



**Media Release #21 (UPDATED Sunday 11 August)**

Dublin 2019 - An Irish Worldcon  
Dublin, Ireland  
15-19 August 2019  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, 1 August 2019

(Updates time of press conference on second page to 9 am, Thursday 15 August.)

**Dublin 2019 publishes full draft programme; press conference on opening day**

Dublin 2019 – An Irish Worldcon has released the [full draft programme](#) on its website. The programme has more than 700 events over five days from 15 to 19 August, at the Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) and nearby Point Square. Many programme items have been previously announced by the convention and by [programme participants](#) on social media.

As announced earlier, [online sales](#) will close at 00:01 Irish time on 2 August for both full memberships and day passes. Any remaining memberships and day passes will be sold at Dublin Comic Con on 10 and 11 August. There will be no sales at the door.

Approximately 5700 people have joined Worldcon as attending members, and when supporting members are included the figure rises to more than 7000 people from 55 countries. More than 850 people will be attending Worldcon for the first time. Dublin 2019 is the 77th World Science Fiction Convention.

“We are absolutely thrilled by the number of people who have registered to be part of Dublin 2019,” said Chair James Bacon. “The first Worldcon in Ireland is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and we urge everyone not to miss out.”

A press conference will be held on Thursday, 15 August, the opening day of the conference, at 9 am in Wicklow Room 2 of the CCD, giving press a chance to meet the Chair, the press team, and some of the Guests of Honour and other participants. A press packet will be released ahead of the event. **Badge pickup for press will be open from 8 am on Thursday to allow time distribute credentials before the press conference.**

Press are reminded to [register](#) at the website no later than 12 August to receive credentials and access to the conference and press facilities.

Among the programme events:

- The **Opening Ceremonies** will be held together with the **Retro Hugo Awards**, recognizing works published in 1944, on Thursday at 6 pm. Hosts are authors Ellen Klages and Dave Rudden.
- The **Worldcon Philharmonic Orchestra** will perform a [SF and fantasy related music](#) on Friday at 8 pm.
- The spectacular **Masquerade** costume display will be held on Saturday evening at 8 pm, emceed by Toastmaster Ric Bretschneider.
- The **Hugo Awards Ceremony**, the world's leading awards for excellence in contemporary science fiction and fantasy, will take place on Sunday at 8 pm, hosted by Afua Richardson and Michael Scott.
- The **Closing Ceremonies** will take place at 4:30 pm on Monday, hosted by author Eoin Colfer, and will be followed by the traditional after-gathering known as the Dead Dog Party.
- Guest of Honour **Diane Duane** will take part in more than a dozen panels, workshops, and personal chats on topics from magic to working as a writer in Ireland.
- Guest of Honour **Ian McDonald** will participate in ten panel discussions on topics from invasions to lunar depictions, as well as close-up interviews and social events.
- Guest of Honour **Ginjer Buchanan**, a longtime top editor at Ace Books, will speak in more than a dozen programme items, including panels on writing, editing and pop culture.
- Guest of Honour **Steve Jackson**, author of the Melee and Chaos Machine games, will appear in panels on gaming and worldbuilding as well as hosting daily gaming sessions.
- Science Guest of Honour **Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell**, who first detected pulsars, will take part in exchanges on both scientific and humanistic subjects, including a discussion of the role of empiricism and faith in conducting science with **Brother Guy Consolmagno**, director of the Vatican Observatory.
- Fan Guests of Honour **Bill and Mary Burns** will speak in panels on fandom history and culture as well as hosting informal get-togethers and celebrating the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund.
- NASA Astronaut **Dr Jeanette Epps** will discuss space exploration in half a dozen programme sessions Thursday through Sunday, and hold autograph sessions on Saturday and Sunday.
- Irish Scientist-Astronaut Candidate **Dr Norah Patten** will feature in space-related programme items on Saturday and Monday.

- Featured Artist **Maeve Clancy** will give talks on her installations (on Thursday and Sunday) as well as participating in weekend panels.
- Featured Artist **Jim Fitzpatrick** will discuss artistic ideologies and processes in panels, and offer a retrospective, including how he came to create his politics and music themed works, in his artist talk on Monday.
- Featured Artist **Afua Richardson** will talk about comics, creativity and Afrofuturism in her panel and solo appearances on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Her main artist talk is on Saturday.
- Featured Artist **Sana Takeda** will give her artist talk on Friday and participate in other comics themed events.
- **George R.R. Martin** will have two autograph sessions, one on Thursday and one on Saturday, as well as participating in panels with *Wild Card* authors and a panel on his Irish connections.

The more than 800 programme participants include Charlie Jane Anders, Peter Beagle, Elizabeth Bear, Marie Brennan, Pat Cadigan, Zen Cho, Aliette de Bodard, Amal El-Mohtar, Max Gladstone, Joe Haldeman, Robin Hobb, Roz Kaveney, Mary Robinette Kowal, Naomi Kritzer, Ellen Kushner, Yoon Ha Lee, Likhain, Ruth Frances Long, Mur Lafferty, Darcie Little Badger, Seanan McGuire, Mary Anne Mohanraj, Jeannette Ng, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Naomi Novik, Brandon O'Brien, Peadar Ó Guilín, Ada Palmer, Sarah Pinsker, Julia Rios, Rebecca Roanhorse, Geoff Ryman, V.E. Schwab, Alasdair Stuart, Catherynne Valente, John Scalzi, Michael Scott, Elsa Sjunneson-Henry, Rivers Solomon, Charles Stross, Michael Swanwick, Adrian Tchaikovsky, Martha Wells, Jo Walton, and Nicholas Whyte.

“This is an all-you-can eat banquet of the fantastic, enabling people to celebrate their best loved creators and worlds, and discover new favorites,” Bacon said.

Authors, creators and other members will interact through panel discussions, readings, workshops, and art, theatre, music, and dance events. Science talks, an academic conference, and the National Irish Science Fiction Film Festival with the Golden Blaster Awards (2:30 pm Sunday at Point Square) are part of the programme. The Art Show, Creative Hub, and Dealers' Room are also located at the Point. There is plenty of chill-out space and children's activities available.

The [programme](#) will also be available on the Grenadine system soon, and will be continuously updated with changes, additions and cancellations. Members are also advised to follow social media for updates: [@dublin2019](#) on Facebook, [@dublin2019](#) on Twitter and [@dublin2019worldcon](#) on Instagram.

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. [Dublin 2019](#) will be the 77th annual World Science Fiction Convention, the first to be held in Ireland and the eleventh in Europe.

Full information about the convention is available at the [Dublin 2019 website](#), including [all press releases](#). The press team can be contacted at [press@dublin2019.com](mailto:press@dublin2019.com).

ENDS

“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.