

The Second
Judge-Tutor Semple Blog
Review Booklet



Thought Bubble Festival
Leeds
15th - 16th November 2014

This booklet is a collection of reviews mostly edited from ones I have posted on the Judge-Tutor Semple Blog.

<http://judgetutorsemple.wordpress.com/>

The badge on the front was created for me by Michael Carroll, a writer of comics and novels.

<http://www.michaelowencarroll.com/>

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Cover images used in this booklet are copyright of the individual copyright holders and are used here under fair use policy in that they are used solely for review purposes. In many cases I was either invited to review the comic or obtained permission to do so.

Most Comics reviewed in this booklet will be available at the Thought Bubble Convention. Where possible I have included details of where you might find the publication or its creators. Obviously times may vary, it is a live event after all. Unless specified to the best of my knowledge the Creators named are attending Saturday and Sunday.

I have put the reviews in loose groupings for presentation purposes, these are:

Small Press – Independent publications from amateur or semi-pro British Creators

Creator Owned – Whether the publisher may be large or may be small the Creator is published professional and retains all rights to this work (such as film, TV, etc)

International – A large International publisher, the Creators may be British.

Rebellion – My Blog started out as a Judge Dredd RPG site and a large amount of the reviews I do remain centred around Dredd or 2000AD.

On my Blog I also review Films, TV, Books, Jousting (as seen here at the Royal Armouries), etc. I also write about History and Nature, reporting news or giving my opinion on a subject.

I thank all creators and publishers who have been very supportive of my work on my blog.

All opinions in this booklet are my own.

This booklet is dedicated to Jose Ortiz and Steve Moore.

Jose Ortiz thrilled me with his art on stories in Eagle and 2000AD; he died December 23rd 2013 aged 81. Steve Moore entertained me with stories he wrote for 2000AD and Doctor Who Weekly; he died March 16th 2014 aged 64

This booklet is also dedicated to my father, Ted Hargett, who encouraged me to read and encouraged me to see comics as much a valid reading medium as novels.

Miss you always, Dad.

All details in this booklet are correct to the best of my knowledge at date of publishing:
13th November 2014

Small Press

Zarjaz

Edited by Richmond Clements and Bolt 01

Zarjaz is a fanzine dedicated to 2000AD.

Any character from the publishing history of 2000AD might be included in Zarjaz.

Dogbreath

Edited by Richmond Clements and Bolt 01

Zarjaz's sister publication, Dogbreath is a fanzine for Strontium Dog.

You will be able to **Bolt-01** find with both these titles at Futurequake Press Table **24** in **New Dock Hall**



Both these publications have had a long run and are issued quarterly featuring black and white stories, usually of 4 to 6 pages. Many of the contributors to these magazines have gone on to be published in 2000AD and other professional publications.

The Psychedelic Journal of Time Travel

Editor:

Owen Watts

Assistant Editor:

Geoffrey Crescent

You will be able to find them at Table **79b** in **Royal Armouries Hall**



There have now been four editions of The Psychedelic Journal of Time Travel, you can read reviewd of all four on my blog.

The Journal features stories that vary in length from one page to six or more, most stories are in colour. All the stories feature time travel in some way, mostly with a little twist at the end.

The editors are expert at giving a really nice balance of stories, a marvellous anthology.

Kill Spree

A new web-comic from Tim West with art by Eliseu “Zeu” Gouveia.



Tim West is usually somewhere...

[Kill Spree](http://killspreecomic.com) will be updated each Friday. According to the site (killspreecomic.com) this is advised for mature readers.

“A gang of disturbed special needs kids seize control of America’s most high-tech shopping mall and embark on a deadly game of competitive mass-murder, broadcasting the entire event live as the world watches on in horror.”

The aim is for the comic to see print, I agree with Tim when he says that no matter how good a comic is online you still can’t beat paper. To raise money for a print run Tim is offering a number of products in the Kill Spree Shop. So if you like what you read why not show some support?

To showcase the comic Tim has developed a really great site for readers to experience. You can read the comic as a standard online comic or opt for an animated version. There will be more bonus pages as the series develops, at present there is a bio page for the characters & another for the creators.

