

★★★★★ FREE! Take One! ★★★★★

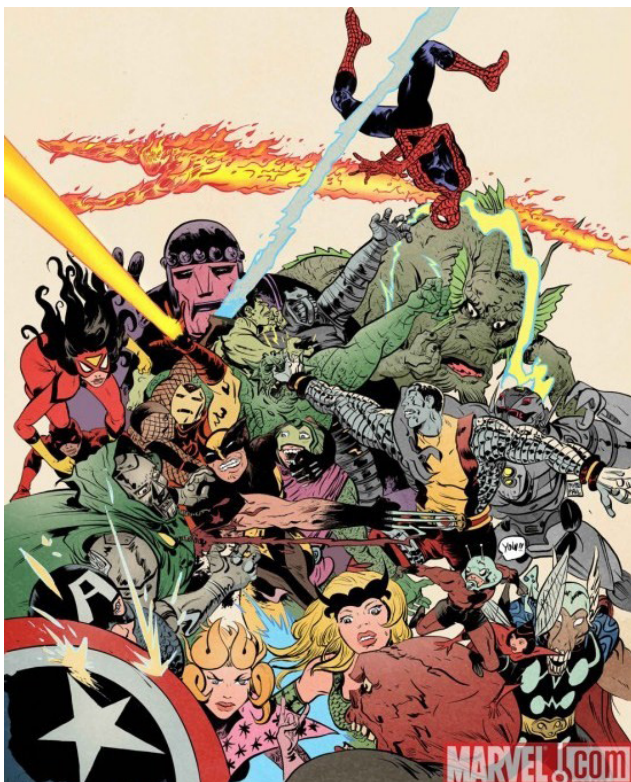
O BIG PLANET RBIT

Volume 13 #5

"News, reviews and opinions from the world of comics"

September 2009

Indie Crossover!

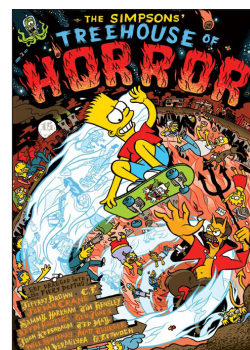


Strange Tales #1

DC did it a few years back with Bizarro Comics – take all the crazy cutting-edge comic book creators out there and let them make their own stories with your characters. Now Marvel is doing a 3 issue series with the same insanity, allowing some great cartoonists to “re-imagine” some of Marvel’s top characters.

Peter Bagge will be doing The Incorrigible Hulk in all 3 issues, plus you’ve got comics destroyer Paul Pope, weird manga creator Junko Mizuno, goofy fun James Kochalka, offensive Johnny Ryan (don’t know how he got his work approved!), Nick Bertozzi and Norwegian superstar Jason – and that’s just in the

first issue. Expect work from Kikuo Johnson, Tony Millionaire, Paul Hornschemeier, Becky Cloonan and Stan Sakai as well. 48 pages in each issue. Dig in, true believer!



Bart Simpson’s Treehouse of Horror

Sure, DC got some indie comics guys together a few years back, Marvel’s

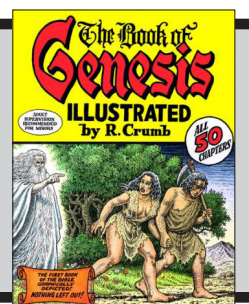
doing it now, but The Simpsons do it every year! The annual Treehouse of Horror comic has featured a plethora of indie comics luminaries in the past, ranging from Gilbert Hernandez to Peter Kuper, but this year’s version promises to be one of the best ever. Edited by Sammy Harkham (Crickets), Treehouse ’09 is like Kramer’s Ergot with Moe in it! Kevin Huizenga (Ganges), C.F. (Powr Mastrs), Jordan Crane (Uptight), and Jeffrey Brown (various depressing autobio commix)? Sounds good to me! Should be the best Simpsons book since “Cooking Humans”! (Or maybe that was “Cooking For Humans”. I always get those mixed up.)

Book of Genesis: Illustrated by R. Crumb HC

When this project was first announced, no one was sure exactly what to expect. The #1 underground cartoonist of the 1960s adapting Genesis? But after reading

the preview, it looks to be just that, a straightforward adaptation--and a really good one at that. There is a reason that Crumb is a legend, and he proves it again here. What could

he possibly do to top this? Maybe the Book of Revelations, as inspired by the biblical illustrations of Basil Wolverton? We can only hope.





