

OUTLANTA CON

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Amber Benson Named Guest of Honor for Outlantacon 2011

“Buffy the Vampire Slayer” Star Joins Celebrity-Filled Guest Roster

ATLANTA GA – 7 FEBRUARY 2011 Outlantacon, the Atlanta-based event for science fiction, fantasy and horror fan groups supporting and promoting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender themes within the genres, announced today the addition of Amber Benson to its line-up of guest speakers. Outlantacon’s third annual convention is scheduled in Atlanta 13 to 15 May 2011 at the Holiday Inn Select – Atlanta Perimeter.

Benson is best known for her role as Tara Maclay, love interest of character Willow Rosenberg, in the television series “Buffy the Vampire Slayer.” About her role as half of the first lesbian couple portrayed on American television, Amber has said: "I got letters from girls saying that I changed their lives and that had such an impact on me. You don't realize what an impact television has on people. But when you get letters from young girls saying, 'I came out and I have a girlfriend now because of you,' it's great."

Benson has also written, produced and directed her original films “Chance” and “Lover, Liars & Lunatics.” As an author, she co-wrote three comic books in Dark Horse's "Buffy" line, collected in the 2002 graphic novel "Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Willow and Tara" and contributed a short story to the Image Comics collection “Four Letter Worlds.” Benson’s frequent creative partner is Christopher Golden; their collaboration has produced two books based on their animated film series “Ghosts of Albion.” In February 2011, Benson will release “Serpent’s Storm,” the third entry in her “Calliope Reaper-Jones” fantasy series chronicling the adventures of Death’s daughter as she tries to experience normal teenage life.

Benson is the latest addition to a list of speakers already confirmed for Outlantacon, including

- **Melissa Carter**, Atlanta radio personality and co-host of the podcast “Pride in Between”
- **Catherine Lundoff**, two-time Goldie Award-winning author
- **Eugie Foster**, author of Nebula Award-winning novelette “Sinner, Baker, Fabulist, Priest; Red Mask, Black Mask, Gentleman, Beast”
- **Steve Scott**, comics artist for DC, Marvel and Dark Horse
- **Lee Martindale**, award-winning author and editor, equal rights activist

For a complete list of speakers and events, visit www.outlantacon.org.

About Outlantacon

Atlanta-based Outlantacon is the southeast’s largest event for science fiction, fantasy and horror fan groups supporting and promoting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender themes within the genres. Held

annually in the spring, the convention last year attracted over 200 registrants. This year the convention hosts Gaylaxicon, the annual international GLBT science fiction, fantasy, horror and comics convention. For more information, visit www.outlantacon.org.

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