To End All Days

Published by Soaring Penguin

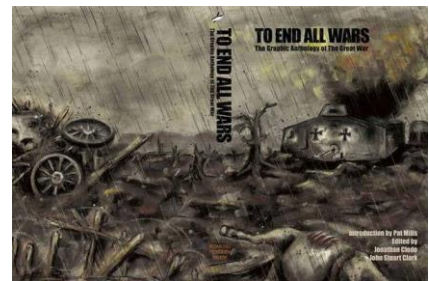
Hardcover 320 Pages

£2.00 from each copy donated to Medics Sans Frontieres

Edited by Jonathan Clode & John Stuart Clark

Soaring Penguin will be at Table **120** in **New Dock Hall**

Several creators may in attendance, including *Neil McClements* who will be found at the Soaring Penguin table Saturday around 12:00-14:00



This is an anthology of 26 stories written and illustrated by men and women of different nations. It deals with the life and death of people who were touched by the conflict between 28th July 1914 and 11th November 1918, of different nations.

The stories are varied and on the whole deal with real events, in some cases real people. There is a little satire here and there but in the main the subject matter is presented frankly.

Shaman Kane

Written, Drawn and lettered by

David Broughton

Issue 1



David Broughton will be at Table **25** in **New Dock Hall**

Shaman Kane is a Sci-Fi Horror comic following the adventures of the eponymous central character. Kane and his side-kick, Sable, battle Zombies, Ghosts and Vampires in the far future.

There are three stories in this collection with one giving the origin of Sable, the side-kick. A second volume is planned.

David has done the full set of duties on this comic, including editing. You will see that I've read quite a lot of David's work (his art is in the next two titles).

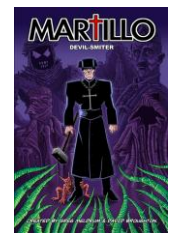
Martillo: Devil Smiter

Writer: Greg Meldrum

Arist & Letterer: David Broughton

Cover Art: David Broughton

Internal cover Art: Ben Willsher



Spain, 1948, post WWII and post Spanish Civil War. General Franco is in control of the country and the Catholic Church is as powerful as ever. Martillo is a Priest with an awesome ability to smite evil, quite often with a hefty hammer (Martillo is Spanish for Hammer).

Six interlinked stories, numbered Cero to Cinco (0 to 5), tell Martillo's tale. Each chapter of this story holds a self contained story but there is an over arching plot. The way this works would lend itself to reprint in an anthology.

Spectre Show

Writer: Shaun Avery

Art & Letters: David Broughton



The comic is hosted by a less than sympathetic fellow; between each story we return to our host and sometimes there are a few words from the sponsors (or in-world adverts)

This is an anthology with all stories being in a common setting, not all starring the same characters. The barriers between this life and the after life have gone and the spirits of the dead are taking over living bodies.

There is a mix of horror and action with more than a dash of dark humour.

Paragon Comics

Sadly not at the convention

I've reviewed several issues of **Paragon** a semi-regular release with a mix of action and comedy, mostly dealing with demon fighting or undead creatures. They have a good set of regular contributors in this black and white A4 publication.

Similarly there is **AAIIIEE!!! Night Flight of Terror** an anthology of horror stories bookended by a story of five passengers on an air-plane who have had five unrelated but equally scary dreams.

You can find these publications on Lulu.com – search for Paragon.

Creator Owned

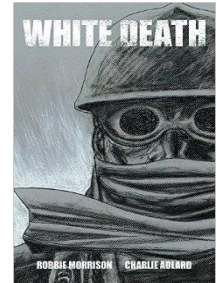
White Death

Published by Image

Graphic Novel

Writer: Robbie Morrison

Artist: Charlie Adlard



Robbie Morrison will be at Table **25** in **Royal Armouries Hall** 13:00 to 14:30

Charlie Adlard will be at Table **50** in the **Teepee**

Image will be at Tables **45 to 47** in the **Teepee**

This story is based on historic events but is a fictional narrative. Intros from both creators explain how the book came about. Charlie had the embryo of an idea before he started The Walking Dead. Robbie developed the story after hearing about the funeral in 2013 of two Austrian soldiers who died in the White War of 1915 to 1918.

The White War took part in the mountainous borders between Italy, part of the Allied Powers with Britain, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, allies of Germany. The conflict became known as the White War as both sides deliberately caused avalanches to kill.

This is an exploration of humanity as well as the inhumanity of war. Moving.

