

## Speaker Biographies for program: More speakers to be announced soon!

### **Bridgett Spicer**

Salinas cartoonist Bridgett Spicer pens the comic strip [Squid Row](#), which ran in *The Monterey County Herald* for four years. Her other web-comic, [Randie and Ryan](#), follows the further adventures on Squid Row. Between these projects, she squeezes in travels abroad, painting, drinking coffee, and petting cats.

### **Betsy Streeter**

Betsy is a sci-fi/fantasy novelist and writer, artist, illustrator and cartoonist. She has published two novels and is at work on her third. Her work appears in variety of publications including *The Funny Times*, *Perihelion Science Fiction*, *Utne Reader*, *The Great Courses*, a traveling Smithsonian Astrophysics Observatory exhibit on black holes, and at least one tattoo. She lives in Northern California with her equally geeky husband and two kids.

### **Andy Warner**

Andy's comics have been published by Slate, Fusion, American Public Media, The Nib, Symbolia, Medium, KQED, popsci.com, The Showtime Network's *Years of Living Dangerously*, IDEO.org, The Center for Constitutional Rights, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNICEF, and BuzzFeed. He is a contributing editor at The Nib and has taught cartooning at Stanford University, California College of the Arts, and the Animation Workshop in Denmark. His first book, *Brief Histories of Everyday Objects* was published in October 2016, by Picador. He makes comics in a garden shed in San Francisco.

### **Andrew Farago**

Andrew is the curator of San Francisco's Cartoon Art Museum. His writing credits include *The Looney Tunes Treasury*, the Harvey Award-winning *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Ultimate Visual History*, *The Marvel Comics Holiday Special* and forthcoming books on 1980s television animation and Harley Quinn. He lives in Berkeley, California with his wife, cartoonist Shaenon K. Garrity, and their son, Robin.

### **Alex Schumacher**

Alex is a cartoonist and graphic novelist who has toiled away in the underground since around 2010. Currently he produces the weekly illustrated feature *Decades of (in)Experience* for Antix Press, the bi-weekly writing column *Bread Crumbs from the Void* for *Five 2 One Magazine*, and the monthly comic strip *Mr. Butterchips* for *Drunk Monkeys*. His comics and stories have been published by the likes of Arcana Studios, Viper Comics, Cultured Vultures, *The Round-Up Writer's 'Zine*, and *Hobo Camp Review*. Stalk him online at <http://alexschumacherart.com/>.

### **Lawrence Lindell**

Lawrence is an artist and musician from Los Angeles, CA. He runs an independent art studio called Lawrence Lindell Studios, where he creates and releases Art Zines, illustrated art books, comics and cartoons. He also runs an independent music label called Noise met Sound. He currently has 25 different books ranging from illustrations to personal comic books.

## **John Robrock**

John has taught art to college and high school students for many years. A lifelong comic book collector, he has attended the San Diego Comic Con since the 1980s. He has taught portrait drawing and cartooning for the San Benito County Arts Council and in San Diego, Milan, Colonia (Uruguay), Buenos Aires, and Salinas Valley Comic Con 2015. He is a 2008 Teacher of the Year with the River of Words Environmental Youth Art and Poetry Contest and KSBW Crystal Apple Award winner.

## **Ray Zepeda**

Ray is a long time fanboy and comic book nerd. Strongly influenced by writers such as Stan Lee, Alan Moore, Kevin Smith, and Joss Whedon, Ray has created an extensive universe of characters featuring aberrant Heroes, Antiheroes, and Villains for a whole new generation in his ongoing Graphic Novel Series **Tragic Hero Comics**. With this launch in 2012, Ray took his first step into a much larger world which eventually led to the release of THC's original titles AntiHero 113, Ms. Phits, and Heroics!

## ***Latino Comics Expo***

### **Ricardo Padilla**

Ricardo Padilla is the Co-Founder/Executive Director of "The Latino Comics Expo", the nation's premier convention for Latino/a comic book creators & animators. Since 2011, the LCX has been producing comic book conventions in cities all over the West Coast, including the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco, The SJSU MLK Jr Library in San Jose, and the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach. A World-Class Comic Book Convention, the LCX conducts panels with industry professionals, offers kids workshops, and has had such comic book legends as the Hernandez Bros. (Jamie, Mario and Gilbert) and Spain Rodriguez attend their shows.

### **Rafael Navarro**

Born in Sonora, Mexico and raised in California since 1969, Rafael now calls Whittier, CA home. After graduation from Bell Gardens High School, Rafael attended Woodbury University before breaking into mainstream comics & video animation (Rugrats, Batman, the animated series). Since 1996, Navarro has self-published the Xeric award-winning comic "Sonambulo" and "Guns A' Blazin," among others.

### **Javier Hernandez**

An American comic book creator from Southern California, Javier is perhaps best known for his popular comic book series, "El Muerto, the Aztec Zombie," which was adapted into a live-action feature film, starring Wilmer Valderrama. Javier, under his own publishing imprint, "Los Comex", continues to self-publish and create new comic book characters on a daily basis. He lectures on comics and conducts comic book workshops for kids throughout California. Since 2011, he is also the Co-Founder & Artistic Director of the "Latino Comics Expo," the nation's first comic book convention highlighting the work of Latino/a comic book creators & animators.

### **Daniel Parada**

San Francisco cartoonist Daniel Parada is the creator of the epic graphic novel, [Zotz: Serpent and Shield](#), an alternative history of the Mayan people. A graduate of the Ruth Assawa School of the Arts in San Francisco, he also studied Illustration at the School of Visual Arts in New York. Daniel meticulously researches his graphic novel by travelling to Central America and by reading literature on the Maya. He currently lives in the Mission District of SF, while he works on the next chapters of Zotz.

### **Crystal Gonzalez**

Born in Reno, NV, Crystal graduated from the University of Nevada with her BA in 2006 and her MFA from The California College of the Arts in 2010. She currently resides in San Francisco and has been professionally painting for more than 10 years. She self-publishes a graphic novel entitled "In The Dark," a humorous and satirical story that looks at religions and customs through the eyes of the demons in hell. She is currently working on different animation projects.

### **Jonathan Osburg**

Jonathan teaches composition, mass communication, and literature courses at Monterey Peninsula College. He uses comics to teach writing skills in his composition courses, but he also teaches a course that focuses on appreciating comics as a unique medium. In his course "Comics as Literature" students analyze comics as a way to appreciate comics history, theory, and criticism.

### **Sam Robinson**

Sam Robinson is an assistant professor of journalism and digital media studies at California State University Monterey Bay. Her research explores the effectiveness of graphic novels in conveying complex, controversial topics to a broad audience that may not be exposed to these issues in other media forms.

### **Chunky Girl Comics**

Chunky Girl Comics is a small, independent organization based in Stockton, California created by Marisa Garcia. A lover of comic art, she teamed up with artist Grant Miller to make her beautiful ideas become beautiful images. In 2011 Chunky Girl Comics was born. At conventions, the Heavy Response Unit comes to life and comic lovers get the opportunity to meet Rosie, Sage, Candy and Sweet Pea in the flesh! They have also started doing public and motivational speaking engagements at local schools and presenting self-esteem and positive body image workshops for girls. They want the world to know that superheroes don't have to be skinny!

### **John Clapp**

John, born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, is a children's book author and illustrator, with five children's books to his credit. He has been teaching at San Jose State University since 1994. His interest in art was first sparked by his love for comic strips, comic books, and cartooning in general.