



**FLASHING FORWARD WITH
ROBERT J. SAWYER**



Greetings from Sin City. . .

We at Xanadu Las Vegas are proud and excited to have Robert J. Sawyer attend our convention as Author Guest of Honor and herewith offer this glimpse into the man himself.

“Robert J. Sawyer has mastered the skill of turning his powerful visions of the future into relevant and thought-provoking commentary on the major issues facing us today.” —Paul Lewis, President, Discovery Channel Canada

Often described as “The Leader of SF’s Next Generations Pack!”, Robert J. Sawyer is one of only seven writers in history — and the only Canadian — to win all three of the world’s top Science Fiction awards for best novel of the year: the Hugo, the Nebula, and the John W. Campbell Memorial Award.

This Robert J. Sawyer Tribute Zine
is produced by Alan White on behalf of:

Xanadu Las Vegas

A Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror and Media
Convention

Las Vegas • April 17-19, 2009

Robert J. Sawyer

Author
Guest of Honor



 **Robert J. Sawyer** — called “the dean of Canadian science fiction” by The Ottawa Citizen and “just about the best science-fiction writer out there these days” by The Denver Rocky Mountain News — is one of only seven writers in history to win all three of the science-fiction field’s top honors for best novel of the year:

The World Science Fiction Society’s Hugo Award, which he won in 2003 for his novel *Hominids*; the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America’s Nebula Award, which he won in 1996 for his novel *The Terminal Experiment*; and the John W. Campbell Memorial Award, which he won in 2006 for his novel *Mindscan*.

Rob is also the only writer in history to win the top SF awards in the United States, China, Japan, France, and Spain. In addition, he’s won an Arthur Ellis Award from the Crime Writers of Canada as well as ten Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards (“Auroras”).

Maclean’s: Canada’s Weekly Newsmagazine says, “By any reckoning, Sawyer is among the most successful Canadian authors ever,” and Barnes and Noble calls him “the leader of SF’s next-generation pack.”

Rob’s novels are top-ten national mainstream bestsellers in Canada, appearing on the *Globe and Mail* and *Maclean’s* bestsellers’ lists, and they’ve hit #1 on the bestsellers’ list published by *Locus*, the U.S. trade journal of the SF field. His seventeen novels include *Frameshift*, *Factoring Humanity*, *Flashforward*, *Calculating God*, and the popular “Neanderthal Parallax” trilogy consisting of *Hominids*, *Humans*, and *Hybrids*.

He’s often seen on TV, including such program as *Rivera Live with Geraldo Rivera*, *Canada A.M.*, and *Saturday Night at the Movies*, and he’s a frequent science commentator for *Discovery Channel Canada*, *CBC Newsworld*, and *CBC Radio*. He has been the subject of an hour-long Canadian TV documentary (“In the Mind of Robert J. Sawyer”), profiled for an entire half-hour episode of “Credo,” and twice been “in the hot seat” on *Vision TV’s* “Test of Faith” with Valerie Pringle.

Rob — who holds an honorary doctorate from *Laurentian University* — has taught writing at the *University of Toronto*, *Ryerson University*, *Humber College*, the *National University of Ireland*, and the *Banff Centre*. He has been *Writer-in-Residence* at the *Richmond Hill (Ontario) Public Library*, the *Kitchener (Ontario) Public Library*, the *Toronto Public Library’s Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy*, and at the *Odyssey Workshop*. And he edits *Robert J. Sawyer Books*, the science-fiction imprint of *Calgary’s Red Deer Press*.

Rob has given talks at hundreds of venues including the *Library of Congress* and the *National Library of Canada*, and been keynote speaker at dozens of events in places as diverse as *Los Angeles*, *Boston*, *Tokyo*, and *Barcelona*. He was born in *Ottawa* in 1960, and now lives just west of *Toronto* with his wife, poet *Carolyn Clink*. 

Science Fiction Awards

A N I N T R O D U C T I O N

Robert J. Sawyer

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The Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards ("the Auroras") have been given annually since 1980.

Each year, nominating and voting ballots are distributed through Canadian bookstores, with copies of Canadian SF magazines, to members of writers' groups, and at SF conventions.