Pretty Deadly: The Shrike

Published by Image

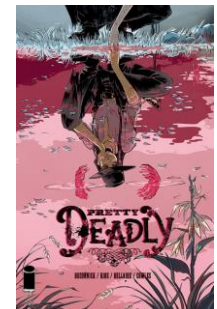
Collecting issues 1 to 5

Writer: Kelly Sue DeConnick

Art: Emma Rios

Colours: Jordie Bellaire

Letters: Clayton Cowles



Emma Rios will be at Table **94** in the **Teepee**

Jordie Bellaire will be at table **14b** in **Royal Armouries Hall**

A western in the style of Sergio Leone. With a dose of Grimm fairytales.

The Mason's wife was so beautiful he locked her away so others couldn't see her. She was so lonely she prayed for death. Death heard her prayers but instead of sending a Reaper he went for her himself. Death found her so beautiful he took her as his own and they had a daughter. That daughter was named Ginny.

The story is narrated by Bones Bunny who is telling the tale to Butterfly. It is a love story, a road trip, a desperate bid to save this world and the next.

Beautifully written and equally beautifully illustrated. It's a tragic romance, it's all action, it's character driven. Bones Bunny and Butterfly are the best narrators ever.

Department of Monsterology

Published by Renegade Arts & Entertainment

Collecting five issue miniseries, prologue & 'The Trouble with Harry'

Writer: Gordon Rennie

Artist: PJ Holden

Colours: Steven Denton

Letters: Jim Campbell



I believe **Jim Campbell** might be around but not sure where you might find him

There have been the obvious comparisons mad to the Hell Boy spin-off, BPRD. Also you could compare this to the TV series Sanctuary. Or X-Files (in its early days). Don't let that detract you from this work, as it isn't a rip off of anything, comparisons are unavoidable.

The pacing of what we see both teams being involved in is excellent. They sit apart so in some ways it does feel like an anthology, albeit only two strips. In this introduction there is enough for us to get a hook in to most of the characters. The art is visually pleasing and flows wonderfully, that wasn't intended as another water joke by the way. PJ's lines are excellent and Stephen's colours are bold but not jarring. Between the two there is obvious difference between below water and above.

Death Sentence

A creator owned project Published by Titan Comics

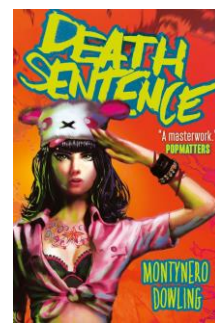
Collecting five issue miniseries

Writer: Montynero

Art: Mike Dowling

letters: Comicraft's Jimmy Betancourt

Cover: Montynero



I'm not sure if either **Montynero** or **Mike Dowling** are attending **Titan** will be at Table **13 to 16** in **New Dock Hall**

There is a new sexually transmitted disease, G-plus (or G+), sweeping the world. There is no cure. Suffers, victims might be a better word, experience 'extranormal abilities' followed by death within six months. Despite the fact the individual is dying they feel full of health physically until the final weeks. Apparently mood swings and depression are common... after being told you have a terminal STD, who'd a thunk?

The focus here is on the character, or characters. We are following three G+ sufferers in their journey. Verity Fette, an artist; Daniel Weissel, aka Weasel, a has-been rock-star; Monty, a popular comedian.

This is an exploration of life as much as death.

Fatale

Published by Image

By Ed Brubaker and Sean Phillips

Colours by Dave Stewart



Sean Philips will be at Table **51A** in the **Teepee**

"It started at Dominic Reines' funeral..." Nicholas Lash accidentally stumbles in to a mystery after the death of his father's old friend, the once famous author Dominic Reines.

At the funeral he meets the mysterious Josephine and soon finds himself embroiled in a mystery that reaches back through the centuries and into another world all together. Who is Josephine and how can she be so unchanged after so many years?

Engaging characters and excellent shifts of pace there are now five volumes, giving the complete story.

Six Gun Gorilla

Collecting six issue miniseries
Published by Boom!
Writer: Simon Spurrier
Artist: Jeff Stokley
Letterer: Steve Wands



Si Spurrier will be signing at Table **24** in **New Dock Hall** Sat 12:30 to 14: Sun 13:00 to 14:30

Jeff Stokley will be at Table **104** in the **Teepee**

Six-Gun Gorilla was published in Wizard, a UK boys paper (comics with more words than pictures), in 1939. The creators were uncredited and to the best knowledge of Comicdom are unknown. Simon gives credit to those Creators Unknown.

