

MASQUERADE

CONTESTANT INFORMATION, RULES AND ENTRY FORM

WHAT IT IS:

WonderCon's 17th annual **Costume Competition**, or Cosplay Contest to use another term, showcasing costumes crafted by our attendees and inspired by movies, comic books, TV, anime, video games, fantasy, history, art, and original designs from their imagination. NOT a dance or party as the name might imply, it's an exhibition show on an elevated stage, and is free for WonderCon Saturday attendees to participate in or just be in the audience. Most contestants provide recorded music to add mood and texture to their presentations, and some include dramatic or humorous choreography. Some entries will be individuals, others will be groups with a shared theme. The large stage will feature special lighting and sound, and excellent viewing for all the audience provided by giant high-definition video screens.

WHEN & WHERE:

Saturday, April 2 at 8:30 p.m. in the Anaheim Convention Center's ACC North Ballroom (tentative). The event will run two hours, and doors will open at 8:00 p.m. for audience seating. As the line may start forming before then, early arrival is suggested. There will be special reserved seating for WonderCon special guests, approved press, and companies and organizations giving awards.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Cameras are permitted at the event, but NO flash photography of the stage is allowed, and any photos or video taken must be for personal, non-profit use **only**. Photographers or press who wish access to the Photo Op Area, where contestants pose after exiting the stage, should write to the Coordinator at Masq@comic-con.org to request a reserved spot, as spaces are limited.

HOW TO ENTER:

Complete and e-mail an **Entry Form** no later than **March 21** to Masq@comic-con.org. Reserving a slot early is recommended as entries this year will be limited to no more than 25. Photos of the costume you will be wearing are required for review by our 3-person jury to assure it meets the rules criteria for sufficient original crafting, quality, and content. Until photos are approved your entry is only tentatively accepted. Send photos with your Entry Form or send a form now and photos no later than March 21 "Work in progress" photos are acceptable if only a small amount of work remains. Group entries must provide photos of all costumes. You may also bring photos and submit an entry at the Masquerade Desk at the convention Friday if there are available slots. For safety reasons you must be at least age 12 to participate.

PRECAUTIONS FOR COVID-19:

We are allowing fewer contestants than normal into the event so as to assure extra space in the backstage rooms to avoid any crowding. Participants will need to follow any mask and vaccination protocols implemented for the convention itself, and those will be listed on the con website closer to the con, and contestants updated with the information.

When you arrive at the convention, sign-in at the **Masquerade Desk** in the Convention Center lobby to confirm your arrival and to fill out some show forms. **If you don't sign-in by noon on Saturday, we will have to assume you have canceled and will release your spot to someone from the Waiting List.** Completed forms must be submitted no later than 12 p.m. on Saturday, either at the Desk or the Orientation. All contestants and their helpers need **Backstage Passes** for the show, obtainable at the Desk and at the Orientation. Masquerade Desk hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

TROPHY CATEGORIES:

The panel of guest judges will select winners of WonderCon trophies in categories of **Best In Show, Judges' Choice, Best Re-Creation, Best Original Design, Best Workmanship, Most Humorous, and Most Beautiful**. Plus: Winners in the above categories will receive Free 3-day Badges for WonderCon 2023. Badges are non-transferable; if a group wins, up to five badges will be given.

SPONSORED AWARDS & PRIZES:

In addition to the WonderCon trophies, select companies, and organizations will be presenting their own generous prizes to winners that their representatives select:

- ▶ **Frank And Son Collectible Show**, of the City of Industry, California, "Your one-stop show for ALL your collectible needs" will take a break from their large and popular bi-weekly minicons to present to the entry their representatives deem the audience favorite a **\$500** cash prize.
- ▶ **The Costumer's Guild West**, southern California's costuming fandom group, will present a one-year membership to their CGW group, as well as one full scholarship and one night's complimentary hotel stay to their annual weekend conference, **Costume College**®, held the last weekend in July 2023 (winner may choose 2024 instead) at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, CA, to the entry their representatives select



as showing the most promise. Costume College promotes the art of costuming by providing educational lectures and workshops in every aspect of costuming.

Please don't wear your contest costume at the con before it is seen in the Masquerade, or it will be ineligible for trophies.

Why, you ask? Our audiences wait a long time in line to see something very special, not what they've already passed by in the halls a few times. This will also protect your costume from the wear and tear that can occur wearing it all day, even worse if the weather is warm. We have seen great costumes drop out from damage or exhaustion, so keep yours out of sight until Saturday evening so as to be a surprise to the audience, and so that it, and you, will be fresh and looking great! Of course, you can wear it afterwards!

We strongly suggest attending the **Masquerade Orientation** from **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** on Saturday, in Room 201ABC, where we'll discuss your technical needs and answer questions. You need not bring your costume, although you can bring it and store it there if you like. This room will contain a practice stage with similar dimensions to the real Masquerade stage, available all day. You may also store your costume there.

MUSIC, ETC.:

If you are incorporating music, pre-recorded narration, or any other recorded sound with your presentation, e-mail an MP3 format file to Masq@comic-con.org by **March 25** (earlier is better) to allow us time to review it for any needed changes. There will be **NO microphones** given to contestants, so any speech must be on your recording, or printed out for the Master of Ceremonies to read. Smart contestants also bring a back-up USB with their music to the con, just in case. We pay ASCAP/BMI a fee for music performance rights, so we can play any copyrighted music without any legal issues. If you want music but can't decide what fits let us know and we can provide some. If you prefer to present your costume in dramatic silence, that's fine too.