Any Canadian resident may nominate and vote for the best Canadian-authored works of the year in both English and French. The Auroras are presented at the Canadian National Science Fiction Convention.

Robert J. Sawyer has won ten Aurora Awards — more than any other English-Canadian author. He won the 1992 Aurora for Best English Novel (for *Golden Fleece*), the 1995 Aurora for Best English Short Story (for "You See But You Do Not Observe,"), the 1996 Aurora for Best English Novel (for *The Terminal Experiment*), both the 1997 Aurora for Best English Novel (for *Starplex*) and Best English Short Story (for "Peking Man"), both the 2000 Aurora for Best English Novel (for *Flashforward*) and Best English Short Story (for "Stream of Consciousness"), the 2002 Aurora for Best English Short Story (for "Ineluctable"), the 2007 Aurora for Best English Short Story (for "Biding Time"), and a 2005 Aurora for his essay collection *Relativity*. In addition, he's received 28 other Aurora Award nominations.



John W. Campbell Memorial Award

The John W. Campbell Memorial Award is the most-significant juried award in the science-fiction field, and the only major award for which only science fiction (and not fantasy) is eligible. It is given annually to the author of the best novel of the year in honor of the late John W. Campbell, often considered the father of modern science fiction; Campbell edited *Astounding Stories* (later renamed *Analog*) from 1937 until his death in 1971.

Robert J. Sawyer's *Mindscan* won the John W. Campbell Memorial Award for Best Novel of 2006. Rob's novels *Calculating God* and *Hominids* were also Campbell Memorial finalists.

Arthur Ellis Award

The Arthur Ellis Awards are juried awards given each year since 1983 by the Crime Writers of Canada, a professional association of mystery-fiction and true-crime writers. The Arthur is considered one of Canada's most prestigious literary awards.

"Arthur Ellis" was the pseudonym used by Canada's last official hangman, before Canada abolished capital punishment in 1976. The award trophy is extremely unusual: it features an articulated wooden figure of a man, hanging from a brass noose. When a cord is pulled, the poor fellow does death spasms . . .

Robert J. Sawyer's "Just Like Old Times," about a time-traveling serial killer, won the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Short Story of 1993. Rob's novel *Illegal Alien* and his short story "The Hand You're Dealt" were both nominated for Arthur Ellis Awards, as well.

Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire

Le Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire ("The Grand Prize of Imaginative Fiction") is the most prestigious SF award in France. It has been given annually since 1974 for French-language fiction, and for foreign fiction that has been translated into French.

Before 1992, the award was known as Le Grand Prix de la Science-Fiction Française; in that year, it merged with another French SF award, Le Prix Apollo, and the combined award was renamed. Le Grand Prix is a juried award; the jury members are major French critics, authors, and booksellers. The winners are announced each November in Paris.

Robert J. Sawyer won the 1996 Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire in the category Nouvelle étrangère (Best Foreign Short Story) for "You See But You Do Not Observe." It was the first win ever for an English-Canadian author.

Homer Award

The Homer Awards were founded in 1991 by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature Forum on the CompuServe Information Service, the world's oldest commercial computer network. In CompuServe's early days, the SF&F Forum was also known as "Home and Hobby Forum Number 9," and the command to select it was "HOM-9." Ever since, members of the Forum have referred to themselves as "Homers." The award's name recalls this while also honoring the ancient Greek epic poet.

All Forum members are invited to nominate for and vote on the Homer Awards. Since the inception of the awards, the Forum's membership has fluctuated between 18,000 and 40,000 people. Even the lower figure gives the Homers the largest potential voting pool of any SF award in the world.

The winners are announced online in May and are reported in the two trade journals of the SF field, Locus and Science Fiction Chronicle.

Each Homer winner receives a distinctive certificate, with the name of the author and the title of the winning work done in calligraphy.

Robert J. Sawyer has won the Best Novel Homer Award six times: in 1993 for *Far-Seer*, in 1994 for *Fossil Hunter*, in 1995 for *End of an Era*, in 1996 for *The Terminal Experiment*, in 1997 for *Starplex*, and in 2001 for *Calculating God*. In addition, Sawyer's "You See But You Do Not Observe" won the Homer Award for Best Short Story of 1995 and his "Above It All" won the Homer Award for Best Short Story of 1996.