Welcome to The Blister, a planet in a pocket universe where some of the rules of physics don't quite work the same. The settlers are in revolt, the Government are fighting back. More worryingly the war is live streamed for the entertainment of the masses on Earth. Some people volunteer for suicide detail, have a camera surgically implanted in one eye so they can be a camera on legs to give people the full-on deadly experience from the safety of their armchair - 'Psychic TV'.

It is a charming story, comical at parts, with many layers of commentary on modern life. Jeff Stokely's storytelling really compliments the story perfectly.

Ordinary

Writer: Rob Williams
Art & Lettering: D'Israeli
Creator owned mini series



Rob Williams and *D'Israeli* will be at Table **23** in **Royal Armouries Hall**

Michael Fisher is an ordinary man who lives an ordinary life in Queens, New York. What seems to start as an ordinary day may well turn out to make Michael more or less ordinary.

When disaster strikes and everyone in the world other than Michael Fisher develops superpowers Michael needs to reach his son.

Rob Williams has a knack of looking at subjects from a different angle. D'Israeli is a chameleon with his art shifting in style widely to fit the project he is working on, this story looks a bit ordinary. A very different style here. It is cartoony, full of motion and character.

MPH

Writer: Mark Millar
Artist: Duncan Fegredo
Colours & Letters: Peter Doherty



Duncan Fegredo will be at Table **52** in the **Teepee**

Peter Doherty will be at Travelling Man's Table **114** in the **Teepee**

The story starts in 1986, when the first super-powered human being came to the attention of the world. He was out of control and came crashing to an end somewhere in Missouri. He was found unharmed amid a complete mess of wreckage and had on him an odd bottle labelled MPH.

Skip to Detroit, 2014. Meet Roscoe, regular runner for a small fry drugs dealer. He has plans of going legit, settling with his girl Rosa. Plans go south, no I don't mean they move to Alabama. Roscoe ends up in jail serving twenty years.

So it is a tale of dreams lost, deceit and betrayal. Roscoe ain't a good boy – he is a drugs runner peddling harm. Do I understand his motives – yes I do. Do I sympathise with him – well not a lot no... Am I interested in his story and how it connects to the chap in the opening sequence – yes I am.

Exit Generation

Writer: Sam Read

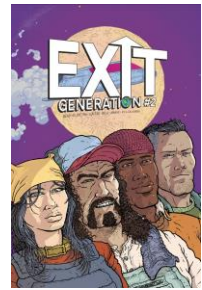
Artist: Caio Olivera

Cover Artist: Ramon Villalobos

Colours: Marissa Louise

Letters: Colin Bell

Editor: Adam P Knave



Sam Read will be at Table **99** in **New Dock Hall**

2055, 20 years after 95% of the population of Earth evacuated the 'dying planet' the Earth is recovering from the damage Humans had caused. Jack, born after Exit, is bored and wants something more. While out and about with his adoptive brother Mo man-eating aliens kidnap most of his community, including Mo's family.

Strong characters and an interesting plot, excellent art. Overall great package and all done with Sam's drive and determination to push it through.

International

Mars Attacks Judge Dredd

Collecting the 2013 four issue miniseries

Published by IDW

Writer: Al Ewing

Art: John McCrea

Colours: Jay Fotos

Letters: Tom B Long

Cover Art: Greg Staples



Al Ewing will be at the Table **24** in **Royal Armouries Hall**

John McCrea will be at the Table **20** in **New Dock Hall**

Last year's mini-series now in a collected edition. Al Ewing, a Dredd writer for 2000AD writing for IDW. So when it was announced many Dredd fans were very interested. With art by John McCrea, an artist that has done Dredd among other 2000AD work. So safe hands. This story reads like Dredd, it works very well. Al Ewing has the pace well timed throughout, each issue had a cliffhanger ending but nothing jars once collected.

The art puts me in mind of McMahon, though John McCrea's own style is apparent. It looks like Dredd and it feels like Mega City One and that is the key to this. There is a droid songstress in the story, a little Ian Gibson inspired perhaps? Importantly the Martians don't look out of place. Varied panel lay out and varied angles giving interesting reading.

I really like the touches with the bubblegum cards.

