

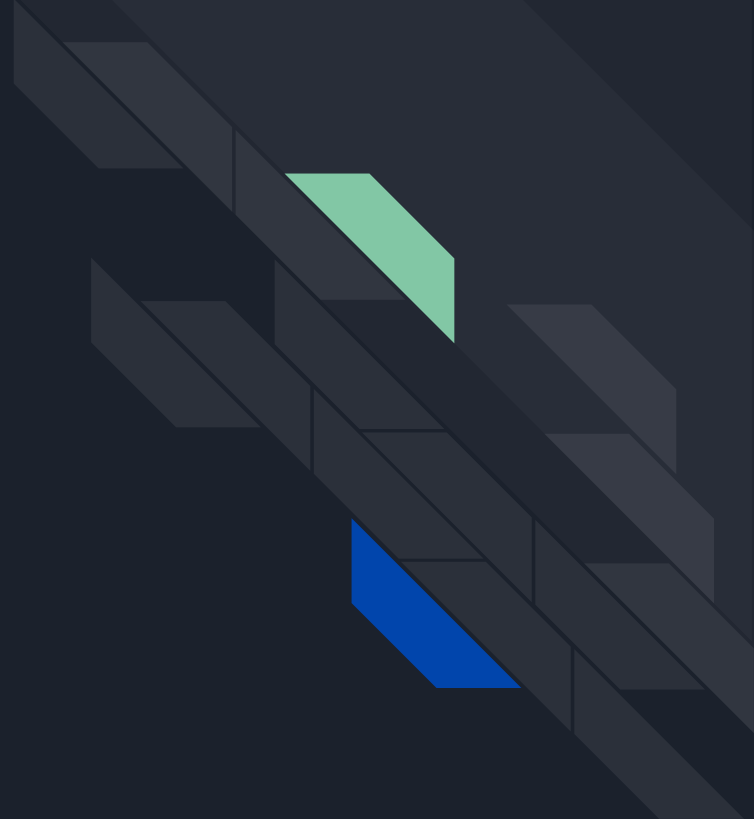


# MASQUERADES & OTHER COSPLAY CONTESTS

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What they are, and how they differ

**WHO ARE  
THESE PEOPLE?**



# SHAWNA / KURUMASHA

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- Cosplayer since 2002
- Masquerade Director and Judge since 2005
- World Cosplay Summit Canada Co-Director
- I know people
- Cat Mom



# ANNIE / ANNIECHIE DESIGNS

- Cosplayer since 2010
- One half of World Cosplay Summit Team Canada 2023
- Graduate of Fanshawe College's Fashion Design and Costume Production Programs
- Ocarina enthusiast



# ALAIN / LITTLE-AL

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- Cosplayer since 2016
- OCC Masquerade Director
- Cosplay Judge
- Miniature Painter
- Photographer
- Proud MINlac



# WHAT ARE COSPLAY CONTESTS?

Wear a costume; be judged.

# DIVISIONS & CATEGORIES

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- Skill divisions
- Build types

*"WE LIKE PUTTING THINGS INTO GROUPS."*

# SKILL DIVISIONS

- Novice, Journeyman, (Artisan), Master
- Beginner, Intermediate, Advance
- Novice, Apprentice, Master, Professional

Anyone can be a Master, not everyone can be a Novice.

- It's not "You must have this many awards to compete at this level.";
- It's "If you have have this many awards you can't compete at this level."

Nothing prevents you from going up, you can't go lower.





# BUILD TYPES

Common distinctions:

- Needlework/Sewing
- Armour
- FX
- Out of this world/Big Builds



# JUDGING

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- Types of cosplay contests
- Craftsmanship/Workmanship
- Buildbook/Portfolio
- Presentation

*"WE SEE YOU"*

The background features a series of dark grey, three-dimensional rectangular planes that recede into the distance, creating a sense of depth. A prominent trapezoidal shape is formed by a light green upper section and a blue lower section, both pointing towards the right. The overall aesthetic is modern and geometric.