Hugo Award

The Hugo Award is SF's international "People's choice" award. Every member of the current year's or previous year's World Science Fiction Convention ("Worldcon") is eligible to nominate up to five works in each of several categories, including Best Novel, Best Novella, Best Novelette, and Best Short Story. The five most-nominated works in each category compose the Final Ballot, which is voted on by the 5,000 or so members of the current Worldcon to determine the winners. The Hugos are named after Hugo Gernsback, who founded the world's first SF magazine, *Amazing Stories*, in 1926.

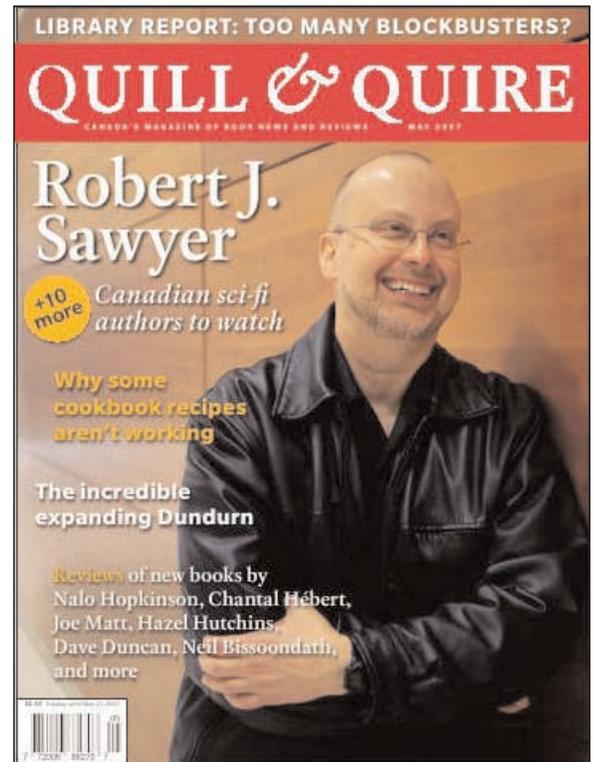


Different cities bid to hold each year's World SF Convention. Recent and upcoming Worldcons include Winnipeg (1994), Glasgow (1995), Baltimore (1998), and Melbourne (1999).

In addition to the winners and finalists, each year the Hugo Award administrators also release a list of "Honorable Mentions," acknowledging those works that didn't make it to the final ballot but were listed on at least five percent of all nominating ballots cast.

Robert J. Sawyer won the Hugo Award for Best Novel of the Year in 2003, and has been nominated six other times in the Best Novel category: in 1996 for *The Terminal Experiment*, in 1997 for *Starplex*, in 1998 for *Frameshift*, in 1999 for *Factoring Humanity*, in 2001 for *Calculating God*, and in 2004 for *Humans*. In addition, his short story "The Hand You're Dealt" was a 1998 finalist, his short story "Shed Skin" was a 2005 finalist, and his novella "Identity Theft" was a 2006 finalist.

Sawyer has also received Hugo Award Honorable Mentions for his novels *Far-Seer* (1993), *Foreigner* (1995), *End of an Era* (1995), and *Flashforward* (2000), and for his short story "You See But You Do Not Observe" (1996). *End of an Era* was the eighth most-nominated novel in its year; "You See But You Do Not Observe" was the seventh most-nominated short story in its year; and *Flashforward* was the sixth most-nominated novel in its year.



Nebula Award

The Nebula is the "Academy Award" of Science Fiction, voted on by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

There are 900 active SFWA members in 23 countries. All of them may participate in the three-part process of choosing the Nebula winner. First, members submit signed recommendations for other writers' works. These are published six times each year in SFWA's Nebula Awards Report. All works receiving ten or more recommendations go on to the Preliminary Nebula Award Ballot.

Each SFWA member may vote for up to five works on the Preliminary Ballot. The five with the most votes go on to the Final Ballot.

