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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **2013 Kent Comic Arts Fest Official Announcement**

**Kent, Ohio (June 4, 2013)** – Fans of comic-books, art, manga and more should save the dates — October 18th and 19th, 2013 — to attend the first annual Kent Comic Arts Fest! Taking place at Kent State University and downtown Kent Ohio, “KentCAF” is an cultural, educational and social event that celebrates the art of graphic storytelling, also known as “comics.” Tickets are available to purchase now at <http://www.kentcomicartsfest.com>.

Founded by Wayne Alan Harold (creator of the acclaimed educational DVD series P. CRAIG RUSSELL’S GUIDE TO GRAPHIC STORYTELLING), KentCAF’s first annual festival will feature an impressive array of comics authors and artists, including the following featured guests:

P. Craig Russell – Writer/Artist/Illustrator of DR. STRANGE, KILLRAVEN, NIGHT MUSIC, ELRIC, THE SANDMAN, THE FAIRY TALES OF OSCAR WILDE, THE RING OF THE NIBELUNG, CORALINE, THE DREAM HUNTERS, THE GRAVEYARD BOOK

Jill Thompson – Write/Artist/Illustrator of WONDER WOMAN, SWAMP THING, BLACK ORCHID, THE SANDMAN, FINALS, SCARY GODMOTHER, AT DEATH’S DOOR, THE GRAVEYARD BOOK

Scott Hampton – Artist/Illustrator of VAMPIRELLA, BATMAN, LUCIFER, BLACK WIDOW, HELLRAISER, STAR TREK, THE UPTURNED STONE, SPOOKHOUSE, SIMON DARK, THE GRAVEYARD BOOK

Galen Showman – Artist/Illustrator of JLA: AGE OF WONDER, HELLBOY: WEIRD TALES, RENFIELD, STAR WARS: EPISODE ONE ADVENTURES, THE GRAVEYARD BOOK

(More detailed biographies follow at the end of this release).

These four featured guests will join our other creators—including Rob Ullman (ATOM BOMB BIKINI), Neil Vokes (SUPERMAN ADVENTURES, UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN), Jay Geldhof (GRENDDEL, ADVENTURES OF THE MASK), Will Pfeifer (AQUAMAN, H-E-R-O, CATWOMAN)—as well as the many diverse exhibitors who will make up the first annual Kent Comics Arts Fest.

## EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

### KENTCAF ART SHOW/OPENING RECEPTION

On Friday, October 18 there will be an evening art show/opening reception in downtown Kent (the venue will be announced soon). On exhibit will be original art from the graphic novel adaptation of Neil Gaiman's *THE GRAVEYARD BOOK* with artists P. Craig Russell, Jill Thompson, Scott Hampton and Galen Showman in attendance. Other original art will also be on display, including pieces from a number of our guest creators. Original art and fine art prints will also be available for purchasing at the event.

### KENTCAF MAIN SHOW

The main portion of the Kent Comic Arts Fest will take place at Kent State University on Saturday, October 19. Show hours are 10AM–5PM. Our guest creators and a few select exhibitors will be located at the Kent State Student Center and our programming will take place nearby at the KSU Kiva.

KentCAF Kiva programming will include:

- P. Craig Russell's Guide to Graphic Storytelling Live—a special live presentation of Russell's master class video series.
- A special release panel/Q&A with the artists of Neil Gaiman's *THE GRAVEYARD BOOK* graphic novel with attending artists P. Craig Russell, Jill Thompson, Scott Hampton and Galen Showman.
- A special P. Craig Russell Piano Musicale to benefit the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.

The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the First Amendment rights of the comics medium. Their work takes them into courtrooms, classrooms, conventions and libraries all over the United States where they provide legal aid, education, and advocacy to protect the First Amendment rights of the readers, creators, retailers, publishers, and librarians of comics, manga, and graphic novels. For more information, visit <http://cbldef.org>

### KENTCAF V.I.P. PARTY

The KentCAF V.I.P. Party will take place on Saturday evening, from 7PM–10PM, at the Zephyr Pub in downtown Kent. Attendees can socialize with our guest creators and there will be food and refreshments. The V.I.P. Party is for adults only (21 and over).

