

## Fan Expo Highlights: Day 4

By Neil Karassik

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The final day of Fan Expo was packed with panels, so here's our rundown of some of the best moments!

To any Doctor Who fan, John Barrowman needs no introduction. We know and love him as Captain Jack Harkness of both Doctor Who and Torchwood fame, and Barrowman in person somehow manages to be Captain Jack taken up a notch.

John Barrowman seemed to have taken a shine to our own Ajay Fry after his visit to the InnerSPACE studio this past Friday, so it was fortuitous that the same Fry was co-hosting Barrowman's panel this afternoon. There were too many highlights to mention, but they included anecdotes about farting in the TARDIS with David Tennant, the recreation of a lapdance with Ajay as the receiver and Barrowman the dancer and a fantastic rendition of a few lines from Phantom of the Opera, performed by a fan and John (a dare, as claimed by the fan)\*. Needless to say, our cheeks hurt from all the grinning as we walked out of Hall G.

If the name Chris Sarandon doesn't ring a bell, you are not watching enough movies.

If seeing his face doesn't either, bow your head in shame. Still, we're pretty sure the name Jack Skellington is a familiar one. Sarandon voiced the emaciated hero of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* fame, a film that's gone on to become a classic for not one but two holidays. Additionally, the actor has appeared in numerous films by some of Hollywood's most talented filmmakers, including Rob Reiner (*The Princess Bride*), Sam Peckinpah (*The Osterman Weekend*), Sidney Lumet (*Dog Day Afternoon*) and Tom Holland (*Child's Play* and 1985 cult classic *Fright Night*).

The crowd at Sarandon's panel wasn't massive, but there were some die-hard fans in the mix—mainly horror buffs that wanted to discuss *Fright Night*. On that note, highlight anecdotes included the intense makeup that went into Sarandon's vampire getup, including eight hours of prosthetics and wearing fingernails so long he "had to use a coat hanger to go to the bathroom." When asked about his opinion on the 2011 remake in which Colin Farrell played the evil-sexy vamp, he likened it to more of a reimagining, and also reported that Colin was originally a "Fright Night freak" who was very nervous about taking on the role, but "did a good job at doing something different, something more—excuse the pun—feral." Another memorable Sarandon story involved bringing his kids to the set of *The Princess Bride* to meet his co-star, the late WWF champ André the Giant. Although the children nagged him to see André, upon meeting him they ran away screaming in terror. André's bittersweet response to this was "Either they come to me or they run from me."

To list all of voice actor extraordinaire Billy West's credits would be a nearly impossible task, so let's just talk about the ones he performed at today's packed (and we mean PACKED!) Fan Expo panel. Naturally, there was *Futurama's* Fry, Dr. Zoidberg and Zapp Brannigan ("She flies like a steakhouse, but she handles like a bistro."). Then there were slightly more obscure icons like Ren and Stimpy. And then of

course he had to do Doug Funnie for the kids (come to think of it, that masturbation joke was pretty gauche for a children's TV character). Oh, and he also voiced the red M&M in those old commercials alongside Spider-Man and OZ's J.K. Simmons, who did the yellow M&M. You learn something new every single day.

West told a handful of amusing stories, like how he came up with Stimpy's trademark voice during his audition by speeding up Larry Fine's (of The Three Stooges) voice, which Ren & Stimpy creator John Kricfalusi loved. Things took a more personal turn when West also discussed his earlier years battling depression and growing up as a huge nerd. "Being a nerd wasn't cool 50 years ago... I only had one and half friends." He also took note of his current surrounding: "Now posers crash this party sporting Pikachu tattoos." Hey now, Billy, don't be hating on our Pokémon tats.

We're very sad to say it, but that's a wrap for this year's Fan Expo. It's been a long, sweaty and nerve-racking 72+ hours, but we've come out of it alive and with some really sweet merch. It's been an honour reporting to you about the biggest and geekiest things around. From sci-fi to horror to comics to videogames, we were in nerd-vana, but now it's time to go home, eat a decent meal and take a very long shower. Thanks for tuning in and we'll see you all next year!

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\* Lyla was "double dog dared" by a friend to get John Barrowman to sing a duet with her during his Q&A at Fan Expo 2012. John said yes and this moment in time has now been immortalized on YouTube.