

LAcon V Announces Hugo Awards Finalists

LAcon V, the 84th World Science Fiction Convention, announced the finalists for the 2026 Hugo Awards, the most prestigious honors for excellence in SF&F.

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, April 21, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [LAcon V](#), the 84th [World Science Fiction Convention](#), is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2026 [Hugo Awards](#), the most prestigious honors for excellence in science fiction and fantasy.



LAcon V Host to the 84th World Science Fiction Convention

The Hugo Awards, first presented in 1953, recognize outstanding works and achievements in speculative fiction across a wide range of categories, including Best Novel, Best Novella, Best Dramatic Presentation, and more. Finalists are chosen by members of the annual Worldcon through a democratic nomination process. Winners will be announced at a live ceremony held at the World Science Fiction Convention, LAcon V, on August 30, 2026.

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The 2026 Hugo Award ballot reflects the wide spectrum of contemporary science fiction and fantasy. This shortlist highlights established voices and emerging creators.”

Joyce Lloyd, LAcon V Chair

“The 2026 Hugo Award ballot reflects the wide spectrum of contemporary science fiction and fantasy,” said convention chair Joyce Lloyd. “This shortlist highlights established voices and emerging creators. These are works that comfort us in hard times and challenge us to not only

envision, but to work towards, better tomorrows and more inclusive worlds.”

All members of the World Science Fiction Convention are able to vote on the Hugo Awards, including those who have memberships in the virtual portion of the convention. Voting on the final ballot will begin in early May. Information about registration is available at [lacon.org/register](#). In addition to the traditional categories, the 2026 awards will again include a Best Poem category, following a trial run in 2025.

“There was a lot of enthusiasm for the Best Poem category in Seattle,” Hugo Administrator

Tammy Coxen said. "We felt that running the category for an additional year would help provide data about its long-term viability before the business meeting chooses whether or not to ratify the amendment and add Best Poem to the Hugo Awards as a permanent category."

LAcon V, the 2026 World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon), is presented by the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests (SCIFI), Inc., a California 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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2026 Hugo, Lodestar & Astounding Award Finalists

The members of the 2025 and 2026 World Science Fiction Conventions cast 1,488 valid nominating ballots, including 6 paper ballots, for the 2026 Hugo Awards. The nominators made 23,543 nominations for 4,299 works and individuals across 21 categories.

Voting on the final ballot will open in early May 2026. Only LAcon V WSFS members will be able to vote on the final ballot and choose the winners for the 2026 Awards.

The 2026 Hugo Awards, the Lodestar Award, and the Astounding Award will be presented on Sunday evening, August 30, 2025 at a formal ceremony at LAcon V.

Best Novel

A Drop of Corruption by Robert Jackson Bennett (Del Rey; Hodderscape)

Death of the Author by Nnedi Okorafor (William Morrow; Gollancz)

Shroud by Adrian Tchaikovsky (Tor UK; Orbit US)

The Everlasting by Alix E. Harrow (Tor US; Tor UK)

The Incandescent by Emily Tesh (Tor US; Orbit UK)

The Raven Scholar by Antonia Hodgson (Orbit US; Hodderscape)

1,153 ballots cast for 555 nominees. Finalists range 126-210.

Best Novella

Automatic Noodle by Annalee Newitz (Tordotcom)

Cinder House by Freya Marske (Tordotcom; Tor UK)

Murder by Memory by Olivia Waite (Tordotcom)

The River Has Roots by Amal El-Mohtar (Tordotcom; Arcadia UK)

The Summer War by Naomi Novik (Del Rey US; Del Rey UK)

What Stalks the Deep by T. Kingfisher (Nightfire; Titan UK)

807 ballots cast for 172 nominees. Finalists range 90-241.

Best Novelette

"Kaiju Agonistes" by Scott Lynch (Uncanny Magazine, Issue 62)

"Never Eaten Vegetables" by H.H. Pak (Clarkesworld, Issue 220)

"Rapport: Friendship, Solidarity, Communion, Empathy" by Martha Wells (Reactor, July 10, 2025)
"The Girl That My Mother Is Leaving Me For" by Cameron Reed (Reactor, April 2, 2025)
"The Millay Illusion" by Sarah Pinsker (Uncanny Magazine, Issue 67)
"When He Calls Your Name" by Catherynne M. Valente (Uncanny Magazine, Issue 65)
414 ballots cast for 144 nominees. Finalists range 36-64.