Mars Attacks – Deluxe Edition

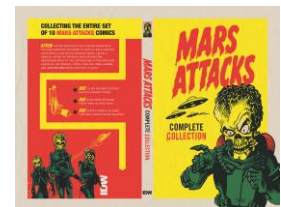
Collecting the parts 1-10

Published by IDW

Writer: John Layman

Art: John McCrea

Colours: Andrew Elder



Similar in tone to Mars Attacks Judge Dredd this earlier series was also illustrated by John McCrea.

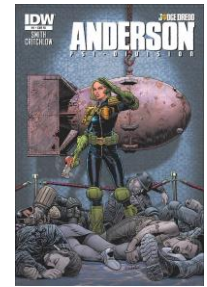
John Layman brings us two stories of the invasion with a separate cast in each one. These are excellent stories with the right balance of tension, action and humour to fit the original designs.

Talking of the designs John McCrea's art is excellent and fits the genre brilliantly. The characters are animated and the storytelling is perfect. The Martians, giant insects and warrior robots are all expertly done.

Watch out for a cameo by international comic critic Jimmy Aquino.

Anderson Psi Division

The King of the Six Sectors
4 issue miniseries
Published by IDW
Writer: Matt Smith
Artist: Carl Critchlow
Letters: Shawn Lee



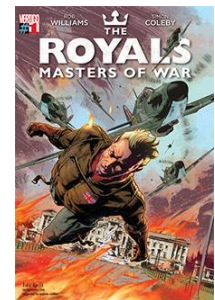
Matt Smith will be around the 2000AD Table on Saturday Tables **111 to 112** in the **Teepee**, he might be busy with looking at Portfolios though.

IDW's version of Cassandra Anderson. Different background to 2000AD and Dredd 2012. Written by 2000AD Editor-in-Chief Matt Smith. This ties in to Judge Dredd: Year One by Matt last year.

Carl Critchlow's art is brilliant throughout. Matt's plot is engaging and his knowledge of Dredd lore... well he is the Editor of 2000AD and Judge Dredd Magazine so obviously his knowledge is encyclopedic. A great book if you miss this get the trade next year.

The Royals: Masters of War

Published by Vertigo
Writer: Rob Williams
Pencils: Simon Coleby
Inks: Gary Erskine
Colorist: JD Mettler
Letters: Wes Abbott



Rob Williams will be at Table **23** in **Royal Armouries Hall**
Gary Erskin will be at Table **51** in **New Dock Hall**

The Royal families around the world rose to power because they alone possessed super powers. After living thousands of years and fighting in many wars Jimmu, Emperor of Japan, agreed with the lesser Royals that no Royal would become involved again in the wars of lesser beings.

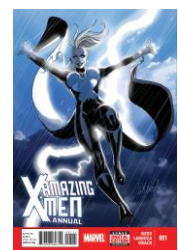
This story is set in an alternate history where the Royal families of the world rose to power due to possessing superpowers. Set in World War II; we follow an alternative House of Windsor. King Albert was born without superpowers but his children, Princes Arthur and Henry and Princess Rose have hidden their powers until now.

The story is engrossing with a grounding in reality with historic characters such as Churchill and Eisenhower. Pacing and content is brilliant.

The artwork depicts WWII weapons and machinery accurately alongside super heroics. Simon Coleby has the era really well defined.

Amazing X-Men Annual 1

Published by Marvel
3rd June 2014
Writer: Montynero
Art: Salvadore Larroca
Colours: Sonia Oback
Letters: Joe Caramagna



The story centres around Storm, Ororo Munroe. the title of the story is Goddess. Now I guess it might prove I'm not a regular X-Men these days but it came as a shock to me that Ororo and T'Challa have split up, shame that.

Monty's first outing for one of the 'Big Two' went well.

The art is eye catching to say the least. The design of the villain, Maruda, is excellent and his animated-sand servants are wonderful. Sonia Oback's colours give a nice depth to the panel.

Rebellion

Portfolio Competition Winner 2013 – Tom Foster

Each year at Thought Bubble 2000AD run a Portfolio Competition. Before the Convention a script is released for a short story, usually four to five pages long. On the Saturday of the Convention artists can show their completed pages to the Editor of 2000AD, Matt Smith (Tharg's senior Earthly representative, obviously) who selects the finalists to have their work judged by a panel of 2000AD creators.

