



# COMIC-CON 2009

*SAN DIEGO CONVENTION CENTER*

**COMIC-CON  
CELEBRATED  
ITS 40TH IN  
2009!**



**Comic-Con 2009** roared back into the San Diego Convention Center July 23–26, 2009 -- Comic-Con's 40th Anniversary was the biggest and best convention ever so!

#### **HOW IT ALL HAPPENED.**

It all started in 1970 with a one-day minicon (think of it as "Comic-Con Zero") at the U.S. Grant Hotel in downtown San Diego. The first guests were Forrest J Ackerman (Famous Monsters of Filmland's famous editor) and Mike Royer, best known for his work inking Jack Kirby's "Fourth World" books. That one-day event tested the waters — and raised funds — for the first ever San Diego Comic-Con

(then called "San Diego's West Coast Comic-Con") in August of the same year, which featured comics legend Jack Kirby and science fiction authors Ray Bradbury and A. E. van Vogt. And the rest, as they say, is history — including Kirby, Bradbury, and Ackerman going on to become three of Comic-Con's favorite guests over the years (both Ray and Forry were present again in 2008).

#### **40 YEARS OF COMICS.**

That first show and its logo set the groundwork for what would become, over the next 39 years, the country's leading comics and popular arts convention. From the very beginning the event has focused on "comic art, films,

and science fiction."

With our special 40th Anniversary panels, we revisited 4 decades of Comic-Con's exciting history, from those early days through the "Toucan years" (when Rick Geary's colorful bird was Comic-Con's mascot and logo), up to the present day. 2009 ended up being another amazing year.

#### **A NEW RECORD FOR US.**

In 2008, for the first time in its history, Comic-Con sold out in advance. That's right—the show saw record attendance, with every membership—both four days and single days—all sold before the Convention Center doors even opened. And once again in 2009, we sold out in advance.