

Punched out on the Radio

1:32 PM PDT, March 28, 2009

March 28, 2009 - For any of you radio fans, you can catch me being interviewed next week, Thursday, April 2, 2009, 6:30 pm on The Saskatoon Book Report, a new literary program on CFCR 90.5 FM. The show is streamed online via www.cfcr.ca so if you're not in Saskatoon you can still tune in. All you have to do is go to:

<http://www.cfcr.ca/links/>

and click on the radio on the right hand side where it says:

Click Here to Listen to CFCR90.5 FM Live

Because I'll be out of town on the air date, we had to pre-record the interview. The host, a very genial Ian Goodwillie, and I have known each other for a few years and so it was an easy, light-hearted, pretty loose and fun conversation. Or so I think. Yikes. I'm counting on someone out there to listen in and tell me I didn't sound like a complete idiot! I think I actually tell the story about getting punched when I was the head bartender at the Saskatoon airport! Yup, you heard it first on CFCR90.5 folks!

p.s. they tell me the show will be at 6:30 - but this past week's show didn't air until 7:00 - so if I'm not on at 6:30, for sure 7:00. Live radio y'know. :)

Comment

Favourite Character Poll

2:47 PM PDT, March 22, 2009

March 22, 2009 - The Who is Your Favourite Russell Quant Mystery Series Character poll was closed. Russell himself handily won the majority with 35% of votes cast in his favour. Sereena, Jared, Errall, mama Kay, and the schnauzers, Barbra & Brutus shared the middle of the pack, followed at a distance by Anthony. Darren, Alberta and Beverly bottomed the list. Complete results:

Russell	35%
Sereena	11%
Anthony	6%
Jared	11%
Errall	10%
Kay (Russell's Mom)	10%
Darren	3%
Alberta	3%
Beverly	2%

Barbra & Brutus 9%

Up now at www.anthonymbidulka.com is a new poll, asking your opinion on Russell's romantic life (which has got to be one of the most popular topics for questions by readers). Here's your chance to tell me what you really think.

[Comment](#)

Left Coast Crime on the Big Island and LAMMY TIME!

11:24 AM PDT, March 18, 2009

March 18, 2009 - Some years back, when I first started travelling to Hawaii, I had to get a few things straight. Hawaii-Honolulu-Oahu-Waikiki refer to the same thing...but only sort of. Hawaii is the state (as well as the name of one of the Hawaiian islands), Honolulu is the biggest city on the island of Oahu. Waikiki is the the famed beach area and tourist magnet on Oahu, Hawaii. The Big Island is another name for the island of Hawaii, Hawaii (because its the biggest of the islands. See?) Clear as maitai?

Anyhow, I am just returned from Kona (on the island of Hawaii in Hawaii) where the most recent Left Coast Crime mystery conference was held, March 7 - 12. I had the pleasure of travelling with family, including hubby, mother-in-law and sister-in-law, who enjoyed the sights of the island while I toiled at the conference!

Although the opening luau was rained out (even Hawaii is having tough winter weather) and line ups at the food tables seemed to last as long as the conference itself, overall it was a terrific few days. I met and mingled with loads of wonderful mystery readers and writers. Guests of honour were the incomparable Rhys Bowen and Barry Eisler of the famed John Rain series. Toastmaster was the very funny Lee Goldberg who writes the books and some of the scripts for the Monk TV series as well as many others you'd have heard of.

There was a very good showing of terrific Canadian writers at the con, including Lou Allin, Pat Brown, Jane Burfield, Vicki Delany, Deni Dietz, Robin Harlick, Mary Jane Maffini, and Sharon Rowse.

I was on three panels, including one about using humour in mysteries. This is the one I was most worried about, because the other panelists included Deni, Lee, Donna Andrews and Parnell Hall - are all very funny people. I see myself as more of a person with a good sense of humour, rather than a here's-a-funny-story-to-tell-you kinda guy. And indeed Lee told hilarious tales about Monk, and Parnell did this airport bathroom routine he must have been working on for a while, but I think I held my own.

My next panel was about Cool Canadian Characters, with Deni, Pat, Jane and Vicki - which I thought went very well and really helped to introduce a primarily US audience - with some fine folks from UK and Australia too - to our fine Canadian detectives.

Last up was a very interesting panel about how geography informs our writing. Including me from Canada, the other panelists were from Hawaii (Deborah Terrell Atkinson and Baron Birtcher), Thailand (Christopher Moore), US (Sheila Simonson) and Sweden (Helene Tursten). It was curious to learn about how where we live and where we write about can really influence our book's content, and the differences and similarities we found.

After the conference we headed for a few days in Waikiki (on the island of Oahu, Hawaii...all making sense now?) about a twenty minute flight. Although the weather was spotty - for every day of hot sun, there was one of rain...we managed to have a great time, walks on the beach, good dining (Keo's, Orchids), some shopping, lots of laughs. And we began each evening at the Halekulani Hotel's outdoor lounge, House Without a Key (coincidentally featured in my next book), watching Kanoe Miller (and ex-Miss Hawaii) perform her graceful hula, while we drank awesome maitais. It always comes down to the maitais.