Sweet Tooth #1

Jeff Lemire has exploded into stardom with his two great previous works, Essex County for Top Shelf, and The Nobody for Vertigo. Now he's got a new Vertigo series, and it's only a \$1.00 for the first issue. A post-pandemic future, and the only people who are immune are human/animal hybrid children. Promises to be weird and cool. Check it out!

The Torch #1

Alex Ross teams up with Mike Carey to write a tale of the original Torch. Plus Toro and the Mad Thinker! Ah, I can't believe they pay me to write sentences like that.

Superman: Secret Origin #1

Geoff Johns and Gary Frank did some amazing work on their recent run on Action Comics, so now they have a 6 issue series with the "definitive origin of Superman for the 21st century." They'll cover Lex Luthor, the Legion, Lois, Metallo, Jimmy, and a bunch of others too. Take that, Smallville!



Ultimate Comics Armor Wars #1

Ellis returns to the Ultimate Iron Man with Steve Kurth on art for a 4 issue series. Basically people start stealing Iron Man suits to use against Stark, but who ELSE has some crazy armored battle suits? Can anyone say... Dr. Doom?



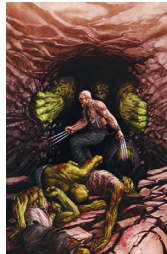
Brave and the Bold #27

All right. Let's give J. Michael Straczynski one more chance to r e d e e m himself. His Red Circle

books weren't too inspiring, and he screwed up Spider-Man pretty good, but maybe, just maybe, he can do something with Batman teaming-up with Dial H for Hero...? Uh...okay. Next month is the Flash and the Blackhawks, anyway.

Wolverine: Old Man Logan Giant-Size #1

In the about-freaking-time category, Mark Millar and Steve McNiven finally finish their amazing run on Wolverine. And it looks like the old Wolverine is back, doing what he does best! Only this time he's really angry, and he's got decades of not-killing to make up for. Wow. Now if only they could get us the next issue of Kick-Ass...



Criminal: The Sinners #1

Ed Brubaker and Sean Phillips can do no wrong. Their Incognito run has been a blast, but now there back to doing good-old hard-boiled crime-fiction. At some point the publishers may burn out this hot new crime comics genre, but for now they seem to only be using A-list writers like Brubaker, Rucka, Azzarello, and novelist Ian Rankin, so enjoy 'em while they're great.

Archie #601

Archie Marries Veronica continues, with the actual wedding in this one. But man, even with 4 issues to go, I expect we'll see a stroll down the "what if Archie married Betty?" lane too. Just do Archie Secret Wars already! Hmmm, maybe

Bomb Queen VI #1

It had to happen! So a nice new Prez is in office, but does supervillain Bomb Queen like that? Not if Obama is trying to close down her dictatorship of New Port City! Oh yeah, they're gonna go there.

the Archie clone Cloarch is the one marrying Veronica.

Chronicles of Wormwood: The Last Battle #1

Ennis continues his tale of the Anti-Christ with art this time by Oscar Jimenez, which looks pretty sweet! After cleaning up the afterlife, Wormwood is trying to sort out his life – but if Pope Jacko is taking over Hell, things aren't gonna get better.

Walt Disney's Comics & Stories # 699 / Mickey Mouse & Friends #296

Disney comics are back--this time at a kid-friendly price of \$2.99! Brought to you by BOOM! Studios, the people who've been doing all the wonderful Muppet and Pixar comics. And thankfully, they're not going to just reprint Barks and Rosa again and again, but instead tap into the hundreds of wonderful Disney stories from Italy and Denmark that have been done over the last 40 years!



Red Snow HC

Another from D&Q's amazing translation of cutting edge Japanese Gekiga comics, this time by Susumu Katsumata. Set in the pre-modern Japanese countryside, a slightly magical world of the author's youth.

Definitely not cute!



