

## Appendix B

### A Joss Whedon Timeline

The full version of a brief timeline appearing in *Joss: A Creative Portrait*

- 1893**—William Moulton Marston born
- 1904**—John Ogden Whedon born
- 1917**—Jack Kirby and Will Eisner born
- 1922**—Stan Lee born
- 1928**—John Whedon writing for *The New Yorker* (1928-39)
- 1929**—John Whedon publishes a story in *Harper's*
- 1930**—Stephen Sondheim born
- 1932**—Tom Whedon born; Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster create Superman
- 1936**—Lee Stearns, Joss Whedon's mother, and Jeanine Basinger born
- 1939**—Bob Kane creates Batman
- 1942**—Richard Slotkin born
- 1944**—First issue of Wonder Woman
- 1950**—*Texas, Lil' Darlin'*, by John Whedon and Sam Moore (with a score by Johnny Mercer), runs for 283 performances on Broadway; Chris Claremont, Alan Moore born
- 1951**—John Whedon writes for *Lux Video Theatre* (1951-1955)
- 1954**—*Johnny Guitar* (Nicholas Ray) released.
- 1955**—John Whedon writes for *The Great Gildersleeve*
- 1956**—John Whedon writes for *Kraft Television Theatre*
- 1957**—John Whedon writes for *The Alcoa Hour*; Sondheim's *West Side Story* debuts; Frank Miller born
- 1958**—John Whedon writes for *Leave It to Beaver* (1958-1959)
- 1959**—*Twilight Zone* airs on CBS (1959-1964); Sputnik launched
- 1960**—John Fitzgerald Kennedy becomes President of the United States; Neil Gaiman and Grant Morrison born

- 1961**—John Whedon writes for *The Donna Reed Show* (1961); First Fantastic Four comic book published; Bay of Pigs invasion fails
- 1962**—John Whedon writes for *The Dick Van Dyke Show* (1962-1964); Tom Whedon begins writing for *Captain Kangaroo* (1962-1965); First Spider-Man and Incredible Hulk comics, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* published; John Glenn orbits the Earth; Marilyn Monroe dies
- 1963**—John Whedon writes for *The Andy Griffith Show* (1963-1964); Friedan's *Feminine Mystique* and the first X-Men and Iron Man comics published; John F. Kennedy assassinated; Sylvia Plath commits suicide; *Doctor Who* debuts on the BBC; King's "I Have a Dream" speech
- 1964**—Joss Whedon born; Lyndon Baines Johnson defeats Barry Goldwater and is elected President of the United States; Cassius Clay becomes heavyweight boxing champion
- 1965**—Michael Bay and Matthew Weiner born; Watts riots take place; Malcolm X murdered
- 1966**—John Whedon begins writing for *Disneyland* (1965-1976); *Star Trek* debuts (NBC, 1966-69); Cultural Revolution begins in China; Walt Disney dies
- 1967**—Beatles' *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* released; Thurgood Marshall becomes first black Supreme Court justice
- 1968**—Richard Nixon becomes President of the United States (1969-1974); Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy assassinated; *2001: A Space Odyssey* released; *Whole Earth Catalog* published; Warren Ellis born; Beatles' *White Album* released; *Night of the Living Dead* (George Romero) released
- 1969**—Jed Whedon born; Woodstock festival held; Sharon Tate and four others slaughtered by Manson family; Apollo astronauts land on the Moon; Mylai Massacre in Vietnam
- 1970**—Students slain at Kent State; Greer's *The Female Eunuch* published
- 1971**—Tom Whedon becomes head writer for *The Dick Cavett Show*; Diane Arbus commits suicide; Jim Morrison dies; *Masterpiece Theatre* (PBS) and *Upstairs, Downstairs* (ITV) begin airing; China joins the United Nations
- 1972**—Tom Whedon becomes Head Writer for *The Electric Company* (1972-1977); President Nixon re-elected President; visits China; Watergate scandal; *The Godfather* (Francis Ford Coppola) released