Best Short Story

"10 Visions of the Future; or, Self-Care for the End of Days" by Samantha Mills (Uncanny Magazine, Issue 63)
"In My Country" by Thomas Ha (Clarkesworld, Issue 223)
"Laser Eyes Ain't Everything" by Effie Seiberg (Diabolical Plots, May 16, 2025)
"Missing Helen" by Tia Tashiro (Clarkesworld, Issue 226)
"Six People to Revise You" by J.R. Dawson (Uncanny Magazine, Issue 62)
"Wire Mother" by Isabel J. Kim (Clarkesworld, Issue 229)
507 ballots cast for 549 nominees. Finalists range 26-60.

Best Series

Emily Wilde by Heather Fawcett (Del Rey US; Orbit UK)
October Daye by Seanan McGuire (Tor US; DAW)
Old Man's War by John Scalzi (Tor US; Tor UK)
The Chronicles of Osreth by Katherine Addison (Tor US; Solaris UK; Subterranean)
The Craft Wars by Max Gladstone (Tor; Tordotcom)
White Space by Elizabeth Bear (Saga Press; Gollancz)
687 ballots cast for 185 nominees. Finalists range 52-136.

Best Graphic Story or Comic

Absolute Wonder Woman Vol. 1: The Last Amazon, written by Kelly Thompson, art by Hayden Sherman and Mattia de Iulis, coloring by Jordie Bellaire, lettering by Becca Carey (DC Comics)
A Girl and Her Fed, written by KB Spangler, art by Ale Presser (www.agirlandherfed.com)
A Wizard of Earthsea: A Graphic Novel, written by Ursula K. Le Guin, adapted and art by Fred Fordham (Clarion Books; Walker UK)
The Invisible Parade by Leigh Bardugo and John Picacio (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Orion UK)
The Power Fantasy Volume 1: The Superpowers, written by Kieron Gillen, art by Caspar Wijngaard, lettering by Clayton Cowles (Image Comics)
The Space Cat, written by Nnedi Okorafor, art by Tana Ford (First Second)
362 ballots cast for 243 nominees. Finalists range 19-42.

Best Related Work

Colourfields: Writing About Writing About Science Fiction by Paul Kincaid (Briardene Books)
Inventing the Renaissance by Ada Palmer (University of Chicago Press US, Head of Zeus UK)
Last War in Albion: "The Cuddled Little Vice (Sandman)" by Elizabeth Sandifer (Eruditorum Press)

Positive Obsession: The Life and Times of Octavia E. Butler by Susana M. Morris (Amistad)
"Ragnarök vs the Long Night" by Ashaya and Aziz (History of Westeros Podcast, August 10, 2025)

The Hugo Spreadsheet of Doom, maintained by Renay (Google Spreadsheet)
479 ballots cast for 250 nominees. Finalists range 31-70.

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

Andor (Season 2), written by Tom Bissell, Dan Gilroy, Tony Gilroy, and Beau Willimon, directed by Ariel Kleiman, Janus Metz, Alonso Ruizpalacios, (Disney+)

Frankenstein, screenplay by Guillermo del Toro, directed by Guillermo del Toro (Netflix)

KPop Demon Hunters, screenplay by Danya Jimenez & Hannah McMechan, Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans; directed by Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans (Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix)

Mickey 17, screenplay by Bong Joon Ho, directed by Bong Joon Ho (Warner Bros. Pictures)

Sinners, screenplay by Ryan Coogler, directed by Ryan Coogler (Proximity Media, Warner Bros. Pictures)

Superman, screenplay by James Gunn, directed by James Gunn (DC Studios)

650 ballots cast for 149 nominees. Finalists range 85-313.

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

Doctor Who: "The Story & the Engine", written by Inua Ellams, directed by Makalla McPherson (BBC One, Disney +)

Murderbot: "All Systems Red", written by Paul Weitz & Chris Weitz, directed by Roseanne Liang, based on the book All Systems Red by Martha Wells (Apple TV)

Murderbot: "The Perimeter", written Chris Weitz & Paul Weitz, directed by Paul Weitz, based on the book All Systems Red by Martha Wells (Apple TV)

Pluribus: "We Is Us", written and directed by Vince Gilligan, directed by Vince Gilligan (Apple TV)

Severance: "Cold Harbor", written by Dan Erickson, directed by Ben Stiller (Apple TV)

The Wheel of Time: "The Road to the Spear", written by Rafe Lee Judkins, directed by Thomas Napper, based on the book The Wheel of Time by Robert Jordan (Amazon Prime Video)

471 ballots cast for 249 nominees. Finalists range 40-98.