All 900 members vote again on this ballot — and the work receiving the most votes becomes the winner.

The Nebula Awards were established in 1965. The award trophy is a Lucite block with polished stone planets and a galaxy of glitter embedded in it. Past winners include Isaac Asimov's *The Gods Themselves*, Arthur C. Clarke's *Rendezvous with Rama*, Frank Herbert's *Dune*, and Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Left Hand of Darkness*.

Robert J. Sawyer's *The Terminal Experiment* won the Nebula Award for Best Novel of 1995. Prior to it, the most Nebula recommendations any work had ever received was 27; *The Terminal Experiment* broke SFWA's database when it exceeded 40 recommendations. Sawyer's novel *Starplex* and his novella "Identity Theft" were also Nebula finalists, and his novels *Golden Fleece*, *Far-Seer*, *Fossil Hunter*, *Foreigner*, *End of an Era*, *Frameshift*, *Factoring Humanity*, *Flashforward*, and *Calculating God* all made it to the Preliminary Nebula Award Ballot.

Premio UPC de Ciencia Ficción

This is the world's largest cash prize for science-fiction writing, valued at six thousand euro (US \$8,000 or CDN \$10,000). It has been presented annually since 1990 by the Universitat Politècnica

de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain, for the best previously unpublished novella (25,000 to 40,000 words) in English, French, Spanish, or Catalan.

The winner is picked by a five-person jury. Manuscripts are judged blindly; neither the authors' names nor their places of residence are known to the jury while it is deliberating. Critic Brian Aldiss calls the Premio UPC "the most prestigious science-fiction award in all of Europe."

Robert J. Sawyer won the 2004 Premio UPC de Ciencia Ficción for his novella "Identity Theft." He won the 1998 for a shortened version of his novel Flashforward. And in 1997, he and James Stevens-Arce tied for first place; Sawyer's winning entry was a shortened version of his forthcoming novel Factoring Humanity. The previous year, in 1996, Sawyer won second place — and a 250,000-peseta prize — for a shortened version of his novel Frameshift.

Science Fiction Chronicle Reader Award

Given annually since 1981 by a vote of the readers of Science Fiction Chronicle: The Science Fiction & Fantasy Newsmagazine, published in New York.

Robert J. Sawyer won the 1998 Science Fiction Chronicle Reader Award for Best Short Story of the Year for "The Hand You're Dealt."

Seiun Award

The Seiun Award is Japan's highest honor in SF. It has been given each year since 1980. Attendees of the annual Japanese national SF convention — held in late August — nominate and vote to determine the winners. Awards are given for Japanese and foreign novels and short stories. "Seiun" is the Japanese word for "nebula."

Robert J. Sawyer won the 1996 Seiun Award for Best Foreign Novel of the Year for End of an Era, which was published in Japan as Sayonara Dainosaurusu. He won the 2001 Seiun Award for Best Foreign Novel of the Year for Frameshift. And he won the 2003 Seiun Award for Best Foreign Novel of the Year for Illegal Alien. 





David S. Goyer, Robert J. Sawyer and Brannon Braga

FLASHING FORWARD...

A Preview of Robert J. Sawyer's Adventure into Television!

On February 21, 2009, ABC — the most watched television network in the United States — starts filming the pilot for *Flash Forward*, a new hour-long TV series based on Robert J. Sawyer's Aurora Award-winning novel of the same name. David S. Goyer (*Batman Begins*) and Brannon Braga (*Star Trek*) wrote the terrific pilot script, and David is directing; Rob is serving as consultant on the series, and is slated to write one of the episodes.

The cast includes (alphabetically) John Cho, Jack Davenport, Joseph Fiennes, Brian F. O'Byrne, Courtney B. Vance, Sonya Walger, and Christine Woods. I've read David and Brannon's pilot script, and it is magnificent. Details:

TV rights to Robert J. Sawyer's science-fiction novel *Flashforward* have sold to ABC in a handsome deal negotiated by Vince Gerardis of Created By.

David S. Goyer (*Batman Begins*) and Brannon Braga (*Star Trek Voyager*, 24) have scripted the pilot episode, which is now in pre-production. David Goyer will direct the pilot, and Jessika Borsiczky Goyer and Brannon Braga are among the Executive Producers.

