

Phil Yeh wins the Silver Pen Award at the first Utopia Convention, Mexico City, November 2003.



Phil Yeh was among special guests from around the world invited to the first Utopia Comic Book Convention at the World Trade Center in Mexico City from November 19-23, 2003. Here Phil is presented with the Silver Pen Award while the Aloha Spirit creator Dave Thorne and Usagi Yojimbo creator Stan Sakai look on with their awards. That's Ka-Boom Studio's Mauricio Martinez Cosio at the podium, presenting the English translations for the ceremony which also honored some of Mexico's legendary voice artists.

Cartoonists Across America & The World's founder Phil Yeh was one of the special guests at *the first UTOPIA COMIC BOOK CONVENTION* held at the World Trade Center in Mexico City from November 19-23, 2003. The convention was sponsored by **Ka-Boom! Studio**, **Ormex** and The World Trade Center as a way of showcasing the best Mexican comic book and animation artists and also celebrating some of the best talent worldwide. A new award called the **Silver Pen** was designed by Ka-Boom! Studio's **Oscar Gonzales Loyola** and presented to the guests at a special ceremony near the end of the convention. Award winners included; *MAD* magazine artist and creator of *Groo the Wanderer*, **Sergio Aragones**, French illustrator **Francois Bocq**, *Mulan* director **Tony Bancroft**, Argentinian illustrators **Juan Gimenez** and **Carlos Meglia**, *Herobear & The Kid's* creator **Mike Kunkel**, Mexican comic book artist **Humberto Ramos** now working for Marvel and DC, *Usagi Yojimbo's* creator **Stan Sakai**, the *Aloha Spirit's* creator **Dave Thorne**, comic book inker **Sandra Hope**, writer **Philip Victor**, and the *Winged Tiger's* creator **Phil Yeh**.

Yeh introduced the second issue of his new *Patrick Rabbit* bilingual comic books in Mexico with incredible response from fans of all ages. *Patrick Rabbit Goes To Spain* appears in the 14th issue of Yeh's popular *Patrick Rabbit* series. It follows up Yeh's earlier *Patrick Rabbit Goes to Mexico* which was published in the 12th issue of the series. In issue #16 in March, 2004, Yeh continues the adventure in *Patrick Rabbit Goes to The Philippines*. All these books are in both Spanish and English and feature guest appearances by **Sergio Aragones**, **Gaby Maya**, **Jose Quintero**, **Klaus Leven**, **Geoff Bevington**, **Jon J. Murakami**, and **Dave Thorne**. Issue #14 has a wonderful color cover by **Lieve Jerger** and **Jon J. Murakami's** *Red the Dragon* playing a sax with magical **Juan Miró** clouds coming out of the instrument. **The Candy Queen** is also on another cloud floating in front of the *Familia Sagrada*, one of **Antoni Gaudí's** great masterpieces in Barcelona, Spain.

This new bilingual series also features the work of **Brenda Murphy AKA: The Candy Queen**. Her magnificent candy sculptures are in the comics and Yeh has also created a new character based

on the Candy Queen for the series. Chocolate was first developed by the ancient Aztec and Mayan cultures in Mexico before going to Spain around 500 years ago. Murphy and Yeh plan to continue these adventures throughout the world and Murphy is actually making some wonderful new creations for the new comics. These stories are perfect for all ages.

One of the best things about these conventions in other countries is the opportunity Yeh has to meet so many talented artists and writers from all over the world. He also gets a chance to explore the museums and in Mexico, the wonderful pyramids at Teotihuacán. This excursion to the ancient pyramids took members of the **Ka-Boom Studio and artists Juan Gimenez, Stan Sakai, Dave Thorne, and Mike Kunkel** out to climb the Pyramid of the Sun. A nice lunch at the famous *Pyramid Charlie's* followed. On another day, the artists had a chance to visit the fantastic Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City. This is the second biggest museum of this kind in the world (Cairo is biggest) and never ceases to amaze and inspire.

Yeh has been visiting Mexico City for the last few years and he is always inspired and energized by the experience. Plans call for the second **Utopia Convention** to be held in November of 2004 and we will be there with more members of Cartoonists Across America & The World.



L to R: Ka-Boom! Studio's Mauricio Martinez Cosio, The Winged Tiger's Phil Yeh, Usagi Yojimbo creator Stan Sakai, Karmatron creator Oscar Gonzales, and Groo's creator Sergio Aragonés at the opening ceremony of the first Utopia Convention in Mexico City in 2003.



L to R: Hannah Sakai, Oscar Gonzales, Phil Yeh, Pascal Bocq, Mauricio Martinez Cosio, Alejandro Palomares, and Francois Bocq at the hotel in Mexico City.



Left to right: Aloha Spirit creator Dave Thorne from Hawaii and Juan Gimenez from Spain



Left to right: Stan Sakai, Phil Yeh, Mike Kunkel, Sandra Hope and Juan Gimenez at the closing conference.



Left to right: Sergio Aragonés, Stan Sakai and Phil Yeh together in Mexico.



Juan Gimenez on the Pyramid of the Sun with the pyramid of the Moon in the distance.



One of the many exhibits in the Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City.