To top of a terrific trip, the day before we left for home, finalists for the Lambda Literary Awards were announced and.....drumroll!.....Sundowner Ubuntu was nominated! What great news. I'm so happy for that book. The finalists in my category are:

- *The Fisher Boy*, Stephen Anable, Poisoned Pen Press
- *Sundowner Ubuntu*, Anthony Bidulka, Insomniac Press
- *Mahu Fire*, Neil Plakcy, Alyson Books
- *First You Fall*, Scott Sherman, Alyson Books
- *Spider Season*, John Morgan Wilson, St. Martin's Press

Great group of writers. Although I have not met Stephen, I've heard good things about his work. Neil and I have toured together a few times and his detective, Kimo Kanapa'aka, has a cameo in my new book. I met Scott last year in Washington when he came to an event Neil and I were appearing at. This is his first book, but when I read it I knew he'd be a writer to watch for. And John writes the great Benjamin Justice series - this is his 10th or 11th I think - which I've enjoyed for many years.

So - off to NYC in June for the Lammies!

[Comment](#)

Favourite Russell Quant mystery poll results

7:16 AM PST, February 20, 2009

February 20, 2009 - The results of an online voting poll that asked the question: Which is your favourite Russell Quant mystery? are in.

The %s were all pretty close, but with a definite nod to the most recent book, Sundowner Ubuntu, being the overall favourite. Which, for a writer, is always good news.

Thanks to everyone who took part. There is a new poll at www.anthonybidulka.com that has already seen a flurry of opinion!

Amuse Bouche 18%

Flight of Aquavit 22%

Tapas on the Ramblas 16%

Stain of the Berry 18%

Sundowner Ubuntu 26%

[Comment](#)

Travels

6:46 AM PST, February 18, 2009

Feb 18, 2009 - The release of a new book means travel, and lots of it. Of course, I love me some travelling, so its all good. And it is exciting to take my new baby out there for a spin and introduce her to the world.

As it turns out, I'll be doing some touring for the more recent release, Sundowner Ubuntu, first. I begin in early May with a trip to Florida where my friend and colleague, fellow mystery writer Neil Plakcy and I, will be hitting a couple spots in his home state. We'll be doing joint readings at the Borders in Fort Lauderdale and Murder on the Beach in Delray Beach.

After Florida I'm off to Puerto Rico for about a week, then about mid May Neil and I meet up again at Outwrite Bookstore in Atlanta. After that I head off to New Orleans to attend the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival.

It's back home after that, for the official hometown launch of Aloha, Candy Hearts in Saskatoon on May 26. Two days later we're off to New York City. After NYC I'm making stops for events in Winnipeg and Toronto before ending up in Ottawa for the Bloody Words mystery conference at beginning of June.

The rest of June will be in Regina, and possibly Victoria and/or Edmonton.

If you or anyone you know are interested in attending any of my events - would love to see you there, all details on when and where can be found on my website - www.anthonbidulka.com.

Comment

New Beginnings

6:07 AM PST, January 23, 2009

January 23, 2009 - It's cliché I know; new year - new beginnings.

But why not? I don't hate cliché. Not always. And as long as we all promise to use cliché for good, not evil, then what's the harm?

I like new stuff. Fresh starts. Beginnings rather than endings. Yesterday I had to say goodbye to my beloved RX7 Mazda convertible - Molly the Mazda - Russell Quant's car. Bit of a spoiler here - so if you don't like spoilers - skip to next paragraph please. In another art imitates life example, similar to when Barbra and Brutus (Russell's dogs) face death the same year that Mocha and Bali (our two dogs) died, the loss of my sweet Mazda imitates the death of the same car in the next Quant book. And as with the dog experience, when I wrote the piece, I truly did not know the same would happen in real life. Or did I somehow? Molly is still beautiful, a rare rotary engine vehicle, no other like her in the city, she still gets stared at on the street, and I'd get no fewer than 2-3 requests a year on whether I'd like to sell her. But, without going into detail, it was her time. And now, fresh in the garage is Rex (a name I'm trying out), a brand new MG-green, muscle-y looking Solstice convertible. At -20C and lots of snow, today is probably not his day to shine - but when it comes...watch out. New beginning.

Despite a million other things that happen to be sitting on my to-do list at the moment, including the release of the 6th Russell Quant book, Aloha, Candy Hearts and arranging publicity and touring for it, I've found myself pulled into the plotting of the next book - partially inspired by some recent travels, and partially by the storyline itself. So in between those million other things, I've been outlining and researching and typing away, and now have my first draft of the 7th book in my series. New beginning.

I don't know this for sure, but I suspect that I may be writing a lot about this next item in this blog over the coming months. Last year I became quite involved in Camp fYrefly, an educational, life skills, personal, and social learning retreat for sexual minority and gender deviant youth. It's basically an urban how-to-live-your-life camp for gay (and all the acronyms) youth. The camp was founded in 2004 and was the only of its kind in Canada. We visited the camp and quickly realized lives were being changed, maybe even saved. We put together an awesome group of interested people to form a steering committee and now it's coming to Saskatchewan! - August 20-23, 2009. So, I'm doing a lot of stuff to help get that going. New beginning.

And those are only three exciting new beginnings in this fine new year. Yup, I like 'em.