Sawyer will serve as consultant on the pilot, and on each episode of any subsequent series; he will also write a first-season episode.

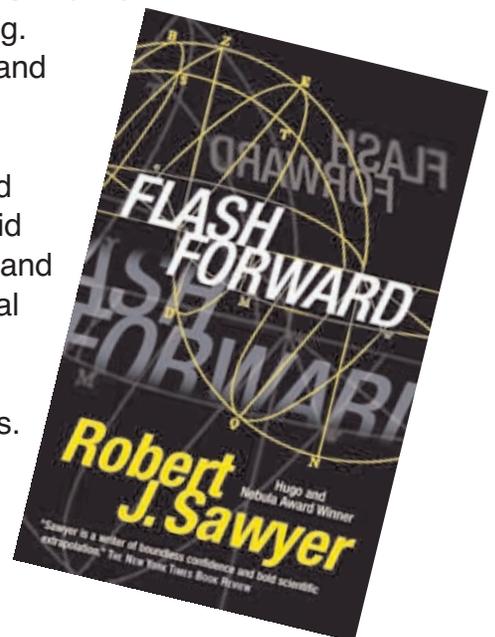
Flashforward tells the story of a mysterious event that causes everyone on Earth to get a brief glimpse of their future lives.

The novel, first published in 1999 by Tor Books, New York, and continuously in print since, won Canada's Aurora Award for Best Novel of the Year as well as Spain's Premio UPC de Ciencia Ficción, the world's largest cash prize for SF writing.

An unabridged audio version is available through Audible.com, and translated editions are available in German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

CNN called the novel "thoroughly entertaining," and in its starred review, denoting a book of exceptional merit, Publishers Weekly said the book is "a creative, soul-searching exploration of fate, free will, and the nature of the universe," adding that, "This first-rate, philosophical journey, a terrific example of idea-driven SF, should have wide appeal."

ABC is the most-watched television network in the United States. Of the potential series, The Hollywood Reporter says, "ABC might finally have launched a strong companion to *Lost* with **FlashForward**."



Check out the SciFiWire interview here: [HERE](#).

The Top Ten Things To Know About Robert J. Sawyer

1. Robert J. Sawyer is “the dean of Canadian Science Fiction,” according to The Ottawa Citizen, “just about the best science-fiction writer out there,” according to the Denver Rocky Mountain News, and “by any reckoning, among the most successful Canadian authors ever,” according to Maclean’s.
2. Rob has sold 20 science-fiction novels to major U.S. publishers, and his books have been translated into 14 languages.
3. He is one of only seven writers in history — and the only Canadian — to win all three of the world’s top science-fiction awards for best novel of the year: the Hugo (which he won in 2003 for Hominids), the Nebula (which he won in 1996 for The Terminal Experiment), and the John W. Campbell Memorial Award (which he won in 2006 for Mindscan).
4. He’s also won a record-setting ten Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards ("Auroras"), as well as an Arthur Ellis Award from the Crime Writers of Canada.
5. He’s won the top science-fiction awards in Canada, China, France, Japan, Spain, and the United States; in total he has received 41 national and international awards for his writing.
6. He has an honorary doctorate from Laurentian University and in 2008 was named one of the “30 most influential, innovative, and just plain powerful people in Canadian publishing” by Quill & Quire, the Canadian-publishing trade journal.
7. He’s very much in demand as a keynote speaker, addressing such groups as the Federation of State Medical Boards and the Canadian Public Relations Society, and corporations including CA and Sanofi-Aventis.
8. He has made almost 500 radio and TV appearances, including Canada AM, NPR’s Science Friday, and Rivera Live with Geraldo Rivera.
9. He’s taught writing at the University of Toronto, Ryerson University, Humber College, and the Banff Centre, and been writer-in-residence at the Toronto, Kitchener, and Richmond Hill Public Libraries.
10. His award-winning website at sfwriter.com was the world’s first science-fiction author website and has been called “the best author’s page on the Internet;” it contains over one million words of sample chapters, articles, interviews, and reviews.

