



## PRESS RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Ronald Cleveland  
1-800-359-5948

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### RINGCON – FANTASY UNLEASHED

*Fifth Seattle-area RingCon convention will be held Halloween weekend in SeaTac*

SEATTLE, WA, September 14, 2004 – Imagine yourself transporting back to a time before industry and technology, wandering the lands of Middle Earth as a hobbit or elf on a quest to help save the world or fighting as a heroic knight in a magical world of unicorns, wizards, and dragons.

It is all possible at RingCon, a celebration of J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth at a Halloween weekend of fantasy, October 29<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>, at the SeaTac Doubletree Hotel in Seattle. *Lord of the Rings* enthusiasts and fantasy lovers of all ages can live their dream to become their favorite *Lord of the Rings* or other fantasy character by dressing in full costume while experiencing a weekend of music, dance, costume-making, and fun. Most of all, you will have the opportunity to hear actors' behind-the-scenes stories from the blockbuster *Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy, directed by Peter Jackson.

Heading the list of guests is Bruce Hopkins, who played King Théoden's right-hand man, "Gamling," in the *Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy. Bruce entertains his audience with amazing behind-the-scenes antics and stories from the making of the movies, enhanced by his unique brand of wit and humor.

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Special guest Royd Tolkien, great-grandson of J.R.R. Tolkien, will share his personal insights into the famous author behind the *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*, as well as relating his own experience playing a cameo role in *The Return of the King* movie.

For costume-making enthusiasts, experienced artists and seamstresses, Cat Devereaux from Alley Cat Scratch (<http://www.alleycatscratch.com>), will demonstrate and teach the intricacies of making costumes and accessories for every type of Lord of the Rings' character, from making hobbit feet to sewing the elegant gowns worn by the Elven queens, Arwen and Galadriel.

Also appearing will be Peter Tait, "Shagrat" the infamous "Tower" orc in *Return of the King*, and well-known fantasy authors Peter Beagle and Greg Wright. Beagle, screenwriter for *Shrek*, *The Little Mermaid*, and the animated LOTR movie, has entranced young and old readers alike with his timeless fantasy tale, *The Last Unicorn*. Greg Wright, author of *Peter Jackson in Perspective: The Power Behind Cinema's The Lord of the Rings*, and his latest book, *Tolkien in Perspective: Sifting the Gold From the Glitter*, shares his unique insights into both the Tolkien books and Jackson films.

All guests will be available for question and answer sessions, followed by autograph signing and picture taking. In addition, an exclusive "Dinner with the Stars" will be held Friday night, providing an intimate setting to get to know the RingCon guests of honor.

To top off this magical weekend, you can bring your character to life at the Masquerade Ball and Costume Contest, and dance the night away to the tunes of Heather Alexander, whose energizing folk-rock music is highlighted with a distinctly Celtic twist. You will even have an opportunity to have your picture taken professionally with your favorite convention guest of honor, set amidst the mysterious Fangorn Forest from Tolkien's second book in the trilogy, *The Two Towers*.

If gaming is your thing, you are in for a treat with a full-fledged gaming competition to be held throughout the entire weekend, culminating with the final championship battle on Sunday.

Or you may find yourself face-to-face with the Seattle Knights, a company staging high-energy acting, combined with choreographed stage combat and realistic costuming and weapons, to create the experience of medieval battle.

A wide variety of vendors will be on hand offering items ranging from medieval weapons to the leather outfits and elegant gowns worn by the lords and ladies of the Renaissance. *Lord of the Rings* items, Celtic jewelry, and other distinctive arts and crafts will also be available for purchase. Specialty items will be available for auction at an Art Show displaying paintings, costumes, sculptures, quilts, and a wide variety of other art media.

RingCon is a festival of celebration for both the young and the young-at-heart. Past attendees describe it as a "one-of-a-kind" experience.

Tickets for RingCon can be purchased either as an entire weekend package deal or according to individual events. For detailed ticket and pricing information, go to [www.ringcon.com](http://www.ringcon.com). You may register online or by snail mail. Contact RingCon staff directly at 1-800-359-5948.

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