

# COSPLAY MASQUERADE & WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PRESENTED BY

  
*AnnieChie*  
DESIGNS

**LITTLE AL**  
ALAIN PURNEY



# ANNIECHIE DESIGN

## AKA ANNIE DEROCHIE

- Started cosplaying in 2010
- Started competing in 2014
- Reached the Master Division at age 18
- Won the title of WCS Team Canada 2023 at Otakuthon 2022, and will be competing in Japan next summer
- Been a masquerade judge for:
  - Forest City Comic Con 2018
  - Animaritime 2019
  - FanaticCon Brockville 2022
  - Ottawa Comic Con 2022
- Outside the cosplay world:
  - Studied Fashion Design and Costume Production at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario
  - Works full time as a seamstress/designer



Photo by Jason Setnyk Photography



# LITTLE-AL

## AKA ALAIN PURNEY

- Started cosplaying in 2016
- Started competing in 2017
- Achieved the Master Category and won Best in Show at Ottawa Comiccon Masquerade in 2019.
- Been a Masquerade judge for:
  - Otakuthon 2019
  - Dreamhack Montreal 2019
  - Otakuthon 2021 Virtual Masquerade
  - Montreal Comiccon Holiday Edition 2021
- Been helping behind the masquerade scene
- Masquerade Coordinator of OCC 2022
- Outside the cosplay world
  - Works full time as a Brand & Design Manager at Creative TRND online marketing agency
  - Paints miniatures and competes with them as well.

Photo by Open Shutter Photography



# WHAT IS A COSPLAY MASQUERADE

COSPLAY = COSTUME PLAY

A non-professional, friendly costume competition where you show off your talents in costume making and stage performance in front of a panel of judges and an audience.

# THE DIVISIONS

## WITHIN THE MASQUERADE ICG

Most masquerades use the Standard Division System, in accordance with the International Costumers' Guild Guidelines:

### JUNIOR

Anyone less than 13 years of age at the time of the competition may compete in the Junior Division. The Junior Division is divided into two subdivisions: Self Made or Adult Made

### NOVICE

Has not won a major award at a masquerade (other than as a Junior costumer) or has some awards but does not feel ready to compete in a higher category

### JOURNEY MAN

Has won major awards in the Novice division and wishes to challenge themselves  
Someone who has not won in Artisan or Master

### ARTISAN

Has won major awards in the Journeyman division and wishes to challenge themselves  
Someone who has not won in Master

### MASTER

A contestant who has won major awards in the Artisan division at Masquerades and wishes to challenge themselves

**Anyone can enter this division at any time, but will be up against people who have won many awards**



#### IMPORTANT:

- If you don't know in which category you belong to, approach the masquerade coordinator for assistance
- If you decide to enter in a specific category and win you cannot go back down, you can only go up

# #1 REGISTRATION

- Read Masquerade rules to find out where Registration takes place
- Can be online, in person, or a combination of both until all entry slots are taken up
- This is when you give staff your intro, audio and contact info
- Unsure which division to enter? This could be a good time to discuss with staff!



Photo by Pheli



# #2 THE GREENROOM

Arrive at the time masquerade staff give you!

This is when the following happens:

- Workmanship judging
- Official photos
- MC Check
- Sound Check
- Ninja check







## JUDGES

Every contestant will have a chance to talk with the judges privately to discuss their craftsmanship, This is done in a private area and runners backstage will be in charge of fetching each contestant to bring them to judging,



## PHOTO

Often a professional photographer is hired with a studio set up to photograph each entry. Photos will be used for the awards ceremony, social media, judging, and can even be used by the contestants if released.



## MC

You will have a chance to speak with the MC of the show. They can go over your introduction, pronunciations, and even suggest ways to improve it so you can go on with as strong an introduction as possible.



## AUDIO

The audio technicians will double check that they have your correct audio file and discuss when you want your audio to start during your turn on stage.



# #3 THE JUDGES

Every masquerade will have a panel of judges selected by the director/coordinator. These may sometimes include cosplay guests from the hosting event!



# #4 CRAFTMENSHP

The cosplayer will meet the judges and will be asked to explain on how they made their cosplay. The judges will take notes and listen, ask some questions if needed, and take notes for deliberations later on. Oftentimes the meeting with the judges is a timed event to ensure fair access for all participants.



