the Mirage TMNT books, 2001-2014) and on that run Jim was the exclusive penciller.



Jim's days at Mirage Studios officially ended in 2014, years after the TMNTs were sold to Viacom/ Nickelodeon (2009). In total, he had been working on the Turtles 28 years, making Jim one of the rare artists having the longest run with a single property.

Now, many years later, Jim remains a professional comic book writer and artist. He still self-publishes, even to this day, and is the only remaining Mirage artist to do so. Under his name, Jim releases new comic book content every year. A list of his titles are as follows: Guzzi LeMans, A Walk Through Dinosaurland, Dragonfly, Hellride, Dinosaur Head Cat and The Box City Wallops.

Besides the books, Jim is busy with commission work and the occasional cover.

DAN BERGER - Dan Berger began working in the mail room for *Mirage Studios* in 1990, sending out postcard replies to letters sent to *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Adventures*. Not too long afterwards, Steve Murphy and Ryan Brown hired Dan to be the inker on that series, where he had the pleasure of working on the pencils of Ken Mitchroney. Berger wore many hats at Mirage over his 30 year

tenure - his first solo job was writing and drawing *TMNT Volume One #45*, featuring the return of Leatherhead.



In 1991, Dan began as the inker on the Turtles daily comic strip and eventually became the solo writer/artist. He created the action figure *Merdude* and produced TMNT licensing art for *Chef Boyardee*, *Dell Publishing*, *Disney Magazine*, and *Playmates Toys*.

In the late '90s, Berger became the web master and designer for Mirage's ninjaturtles.com site. He also contributed many scripts and drew several issues of Mirage's *Tales of the TMNT Volume Two* and served as the managing editor for *Mirage Publishing*.

Dan was also the managing editor and graphic designer for *Heavy Metal* magazine and earned a Ringo Awards nomination for "Best Presentation in Design" for issue #300. Berger's talents struck a power chord as the designer for Megadeth's "Death by Design" and The Who's "Life House" graphic novels. Currently the production editor for Kevin Eastman's *Drawing Blood*, the multi-talented dude has been called one of the most approachable and friendliest guys in comics.

**The 40th Anniversary of the *TRANSFORMERS* with *MARVEL COMICS*
EDITOR, ILLUSTRATOR AND WRITER BOB BUDIANSKY**

BOB BUDIANSKY - During a 20-year career at Marvel Comics, Bob Budiansky worked as an editor, illustrator and writer. As an editor, he oversaw titles that included Spider-Man, Daredevil and the Fantastic Four. Beginning in 1990, he oversaw the first 11 sets of Marvel Trading Cards, including the first Marvel Masterpieces set. As an illustrator, he rose to prominence as the cover artist for *Ghost Rider*, eventually taking over the penciling chores for the entire book. And he created his own monthly series, *Sleepwalker*, which he wrote for almost three years. But Bob is perhaps best known for the work he did on *The Transformers*.



Bob was the editor on the very first Transformers mini-series in 1984. He followed up that hugely successful four-issue intro by writing most of the next 51 issues of the monthly Transformers comic book. He also named, created character profiles of, and wrote Hasbro packaging copy for approximately 250 Transformers during the first six years of the brand's existence, and developed story treatments as Hasbro introduced new lines of Transformers. And occasionally Bob also penciled a Transformers comic book cover or two. In 2010, Hasbro inducted Bob into the inaugural class of the Transformers Hall of Fame.

The 50th Anniversary of the *LAND OF THE LOST* with cast members WESLEY EURE (WILL MARSHALL), KATHY COLEMAN (HOLLY MARSHALL) and PHILLIP PALEY (CHA-KA the PAKUNI)



WESLEY EURE (WILL MARSHALL) - Wesley Eure has an extensive background as an author, television writer, producer, performer, charity fundraiser, lecturer, plus a stage and television director.

