

**WILL EISNER WEEK 2014
CELEBRATES THE GREAT COMICS
AND GRAPHIC NOVEL INNOVATOR
WITH MORE THAN 20 EVENTS**

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Will Eisner's *The Spirit* © Will Eisner Studios, Inc.

NEW YORK - The **Will and Ann Eisner Family Foundation** announces **Will Eisner Week 2014**, a series of events in more than a dozen cities to celebrate graphic novels, sequential art, free speech, and the legacy of Will Eisner, one of the most innovative figures in the history of comics and graphic novels.

Will Eisner Week's theme, **Read a Graphic Novel!** is the underlying message of all the events. Cities holding celebrations this year include New York, San Francisco, Cambridge, Seattle, Minneapolis, Glasgow and London - a truly international group! Will Eisner Week events are scheduled in the week around Will Eisner's March 6th birthday.

"This year, Will Eisner Week's sixth, we are celebrating events in more places than ever," said Will Eisner Week Organizing Committee Chair, **Danny Fingerroth**. "Some amazing people are planning some incredible events to spread the word about how significant graphic novels have become, and to celebrate Will Eisner's astonishing body of work created over a career that spanned seven decades."

Will Eisner Week 2014 events include:

February 27-March 1, **SAVANNAH, GA**: The Savannah College of Art and Design will hold events run by Professor David Duncan featuring artist Kevin Cannon.

March 1, 7:30-9:00 PM, **SAN FRANCISCO, CA**: The Cartoon Art Museum will host a presentation about James Bond as seen in comics including a little-known Spirit-James Bond connection - with museum chair Ron Evans and critic Alan J. Porter.

March 1, **NEW YORK CITY, NY**: 1:00-2:00 PM. At the New Yorker Hotel. Mike Carbo's Comic Book Marketplace: "The Genius of Will Eisner" panel with Danny Fingerroth, Howard Zimmerman (who worked with Eisner on a digital Spirit project), and a special, surprise guest or two.

March 1, **GLASGOW**, SCOTLAND: A screening of "Will Eisner: Portrait of a Sequential Artist," by Jon and Andrew Cooke, at the Glasgow International Film Festival, followed by a reading of Eisner's graphic novel "A Family Matter," at the new building of the Glasgow School of Art.

MARCH 1-7, **ARKADELPHIA**, AR: Henderson State Univ's Huie Library. "Will Eisner at War," a display of Eisner's work (P*S Magazine, To the Heart of the Storm, etc.), produced by the Comics Arts Club.

MARCH 3: **NEW YORK CITY**, NY: Parsons School of Design. "Will Eisner: Champion of the Graphic Novel." Writer Paul Levitz (former president/publisher of DC Comics) will read from *Will Eisner: The Dreamer and the Dream*, Levitz's work-in-progress about Eisner's unique role in the evolution of the American Graphic Novel, to be published in 2015 by Abrams ComicArts.

MARCH 4: **NEW YORK CITY**, NY: Columbia University. "Celebrating Al Jaffee." 7:00 pm, 523 Butler Library. A panel moderated by Paul Levitz, featuring Jaffee, the inventor of the *Mad Fold-In*, who started his career working for Will Eisner; *Mad* art director Sam Viviano; and *Mad* cartoonist Peter Kuper.

MARCH 5, **GLASGOW**, SCOTLAND. 6:00 PM. Glasgow University. A Will Eisner Symposium/Roundtable followed T 8:00 PM by An Eisner-related comics quiz!

MARCH 5: **PORTLAND**, OR: 7:00 PM. The Art Institute of Portland, 1122 NW Davis Street. Open Space Room. Dark Horse Comics Executive Editor Diana Schutz gives an in-depth presentation on the innovative and prolific 70-year career of the founding father of sequential art, Will Eisner. As Eisner's editor for several years until his 2005 death, Schutz brings a uniquely personal insight into his work.

MARCH 6: **CAMBRIDGE**, MA: The Cambridge Public Library. A talk by Denis Kitchen and Paul Hornscheimer on Will Eisner, followed by a signing at the Million Year Picnic, 99 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge. [All Eisner books 10% off all week]

MARCH 6: **AMHERST**, MA. Time and place to be determined. Screening of a new documentary about comic book stores, which were a passion of Eisner's.

