

## 5 Wits Takes San Diego Comic-Con By Storm!



By Josiah Whedonesque  
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Not since Legendary's *The Godzilla Encounter* in 2013 and the *Pacific Rim Jaeger Pilot* exhibit in 2014 has a company had so much presence planned at the world famous **San Diego Comic-Con**. But in 2016 get ready for the end-all-be-all of pop-culture convention adventures for **5 Wits Productions** is coming to *Comic-Con*—and they are coming to it BIG!

Godzilla-sized big!

Nick Iandolo, 5 Wits' PR Director; as well as, a veteran Comic-Con-going fan, is spearheading a multi-event sweep of the granddaddy of all multi-genre entertainment and comic conventions with a smorgasbord of high-tech adventures and happenings both inside and outside the convention center. "These encounters are going to thrill loyal 5 Wits fans and interactive gaming adventure-seekers alike in the one place where creativity, cosplay, Hollywood-level production, fandom, and entertainment converge: San Diego Comic-Con!" says Iandolo.



**5 Wits Adventures**, the entertainment outlet for 5 Wits Productions, is well-known on the US East Coast (particularly in the Boston area) for its ultra-realistic, feature film-style, fully immersive, interactive gaming adventures such as *20,000 Leagues* (a Captain Nemo/Nautilus/Steam Punk adventure) and *Espionage* (a James Bond/Marvel's *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*/Spy encounter). This cutting-edge entertainment company will be launching their most daring and ambitious adventures and experiences at Comic-Con this year in a plethora of presentations.

First up is ***Vanguard Force!***

In a nod to Legendary's hutzpah to go large, 5 Wits has leased the space in downtown San Diego that was used for the 2013 *The Godzilla Encounter* and has converted it to a semi-permanent exhibit for their ultra-Superhero live action adventure.



Following in the footsteps of *The Marvel Experience*, which had a hugely successful run in San Diego for the winter 2015 season, 5 Wits plans to one-up the superhero/comic book/cinematic juggernaut with their own unique take on the genre.

5 Wits' *Vanguard Force* has all the same amazing trappings as *The Marvel Experience*, including: a physical superhero-training boot camp complete with a hair-raising bungee jump, a 360° *Space Odyssey* centrifuge ride, and a 3D holographic mind test to ensure that would-be superheroes are ready for their mission.

And what mission is that?

To save the Earth from the evil alien General Karg and his approaching mega-armada of interstellar war vessels bent on destroying all of mankind that is!

And these new heroes of the *Vanguard Force* will do it in the biggest, most real-life immersive gaming way possible with: a thrilling space-smuggling motion ride, the world's only 360-degree stereoscopic 3D *Star Wars Deathstar-like* sphere, a wide range of technologically advanced interactive and immersive elements, state of the art projection techniques, and dozens of original costumed aliens and superheroes.

This epic adventure will be like living in a real-life Marvel's *Avengers: Age of Ultron* meets *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* adventure!

Tickets for this event must be purchased online at [5-Wits.com](http://5-Wits.com) months before the convention begins and are subject to limited availability.

And that's just the beginning!

After this amazing super-superhero adventure fans can head on over to the convention center proper to experience a thrilling new VR experience at the massive 5 Wits pavilion in the exhibit hall.

In the space previously occupied by **Marvel Entertainment**, 5 Wits Productions will thrill fans with a San Diego Comic-Con convention-only encounter like none other!

"This one is called *Time Jumper*, and it is epic!" says Iandolo.



“We’ve partnered up with some Hollywood producers and directors to film in 3D IMAX on Epic Red cameras in 4K resolution a time-travel fantasy adventure that you will not find anywhere else in this world. Anywhere!”

And he’s not kidding!

This VR adventure using the latest 4K/IMAX resolution *Occulus Rift* headgear along with the *Control VR* wearable controller technologies will take fans on a journey through the biggest events in history from the Roman conquest of Carthage, the Spanish Armada, the Battle of Saratoga, the Battle of Britain, and a fictional human-alien battle ripped right from the pages of Robert Heinlein’s *Starship Troopers*!

But what makes this adventure so unique is that the participant controls the action and can change the outcome as they race both through time and against it to save history from an evil time-traveler bent on destroying it.

“In five incredible minutes,” Iandolo continues, “the San Diego Comic-Con *time jumpers* are going to have their minds blown—permanently!”

And after they’ve recovered from that insane experience, there is even more that 5 Wits is going to put eager Comic-Con fans through!

At the 5 Wits pavilion, fans will be able to use their smartphones to scan a secret QR code to download a special app kicking off a thrilling real-life adventure.

It’s called, ***Archimedes’ Quarry***.

With this app, Comic-Con fans will unlock a special GPS-powered mobile movie (somehow featuring Archimedes himself!) and an interactive map to a treasure hunt (ala *The DiVinci Code*-style) that will take them all throughout the downtown San Diego area. From the Gaslamp District, the Marina, to Petco Park and more, these 5 Wits fans will have a real-life Robert Langdon adventure never before tried at San Diego Comic-Con.