Nemi Volume 3 HC

Scandinavia's top female cartoonist keeps on trucking. Titan Books presents a third collection of Nemi comic strips from Norway, collected from the British Metro paper. I know she's "the everywoman", but I still can't get used to Nemi talking like a young working class British girl. Sadly there's no American translation available, except for a handful of strips on the web. Oh well, you

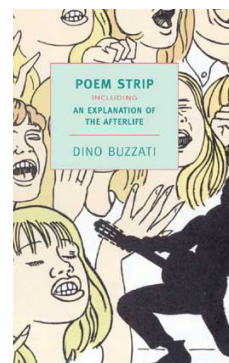
Fat Freddy's Cat Omnibus TP

In case the Freak Brothers Omnibus left you wanting more, here's every Fat Freddy's Cat comic by Gilbert Shelton. Kind of disgusting, but always hilarious.

all watched Monty Python, right?

P o e m Strip GN

A 60's Italian take on Orpheus, with more poetry and semi-nude women. Bizarre and amazing!



Lola: A Ghost Story GN

J. Torres and R'John Bernaldes bring the visions of Jesse, who shares with his grandmother the ability to see ghosts and monsters. She uses her visions to help, but when she dies, he will have to face whatever lives in her house.

Alec: The Years Have Pants GN

All of Eddie Campbell's autobiographical Alec comics in a single volume. Now if only someone would reprint Bacchus, his other great comic form the 1980s. Neil Gaiman's a big fan, so it may very well happen.



Blackhawk: Blood & Iron TP/ Power & Glory TP

After the success of the Image Comics American Flagg! reprints, two other Howard Chaykin books are making their way back into print. Chaykin's take on the Blackhawks is a bit over-the-top, but fun, and has really nice art. Power & Glory is a bit sillier, but still a good tongue-in-cheek treatment of super-heroes.

Criminal: The Deluxe Edition HC

Just in case you weren't sure – Brubaker loves noir, and writes amazing noir comics. (Read Sleeper, Point Blank, and Incognito already!) This collection has his first 3 Criminal storylines in a single book, plus the intro "movie trailer" and articles, behind the scenes, and more.

Captain America: The Man With No Face TP

Brubaker, Brubaker, Brubaker. What more do you want? How about some art by Steve Epting and Jackson Guice? Check. The Red Skull, Bucky, the Cosmic Cube, Sharon Carter. Pretty much everything except for Captain America, as he was "dead" at the time of this story.

Pinocchio: Vampire Slayer GN

Pinocchio sees Geppetto slain by vampires and swears revenge! He uses his elongating nose to

create new stakes from, if that gives you an idea of the direction they're going with this.

Mr. Stuffins TP

At last, the entire series in a book, for those of you who kept missing the issues when they sold out. Super spy artificial intelligence – inserted into a teddy bear. Funny and action packed. Stuffins. Mr. Stuffins.

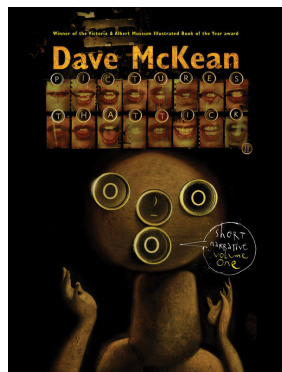
Rip Kirby, Vol. 1 HC

Alex Raymond is probably most famous for his lavish, full-page Sunday Flash Gordon comics from the 1930s. But post-WWII until his untimely death in 1956, he drew the adventures of an ex-marine private eye, named Rip Kirby. Volume 1 collects 1946-48, the strips that led to him winning a Reuben award in 1949.