# TYPES OF COSPLAY CONTESTS

There are three main types of cosplay contests

- Pure presentation
- Pure craftsmanship/workmanship
- Combination of craftsmanship and presentation

Most competitions fall into the last category

*There's also the popularity/applause competitions, but we don't talk about those.*



# CRAFTSMANSHIP / WORKMANSHIP

How you made your costume and how well you made it

- What did and didn't you make?
- What techniques did you use?
- What materials did you use (and why)?
- Accuracy? Why did you change things?
- Silhouette/proportions
- Bring reference/buildbooks

Skin colour, body type, or gender are not judged.



# BUILDBOOKS / PORTFOLIOS

- A presentation of the build process for your cosplay.
- Proof that you actually built your cosplay
- Lots of photos, some description
- Work in progress photos
- Show off all those little details that you can't see or are hard to see when it is being worn
- Generally not required for local contests, but basically a requirement for any historical, international, or online contest.



# PRESENTATION

## What you do on stage

- Were you entertaining?
- Were you understandable?
- Did you make use of the space available?
- Was your audio clear?
- Was your audio well balanced?
- Did we see all of your costume?



# AWARDS, PRIZES & MORE

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- Awards
- Prizes

*“WHAT DO YOU WIN”*

An abstract graphic on the right side of the slide. It features a series of dark grey, 3D-style rectangular blocks arranged in a descending staircase pattern from the top right towards the bottom right. Two blocks are highlighted with different colors: a light green block and a blue block, both positioned on the same level of the staircase.

# AWARDS

- Ranking (1st place, 2nd place)
- Divisional (Best in Class/Category, Best in Show)
- Merit/Acknowledging excellence in a skill (Best Wig, Best Armour, Honourable mention for XX, Best Maniacal Laugh)
- Sponsor's Choice (Specific criteria to award. Often overlaps with Acknowledging excellence)
- Judge's Choice (A judge's personal favourite. Who knows what goes on in their minds)





# PRIZING

Prizes for winning vary a lot of contest to contest.

- Horse ribbons, certificates, trophies, and bragging rights
- Monetary prizes
- Congrats, you get to compete again (Regionals)
- Sponsor gifts (Often come attached to a certain type of award)



# GREENROOM VS APPOINTMENT

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- Know the difference

*"THIS ROOM IS NOT GREEN"*



# GREENROOM VS APPOINTMENT

## GREENROOM JUDGING

- Everyone given the same time to show up
- Judged nominally based on time you arrived
- Generally not allowed to leave afterwards
- Good for on-day sign-ups/registration
- Lots of time to make friends



## APPOINTMENT

- Given a time when registering
- Only required to be around during your appointment
- Competitors have more of the day free
- Less time backstage to make friends

# PRESENTATION

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- Types
- Stage ninja
- Audio
- Video
- Tips and Tricks

*"DANCE, MONKEY, DANCE"*

# TYPES OF PRESENTATION

## FASHION SHOW / RUNWAY STYLE

- Walk on, pose, walk off.
- No custom music
- Just a quick “look at me!” before the next cosplayer walks on.

## WALK-ONS

- You supply the audio, but no complex choreography (i.e. if the audio were to suddenly skip, the presentation wouldn't fall apart.)

## SKITS

- Choreographed presentations to the audio.



# STAGE NINJAS / STAGE CREW

- They help move contestants on and off the stage
- Will place props on stage and remove them after. Will likely not remove people.
- Help ensure that that you don't fall off the stage but will not catch you if you ignore their warnings
- May hold props during your presentation or do limited interaction, but don't count on it.



For anything complex, bring your own ninjas.

# AUDIO

- Pre-record your audio.
- Check the rules with regards to copyright vs royalty-free music.
  - In these days of streaming, more and more contests are requiring royalty-free music so not to anger the copyright-bots. This may include sound effects.
- Check the age rating for the show and use age appropriate audio, audio deemed not suitable for the audience will be pulled.
- Check sound levels/balance.





