

CONTACT: Julia Zolondz
phxdinocon@gmail.com
phxdinocon.com



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Dinosaur fan convention returns to Phoenix August 2: Pop culture event features creator of “Jurassic Park” T.rex, panels, demos and dinosaur-themed exhibitors

PHOENIX, Ariz. (August 2, 2014) — From behind-the-scenes stories of “Jurassic Park,” to nostalgic jabs at “The Land Before Time,” Arizona’s original dinosaur fan convention Phoenix DinoCon devours movie and TV dinosaurs from 3 p.m. – 9 p.m. on Saturday, August 2 at the Phoenix Center for the Arts (1202 N 3rd St, Phoenix, AZ 85004).

Nationally unique within the fan event landscape in subject and scope, this 2nd annual dinosaur and kaiju party is suitable for ages 12 and above, but geared toward adults with an everlasting love for dinos. Phoenix DinoCon gives fans a chance to interact with pop culture experts, learn reptilian crafts, purchase locally-produced dinosaur art and even vote a legendary pop culture icon into the Bookmans and Phoenix DinoCon Hall of Distinguished Dinosaurs.

The convention’s extensive “Jurassic Park” and “Jurassic World” related programming provides a first-hand account of the original movie’s T.rex — from concept to life-sized, working model — by Sedona resident, sculptor and special effects artist Michael Trcic in the Phoenix DinoCon Tyrannosaurus Theater.

In addition to panels focused on “Godzilla” and “Pacific Rim,” Phoenix Dinocon explores appearances of dinosaurs in steampunk and tabletop games. Geologist Melanie Dolberg pits Hollywood dinosaurs against their scientific counterparts and FilmBar’s Andrea Beesley heads a dinosaur-themed spin-off of her annual Phoenix Comicon signature event, the first-ever Phoenix Ultimate Geek Smackdown: Turbo Dinosaur Edition.

New this year to Phoenix DinoCon is the Diplodocus Demo Den, where fans gain hands-on drawing and crafting experiences like a special make-and-take opportunity: DIY mini-notebooks featuring the hunks of the “Jurassic Park” franchise, depicted in Tiger Beat likenesses.

A Velociraptor Vendor Hall roars through the day with dinosaur-inspired local artists, crafters and business owners. Returning this year are Jon Garza and Damien Hernandez, who make dream dinosaur scenarios a reality on location with pencil and watercolor (think Ron Swansonasaurus or your pet Chihuahuas as dueling sauropods.)

Admission is \$5 at phxdinocon.brownpapertickets.com or at the door on August 2 upon availability. After-party tickets to a screening of the '90s B movie "Adventures in Dinosaur City" are available for \$9 at thefilmbarphx.com/event/619291-adventures-in-dinosaur-city-phoenix.

For more information on the 2nd annual Phoenix DinoCon, please visit phxdinocon.com.

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Phoenix Dinocon, Arizona's original pop culture dinosaur convention, is organized by a group of Phoenix, Ariz. based dinosaur enthusiasts who provide fans, artists, crafters and local businesses an outlet to celebrate dinosaur and kaiju pop culture. Since 2013, Phoenix DinoCon champions opportunities for local artists, supports as many locally owned businesses as possible, and relishes the thrill of dinosaur-related movies, TV and literature. Phoenix DinoCon is the only event of its intensity in the nation, combining panels, demos and vendors laser-focused on pop culture dinosaurs, financially independent from museum or paleontology organizations. Partners for the 2014 Phoenix DinoCon event include Downtown Phoenix Inc., Roosevelt Row CDC, Bookmans and FilmBar. For more information on Phoenix DinoCon, please email phxdinocon@gmail.com or visit phxdinocon.com.