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Judges Named for 2016 Eisner Awards
Six Comics Experts Make Up Nominating Committee

SAN DIEGO – Comic-Con International (Comic-Con) is proud to announce that the judging panel has been named for the 2016 Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards. This blue-ribbon committee will select the nominations to appear on the Eisner Awards ballot. This year's judges are:

Brian Doherty

Brian Doherty is a senior editor at *Reason* magazine and the author of several books, including *This is Burning Man*. His journalism has appeared in *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, and dozens of other publications. He has been a comics obsessive since 1975, and his writings on comics have appeared in *Spin*, the *New York Post*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Reason*, and the Fantagraphics anthology *Best American Comics Criticism*, edited by Ben Schwartz.

Danny Fingerroth

Danny Fingerroth was the longtime group editor of Marvel's Spider-Man comics line and writer of many comics featuring Spider-Man, Iron Man, the Avengers, Superman and other iconic characters. He served as VP/editor-in-chief of Byron Preiss's Virtual Comics and as senior VP for development at animation studio Visionary Media. He is the author of *Superman on the Couch: What Superheroes Really Tell Us About Ourselves and Our Society*; *Disguised as Clark Kent: Jews Comics and the Creation of the Superhero*; and the *Rough Guide to Graphic Novels*, and co-editor (with Roy Thomas) of *The Stan Lee Universe*. He is chair of Will Eisner Week and has taught comics-related subjects at The New School, NYU, Media Bistro, and the MiMaster Art Institute in Milan, Italy.

Jason Grazulis

Jason Grazulis acquired BSI Comics, the oldest comic book store in the New Orleans metropolitan area, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Formerly a professional juggler, photographer, and systems engineer, he is now a corporate ex pat who loves comic books and the people who read them. Jason has hosted many community events at BSI Comics, including Free Comic Book Day, 24-Hour Comics Day, Nerd Nite NOLA, advanced screenings, concerts, monthly graphic novel discussion groups, and a monthly workshop (Super Saturday) with DIY projects like Shrinky Dinks, drawing workshops, decoupage, perler beads, and papercraft.

Jason Poole

Jason Poole has been a children's librarian at the Webster Public Library in upstate New York for over ten years. In 2009 he started the Kids' Comics Committee (KCC) to be a resource to other librarians in Monroe County. They have since put on several workshops and

conferences for area librarians and educators on a variety of topics with speakers from all over the country involving comics and education. For the last three years he has been on YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens selection committee, serving as chair in 2015. Jason has also been an occasional reviewer for *School Library Journal* since 2004.

Natalie Powell

Natalie Powell is a Comic-Con International board member as well as the assistant secretary to the board. She has volunteered with Comic-Con for almost 20 years and assists with Attendee Registration at SDCC and with gaming at WonderCon. She has also volunteered for over 31 years with various charities and agencies, specifically those that support advocacy and awareness of the homeless and/or veterans issues. She enjoys reading books, graphic novels, and comics and collects Disney memorabilia and trading cards.

Carol Tilley

As an associate professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at University of Illinois, Carol Tilley has injected her lifelong affection for comics into her research, teaching, and service. Tilley is best known for her 2012 research debunking 1950s anti-comics psychiatrist Fredric Wertham, which was featured in the *New York Times* and other media outlets. Her more abiding interest is in uncovering and documenting the history of children as comics readers in the mid-twentieth century. At Illinois, she also teaches a popular course on comics reader's advisory and is an in-demand speaker on issues related to comics history, reading, and censorship.

The judges will meet in San Diego in early April to select the nominees that will be placed on the Eisner Awards ballot. The nominees will then be voted on by professionals in the comic book industry, and the results will be announced in a gala awards ceremony on Friday, July 22 at Comic-Con in San Diego.

Guidelines for submitting material for the judges will be announced on the Comic-Con website in early January. The deadline for submitting nominations is March 18.

The Eisner Awards are presented under the auspices of Comic-Con International, San Diego, a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to creating awareness of and appreciation for comics and related popular artforms, primarily through the presentation of conventions and events that celebrate the historic and ongoing contributions of comics to art and culture.

More information about the Awards can be found at <http://www.comic-con.org/awards/eisner-awards-current-info>