The prize, a commissioned story for publication in 2000AD – yes a paid gig in the top British anthology. Not too shabby.

Last year's winner was Tom Foster. I chatted with Tom prior to the final last year, recalling him from 2012. Tom later gave me an interview which is on my blog.

The first page of that story is to the right of this article. It was published in Prog 1886. His next work for Rebellion, to the best of my knowledge will be Storm Warning in Judge Dredd Magazine, starting in Prog 356 in February 2015, penned by the rather excellent Leah Moore & John Reppion



2000AD Sci-Fi Special

Judge Dredd by Emma Beeby and Eoin Coveney
Robo-Hunter by Alec Worley and Mark Simmons
Future Shock by Jody LeHeup and Jefte Palo
Durham Red by Robert Murphy and Duane Redhead
Orlok the Assassin by Arthur Wyatt and Jake Lynch
Rogue Trooper by Guy Adams and Darren Douglas

Alec Worley will be at the 2000AD Table **111 to 112** in the **Teepee**



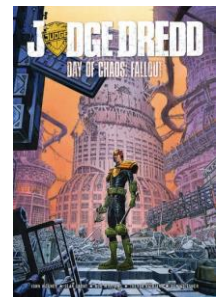
Its been a while since there was a Summer Special – by any name – from 2000AD and frankly I was thrilled (pardon the pun) when I heard about this. The Summer Special Supercomic was in 1977 and there were Sci-Fi Specials 1978 to 1996. This issue is showcasing some of the newer talent that 2000AD have assembled and the stories are all new original stories of some classic characters.

Among the talent in this special issue is Alec Worley who wrote three books of Age of the Wolf and Arthur Wyatt who wrote the official comic sequel to the Dredd (2012) movie, Underbelly. And Emma Beeby, the only woman to pen a Judge Dredd story.

Judge Dredd Day of Chaos: Fallout

Writers: John Wagner, Alan Grant, Rob Williams, Michael Carroll
Artists: PJ Holden, Trevor Hairsine, James Harren, Dave Taylor, Laurence Campbell, Ben Willsher, Nick Dyer, Andrew Currie, Inaki Miranda, John Burns, Jon Davis-Hunt
Colours: Chris Blythe, Eva De La Cruz
Letterer: Annie Parkhouse
Cover: Chris Weston

Several Creators may be at the 2000AD Table **111 to 112** in the **Teepee**



Day of Chaos was an epic beyond what has come before. Two previous collections represent most of what occurred in a story that took over a year to tell and reached back 30 years to the Apocalypse War. There is a one page synopsis of key points of Day of Chaos in this book.

Fallout deals with what happened after the dust settled on Day of Chaos. With the city devastated, reduced from 400 million citizens to 50 million. The Justice Department stretched to the limit with entire Departments such as PSU, SJS and the Academy all but wiped out. What next for the city?

Predator vs Dredd vs Aliens

Predator vs Judge Dredd

Writer: John Wagner

Line Artist: Alcatena

Colorists: Perry McNamee, Jimmy Johns, John Hanan III, and Dave Stewart

Letterer: Gary Fields

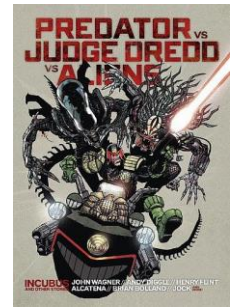
Judge Dredd versus Aliens

Writers: John Wagner and Andy Diggie

Line Artist: Henry Flint

Colorist: Chris Blythe

Letterer: Tom Frame



Andy Diggie will be at Table **12** in **Royal Armouries Hall**

The two stories are written by Judge Dredd creator John Wagner, in the case of Aliens he wrote with Andy Diggie. Andy Diggie was Editor for 2000AD from 2000 to 2002 after which he turned to writing. Could this be the connection?

The fusion of the settings is well handled with as little explanation as possible, written in a way that the US audience could get up to speed as soon as possible.

The art in both stories is brilliant, I really love the opening in the Cursed Earth in Predator. A great read for Dredd, Predator or Aliens fans!

Dredd: Underbelly

Writer: Arthur Wyatt

Artist: Henry Flint

Colours: Chris Blythe

Letters: Ellie de Ville



The official comic sequel to Dredd (2012) was published first in Judge Dredd Magazine then reprinted under the 2000AD masthead as a US Format one-shot. This was the first time Rebellion had published a comic in this format, previous reprints being handled by licensees.