MARCH 7: **PORTLAND**, OR: 7:30 PM. Floating World Comics, 400 NW Couch Street. Comic book legend Matt Wagner reads from Eisner's "Invisible People," with accompanying slides from the graphic novel. Wagner will talk about the impact of Eisner's work and create a drawing inspired by Eisner, which will be given to one lucky attendee.

MARCH 7 & 8: **MINNEAPOLIS**, MN: Minneapolis College of Art & Design (MCAD) will host a mini-comic con, with a table of Eisner promotional materials and books. The documentary "Will Eisner, Profession: Cartoonist," directed by Marisa Furtado, will be shown.

MARCH 8: **MINNEAPOLIS**, MN: Minneapolis College of Art & Design (MCAD). 12:00 noon. Screening, at the mini-comic con, of John and Andrew Cooke's "Will Eisner: Portrait of a Sequential Artist."

MARCH 8: **CAMBRIDGE**, MA. The Cambridge Public Library. Art activity led by Jef Cjeka, followed with a signing by several Boston area cartoonists, including Paul Hornschmeier, at the Million Year Picnic, 99 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge. [All Eisner books all week at 10% off.]

MARCH 8: **PITTSBURGH**, PA: The Toonseum hosts Jimmy Gownley who will be making a special appearance and discussing his latest book, "THE DUMBEST IDEA EVER!"

MARCH 8, **SACRAMENTO**, CA. Wizard World Sacramento comics convention. "Why Eisner Matters," a panel moderated by Danny Fingerroth, featuring artist and comics historian Trina Robbins, and UC Berkeley professors Tom Andrae and Mel Gordon.

MARCH 15, **NEW YORK CITY, NY:** Society of Illustrators/MoCCA. A special day of Eisner-oriented history and art lessons for students of the NYC High School of Art & Design, with practicing cartoonists including Dean Haspiel. facilitated by Danny Fingeroth. [Sorry, not open to the public.]

MARCH 29: **SEATTLE, WA,** 4:40 PM. Emerald City Comic Convention panel: "Why Eisner Matters," featuring Jeff Smith, Peter David, Jimmy Palmiotti, Matt Fraction, and Michael Avon Oeming.

Dates TBD:

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND: The Glasgow League of Writers discussion: "From Script to Page: The Eisner Approach to Storytelling."

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND. Eisner event at the Reading Group bookstore.

LONDON, ENGLAND. Eisner panel discussion on Resonance 107 FM radio's "Panel Borders" show. Panelists include author Richard Reynolds, host Alex Fitch, Ian Rakoff of the Victoria and Albert Museum comics collection, and Guy Lawley, former editor of the Comics Forum.

ANGOULEME, FRANCE. Venue TBD

Additional events are being planned for **Los Angeles** and **Baltimore**.

Check www.WillEisnerWeek.com frequently for the latest news.

About WILL EISNER:

WILL EISNER (1917-2005) grew up in the tenement Bronx of the Great Depression era. He was a pioneer in the creation of comics during the "golden age" of comics in the 1930s and '40s, achieving fame with his noir crime fighting superhero, *The Spirit*. At one time or another, almost every comics great worked with Eisner, including Jules Feiffer, Wally Wood, Jack Kirby, Al Jaffee, Mike Ploog and many others. When *The Spirit* ceased publication in 1952, Eisner devoted himself to producing educational and instructional sequential art, a term he coined. Then in 1978, Eisner once again reinvented himself—and the medium—with his graphic novel *A Contract with God*, the first of a series of works focused, for the most part with a compassionate yet unsentimental lens, on early 20th century Jewish life in America. Other notable graphic novels include *To The Heart of the Storm*, *A Life Force*, *Last Day In Vietnam*, *Fagin The Jew*, and *The Plot*. Will Eisner's graphic novels and textbooks are still in print in 15 worldwide languages. The Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards are given out every July at Comic-Con International, the world's largest comics convention. Visit www.WillEisner.com for additional information.

About WILL EISNER WEEK:

WILL EISNER WEEK is an annual series of celebrations that takes place in multiple cities, timed around Will Eisner's March 6th birthday. Started in 2009, Will Eisner Week is dedicated to promoting graphic novel literacy, free speech awareness, and the legacy of Will Eisner. This year Will Eisner Week is a truly international celebration including England and Scotland. More details about Will Eisner Week can be found at www.WillEisnerWeek.com.

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