# VIDEO

- Some contests will require a video synchronized to your presentation
- Should be used to augment the mood of the presentation or to add additional interactivity with the performers
- Be sure to get information on the placement of the screen (above or directly behind)
- May have restrictions on text/important action at top or bottom of the screen to allow for subtitles





# TIPS & TRICKS

- Use the full stage/move around! When in doubt, triangle/figure 8.
- Show your back!
- Make large and exaggerated movements and facial expressions!
- Time limits are maximums; you don't need to use the entire time.
- Props make things interesting
- Surprise the audience; **not the stage crew!**
- MC introductions: check how much/what the MC will say.
- You may not have a speaker facing you on stage so make sure to know your audio timing well
- Practice! Practice! Practice!



# ENTERING A COSPLAY CONTEST

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- Research
- Why all the rules?
- Application process

*"WELCOME TO FUN HOUSE"*

# RESEARCH

## CHECK THE RULES

- Type of contest
- Limitations - type of cosplay, type of presentation, residency/citizenship

## CHECK THE DEADLINES

- Pre-registration/application opening/deadlines
- Audio and documentation deadlines

## RESEARCH THE EVENT

- Watch previous years if you can find them
- Is there a preference for a specific costume type (comiccons, anime cons, etc.) or presentation type?
- Greenroom and judging timelines

## ASK QUESTIONS

- When in doubt, email the director!!





# WHY ARE THERE ALL THESE WEIRD RULES?

- Performer safety (no live steel, furniture limits, no flash photos)
- Audience safety (no laser pointers, no strobe effects)
- Liability (no walking down the stairs, no jumping off the stage, no smoke, no flames)
- Mess (no sticky substances, no confetti)
- Awwwkward (no marriage proposals)

*For the love of GOSH no marriage proposals, you nerds*





# APPLICATION PROCESS



## OPEN

Pre-registration or on-site registration; generally first come, first serve.



## JURIED APPLICATION

Submit a portfolio of your work/progress and hope they pick you.



## INVITATION

Hope that the algorithm worked in your favour and senpai noticed you.

# CONCLUSION

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- Why should you enter a cosplay competition?

*“THE GRAND FINALE”*

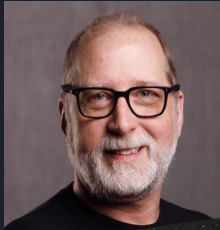
# REASONS TO ENTER A COSPLAY COMPETITION

## PRIMARY REASON TO ENTER

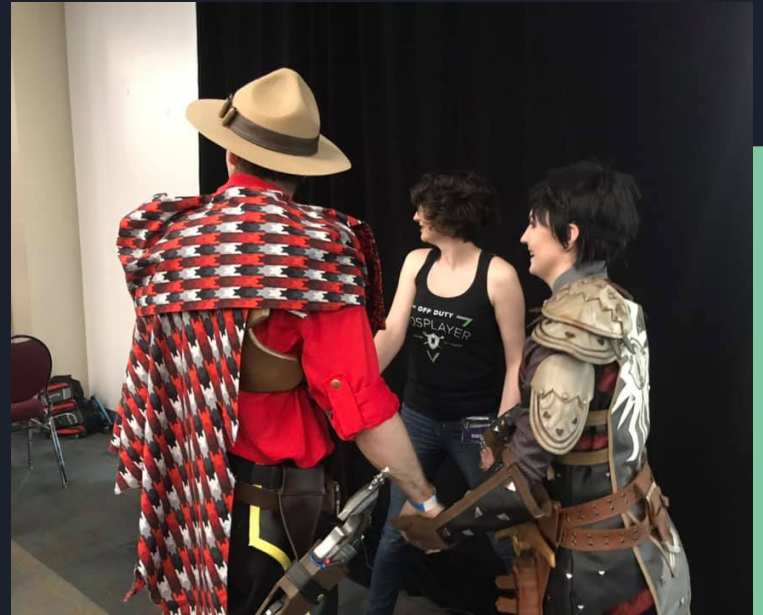
- To have fun

## SECONDARY REASONS TO ENTER

- To show off (your work, your acting, your stupid skit idea)
- To make friends
- A bunch of things



*"If you've made a costume, you've already won."*  
Evil Ted



# HOW TO REACH US

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**SHAWNA**

@kurumasha

**ANNIE**

@AnniechieDesigns

**ALAIN**

@littleal1990



# THE END! QUESTIONS?

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Now is the time to ask ;)