And watch out! Just like with Professor Langdon, there are also real-life adversaries that treasure seekers will have to thwart in order to find all the key pieces to *Archimedes’ Quarry*.



But don't worry, unlike the poorly-organized *San Diego Comic-Con ZombieWalk* of 2014 where an unaware motorist, fearing for his life, plowed through a crowd of cosplaying zombies; 5 Wits has all the proper permits, secured locations, properly trained staff on hand, and coordinating with local law enforcement ready to go to make this experience both safe and fun for everyone.

Essentially, the adventurer has to solve puzzles and riddles that are presented to them via the app each time they solve the previous one. These challenges are clues that lead to certain locations throughout the downtown San Diego area (within walking distance of the convention center). When an adventurer finds what they are looking for, they simply snap an image of the item (and it can be anything from a building, a statue, a mutant, or a alien spaceship), and the app will confirm it then present the next puzzle. But the clock is ticking. Fans will only have three hours to brave the crazy Comic-Con crowds, hordes of zombies, uncanny creatures, and the unexpected!

When the treasure hunter has fulfilled all the pieces, they then return to the 5 Wits pavilion, download their results and receive hundreds of dollars worth of prizes and discounts on future 5 Wits adventures, merchandise exclusives, and a free pass to the *5 Wits after, after party!*

What's that you ask? Just the end-all-be-all of pop-culture raves that will put even the venerated *MTV Fanfest* and Comic-Con's own *Masquarade Dance Party* to shame!

It's called ***The 5 Wits 5-By-5!***

Sponsored by 5 Wits Productions, their affiliated partners, along with other corporate sponsors, this "all-nighter" starting at 5PM on Comic-Con's Saturday evening and ending at 5AM Sunday morning will feature live music, dance zones, VR exhibits, carnival rides, and more! This event will happen farther afield from the convention center at the University of California, San Diego's, Warren Field. Free shuttle buses from and to the convention center will be provided.

*The 5 Wits 5-By-5* will feature continuous live music from today's hottest performers like Taylor Swift, Linkin Park, and Iggy Azalea to name a few. Celebrity guest hosts will include such pop-culture icons as Chris Evans (Marvel's cinematic *Captain America*), Mindy Kaling (Hulu's *The Mindy Project* lead), Chris Harrison (ABC's host for *The Bachelorette*), Melissa Benoist (DC's television *Supergirl*), Grant Gustin (DC's television *The Flash*), Elizabeth Olsen (Marvel's cinematic *Scarlet Witch*), and more!



Attendees are encouraged to come in their full San Diego Comic-Con cosplay regalia!

There's going to be all-you-can-eat food provided by local caterers like *Lolita's Restaurants*, limited light alcoholic beverages sponsored by Boston brewery favorite *Boston Beer Works* (brewers of *Samuel Adams* beer), prizes, give-a-ways, exclusives, personal adventures, lifetime memories, and tons of fun for **12 straight hours!**

All for a \$20 ticket price at the gate with a valid Comic-Con Saturday or 4-Day badge.

And for those San Diego Comic-Con superhero-partiers who can do the whole thing, they will receive a free t-shirt that says, "**I Survived The 5 Wits 5-By-5!**"

Iandolo remarks with, "I hope that'll be enough to party-out even the most hardcore fandom reveler!"

Along with roving costumed actors in and around the convention center portraying characters from all the 5 Wits adventures interacting (and sometimes messing) with the fans but in a fun way, this ginormous 5 Wits mega-fest of adventures and events at the 2016 San Diego Comic-Con will be one for the history books—especially in the beloved convention's 43-year history!

And when it is all over, 5 Wits Productions invites all of its fans to post videos, pictures, and stories of their 5 Wits Comic-Con experiences on the company's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/5WitsAdventures](http://www.facebook.com/5WitsAdventures) and on Twitter at [#5WitsComicCon](https://twitter.com/@5Wits).

As for the future of 5 Wits Adventures, Iandolo had this to say, "San Diego Comic-Con 2016 is the launch pad for our grand expansion plans of amazing new adventures set to open in 2017 in both Los Angeles and New York City. Along with our San Diego presence we are going to own both coasts—live-gaming-wise that is. Oh, yes, more adventures await!"

Visit [5-Wits.com/SanDiegoComicCon2016](http://5-Wits.com/SanDiegoComicCon2016) for more info.

*Josiah Whedonesque* is a director, writer, and producer. He has worked on a number of big projects including the short-lived TV show *Dragonfly*, the highly successful superhero movie series *The Revengers*, and a graphic novel series called *Sixty Shades of Doomsday!* He writes for both *ComicBook.com* and *io9.com*, and is a huge *5 Wits* fan!