



Buffy Lives!

# Slayage 10

July 18-21 2024

Cal Poly x San Luis Obispo x California

Association for the Study of Buffy+

**Welcome to the 10th Biennial Slayage Conference!**

**It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo for the 10th biennial meeting of the Association for the Study of *Buffy+*. We have not met in person since 2018, so there is much catching up and celebrating to do. We owe a big thanks to Lewis Call for proposing Cal Poly as our conference venue, even though he has retired from the university, and to Cal Poly for their willingness to work with us to make this conference happen. This is the first time none of the conference conveners are located in the conference city, so please bear with us.**

**This is a special year for Slayage as it is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first conference, held in Nashville in 2004 and convened by David Lavery and Rhonda Wilcox. Many of our members here this week have attended all ten of the biennial Slayage conferences, which is a testament to both the quality of the scholarship shared during our meetings and the quality of the community Slayage has created. If you are new to Slayage, our greatest hope is that you feel welcomed into the Slayage community.**

**The 2018 conference program reminded us of Stacey Abbott's remarks during the 2016 EuroSlayage conference: Whedon's work "often speaks to themes that transcend differences and it privileges unity over disunity, highlighting the strength of working together over isolation." Our members have continued working diligently to make those qualities true of our organization. Most notably, a committee has been working to create a strategic plan for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. That plan will be introduced for discussion at the ASB+ business/membership meeting during lunch on Saturday. We understand that our association often lacks diversity among our scholar members, and we understand that as such, we have not always met the themes Abbott identifies in her statement. Doing so has become a priority for ASB+, and we look forward to your input on this during the membership meeting on Saturday.**

**You will find that your welcome bag includes a Slayage Code of Conduct. This has been created by the DEIA+ committee, as is the case with most scholarly organizations, to assist us all in meeting the ASB+ mission. The Code has also been posted in the registration area. Note that we do have members who will be acting as DEIA+ liaisons (noted on the Code); if you have any difficulties that you would like to discuss or report, please contact our liaisons.**

**We hope you have a Shiny and memorable time at Slayage 10!**

## Slayage 10 Schedule (All times Pacific Daylight Time)

Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions will be held in Building 33, the Fisher Science Bldg,  
Room 286 and 287

### Thursday, July 18, 2024

5:30-8:00 pm: Conference Reception: Welcome and Trivia (Location: Poly Canyon Village)

### Friday, July 19, 2024

8:00-9:00 am: Continental Breakfast

9:30-10:00 am: Formal Opening (Room 286)

10:00-11:15 am: Keynote: Steve Halfyard (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland)

““Just a Girl”: Buffy, Captain Marvel, and The Challenges of Writing Music for A (Female) Superhero”

11:30am- 1:00pm—Parallel Session 1

1a- The Vampire’s Many Faces: Vampire Intersectionality (Room 286)

Chair- Alyiah Gonzales

Ares Bartell (Merced College), “Deadnames Stay [Un]Dead: Can Vampires Be Allegorically Empowered within Vampire Fiction”

Alyiah Gonzales (Cornell University), “A Model of Radical Deviancy: The Black Vampire as Imperiled and Empowered within Vampire Fiction”

Steph Graves (Vanderbilt University), ““Are there actually any straight vampires?”: Contemporary Discursive Fan Rhetorics and the Recovery of Queerness in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*”

1b- The Language of TV: Leisure, Pronouns, and Digital Literacy (Room 287)

Chair- Bin Lizzo

Bin Lizzo (Illinois State University), “A Multi-Layered Examination of Leisure’s Representation in *Dollhouse* Season 1”

Brett Stanfield (Utah Tech University), “Rebinding Moloch: Jenny Calendar as an Archetype for Critical Digital Literacy in the Digital Age”

Katie Weiss (Texas Tech University), “I May be Dead, but I’m Still Pretty: a Corpus Linguistic Analysis of “he” versus “she” in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*”

1:00-2:00 pm: Lunch

2a- Reclamation and Redemption in the Face of Fragile Male Egos (Room 286)

Chair- Lucas Bartell

Lucas Bartell (CSU Stanislaus), "May I Come Inside?: Hikikomori, Incel Culture, and the Redemption of Spike Through Our Favorite Final Girl"