Wesley is a veteran television star of two major network series, *DAYS OF OUR LIVES* (Michael Horton) and *LAND OF THE LOST* (Will Marshall), an author of five books, the developer of PBS' number one show for preschoolers, *DRAGON TALES*, and he hosted Nickelodeon's #1 game show, *FINDERS KEEPERS*.

For eight years he starred in NBC-TV's Emmy-winning *DAYS OF OUR LIVES* playing the role of Michael Horton, Jr. He was nominated for Best Daytime Series Actor and is the recipient of Radio-TV Mirror Awards and Photoplay Awards.

Simultaneously he also starred in Sid and Marty Kroft's popular children's adventure series, LAND OF THE LOST, which lead NBC-TV's Saturday morning line-up for three years which was written and designed by many STAR TREK alumni. After all of his classical Shakespearean training, Wesley is now known for the line, "Run Holly! Run! There's a dinosaur!"



Wesley received top billing in Hanna-Barbera's delightful comedy, C.H.O.M.P.S., which also starred Valerie Bertinelli, Red Buttons, Jim Backus, Herimone Baddy and Conrad Bain.

For you horror film fans, you will recognize him as the fiendish murderer in TOOL BOX MURDERS and the nasty guy who gets eaten by snakes in JENNIFER.

His children's novel entitled THE RED WINGS OF CHRISTMAS, published by Pelican, has been called "the new American classic" by CNN News and was optioned by Disney Studios for a full-length animated feature. Wesley wrote the screenplay and the songs for Disney.

This spring Wesley appeared in a fun cameo in the romantic comedy, SENIOR MOMENT starring William Shatner, Christopher Lloyd and Jean Smart!

For many years Wesley was the top fundraiser for the March of Dimes. He was one of the most sought after hosts for Telethons and fund raising campaigns including March of Dimes, Variety Club and The Special Olympics.

Wesley created the celebrity fundraiser LalaPOOLooza in Palm Springs which featured 85 celebrities and raised thousands of dollars for 7 local charities. Wesley recently was honored with a star on the Palm Springs Walk of Fame.

KATHY COLEMAN (HOLLY MARSHALL) - Kathy Coleman starred on the NBC Saturday morning television series "Land Of The Lost." Kathy's trademark was her blonde braids, and unforgettable red and white checkered shirt.

Kathy won the hearts of many children with her courageous role as "Holly Marshall." The series ran in the number one slot for three years from 1973-1975.





of the show have continued on for decades. A major motion picture entitled "Land Of The Lost" was released in 2009 starring Will Ferrell.

Kathy's no-holds-barred autobiography, "Run Holly Run", was the winner of the National Indie Award for Excellence in TV & Movies!

PHILLIP PALEY (CHA-KA the PAKUNI) - Phillip Paley has been entertaining children and adults for over 50 years in his starring role as 'Cha-Ka' in Sid and Marty Krofft's classic Saturday Morning TV show Land of The Lost (1974 - 1976). Broadcast originally in over 30 countries, and in reruns to this day, viewers have watched the lovable Cha-Ka befriend the Marshall family, helping them survive in a land filled with dinosaurs and alien lizard creatures called Sleestak.



Not many folks know that Phil's accomplishment of becoming the youngest black belt in American history, trained by Chuck Norris (1973), led to the breakout role for this child actor, who had been honing his craft on TV commercials and bit parts since he was sixteen months old.



At the time of the initial broadcast, Land of the Lost was the top-rated kids' show of its day, and the most popular for its original three-year run. Phillip's portrayal of the character Cha-Ka instantly became a childhood icon for baby boomers everywhere.

GUY GILCHRIST – JIM HENSON'S CARTOONIST - World-renowned illustrator, author, comic strip artist, and songwriter, Guy Gilchrist is best known as Jim Henson's cartoonist. He created the "Muppets" comic strip (printed worldwide in 660-plus newspapers daily from 1981 to 1986), and was instrumental in Henson's "Fraggle Rock," and the creation of



"The Muppet Babies." Some of his iconic Muppets artwork was enshrined in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. and his work was declared a National Treasure in 1984 by First Lady, Nancy Reagan. Throughout the years, Guy Gilchrist has set his hand to some of the most beloved, high-profile cartoons, such as "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," "Looney Tunes," "Tom & Jerry," "Tiny Toons," "The Pink Panther," "Minnie Mouse," and others.



