



Australian Society of Authors

Australian Society
Of Authors Limited
ABN 26 008 558 790
PO Box 1566
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

98 Pitt Street
Redfern NSW 2016

Tel (02) 9318 0877
Fax (02) 9318 0530

asa@asauthors.org
www.asauthors.org

May 2008: Graphic Novels / Comics Portfolio News

ASA Supanova Sessions 2008

SYDNEY – Literary agent and publishing consultant Brian Cook, as well as Comics/Graphic Novels Portfolio Holder Julie Ditrich will present a session on ‘*How to Write a Graphic Novel Proposal for the Mainstream Book Market*’ at Supanova Sydney on Saturday 21 June 2008 at 6.00pm.

PERTH – Jessica McLeod (*Ghost Farm, Activities for Rainy Days*) will speak on how publishing webcomics landed her an international book deal; Tad Pietrzykowski (*The Dark Nebula*) will discuss how self-publishing comic books led to getting a US literary agent and an overseas distribution deal; and Wolfgang Bylsma, publisher/editor of Gestalt Comics will speak about how to alienate success in the graphic novel market in the ‘*Marketing Your Comics to Book Publishers*’ panel session at Supanova Perth on Saturday 28 June 2008 at 6.00pm.

Further details on both sessions will be posted on the Comics/Graphic Novels Portfolio page of the ASA website and emailed to ASA members residing in NSW and WA.

Supanova Melbourne and Brisbane Reports

The Melbourne portfolio meeting on Saturday 29 March, convened by Julie Ditrich, attracted 16 enthusiastic people and many questions and suggestions. We added three more items to our project management plan (pending approval from the Committee of Management) – to investigate superannuation and disability insurance (particularly

for artists to insure their hands) for portfolio members, and to research the feasibility of getting funding from AusTrade to send an Australian comics creators and publishers delegation to the San Diego ComicCon (as part of AusTrade's international trade events focus). We also discussed ways in which the portfolio could support the Ledger Awards in the future. One attendee joined on the spot and there were pledges from several others to become members.

Jozef Szekeres convened the Brisbane Supanova meeting on Saturday 5 April. Ten people attended, which included the Australian Distribution Representative for the USA manga/graphic novel publisher Tokyo Pop, who took information back to her publisher. This indicates that some publishers abroad are looking at the ASA initiative with interest. Visiting American artists were also keen about hearing and reading about the portfolio initiative. The Brisbane convention also revealed a new trend in regard to convention sketches. There was a time when attendees expected convention sketches for free from Australian artists, but things are beginning to shift now that American-published Aussie artists are starting to charge for their sketches. This highlighted the need for the ASA to include this category on the ASA Comics/Graphic Novels Portfolio Recommended Minimum Rates currently being developed. Marvel Comics recruiter C B Cebulski was there to view art portfolios and comic properties in Australian self-published comics. It is expected that several new ASA Comics/Graphic Novel Portfolio members will come from Supanova Brisbane, as there were verbal commitments to join from some well-established Australian creators.