- 1973**—Tom Whedon and Lee Stearns divorce; John Whedon co-authors *The Bears and I*; Richard Slotkin's *Regeneration Through Violence* published; Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* and The Who's *Tommy* premiere; CIA stages coup in Chile; J. R. R. Tolkien dies
- 1974**—John Whedon writes *The Island at the Top of the World*; Michael Shaara's *Killer Angels* published; *The Godfather II* (Coppola) released; President Nixon resigns
- 1975**—Microsoft founded
- 1976**—Nadia Comaneci receives perfect score at Olympics; Mao Zedong dies; Whedon begins reading comic books
- 1977**—Jimmy Carter becomes President of the United States; Tom Whedon writes for *Alice* (1977-1980); *Star Wars* (George Lucas—now deemed *Star Wars IV: A New Hope*) released; *Annie Hall* (Woody Allen) released; *Roots* airs on American television; Apple Computer founded; Charlie Chaplin, Elvis Presley die
- 1978**—*Halloween* (John Carpenter) and *Superman* (Richard Donner) released; Whedon writes and directs *Stupidman*, starring his brother Jed, for his birthday; Jonestown Massacre
- 1979**—Accompanies his mother to England, where he becomes a student at Winchester College; *Alien* (Ridley Scott) released; Jeanine Basinger's *Anthony Mann* published; Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* debuts; Margaret Thatcher becomes British Prime Minister; John Wayne dies
- 1980**—Has "existential epiphany" after screening of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (Spielberg), Special Edition in London and reading Sartre's *Nausea* and Camus' *The Myth of Sisyphus*; student at Winchester; John Lennon murdered; Tom Whedon writes for *Benson* (1980-1981); Zack Whedon is born; *Empire Strikes Back* (Irvin Kershner) released; Jean-Paul Sartre dies; CNN begins airing
- 1981**—Graduates from Winchester and returns to the US; Ronald Reagan becomes President of the United States; AIDS first recognized; IBM introduces the personal computer; *The Evil Dead* (Sam Raimi) released
- 1982**—Falklands War; *E.T.* (Spielberg) released
- 1983**—Enrolls at Wesleyan University in Connecticut; *Return of the Jedi* (Richard Marquand) released; first cellular phone networks in the US

- 1984**—Begins sophomore year at Wesleyan; Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George* debuts; Indira Gandhi assassinated; Sam Peckinpah and Michel Foucault die; *The Terminator* (James Cameron) and *Nightmare on Elm Street* (Wes Craven) released
- 1985**—Begins junior year at Wesleyan; Rock Hudson dies of AIDS; *Titanic* found
- 1986**—Begins senior year at Wesleyan; Makes three senior films: "A Night Alone," "Tombstone," "The Woman with No Name"; gives class lecture on *Johnny Guitar*; Basinger's *The World War II Combat Film*, Slotkin's *Fatal Environment*, Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons' *Watchmen* (1986-87), and Frank Miller's *Dark Knight Returns* published; Space Shuttle *Challenger* explodes; Chernobyl melts down
- 1987**—Graduates from Wesleyan; *The Evil Dead II* (Raimi) released; Sondheim's *Into the Woods* debuts; Fred Astaire dies
- 1988**—Moves to California
- 1989**—Writing for *Roseanne* (1989-90); Tom Whedon writes for *The Golden Girls* (1989-1991); George H. W. Bush becomes President of the United States; *The Simpsons* begins its run (1989- ); *Batman* (Tim Burton) released; Tiananmen Square protest crushed by Chinese government
- 1990**—*Twin Peaks* (1990-1991) begins its run; Nelson Mandela freed; Iraq invades Kuwait; East and West Germany unite
- 1991**—John Whedon dies; Frank Capra dies; USSR breaks up; (First) Persian Gulf War begins
- 1992**—Lee Stearns, Joss Whedon's mother, dies; Slotkin's *Gunfighter Nation* published; riots break out in LA after Rodney King verdict; *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* opens in theatres
- 1993**—Basinger's *A Woman's View* published; William Jefferson Clinton becomes President of the United States (1992-2000); Largo Entertainment pays a reported \$750,000 for *Suspension*; *The X-Files* begins its run; World Trade Center bombed; Federico Fellini dies; Superman killed by Doomsday
- 1994**—*Speed* and *The Getaway* released; Columbia reportedly pays \$1.5 million for Whedon's *Afterlife*; spends 6 months (from Christmas 2004 into 2005) re-writing *Toy Story*; hundreds of thousands slaughtered in Rwanda; O.J. Simpson arrested for murder; President Richard Nixon dies