Molly Brayman (University of Cincinnati), "When He's Not Enough: The Likability, Toxic Masculinity, and Alternate Realities of "Superstar" Jonathan and Barbie's "Kenergy""

Violet Hurd (Independent Scholar), ""Good Works Are Not Perfect": An Examination and Celebration of ASB+ In The Aftermath of Joss Whedon's Downfall"

2b- Comparison without Borders: Plays, Comics, and Standup (Room 287)

Chair- Rhonda Wilcox

Meaghan Allen (University of Manchester)- Virtual Presentation, ""The Plural of Apocalypse": The Hellmouth, Apocalyptic Ecologies, & the Aversion of Endings"

Michael Torregrossa, (Bristol Community College) - Virtual Presentation, "Frankenstein+: John Byrne's *Angel vs. Frankenstein* (2009-10) and Adam Glass and Olivia Cuartero-Briggs's *Mary Shelley: Monster Hunter* (2019) as Parts of the *Buffy+* Corpus."

Rhonda Wilcox (Professor Emeritus of English at Gordon State College), "Killing and Comedy: How Mrs. Maisel Helped Me Understand Buffy the Vampire Slayer"

3:45-5:15 pm—Roundtable— Session 3 (Room 286)

"Life Isn't Bliss, Life is Just This": Harm, Healing, & Repair with/in/from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*"

Alexia Arani (Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo), Katherine Randazzo (University of Iowa), Mackenzie MacDade (Independent Scholar), Malila Robinson (Independent Scholar), Shyla Saltzman— Virtual Participant (Choate Rosemary Hall)

6:00-8:00 pm: Banquet at Madonna Inn

(A shuttle will be available for those without private vehicles)

*"Anchovies, anchovies, you're so delicious,  
I love you more than all the other fishes."*

**Saturday, July 20, 2024**

**8:30-9:30 am: Continental Breakfast**

**10:00-11:15 am: Featured Speaker: Cynthea Masson (Vancouver Island University)  
(Room 286)**

**“Spirits of the Interregnum: The One, the Other, and the In-Between in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*”**

**11:30 am - 1:00 pm—Parallel Session 4**

**4a- Eyeing the Clean Slate: Production Analysis (Room 286)**

**Chair- Alyson Buckman**

**Alyson Buckman (Retired-Cal State Sacramento), ““You Ever Try to Clean an Actual Slate? You Always See What Was On It Before”: *Dollhouse*’s Echo as Embodiment of Intra-Auteurial Casting”**

**Ethan Powers (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo ), “Adult Oriented Comics Result in Low Accessibility”**

**Mike Starr (University of Northampton), ““Sometimes You Just Look at Everything and it’s all Different”: *In Your Eyes* in Hindsight”**

**4b- The Powerful Embodiment of Bad Times: Identity, Power, and Relations of Otherness  
(Room 287)**

**Chair- James Rocha**

**Melissa Anyiwo (University of Scranton), “Mindlessly and unquestioningly devoted to Jasmine, Blessed Devourer: Angel, Monstrous Motherhood, and the complications of the Interracial Body”**

**Dale Guffey (Limestone University), ““ARE YOU LOST, FATHER?”: Morality and Identity in Drew Goddard’s *Bad Times at the El Royale*”**

**Mona Rocha(Clovis Community College) and James Rocha (Fresno State University), “Bigotry Sans Power: *Grimm*’s Representation of Power within Monster Relations”**

**1:00-3:00 pm: Lunch & ASB+ Business Meeting**

**3:00-4:30 pm—Parallel Session 5**

**5a- “My Soul is Wrapped in Harsh Repose”: Death, Eschatology, and Poetry (Room 286)**

**Chair— Ami Comeford**

**Ami Comeford (Utah Tech University ), “Whedon and the Bard: Much Ado About Nothing or Much Ado About Something?”**

**Kelly Lynn Gangeness Le (University of New Orleans), “The Role of Poetry In the Buffyverse: “Is this What the Poets Go on About, This?””**

**5b- The Toxic Masculinity of the Male Savior (Room 287)**

**Chair- Catherine Pugh**

**Heather Porter (Independent Scholar), ““I think your fantasy is even sadder than mine”: Paul Ballard and Toxic Masculinity in *Dollhouse*”**