Torpedo, Vol. 1 HC

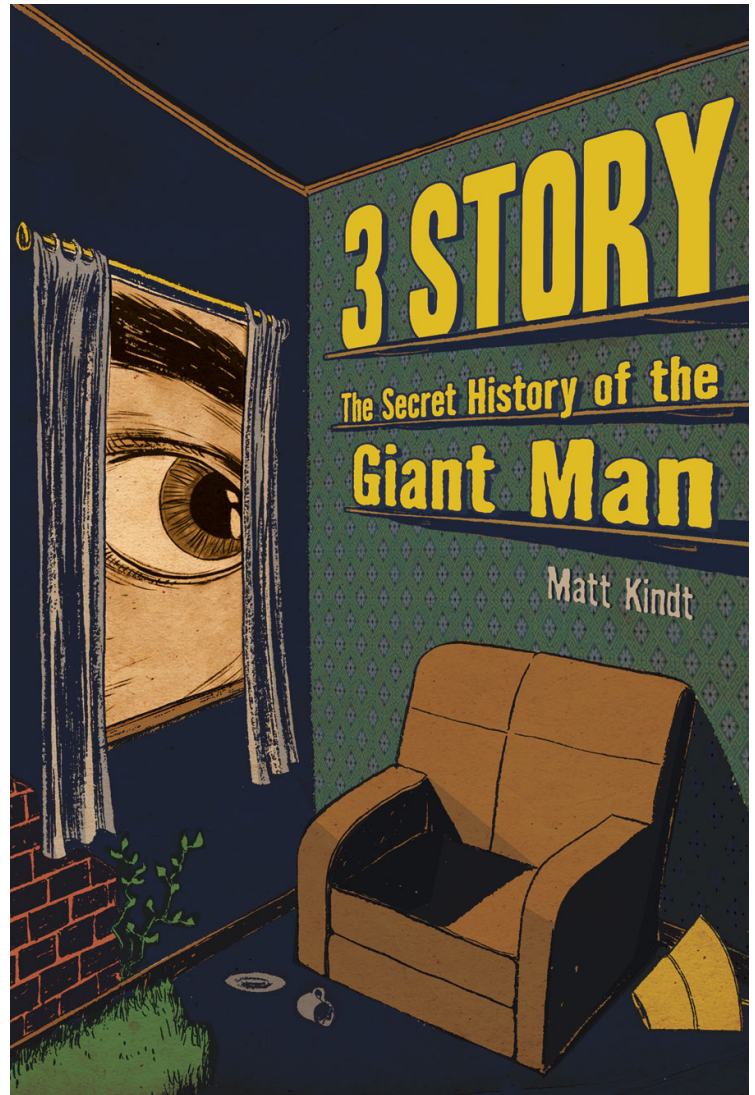
Torpedo is classic gangster comic, written by Abuli, with early art by Alex Toth. Toth quit after he got tired

of the often misogynistic violence, but luckily Jordi Bernet (of recent Jonah Hex fame) took over drawing after that.



Pictures That Tick

Dave McKean got famous for his Sandman covers and art on Arkham Asylum, but he's done a lot of his own comics over the years. Pictures That Tick collects a lot of his short stories, finally out in a softcover edition.



3 Story: The Secret History of the Giant Man

Matt Kindt's Super-Spy was the indie hit of the year, a couple of years back. Now get ready for 3 Story, a tale of a man who keeps growing and growing, and becomes more and more alienated from humanity. Sort of an existentialist kaiju comic, I guess. Hopefully this will ship in time for SPX!

Buffy Season 8 Vol.5 TP

Why is it that Buffy is one of the few good and successful TV/movie comics? Maybe because it's written by actual Buffy and Angel TV writers, who are all comics fans too. What a plan! Volume 5 features Harmony, everyone's favorite bimbo vampire, getting her own reality show, and a band of rogue slayers

running around massacring civilians! Too cool.

Gotham Central Vol.2 HC: Jokers and Madmen HC

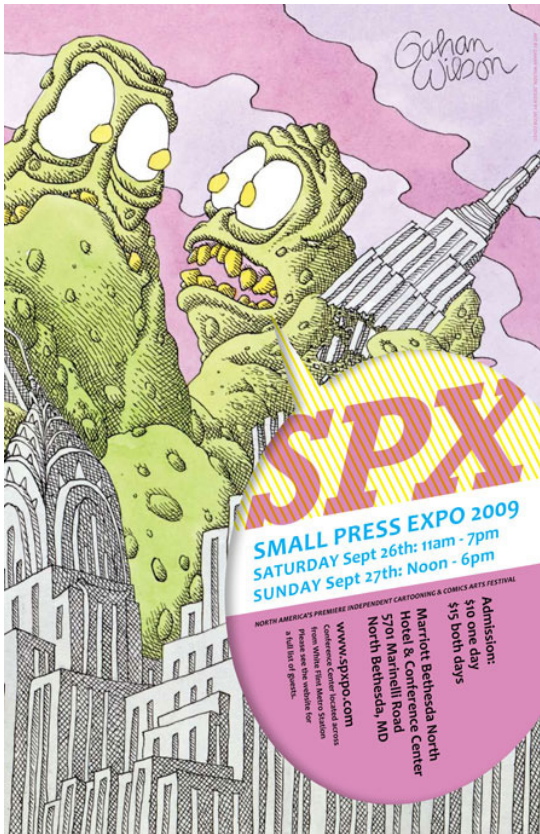
Greg Rucka and Ed Brubaker wrote some fantastic comics together here. The DC Universe sometimes seems to be almost a minor intrusion into these great detective stories, with amazing characterization; but this volume's Joker Christmas story just plain rocks!