The look of the strip matches the film well; the uniform and the city look very similar. Anderson is very much Olivia Thirlby but the chin on Dredd is perhaps a little more traditional than Karl Urban's.

The writing and the art is Dredd, regardless of what Universe he comes from. Switch the drawings for 2000AD style Dredd and the story would work just as well. The major difference here is the character of Anderson and her identification as a mutant.

So popular a title there have been two reprints.

Jaegir

Writer: Gordon Rennie

Artist: Simon Coleby

Colours: Len O'Grady

Letters: Simon Bowland



This is a new story set in the 2000AD continuity of Rogue Trooper but full knowledge of that background isn't essential. However those reading this story who have read the original Rogue Trooper (not Friday) will see extra levels in some elements.

The main difference is that the central character is a member of the opposing side in the war. Nordland

The story fits well in to the history of Rogue Trooper, Gordon Rennie has written in this setting before including Rogue Trooper and The 86ers.

The art is excellent, the uniforms are the same as in Rogue Trooper and the general feel from these Norts is familiar. So it is in keeping with the originals yet different enough to be fresh. The art is alive and there are frequent insets and gutter breaks that keep the eye entertained without distraction.

Brass Sun

Writer: Ian Edgington

Artist: I.N.J. Culbard

Letters: Ellie De Ville



Ian Edgington will be at Table **33** in **New Dock Hall**

I understand **I.N.J. Culbard** will be attending the Convention, I advise checking at the 2000AD Tables.

This six issue US Format series collects three series previously printed in 2000AD.

Set in the Orrery, a clockwork solar system in trouble. Global warming isn't an issue, the sun is dying.

This story follows the travels of Wren, granddaughter of Cadwallader who has a telescope. He can't have a telescope because they were all destroyed years ago. They live in a Theocracy where the rulers deny science and deny that the sun is dying.

The story engaging and as you follow Wren you learn about things alongside her and without years of backstory I can't think of a better candidate to follow up Underbelly in this format.

The art is quite simple with neat geometry, quite fitting for a story about a clockwork solar system. With bold, striking colours that don't overpower.

Return to Armageddon

Writer: Malcolm Shaw

Artist: Jesus Redondo, Johnny Johnson (episode 12 & 13)

Letterer: Bill Nuttall

Cover: Jesus Redondo & Dylan Teague



Reprinted in full for the first time and presented in the original ratio and mostly in black and white. Two pages are in colour, indicating an outing on the centre pages. There are nine preview pages at the end of this review.

The story follows the crew of The Prairie Drifter who encounter a frozen planet and recover a corpse that resembles the devil. What they unwittingly unleash on the universe is a force of nature that may be unstoppable.

The artwork is brilliant, though the coloured pages do actually date the story more than the black and white. Jesus Redondo, who is now 80, worked on several classics for 2000AD including *Book 2 of Nemesis The Warlock* and as recently as November 2013 on *Tharg's Thrillers: Rewind*.

Rico Dredd: The Titan Years

The Third Law

Written by Michael Carroll

Cover by Michael Carroll and Pye Parr

Published by Abaddon Books



You can buy this e-novella on Amazon or 2000AD's web shop.

The story starts in 2079 shortly after Rico and Joe have graduated. Told in the first person from Rico's point of view he starts by telling us he had accidentally killed a man called Livingstone, Joe witnessed the act and arrested him.

In flash back from here we learn how Rico reached this critical point in his life; with to a scene in the Academy in 2073 where we meet the Judge-Tutor that oversaw the Class of '79 – Judge-Tutor Semple. I had no idea Michael had named a character after my blog and I was thrilled to see it.

Rico proves to be an unreliable narrator. He recounts his story clearly, openly, honestly. However he doesn't think he has done anything wrong. Unlike other times we've looked in to Rico's life this time we see the human side of him. we get to see what he thinks of the city and the citizens. We get to see he loves the city as much as Joe, he just sees everything differently. While it was unlikely you had much sympathy for Rico before this book might alter this.

Interviews

I've done quite a few interviews on my blog. I interviewed Leah Moore and John Reppion where we discuss their story Black Shuck which was published in 2000AD Progs 1890 to 1899.