**Catherine Pugh (Independent Scholar), ““Testosterone Poisoning”: Riley Finn versus The Initiative”**

**4:45-6:15pm- Parallel Session 6**

**6a- The Search for Our Diverse Universe: Aesthetics, Feminism, and Inclusion in SciFi (Room 286)**

**Chair- Elizabeth Rambo**

**Cynthia Burkhead (University of North Alabama-Retired), ““All of this has happened before, and all of this will happen again”: Jane Espenson and re-creation”**

**Valerie Frankel (Independent Scholar), “Which Wave Is This? Considering *The Marvels* in a *Buffy+* Context”**

**Elizabeth Rambo (Campbell University), “*Babylon 5* as *Buffy+* Precursor”**

**6b- Queering Sexuality: Reclamations, Identities, and Consensual Dynamics (Room 287)**

**Chair- Lewis Call**

**Joey Call (New Mexico State University), “Queer Reclamation in the Buffyverse: Examining the Kickass Sapphic Fandom of Willow/Tara and Buffy/Faith”**

**Lewis Call (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo-retired), ““A Vast Becoming”: Queer Sexualities in Sarah Gailey's *The Vampire Slayer Comics*”**

**Amanda Jo Hobson (Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology), “And What If It Is about the Pain?: Primal Play and Negotiating Power Exchange in the Buffyverse and *Dollhouse*”**

**Sunday, July 21, 2024**

**8:30-9:30 am: Continental Breakfast**

**10:00-11:30 am: Parallel Session 7**

**7a- Undying fandom: Vids, Fic, and Crossovers (Room 286)**

**Chair- Jessica Hautsch**

**Tamy Burnett (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), “Television Studies+: Teaching TV with Video Essays”**

**Jessica Hautsch (New York Institute of Technology), ““Buffy’s Got a Type”: Conceptual Blending, Casting, and Cross-Over Fanvids”**

**Katia McClain (UC Santa Barbara), “Buffy Crossover Fanfiction”**

**7b- Fear, Grief, and Slaying: Using Social Science to Understand Hellmouths in the *Buffy+* ‘verses and in Our Material World (Room 287)**

**Chair-Ananya Mukherjea**

**jeff bussolini (CUNY-College of Staten Island), ““Batter My Heart”: Poetry, Obsession, and the Burden of Bringing Death in *Oppenheimer*, *Dr. Atomic*, and on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*”**

**Lisa Cheby (Cal State-Northridge), “How Would Buffy Have Saved the World Without a Librarian?: Liberatory Librarianship in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*”**

**Ananya Mukherjea (CUNY-College of Staten Island), “Wagering the Future: The Speculative Worlds of the *Buffy+* ‘Verses as Terrain of Existential Climate Anxieties”**

**11:45am-1:30pm: Lunch (Everyone finds their own)**

**1:45-3:45pm: Closing Ceremonies (Room 286)**

***Buffy+* Bookers, Awards: Mr. Pointy Awards, Introducing the Zoës**

**“Well then, shall we give it a proper goodbye?”**

**We are always sad when it is over, but we know we will reconvene in another two years in another location. If you are interested in holding the next Slayage at your institution, reach out to the current conveners, officers, or board members with any questions you may have. Anyone from Cleveland???**

## **Notes for new attendees/reminders for returnees:**

A Slayage Code of Conduct is provided to each participant in your welcome bag. The Code will also be posted at the registration desk.

Conference staff will be on hand to help with technical difficulties in the session rooms. Please go to the registration desk to report any problems.

During the lunch break on Saturday (1:00 to 3:00) we will hold our biennial ASB+ membership meeting. ALL participants are encouraged to attend and contribute to the important business of the ASB+, including the introduction of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Strategic Plan.

At the end of the conference, we will announce the winner of the “Best Paper” award. Blank ballots and a ballot box will be located at the registration desk. We understand that you will not be able to see every paper; we simply ask that you select the best from among the papers you did see. In addition to the well-earned public honor, the winner of the “Best Paper” will receive a Mr. Pointy trophy. NOTE: Keynote, featured speaker, and roundtables are not eligible for the Mr. Pointy.

A continental breakfast will be available on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Lunches will be provided on Friday and Saturday; you are on your own for lunch on Sunday.

If you need to contact conference staff about changes in travel, accommodations, or anything else, please text:

**Cynthia Burkhead—256-431-1850**

**Lewis Call - 805-602-7298**

**James Rocha - 818-274-8766**



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