

Seminars and Panels

THE BIRTH OF TRANSFORMERS – SPOTLIGHT ON KOJIN ONO

Botcon 2015 welcomes Hall Of Fame inductee and legendary Takara Tomy designer, Kojin Ono. Ono-san comes to Botcon all the way from Tokyo, Japan to talk about his work which spans all the way to the very genesis of the brand we know and love. He is credited with the design of the first “Car to Robot” toy, which later became Sunstreaker, the beloved G1 Starscream toy, and even the gigantic Fortress Maximus. Join us for a once in a lifetime opportunity to listen to Ono-san’s stories about the design and inspiration behind the toys which became the Transformers, and a glimpse into his current work on Transformers today.

HASBRO TRANSFORMERS - BEHIND THE SCENES: The Hasbro Design and Marketing teams will give a peek under the hood of new products coming out this year including reveals in our GENERATIONS and ROBOTS IN DISGUISE ranges. The team will share insightful details into the inspiration and style of the new figures. Be sure to bring your burning questions for a Q&A session.

Frank Welker Live!– Our Saturday afternoon main event! The panel fans have been waiting 20 years to see. Come be a part history as Frank Welker makes his first ever convention appearance. This moderated panel will cover his extraordinary career in animation and his lasting impact on the Transformers brand.

Transformers Collectors’ Club Roundtable – Join the club staff as they answer your burning questions about the club, figure creation, manufacturing and the announcement of future exclusives! Panel hosts - Brian Savage, Lanny Lathem, David S. Lane and Pete Sinclair.

Audition: *So You Think You Can Voice Act?* – Here’s your chance! If you ever wondered what it would be like to attend an open casting call and audition for a part on a cartoon, here is your chance! One male and one female will be selected to read alongside Susan Blu and John Moschitta for this year’s BotCon script reading.

2015 Script Reading “The Return of Blurr”– Join us Susan Blu, John Moschitta, Frank Todaro and our two So You Think You Can Voice Act audition winners take part in the 2015 BotCon script reading. Written by Marty Isenberg with a special treat you will not want to miss!

The TRANSFORMERS Online Fandom: 20 years – About as long as Transformers has had a “structured” fandom, there has been websites to support it. Be sure to check out this panel hosted by Ryan Yzquierdo from Seibertron.com, with additional special guests from other websites, as they take a look at the history of the online fandom and how it continues to evolve.

Transformers Filmfest – Join us for a great time watching what chaos your fellow fans have created for the big screen. It’s always a riot!

MegaToyCast BotCon Podcast – A BotCon first. The hosts of MegaToyCast will be broadcasting live from BotCon, highlighting the events of the weekend with maybe even a special guest or two stopping by to reach out to everyone watching the events of BotCon 2015 from the comfort of their couches. Couches? Boo!

Transformers G1 Retrospective – Susan Blu and John Moschitta will be on hand for this panel to discuss their respective roles in bringing the original Transformers Generation 1 cartoon series to life. Always a fun panel as there will be plenty of great stories for fans of the original cartoon series.

Behind the Characters w/ Derrick J. Wyatt – Still one of the most beloved series ever, Transformers Animated fans be sure to join Derrick J. Wyatt and a few of the artists who have worked on the comics, as they reminisce about this new classic Transformers series!

TCC Magazine Panel – Join Pete Sinclair as he hosts this panel highlighting the print offerings from Fun Publications (with a few sneak peeks thrown in for good measure!)

The Art of Transformers – Hear some of the leading Transformers artists of today discuss their work on comics, packaging art and other projects that help make Transformers such an amazing brand!

The Japanese perspective – Andrew Hall hosts this panel featuring insights from the thriving Japanese Transformers fandom. A fun presentation with a Q&A to follow.

Transformers Cosplay - A look behind the curtain, or the costume in this case. Join Rosemary Ward as she talks about the boom of Transformers Cosplay and some of the unique challenges in bringing everyone’s favorite robots to virtual life.

