



Media Release #7

Dublin 2019 - An Irish Worldcon
Dublin, Ireland
August 15-19, 2019
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****** EMBARGOED UNTIL 11 PM DUBLIN / LONDON TIME
6 PM NEW YORK TIME
3 PM SAN JOSE (PACIFIC) TIME, MONDAY, AUGUST 20 ******

Monday, August 20, 2018

Irish President Michael D. Higgins welcomes Worldcon to Dublin

Dublin 2019 - An Irish Worldcon has received a message of welcome from Michael D. Higgins, the President of Ireland (Uachtarán na hÉireann).

“Ireland is a land which celebrates stories and imagination, and our Irish heritage has always been imaginatively interwoven with new cultures and new traditions,” President Higgins said in a letter to fans and the Dublin 2019 committee. “This is aptly reflected in our deep appreciation and appetite for speculative fiction.”

The Irish President also highlighted Ireland’s successes in science and technology, including contributions to measuring wind speed, splitting the atom, and connecting continents with fibre optic cable.

“Speculative fiction plays a seminal role in helping us to question received versions of the contemporary world, and to dream of new worlds and new ways of thinking. It affords us a licence to look beyond the immediate and utilitarian, to engage in a long form of thinking which places no limits on our curiosity,” Higgins said. “You are all most welcome to share with us in this unique Irish event.”

His remarks are included in the presentation by Dublin 2019 Chair James Bacon at the closing ceremony of Worldcon 2018 in San Jose, California. The full text of the letter from President Higgins can be read on the [convention website](#) and social media.

Activities at Worldcon include the 2019 Hugo Awards, the world's leading awards for excellence in science fiction and fantasy, as well as the spectacular Masquerade costume display. There are typically 650 to 800 separate programme items, including author readings and autograph sessions, films and videos, academic presentations, and panel discussions on speculative literature and other media, many involving fans and audience.

This will be the 77th annual World Science Fiction Convention, the first to be held in Ireland and the eleventh in Europe.

Guests of Honour for Dublin 2019 include YA author Diane Duane, and screenwriter and Hugo winner Ian McDonald, as well as game designer Steve Jackson (Melee, Chaos Machine, Munchkin) and editor Ginjer Buchanan. Science Guest of Honour will be Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, who discovered radio pulsars in 1967 as a postgraduate student. Bill and Mary Burns will be fan Guests of Honour.

More information and membership registration for Dublin 2019 are available at <https://dublin2019.com>. Follow us on Twitter at [@dublin2019](https://twitter.com/dublin2019).

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The World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon) is a five-day event that has been held annually since 1939 (apart from a four-year break during the Second World War).

“World Science Fiction Society,” “WSFS,” “World Science Fiction Convention,” “Worldcon,” “NASFiC,” “Hugo Award,” the Hugo Award Logo, and the distinctive design of the Hugo Award Trophy Rocket are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.