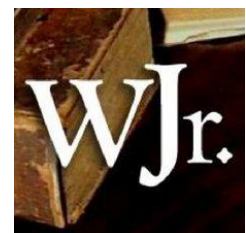


**The 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the  
Whedon Studies Association  
University of North Alabama  
Florence, Alabama  
Program**



## **Thursday, 21 June**

**3:30-5:00 – Registration – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor lobby, UNA Commons Building**

**5:30-8:00 – Welcome Reception – Shoals Gold Record Room (201 S. Court Street, Florence)**

## **Friday, 22 June**

**8:30-9:30 – Registration and refreshments – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor lobby, UNA Commons Building**

**9:30-9:45 – Welcome and Opening Address – Commons Building 330**

**9:45-11:00 – Keynote Speaker – Commons 330**

“5 x 5” – A Memorial Tribute to David Lavery, with Rhonda Wilcox, Stacey Abbott, Tanya Cochran, Cynthia Burkhead, and Stephanie Graves

Chair: Rhonda Wilcox

**11:10-12:40 – Parallel Sessions**

**1. Heroes, inside/outside of the Law - “Time for some thrilling heroics”**

**Commons 208, Chair: Ami Comeford**

Ami Comeford: Helping the Helpless and Saving Souls: Team Angel--An Experiment in Liberal Arts Education

Mary Alice Money: The Firefly Capers: “Ariel” vs “Trash”

Michael C Gilbert: The Family of Heroes and the Heroic Family: The Structural Co-Emergence at the Root of Whedonverse Stories

## **2. Roundtable I: Creative Approaches to Studying Joss Whedon**

**Commons 307**

Casey McCormick, Devin Gibbs, Hannah Beach

**12:40-1:40 – Lunch – Commons Third Floor lobby**

**1:40-3:10 – Parallel Sessions**

### **3. Psychology - “You’re supposed to do some mind mojo”**

**Commons 208, Chair: Heather Porter**

Heather M Porter: Corporate Tools: Examining the use of Psychology in the Corporations and Organizations in the Whedonverses

Niall Buryk: Community of Heroes: The Emergence of the Support Structure in 21st Century Horror.

### **4. Gender I “Am I always picking after you boys?”**

**Commons 307, Chair, Ananya Mukherjea**

Ananya Mukherjea: Reckoning feminism: Joss Whedon, the women of the *Age of Ultron*, and the judgment of fans

Renee St. Louis: Demon Magnet in the Friend Zone: Reconsidering Xander Harris in the Age of #MeToo

Elizabeth Gilliland: Death of the Author?: Joss Whedon and the Question of Feminism.

**3:10-3:25 – Break**

**3:25-4:55 – Featured Speakers**

**Commons 330**

Ian Klein: Home is Where the Hart Is: The Domesticated Workplace in *Angel*

Bronwen Calvert: A Genealogy of the Female Villain in the Whedonverse(s)

Chair: Stephanie Graves

**4:55-5:15 – Coffee/Tea Break – Commons Third Floor Lobby**

**5:15 – 6:45 – Parallel Sessions**

**5. Form – “Those of us who write spend our entire lives in an endless English class.”**

**Commons 208, Chair: Tamy Burnett**

Matthew Pateman: Edited Out: The excluded part of the Troika

Molly Brayman: I’ll Be in My Bunk: Sexual Euphemisms in the Whedonverse

Tamy Burnett: “Everything You Think You Know ... Is a Lie”: Exploring the Double-Double Cross Narrative Technique in *Buffy*, *Firefly*, and *Angel*

## **6. Roundtable II: Art vs. the Artist**

**Commons 307**

K. Dale Koontz, Ensley Guffey, Masani McGee, Paul Smith

**7:00 – Conference Dinner – The Mane Room – 310 N. Pine Street**

## **Saturday, 23 June**

**8:30-9:30 Registration and refreshments – Commons Third Floor Lobby**

**9:30-11:00 – Keynote Speaker - Commons 330**

Cael Keegan: *Apocalypse and Everything After: Queer Heroes at the End of the World.*

Chair: Cynthia Burkhead

**11:00-12:30 – Parallel Sessions**

**7. Philosophy – “I had this philosophy book checked out from the library for, like, a year...”**

**Commons 208, Chair: Madeline Muntersbjorn**

Stephen Melvin: “*Trouble Always Comes Around*”: Sisyphian Philosophy in the Whedonverse

Madeline Muntersbjorn: Dismembered Monsters & Dissembled Selves:  
Recollecting Fred/Illyria

Kathrina Schneckloth: Threshold Guardians in the Works of Joss  
Whedon

## **8. Music - “Like you were in a musical!”**

### **Commons 307, Chair Jessica Hautsch**

Darrell J. Jordan: Gender-Coded Diegetic/Non-Diegetic Music: A Stake  
Through the Heart of Gendered Musical Traits

Jessica Hautsch: Hamilton Goes to Sunnydale: Intertextuality and  
Rhetoricity in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Hamilton* Mash-Ups

Steve Halfyard: Buffy/Faith, Music/Death: tracing the ‘death motif’  
through the score of *Buffy*, season 3