Photo by Smikimimi



# TIPS INFO #1

Have samples or work in progress pictures to show to the judges. These can show the techniques and processes you used, and keep you from forgetting anything important.

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Showcase what you are most proud of, and the challenges you over came to make your cosplay. Focus on the BEST parts since your time is limited.

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**DO NOT** point out your flaws or explain what didn't work or what has broken. If you only focus on negatives, they will only remember the negatives!

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Make sure your costume looks as amazing from 6 feet away as it does close up.

# #5

## PERFORMANCE

The presentation element is also judged during masquerades. The judges will sometimes evaluate using a pre-determined scale (often graded from 1 to 10). The stage is the moment for you and your cosplay to shine. Show the judges and audience all the angles of your costume, and entertain them at the same time!

Performances can range from simple to complex, and range from comedy to action sequences



Photo by Tam Kieu



# #6

## MASTER OF CEREMONY

Presenting each participant as they come on stage is our great Master of Ceremonies (MC). The MC's job is to announce each entry in a flattering way, which includes an introduction written by the entrant before the show.

If you are new and don't know how to best introduce your cosplay on stage, the MC will help you during the registration process and in the greenroom.



# WALK-ON

Walk-On is a Stage performance like the title said, it's basically you walking on stage, posing and walking off.

That being said you can still make an impactful Walk-On by doing the following as the judge will notice them:



## HAVE MUSIC

- Make sure to have audio that will go with your cosplay, as it will give ambience to your cosplay.



## ACT LIKE YOUR CHARACTER

- Even if it's a walk on you can still act like the character and pose as them. In other words:
  - Your character acts like a drunk, walk on stage like a drunk
  - Your character has a high class/pompous/evil attitude walk the same way the character would



## FIGURE 8 FORMATION

- What is this? It's a walk on pattern that helps the judges see every angle of your cosplay. Pose at least 3 times, act in character, and make sure the audience and judges see your cosplay



# TIPS INFO #2

Make sure you have your music ready as an MP3 on a USB key to share with the sound tech for the masquerade and tell them when to play the music when it's your turn.

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Practice your walk on and think of the three poses you want to do on stage

# SKIT

Skits are stage performances. You can re-create scenes, dance, improvise, fight some ninjas , ect

To make your skit entry as impactful as possible we recommend the following:



## **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE**

- Practice your stage performance weeks before the show
- If you're planning to do some lip-sync; or doing combat, practice so your sound cues match your actions
- The judges will notice those little details



## **FIGURE 8 FORMATION**

- Same as the walk on, embed this strategy in your skit, as the judges will see all sides of your cosplay.
- You have the whole stage, so use it all to show your character and how well your costume moves
- Don't let your monologues or lip synchs become stagnant!



## **WAIT WHAT! WHAT THAT ABOUT.... NINJAS?!**



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# THE NINJAS

They are individuals that can assist you on stage. You can use them for the following:

- Set up your stage decor (if you have some);
- Be your mortal enemy that you need slay on stage for glory;
- To be behave like little animals;
- To behave like furniture;
- The sky is the limit – within reason!

# TIPS INFO #3

Create roles that are simple for the ninjas. They are the supporting cast and YOU are the star. They are there to make you look as good as possible, not to take the spotlight





# YOUR PERSONAL NINJAS

Sometimes you may have a task that requires a ninja to have rehearsed with you, and therefore the staff on hand won't be able to comply.