John and **Leah** will be signing at Tables **23 & 24** in **Royal Armouries Hall** *Saturday & Sunday 15:00 to 16:30* and at the **Electricomics** table **22** in **New Dock Hall**

Excerpt from my interview with Leah & John

Simple: Black Shuck is about an Anglo-Saxon claiming to be the son of King Ivar. Is Black Shuck the name, or a name, of this character?

Leah: Yes. He's our leading man. I won't call him the hero, as he's not a cut and dried good guy really, but he's not an anti-hero either I don't think. He's a big tough Anglo-Saxon who is handy in a fight, has held his own against Viking raiders, and who ends up across the seas in a whole other world.

Simple: Black Shuck is a term I've heard many times referring to ghostly or demonic apparitions of large black dogs. Malign and benign versions exist. Could there be any connection here?

John: There is no direct tying in to the whole Black Dog/Barghest mythos in this story, no. However, if we're lucky enough to get the chance to do some more Black Shuck tales in the future then there may well be. Leah's maternal family come from Suffolk where the original Black Shuck myth originates. Northampton has it's Shagfoals, of course, and there's a phantom black dog supposed to haunt the Mersey coast up a couple of dozen miles from Liverpool where we live. Plenty of material to work with.

Planet Replicas

Tables 3 to 4 Royal Armouries Hall

OK not a comic... however they are extremely comic related!

Planet Replicas was born out of Judge Minty – one of the best ever comic adaptations in my opinion. I've written a lot about judge Minty and if you haven't seen this fan film you need to do so. You can easily find it on You Tube or Vimeo, just search Judge Minty.

Daniel Carey George is the man behind the props for Judge Minty and you can own replicas of these comic accurate Judge Dredd uniforms and equipment.



Plus specially discounted Lawgivers, MkI and MkII.

I understand there is free shipping for orders taken during the convention if not filled on the day.

Other goodies on show will be four colour prototypes of the forthcoming McMahon Judge Dredd statue. Opinions will be taken on the different finishes.

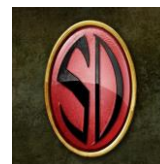
There may well be a number of other new Judge Dredd related items available.



At the tables you may get the chance to meet 2000AD Artist **Greg Staples** and several of the team that brought us Judge Minty.

The team that made Judge Minty are working on a new 2000AD fan film – Strontium Dog and it is hoped they may have some prototypes of props that will be used in that film on display.

<http://www.strontiumdogfanfilm.com>



Judge-Tutor Semple blog started life as a site for a Judge Dredd RPG game that never actually took off.

I was fortunate enough to win a ticket to see the Dredd (2012) film in a Fan Pre Release screening in August 2012 in the company of the creators of Dredd, John Wagner and Carlos Ezquerro (and a couple of hundred other people). The film was introduced by Alex Garland and Karl Urban. I had the fortune to chat with John Wagner before the film and Alex Garland afterwards. The experience encouraged me to write a review.

I then saw the fan film Judge Minty at the Leeds International Film Festival and again within the week at Thought Bubble in November 2012. I reviewed that wonderful film also, I've actually written quite a bit about this film and interviewed many of the cast and crew.

I decided then to write reviews on the Blog, particularly focussing at the beginning on Judge Dredd and 2000AD related subjects. I now write about a number of topics that interest me, including Books, Films, TV, Jousting and Nature.

This year I was very delighted to be asked to be part of Lawgiver: A Celebration of Dredd. The convention took place on Monday 05th May 2014 in Birmingham. I ran two panels the first being How to Draw a Panel Panel with Nick Percival, David and Peter Doherty, The second was the Judge Minty Panel, with Steve Green, Steve Sterlacchini, Edmund Dehn and Michael Carroll.



The Judge Minty Panel – photo by Tony Richards

Being a Leeds resident the Armouries is well known to me and Thought Bubble is a wonderful event.

I hope you found my reviews interesting. Please visit the Blog to see more of what I write.

I will be wandering around the Convention but if you want to talk to me about anything you may be able to get a message to me via **Bolt-01** at the Futurequake Press Table, table **24** in **New Dock Hall** or anywhere you see a copy of this booklet.

I'd like to thank Mike Carroll again for so kindly making my Judge Semple Badge for me.

I'd also like to thank the organisers of Thought Bubble for organising the event (I'm sure I will have had fun as always).

And also thanks to my friends at the Royal Armouries Leeds who always make me feel very welcome.

Steve