Tom Strong Deluxe Edition Book One HC

Alan Moore's writing on Tom Strong was perfectly matched with Chris Sprouse's art for an amazing Silver Age adventure series. This book has the first 12 issues, including adventures on Venus and in the past, as well as his origin story. Awesome!



SPX 2009 is Here! Best Panels of the Month

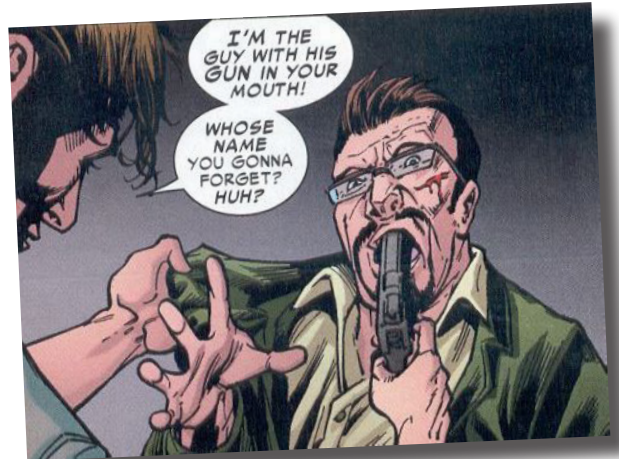


SPX, the Small Press Expo, returns this year to Bethesda, on Saturday Sept 26 from 11-7, and Sunday Sept 28 from noon-6. It will be at the North Bethesda Marriott Convention Center.

As it does every year, SPX is bringing some of the best small publishers, and independent and self-published comic creators back to our area.

Some highlights this year include the appearances of Gahan Wilson, Josh Neufeld (A.D. - After the Deluge), Kate Beaton (Hark! A vagrant!) and the annual Ignatz Awards.

For directions and more info, including a full list of guests, go to the website at <http://www.spxpo.com>



Amazing Spider-Man #603 - "Little known fact: Peter Parker was also gifted with the proportionate temper of Harlan Ellison!"



Deadpool #13 - "This reminds me of this dream I had... nevermind."

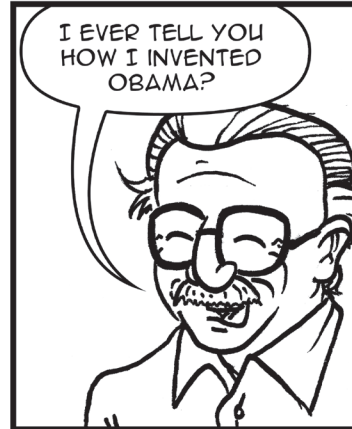
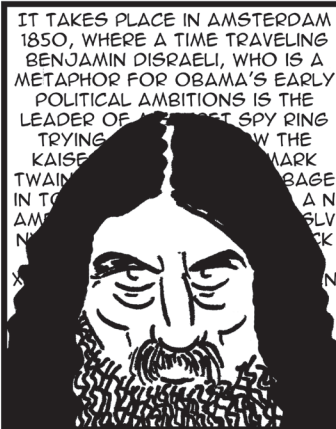
Funny Book Funny by John McNamee

OBAMA'S BEEN IN A TON OF COMICS LATELY. WHAT DO WRITERS HAVE PLANNED NEXT?

ALAN MOORE?

STAN LEE?

KIRKMAN?



Big Planet Orbit Volume 13 #5; September, 2009 is published by Joel Pollack, Peter Casazza, Jared Smith, and Greg Bennett for Big Planet Comics. www.bigplanetcomics.com.

Big Planet Comics, Inc. 4908 Fairmont Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814, 301.654.6856

Big Planet Comics of VA Inc. 426 Maple Ave. East, Vienna, VA 22180, 703.242.9412

Big Planet Comics of DC Inc. 3145 Dumbarton St. NW, Washington, DC 20007, 202.342.1961

Big Planet Comics of College Park Inc. 7315 Baltimore Ave., College Park, MD, 20740, 301.699.0498