In 1995, Gilchrist took control of the internationally syndicated, long-running comic strip, "Nancy," originally introduced to the public in 1938 by the celebrated illustrator Ernie Bushmiller. Gilchrist returned the strip to the simple, yet impactful, illustration style introduced by Bushmiller. Like its creator, Gilchrist would also often inject subtle, yet meaningful, sub-themes in the panel's background. Reflective of Gilchrist's love for music and life in Music City, characters were often drawn wearing concert T-shirts or listening to music; Aunt Fritzi was portrayed as a music critic; and occasionally, artists were drawn in cartoon form or given a personal shout out. In 2013, Gilchrist proudly identified Three Rocks (the fictional home of Nancy) as a small suburb located on the outskirts of Nashville—forever cementing the strip with the iconic "it" city. He retired from writing the daily Nancy cartoon in 2018 after 23 years to devote more time to his other varied creative interests.

Gilchrist is also an award-winning writer and illustrator of children's books (42 titles to his name, including the acclaimed "Night Lights & Pillow Fights"), garnering Reuben Awards from the National Cartoonists Society in the Best Book Illustrator category in both 1998 and 1999, and three Children's Choice Awards by the International Reading Council.

[RICK GOLDSCHMIDT – OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHER/HISTORIAN FOR RANKIN/BASS](#) - Rick Goldschmidt is the Official Biographer/Historian for Rankin/Bass Productions and has written six books on Arthur Rankin, Jr. and Jules Bass. Number seven is on the way in 2024 for the 50th Anniversary of *The Year Without A Santa Claus* and *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, co-authored with Justin Beahm! 2024 is also the 60th Anniversary for Rankin/Bass' *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.



Rick has worked on many projects involving Rankin/Bass Productions and has been a part of the merchandise explosion which resulted from his first book, *The Enchanted World of Rankin/Bass: A Portfolio*. He is also a regular contributor to ReMind Magazine and RetroFan magazine. Rick's museum quality memorabilia collection was featured in the first episode shot of Me TV's Collector's Call with Lisa Whelchel (second episode aired in the premiere).

He has also been featured on The History Channel, CBS Evening News, Me TV's Svengoolie, etc. Rick's degree is in Art/Illustration and he is the lead singer/guitarist in a band called *The Starving Artists*. He has recorded two CDs with members of the multi-platinum winning band Gin Blossoms.

CREATORS OF *TRIBE* – LARRY STROMAN and TODD C. JOHNSON
The *TRIBE* series holds the record for the largest selling African American comic book by African American creators.

LARRY STROMAN and TODD C. JOHNSON -

After a three-decade hiatus, the groundbreaking comic book series *Tribe* is making a return in Spring 2024. First published in 1993, *Tribe* was groundbreaking for its predominantly African American cast of superheroes, a rarity at the time. With close to 2 million copies of the 4-issue series sold, *Tribe* is the largest selling African American comic book of all time.

The comeback was recently announced in 2023 to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of *Tribe*. This year will be the first convention appearances of *Tribe* artist Larry Stroman with cocreator and writer Todd Johnson in over 25 years.



OTHER AFRICAN AMERICAN comic book creators include industry professionals KEITH POLLARD and ARVELL JONES.

KEITH POLLARD - Keith Pollard made his professional comics debut in 1974 with Marvel Comics' titles Master of Kung Fu, Deadly Hands of Kung Fu, Astonishing Tales, and Black Goliath.



Keith is best known for his simultaneous work on the Marvel Comics titles Fantastic Four, Thor, and The Amazing Spider-Man in the late 1970s-early 1980s.