Best Game or Interactive Work

Blue Prince, developed by Dogubomb, published by Raw Fury

Citizen Sleeper 2: Starward Vector, developed by Jump Over the Age, published by Fellow Traveller

Clair Obscur: Expedition 33, developed by Sandfall Interactive, published by Kepler Interactive Dispatch, developed and published AdHoc Studio

Hades II, developed and published by Supergiant Games

Hollow Knight: Silksong, developed and published by Team Cherry

357 ballots cast for 159 nominees. Finalists range 29-110. (924 raw noms)

Best Editor Short Form

Scott H. Andrews

Jennifer Brozek

Neil Clarke

Lee Harris

Michael Damian Thomas

Sheila Williams

305 ballots

Q cast for 128 nominees. Finalists range 30-84.

Best Editor Long Form

Carl Engle-Laird

Jaymee Goh

Lee Harris

Jenni Hill

Joe Monti

Diana M. Pho

234 ballots cast for 95 nominees. Finalists range 27-74.

Best Professional Artist

Lulu Chen

Kelly Chong

Dave Kellett

Tran Nguyen

John Picacio

Tom Roberts

228 ballots cast for 220 nominees. Finalists range 10-28.

Best Semiprozine

Escape Pod, editors Mur Lafferty and Valerie Valdes, assistant editors Kevin Wabaunsee and Phoebe Barton, hosts Tina Connolly and Alasdair Stuart, producers Summer Brooks and Adam Pracht, and the entire Escape Pod team

khōréō magazine, by team khōréō (publisher Aleksandra Hill; editor-in-chief Zhui Ning Chang; editors Kanika Agrawal, Isabella Kestermann, Danai Christopoulou; audio Lian Xia Rose, Jenelle DeCosta, Grayson Norman, Aaron Kling, E.B.; marketing M.L. Krishnan, Ashley Thompson; art Ambi Sun; copyeditors Jeané Ridges, Eleanor Glewwe, Derek Yen, Ariya Bandy; proofreader Cyrus Chin; first readers Adialyz Del Valle Berríos, Sanjna Bhartiya, Kelsey Costa, Merulai Femi, A.R. Frederiksen, Yuvashri Harish, Zohar Jacobs, Lynn D. Jung, Phoebe Low, Katie McIvor, Adil Mian, Katarzyna Nowacka, A.W. Prihandita, Helena Ramsaroop, Jin Hui Saw, Aditya Sundararajan, Sophia Uy, Madeleine Vigneron, Aaron Voigt, K.S. Walker, Akilah White, MJ Woods, Kelsea Yu, Lilia Zhang, Tina Zhu)

On Spec: The Canadian Magazine of the Fantastic, published by the Copper Pig Writers' Society; managing editor/art director Diane L. Walton; poetry editors Colleen Anderson and Bob Stallworthy; fiction editors Barb Galler-Smith, Ann Marston, Virginia O'Dine, Constantine

Kaoukakis, Susan MacGregor, Alyssa Kulchisky, Amanda Wells, Ashley Alton, Lorina Stephens, Lareina Abbott, Matthew Stobie Jackman, Cheryl Merkel, Dan Gyoba, Ethan Zou, Jade Mah-Vierling, Jessica Zdril, Kathleen Phul, Krystle McGrath, Thomas Schwarz, and William Thompson; interviewers Roberta Laurie and Cat McDonald; proofreaders Ashlin McCartney, Isaac Calon, and Mya Colwell

Strange Horizons, by the Strange Horizons Editorial Collective

The Deadlands, publisher Sean Markey, editor in chief E. Catherine Tobler, poetry editor Nicasio Andres Reed, nonfiction editor David Gilmore, necromancer Amanda Downum, art director Cory Skerry, copy editors Laura Blackwell and Annika Barranti Klein, proofreader Josephine Stewart, designer Christine M. Scott, and social media skeleton Felicia Martínez

Uncanny Magazine, publisher and editor-in-chief: Michael Damian Thomas; managing editor Monte Lin; poetry editor Betsy Aoki, podcast producers Erika Ensign and Steven Schapansky
324 ballots cast for 93 nominees. Finalists range 34-100.