- 1995**—April 19: Federal Building in Oklahoma City bombed; June 24: Weds Kai Cole; *Toy Story*, *Waterworld* released; Israeli Prime Minister Rabin assassinated
- 1996**—*Twister* released; Gene Kelley dies; President Clinton reelected; *Scream* (Wes Craven) released
- 1997**—Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister of England; Princess Diana killed in automobile crash; *Alien Resurrection* released; first Harry Potter novel published; *Buffy* debuts on the WB; "Welcome to the Hellmouth" and "The Harvest" (3/10/97), "Prophecy Girl" (6/2/97), "When She Was Bad" (9/15/97), and "Lie to Me" (11/3/97) air
- 1998**—President Clinton impeached; Frank Sinatra dies; "Innocence" (1/20/98), "Becoming, Part I" (5/12/98), "Becoming, Part 2" (5/19/98), "Anne" (9/29/98), and "Amends" (12/15/98) air
- 1999**—"Doppelgängerland" (2/23/99) airs; 4/20/99: Columbine High School Massacre; "Graduation Day, Part 1" (5/18/99) and "Graduation Day, Part 2" (7/13/99) air; 10/5/99: *Angel* debuts; "City of" (10/5/99), "The Freshman" (10/05/99), "Hush" (11/03/99) air; *The Matrix* released; Basinger's *American Cinema* and *Silent Stars* published; *Star Wars I: The Phantom Menace* (Lucas) released
- 2000**—"Who are You?" (2/29/00) "Restless" (5/23/00) "Family" (11/07/00) air; *Titan A.E.* released, *X-Men* released
- 2001**—"The Body" (2/27/01), "The Gift" (5/22/01) air; Fall 2001: *Buffy* moves to UPN; "Once More with Feeling" (11/06/01); Slotkin's *Abe* published; George W. Bush becomes President of the United States (2000-2008); 9/11/01: World Trade Center destroyed in terrorist attack; first issue of *Fray* published
- 2002**—Stepbrother Zack Whedon graduates from Wesleyan; "Waiting in the Wings" (2/4/02), "The Train Job" (9/20/02), "Lessons" (9/24/02), "Spin the Bottle" (11/10/02) air; December 02: *Firefly* cancelled on the same day of his failed pitch for a Batman movie; 12/13/02: "Objects in Space" (12/13/02) airs; 12/18/02: son Arden born; final episode of *Firefly* ("Serenity") airs (12/20/02); *Spider-Man* (Sam Raimi) released; *Star Wars II: Attack of the Clones* (Lucas) released; *Tales of the Slayer* published

- 2003**— March 2003: End of *Buffy* announced; 5/20/03: Last episode of *Buffy* (“Chosen”) airs; *X-Men 2* released
- 2004**—2/13/04: Cancellation of *Angel* announced; “Smile Time” (2/18/2004), “A Hole in the World” (2/24/2004) air; 5/19/2004: Last episode of *Angel* (“Not Fade Away”) airs; 6/2004: Production of *Serenity* begins (finished by September); *Fray* completed; July: At Comic-Con, first images from *Serenity* are shown; Squire Whedon born; Whedon takes over *Astonishing X-Men*
- 2005**—3/05: signs to direct Wonder Woman; 6/23/05: “Can’t Stop the Signal” screenings of *Serenity* in 35 cities; 9/30/05: *Serenity* premieres; 10/7/05: Publishes “Ace of Case” (on *Veronica Mars*) in *Entertainment Weekly*; 11/9/05: plays an employee of the month for a car rental agency in “Rat Saw God” (*Veronica Mars*, 2.6); *Batman Begins* (Christopher Nolan), *Star Wars III: Revenge of the Sith* (Lucas), *Hostel* (Eli Roth) released
- 2006**—5/15/06: Makes “Equality Now” Speech; Whedon’s authoring of *Astonishing X-Men* comes to an end; *Buffy Season Eight* begins its run; July: Comic-Con: Whedon does not attend; *X-Men: The Last Stand* (Brett Rattner) released
- 2007**—2/07: Withdraws from Wonder Woman film; 2/15/07: two episodes of *The Office* directed by Whedon—“Business School” (3.16, 2/15/07) and “Branch Wars” (4.6, 11/1/07)—air; 11/5/2007: Writers Strike begins; publishes “Reality TV” in *My So-Called Life* DVD box set; July: announces several projects (*Goners*, *Ripper*, *Cabin in the Woods*, *Buffy*, *Serenity* comics) at Comic-Con; *Dollhouse* announced; Basinger’s *The Star Machine* published; Burton’s *Sweeney Todd* released; Whedon’s authorship of *Runaways* begins; *Sugarshock* published
- 2008**—2/12/2008: Writers Strike ends; *Serenity: Better Days* published; *Iron Man* released; *The Dark Knight* released; Whedon’s authorship of *Runaways* ends; *Angel: After the Fall* published; *Doctor Horrible’s Sing-Along Blog* airs on the Internet
- 2009**—*Dollhouse* debuts on Fox (February 2009); *Cabin in the Woods* filmed
- 2010**—*Dollhouse* is cancelled (January 2010); Directs “Dream On” (*Glee*, 1.19); *Iron Man 2* Released

**2011**—*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Thor, and Captain America: The First Avenger* Released; *Much Ado About Nothing* and Marvel's *The Avengers* filmed

**2012**—4/13: *The Cabin in the Woods* released; 5/4: Marvel's *The Avengers* released; signs on to direct *The Avengers 2* and develop Marvel properties for television, including a new series *S.H.I.E.L.D.*; Whedon makes a pro-Obama YouTube commercial predicting the likelihood that Romney's election could bring about a Zombie Apocalypse

**2013**—5/24: Whedon delivers Wesleyan University commencement address; 6/13: *Much Ado About Nothing* released