



## A CONVERSATION WITH “THE KATURRAN ODYSSEY” AUTHOR DAVID MICHAEL WIEGER

- 1. When you were first presented the initial concept drawings for the Katurran Odyssey five years ago by Imaginosis, what attracted you to the project?**

At first it was the opportunity to continue working with Robert Gould of Imaginosis whom I had worked with on two different film projects in the past and who offered the project to me. When I saw Terry’s initial concept art, I was simply blown away. Even in those early sketches, before the story was very developed, I could see a depth and wholeness in the way Terry conceived the world of Katurrah and I found it simply captivating. As I immersed myself in her illustrations I felt a kind of a mythic thumping in my head and in my heart that told me that this was a story I simply had to tell.

- 2. You are a successful screenwriter in Hollywood; why did you choose to write this book?**

There are a lot of reasons. First of all, I had never written anything like this before and thought creatively it would be a challenge. Emotionally, I have had successful movies produced but was exhausted from riding the roller-coaster of Hollywood all these years – never knowing if, or when, my next project would be “green-lit” and made into a movie. The idea of working on something that would actually get produced by a specific date (what a concept!), something I could hold and read aloud to my godchildren, was enormously appealing. Spiritually, I was excited by the opportunity to explore certain themes and questions that interested me lately. But in the end, I think I wrote the book (and look forward to writing the others) because I thought it would be fun.

- 3. Did any of your tools of screenwriting come in handy during the writing of this book?**

Without a doubt. Since movies are essentially a visual medium and “Katurran Odyssey” is so intensely illustrated, the images become like a story board for a film. I used the same short-hand of description and a similar pacing that I use naturally when writing screenplays.



**4. What was the most challenging part of the writing for you?**

After years of screenwriting, I have a kind of metronome always ticking in my head as I write. It constantly reminds me to keep things moving along and not spend too much time describing things. A screenplay is generally shorter than 120 pages and I've always had a hard time telling all the story I wanted to tell in so few pages. In writing "Katurran Odyssey" I had to keep reminding myself to slow down, to relax, to take my time with a scene. To allow myself the luxury of description. It was a challenge but quite an enjoyable one.

**5. Do you have a favorite character? Why?**

Katook: I love a dreamer. If there is any theme to the body of work I've created thus far, it's that I always seem to write about characters who are "a bit off" and who either change themselves, or change the world around them. In Katook's case, he grows both as a young "man" while at the same time inspires growth, or a new way of thinking, in the community he comes from and those he encounters. Katook also reminds me a lot of my pound-dog, Enzo, who has the both innocence and wisdom in his big, wet eyes.

**6. How would you describe the story of The Katurran Odyssey?**

Gosh, I'd rather not. I don't mean to sound coy, but I would prefer you read the story and tell me what it means to you.

**7. Did you read the story to children during the writing process?**

Yes. I have four god-children and numerous friends with kids. There is nothing more insightful than the attention span of a child, freshly put to bed, to gauge if a chapter is too long, or not fun, scary or exciting enough. And there is nothing better to hear than: "Just a little bit more, pleeeeeease?"

**8. What was the most surprising thing that happened to you while working on this book?**

I generally write in the daytime, doing my best work in the morning. While writing the Katurran Odyssey, I found I did my best work late at night. I mean, really late, like between 2am and 4am. At first I fought this schedule, but in time I not only grew to accept it, but to



News From  
**THE KATURRAN  
ODYSSEY**  
www . katurranodyssey . com



embrace it. Thinking about it now, I imagine that there is something about the still silence of that time of night/ morning when the world is quiet and dark and everyone is asleep that is somehow more conducive to writing about things not of this world.

**9. Tell me about the role of wonder in the story.**

I swim in the ocean about nine months a year. I just close my eyes and swim until I'm too cold to go any further and then I run back to my towel, where my dog, Enzo, waits for me. I'm telling you this because usually during some point of my swim I forget that I am swimming. It's corny, I know, but it's in those moments that I feel the beauty of the ocean and my insignificance in it. And it's during those moments that I am aware of how much wonder there is in this world and how fortunate I am to experience it - the gem-glow of red seaweed drifting in a slash of sunlight, a seal's dark eyes suddenly appearing at my side, a dolphin flashing beneath me, or simply the give and pull of the current. To me, these moments are spiritual as well as wonder-full. They are fat with inspiration -- inspiration that is not mine, but merely mine to witness and to feel. My hope is that the reader, will feel Katook's experiences of wonder as they read the Katurran Odyssey and that in the end, they find something like the comfort of a warm towel and the wag of a happy dog.

**10. What are you most looking forward to in upcoming books?**

Writing them.