He was the regular penciller of The Amazing Spider-Man from issue #186 (November 1978) through issue #205 (June 1980), and he pencilled the backup feature in The Amazing Spider-Man Annual #15 (1981).

With writer Marv Wolfman, Pollard co-created the Black Cat in The Amazing Spider-Man #194 (July 1979). Keith made the original cover to that comic book, but his original cover was not used for editorial reasons.

ARVELL JONES - Arvell Jones was raised in Detroit, Michigan, and was an active in early comic book fandom. Along with fellow Detroiters and future comics professionals Rich Buckler, Tom Orzechowski, Keith Pollard, Jim Starlin, Al Milgrom, Michael Netzer, and others, Jones worked on the Detroit Triple Fan Fair, one of the earliest comic book conventions, and published the fanzine Fan Informer from Detroit, Michigan; it lasted through at least issue #30 (1971). Jones in 2006 recalled how he and his compatriots "would take a 13-hour drive and spend the night with Al Milgrom and his roommate, hang at Rich [Buckler]'s, then go see [art director] John Romita at Marvel [Comics], get our butts spanked, and go back to Detroit to work on our samples again."

He entered the comics industry as art assistant for Buckler, the first of the Detroit group to enter the field professionally. After helping him on Marvel features starring the superhero the Black Panther and the Buckler-created cyborg antihero Deathlok, Jones received his first published credit, for pencil-art assistance, alongside Pollard, on the



Buckler-drawn Thor #228 (cover-dated Oct. 1974). He then did pencil “breakdowns”—layouts that break down the plot elements—for all but page one of the 18-page team-up story “The Return of the Living Eraser”, starring the Thing and Morbius, the Living Vampire, with veteran artist Dick Giordano providing finished art. This did not see publication for a year, however, eventually running in Marvel Two-in-One #15 (May 1976).

Following an illustration for the text story “The Atomic Monster” in the Marvel black-and-white horror-comics magazine Monsters Unleashed #9 (Dec. 1974), Jones made his full comics-art debut as penciler of an 18-page story starring the martial-artist superhero Iron Fist in Marvel Premiere #20 (Jan. 1975). He went on to do the next two Iron Fist stories in that bimonthly series and co-created the supporting character Misty Knight with writer Tony Isabella. Misty Knight later appeared on Netflix’s Luke Cage series! His other bi-monthly title was Iron Man starting with issue 73.

At DC Comics, Jones worked with writer Gerry Conway on the Super-Team Family title which starred the Atom teaming with various other DC characters. After the cancellation of Super-Team Family, a Supergirl/Doom Patrol team-up drawn by Jones, originally scheduled to appear in that series, was published in The Superman Family #191-193.

Jones worked on the DC Comics series All-Star Squadron in the mid-1980s, penciling the majority of the issues released between 1985 and 1987. After leaving the comics field for several years to work in television, he returned in 1994 to pencil Marvel Comics’ Captain America Annual #13, and issues of DC/Milestone Media’s Kobalt and Hardware and Blood Syndicate. His last published comic was Marvel’s Daredevil #343, in which he and Keith Pollard did breakdowns — layouts that break down the plot elements — finished by Tom Palmer.

Other comic industry guests include:

- **Angel Medina** – Spider-Man, Venom, Spawn
- **Co-Creators of Faust – Tim Vigil and David Quinn**
- **Seth Damoose** – Image Comics, Devil’s Due Comics
- **Jason Moore** – Elvira, Batman: Haunted Gotham
- **Paul Storrie** – writer, Marvel Comics, DC Comics, IDW Comics
- **Randy Zimmerman** – Arrow Comics

About the Great Lakes Comic-Con

Since 2010, the Great Lakes Comic-Con has offered the highest quality comic-book, toy, and collectible-related conventions in Macomb County. Our family-run convention continues to focus on maintaining a public event centered on not only

our amazing guests, but also our attention in providing a well-run event for our attendees.



For more information about
the Great Lakes Comic-Con, please visit
<http://www.GreatLakesComicConvention.com>

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