## FOLLOW KENTCAF

Over the next few months, KentCAF will announce additional special guests, programs and more, so be sure to check out the KentCAF Website and follow KentCAF on social media for up-to-the-minute news and updates:

KentCAF Website: <http://www.kentcomicartsfest.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KentComicArtsFest>

Twitter: @KentCAF

## PRESS

All general press and interview inquiries should be submitted to: [kentcomicartsfest@icloud.com](mailto:kentcomicartsfest@icloud.com).

## SPECIAL GUEST BIOGRAPHIES

**GUEST OF HONOR – P. CRAIG RUSSELL:** A graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a degree in painting, P. Craig Russell has run the gamut in comics. After establishing a name for himself at Marvel on KILLRAVEN and DR. STRANGE, he went on to become one of the pioneers in opening new vistas for this underestimated field with, among other works, adaptations of operas by Mozart (THE MAGIC FLUTE), Strauss (SALOME) and Wagner (THE RING OF THE NIBELUNG. Russell is also well-known for his FAIRY TALES OF OSCAR WILDE series as well as his graphic novel adaptations of Neil Gaiman's SANDMAN: THE DREAM HUNTERS and CORALINE.

**JILL THOMPSON:** Jill graduated in 1987 from the American Academy of Art in Chicago and has been working non-stop as a cartoonist and illustrator ever since. She has risen to the top of the male-dominated field and has garnered acclaim for her work on WONDER WOMAN, SWAMP THING, BLACK ORCHID and the award winning title SANDMAN with Neil Gaiman. She has co-created and illustrated the dark-satire FINALS in 1999 and recently finished writing and illustrating a 192 page manga style book for DC COMICS called AT DEATH'S DOOR. She has illustrated books for nearly every comic book publisher in the United States. Not content to simply sit home and draw, Jill travels the US and beyond meeting fans and speaking about comics, literacy and art. Jill enjoys working with other writers and artists from time to time and most recently has collaborated with former wrestler turned author Mick Foley and illustrated MICK FOLEY'S HALLOWEEN HIJINX which debuted at number seven on the New York Times Children's Book best-seller's list.

**SCOTT HAMPTON:** Scott Hampton began his career following in the footsteps of brother and fellow comic book creator Bo Hampton. Both Scott and Bo studied under Will Eisner in 1976. Scott's first professional comics work was the three-page story "Victims" published in Warren Publishing's VAMPIRELLA #101 in 1981. Working as a freelance comic book artist, Hampton has illustrated such iconic properties as Batman, Lucifer, Black Widow, Hellraiser, and Star Trek in addition to work on his creator-owned projects such as THE UPTURNED STONE. His latest works include SPOOKHOUSE,

released in 2004 by IDW Publishing, in which he adapted his favorite ghost stories into sequential form, and SIMON DARK with writer Steve Niles for DC Comics. He is currently working on another Neil Gaiman multi-artist project, THE GRAVEYARD BOOK graphic novels for Harper Collins.

GALEN SHOWMAN: Galen Showman is an Eisner and Harvey award-nominated illustrator and letterer who's been working in comics for over twenty years. After getting his start at Caliber comics in the early '90s, he moved on to high-profile projects with Dark Horse, Marvel, and DC Comics. His credits include: JLA: AGE OF WONDER, HELL-BOY: WEIRD TALES, RENFIELD, and STAR WARS: EPISODE ONE ADVENTURES, among others. He is currently working on P. Craig Russell's graphic-novel adaptation of Neil Gaiman's THE GRAVEYARD BOOK for Harper Collins.

For a full, up-to date list of guests and more, please visit KentCAF online at <http://www.kentcomicartsfest.com>.

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