Best Fanzine

Ancillary Review of Books, editors Jake Casella Brookins, Misha Grifka Wander, Bianca Skrinnyár, Zachary Gillan, Cynthia Zhang, Lyz Bush-Peel

An Unofficial Hugo Book Club Blog, editors Olav Rokne and Amanda Wakaruk

Galactic Journey, founder Gideon Marcus, editor Janice L. Newman, staff David Levinson, Jessica Dickinson Goodman, Tam Phan, Andi Dukleth

Intergalactic Mixtape, edited by Renay

Journey Planet, edited by Allison Hartman Adams, Jean Martin, Steven H Silver, Christopher J. Garcia, James Bacon

nerds of a feather, flock together, editors Roseanna Pendlebury, Arturo Serrano, Paul Weimer; senior editors Joe Sherry, G. Brown, Vance Kotrla

224 ballots cast for 61 nominees. Finalists range 33-66.

Best Fancast

A Meal of Thorns, presented by Jake Casella Brookins

Eating the Fantastic, hosted by Scott Edelman

Hugo, Girl!, presented by Haley Zapal, Amy Salley, Lori Anderson, and Kevin Anderson

Octothorpe, presented by John Coxon, Alison Scott, and Liz Batty

The Coode Street Podcast, presented by Jonathan Strahan and Gary K. Wolfe

Worldbuilding for Masochists, presented by Marshall Ryan Maresca, Cass Morris, and Natania Barron

370 ballots cast for 198 nominees. Finalists range 31-69.

Best Fan Writer

Jay Brantner for "Tar Vol"

Alex Brown

James Davis Nicoll

Roseanna Pendlebury

Jason Sanford

Örjan Westin

308 ballots cast for 158 nominees. Finalists range 22-54.

Best Fan Artist

Terri Ash

Geneva Bowers

Sara Felix

Richard Man

España Sheriff

Yuumei

176 ballots cast for 137 nominees. Finalists range 12-22.

Best Poem

“Care for Lightning” by Mari Ness (Uncanny Magazine, Issue 62)

“Hex Supply Customer Support Log” by Elis Montgomery (Strange Horizons, Issue 25 August 2025)

“How to Become a Sea Witch” by Theodora Goss (The Orange & Bee, Issue 5)

“Landing: Seattle” by Brandon O'Brien (Seattle Worldcon 2025 Opening Ceremony)

“The Mourning Robot” by Angela Liu (Uncanny Magazine, Issue 66)

“The World to Come” by Jennifer Hudak (Strange Horizons, Issue 22 December 2025)

202 ballots cast for 229 nominees. Finalists range 12-35.

Lodestar Award for Best YA Book

Among Ghosts by Rachel Hartman (Random House Books for Young Readers)

Coffeeshop in an Alternate Universe by C.B. Lee (Feiwel & Friends)

Holy Terrors by Margaret Owen (Henry Holt; Hodderscape UK)

Oathbound by Tracy Deonn (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic Press)

They Bloom at Night by Trang Thanh Tran (Bloomsbury US; Bloomsbury UK)

244 ballots cast for 169 nominees. Finalists range 12-48.

Astounding Award for Best New Writer (sponsored by Dell Magazines)

Sophie Burnham (2nd year of eligibility)

Kamilah Cole (2nd year of eligibility)

Antonia Hodgson (1st year of eligibility)

Molly O'Neill (1st year of eligibility)

H.H. Pak (2nd year of eligibility)

Jared Pečaček (2nd year of eligibility)

290 ballots cast for 156 nominees. Finalists range 17-76.

Disqualifications and Withdrawals

The following nominees received enough votes to qualify for the final ballot, but were found to be ineligible:

Best Series:

Lady Astronaut, by Mary Robinette Kowal (fewer than 240,000 new words since last appearance on the ballot)

The Singing Hills Cycle, by Nghi Vo (fewer than 240,000 words in total)

Astounding Award:

Silvia Park (had qualifying publication prior to 2024)

Barbara Truelove (had qualifying publication prior to 2024)

The following nominees received enough votes to qualify for the final ballot, but declined nominations:

Best Editor, Long Form: Lindsey Hall

Best Semiprozine: Beneath Ceaseless Skies

The following nominee received enough votes to qualify for the final ballot, but was withdrawn by the showrunners to abide by the limitation on number of episodes of the same show allowed in the category.

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form: Murderbot: "Free Commerce"

Olav Rokne

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