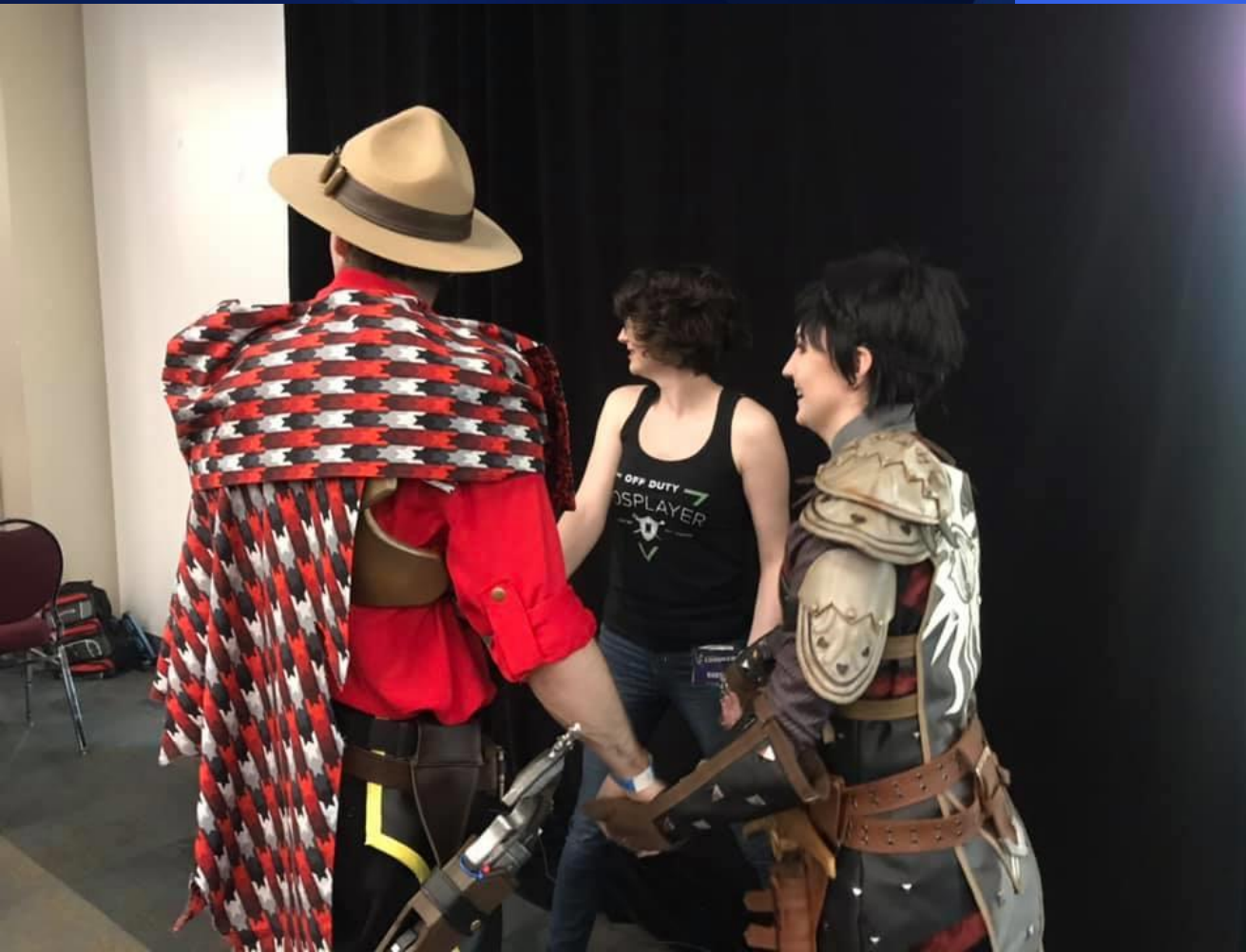
Sometimes it's best to have friends as your own personal ninjas so they can practice the actions with you!



# #7 THE AWARDS

The following day the Judges along with the Masquerade Coordinator/Director will announce the awards during a slotted panel time. The masquerade director typically starts by giving the awards in the novice division, moves up the divisions in order, and finishes with best in show(s).





# SPORTSMANSHIP

The real awards are the friends you make along the way.

*Seriously though.*

Being a good sport is very important and will make your entire masquerade experience way more fulfilling!





# NINJA AWARDS

Some masquerade offer these awards and other don't. These are given by the ninjas and are chosen by them based on how creatively they were used in a performance or other factors.



# TIPS INFO #4

At the end of the award ceremony it's highly recommended for participants to see the judges, if possible, to get feedback. Feedback can help you to improve for the next masquerade, and this is recommended even if you win a major award. This is not a time to confront judges with anger!



MrJechgo

Photo by MrJechgo

# THANK YOU

*AnnieChie*  
DESIGNS



@anniechidesigns

**LITTLE AL**  
— ALAIN PURNEY —



@littleal1990

The background is a complex, abstract composition of various shades of blue, ranging from deep navy to a lighter, vibrant blue. The shapes are geometric, primarily triangles and polygons, creating a faceted, crystalline effect. The overall impression is one of depth and modernity.

**QUESTIONS?**