**12:30-2:00 – Lunch - Commons 330 - Whedon Studies Association  
Meeting**

**2:00-3:30 – Shoals Pride Kick-Off Event, Location TBA**

**3:30-3:50 – Tea/Coffee Break - Commons Third Floor**

**3:50-5:30 – Parallel Sessions**

## **9. Representation I - “‘Cause the black chick always gets it first?”**

### **Commons 208, Chair: Cori Mathis**

Cori Mathis: One for the Ages? *Buffy* as a Teen Drama

Robin Robinson: Inferior Black Slayers: Race in *Buffy*

Catherine Pugh: “Why Can’t I Stay?”: Sickness, Disability and Redemptive Power in *Angel*

## **10. Roundtable III - Joss Whedon vs. Horror**

### **Commons 330**

Stacey Abbott, Bronwen Calvert, Erin Giannini, Stephanie Graves, Lorna Jowett, Kristopher Woofter

**5:20-5:30 – Break**

**5:30-7:00 – Parallel Sessions**

## **11. Politics and Nationality – “Still you have to admit I am very British. I don't say hard ... 'Rs'.”**

### **Commons 208, Chair: Erin Giannini**

Katia McClain: Joss Whedon’s *The Avengers: Age of Ultron*: “Sokovia...it’s nowhere special”

Erin Giannini: The Body Doesn’t Matter, It’s the Mind That We Want: The Framework as Contemporary Political Commentary in *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* Season Four

## **12. Roundtable IV: Female Leadership in the Whedonverses**

### **Commons 307**

Cynthia Burkhead, Julie Hawk, Vickie Willis, Juliette Kitchens

**7:15 – 8:15 – Cocktails and Conversation with Shoals Diversity (TBA)**

## **Sunday, June 24**

**9:00-9:30 Registration and refreshments – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor lobby, UNA Commons Building**

**9:30-10:45 – Keynote Speakers**

**Commons 330**

**Mary Ellen Iatropoulos -The Savior and The System: Interrogating the White Savior Complex in Joss Whedon's Works.**

**Lowery Woodall – Title TBA**

**Chair: Stacey Abbott**

**10:45-11:00 - Coffee/Tea Break – Commons Third Floor**

**11:00-12:30 – Parallel Sessions**

**13. Film – “TV is a question, movies are an answer.”**

**Commons 208, Chair: Lewis Call**

Lewis Call: “To Bind Me, or Undo Me”: Dominance and Submission in Joss Whedon’s *Much Ado About Nothing*

Nancy Roche: Gender Politics, Booze, and Subterfuge in Iambic Pentameter: Joss Whedon’s *Much Ado About Nothing*

Michael Starr: “The Only Thing I Like About Myself Is You”: The “Terminal Identity” of *In Your Eyes*.

**14. Gender II – “I have thirty-eight brains. Not one of them thinks you can sign a contract to be a slave. Especially now that we have a black President.”**



**Commons 307, Chair: Eve Bennett**

Eve Bennett: "I'm awake now": Female cyborgs, consciousness and (qualified?) rebellion in *Dollhouse* and *Westworld*.

Cyndi DeVito-Ziemer: Blood, A Liminal Fluid

Zelda Engeler-Young: "You Love Humans": The Unconventional Redemption of Anya Jenkins

**12:30-2:00 – Lunch (please make your own arrangements)**

**2:00-3:30 – Parallel Sessions**

**15. Intertextuality - "I hear "Buffus the Bacchae Slayer" is playing next door."**

**Commons 208, Chair: Stephanie Graves**

Jefri Bussolini: *Buffy* and Maharakshak Devi

Stephanie Graves: I Don't Need No Stinking Reboot: The Enduring Cultural Significance and Influence of *Buffy*

Rhonda Wilcox: Smoking the Hat: Fred/Illyria in *Angel* and Juliette/Eve in *Grimm*

**16. Roundtable V: Giving the Audience (and Characters) What They "Need": Joss Whedon and Trauma**

**Commons 307**

Renee St. Louis, Catherine Pugh, and Alyson Buckman:

**3:30-3:45 - Coffee/Tea Break – Commons Third Floor**

### **3:45-5:15 Parallel Sessions**

**17. Production – “Well, the guy is a bona fide hero, would it kill him to put on some tights and a cape and garner us a little free publicity?”**

**Commons 330, Chair: Brenna Wardell**

Elizabeth L. Rambo: Making Hell Look Pretty in Pink: *Buffy: the High School Years Comics*

Marcus Recht: Gender Images *In Your Eyes*

Brenna Wardell: Fooling with Fashion: Costume as Comic Catalyst in Joss Whedon's *The Avengers*

**18. Representation II – “I think it's 'cause he's just so ... old. I'm not sure how old he is, but I heard him use the word ‘newfangled’ one time.”**

**Commons 307, Chair: Michael Buso**

Michael Buso: Buffy, Billy, and Queer Slayer Subjectivity in the *Buffy comics*”

Sofie Gieysztor: "Eww Ick" and Other Perspectives on Age in the Buffyverse

**19: Millennial Students and BtVS – “You exterminated his race. What could you possibly say that would make him feel better?”**

**Commons 208, Chair: Jodie A. Kreider**

Rosa Elena Gutierrez and Ana Carolina Gutierrez: “Two seconds of conflict with an indigenous person, and I turned into general Custer”: Colonial Issues in *Buffy*

Shaolin Parks: “I mean, admittedly, it's not a haven for the brothers.”: Millennial Student Critiques of Race in *Buffy*

Amanda Martinez: Teaching the Millennial Student: Addiction in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

**5:30-6:15**

**Whedon Bookers: The Past, Present, and Future of Whedon Studies +  
Closing remarks**

**“They can't stop the signal, Mal.**

**They can never stop the signal.”**

**Farewell**