The stage design is still being finalized at this time, but the performing area of the stage is expected to be 40' wide by 18' deep, elevated 48" from the floor. Contestants will be sent updated information and a stage diagram before the con. Going up to stage level will require climbing steps. Normal entry will be stage-left (when you are facing the audience, your left is stage-left), with exit on stage-right. Groups may enter and exit from both sides. The lighting will be dimmed between presentations but will not go completely black for safety reasons. Curtains at stage left and right will conceal the stair entry areas. The Masters of Ceremonies will be at far stage-right, and the judges will be seated at the center-front of the audience. Special accommodations for the disabled are possible if we are informed of the needs in advance.

High-definition cameras will be providing close-up views for the giant projection screens, so if theatrical make-up is appropriate to your costume, consider it. Following your stage appearance, you'll be escorted to the nearby **Photo Area** to pose for a few minutes, and you'll need to remain in the backstage areas until all the award presentations conclude, since you may win an award and be called back on stage to receive it!

LARGE OR HEAVY ITEMS:

Please inform us of any large or heavy items or set pieces. Experienced costumers know the rule: "Surprise the audience, but never surprise the backstage crew." We love elaborate costumes and presentations, but tell us ahead of time, and assure you are able to carry it yourself or with your helpers. Our backstage crew is happy to assist you but are not intended to be your primary means of carrying heavy things. You may bring your costume into Room 200 anytime after 10:00 a.m. Saturday to store it there.

LOADING DOCK INFORMATION:

The Masquerade is not on a ground floor this year, and there will be options for getting their costumes and any props or set pieces upstairs. If the stairs, escalator, or passenger elevator will not be adequate for you, there is a freight elevator and loading/unloading area as well for those giant robots, dragons, sand worms, unwieldy but clever set-pieces and so on. Please notify us in advance if you think you'll need the freight elevator, or if you would be helped by a wheelchair lift attached to the stage.

IMPORTANT CHECK-IN TIME:

When arriving for the show that evening, suggested backstage **check-in time is 6:00 p.m., but NO LATER than 7:00 p.m., and you must be stage-ready by 7:15 p.m.** to allow for reference photos and for the judges to take close-up looks of your work. If you do not check-in by 7:00 p.m., we will assume something happened that caused you to cancel and we'll have to remove you from the show, because many aspects are coordinated in advance! We'll have an emergency costume repair kit available with various glues, glue guns, tapes, sewing supplies, spirit gum, wire, and more.

REFERENCE MATERIALS:

If your costume is a Re-Creation, we strongly suggest providing the judges with reference images of what it is based on for comparison purposes. You may submit reference items at the con, and they can be returned afterwards. A photo or artwork will do. Some supply folders showing close-up photos of details, the construction process, and even fabric samples. It is certainly not a requirement, but in addition to helping the judges, this can make for a fun keepsake of your entry, and some contestants have used their booklets to help get professional costuming jobs.



2022 WONDERCON MASQUERADE RULES

- 1) Costumes must be of original construction or show significant modification of pre-existing materials.** No costumes are allowed that are purchased or otherwise obtained from a commercial source. This is a show of creativity and craftsmanship, not shopping ability. It is expected that some costumes may include as minor elements some purchased items. If your entry utilizes many of these, check with the Masquerade Coordinator for approval. As a general rule, at least 75% of what you bring onto the stage must not have been purchased. If it could pass for street clothes, it's not a costume. You need not have made the costume yourself, perhaps a friend or family member did, but it can't be a purchased one.
- 2) If your costume participated in our virtual San Diego Comic-Con@Home or WonderCon@Home Masquerades in 2020 or 2021, it is eligible to compete in this Masquerade as well. However, competing costumes must not be worn at the con prior to the show.** If everyone's seen your costume in front of them, there's no point in displaying it on stage, so keep your entry out of sight until Saturday night. You may of course wear your costume around the con afterwards.
- 3) Maximum time on stage:** 1-2 people: 1 minute 30 seconds. 3-6 people: 2 minutes. 7 or more: 2 minutes 30 seconds. If you would like more time, check with the Coordinator beforehand. Show off your costume well and have fun but remaining on stage too long can lessen the impact of your presentation, but don't be too quick, either!
- 4) No liquids, messy substances, fog, or anything that may pose a danger is allowed on stage.** Unsheathing of bladed weapons is not allowed without clearance from the Coordinator. No throwing things into the audience. Nothing is allowed that would get a movie an "R" rating. Violating these rules will disqualify you, and possibly result in escort off the premises. Due to safety concerns, **minors** may not perform combat simulations.
- 5) Category definitions: Re-Creation:** A costume copied from a pre-existing design, such as from a movie, comic book, famous artwork, history, etc. **Original:** A design original to the maker/wearer. It may be inspired by some work of fantasy, science fiction, mythology, etc., but is not a copy. **Young Fan category:** Ages 12 to 17.
- 6) A costume that has won Best In Show or Best In Master Class at an in-person Costume-Con, NASFiC, or Worldcon convention is not eligible for an award from the judges but is still eligible for company and organization prizes.**
- 7) Contestants agree to report in with staff in the Masquerade backstage rooms no later than 7:00 p.m., (6:00 p.m. or earlier is suggested) and to allow video recording and photography of their costumes for non-profit promotional purposes.**
- 8) The Coordinator may reject an entry on the basis of inappropriate or unsafe behavior or content, or because of too many purchased items, or because the construction materials or techniques used do not meet the criteria of quality for the show, or because the event has reached its limit for entries.**
- 9) For safety reasons, children under age 12 are not allowed on stage or in the backstage rooms. Minors must have a parent or guardian present with them backstage and parents will be asked to sign a permission form. Please do not bring small children into the backstage areas. With many costumers plus helpers and staff all rushing around, some wearing sight-limiting masks, some carrying large props, tools, or scissors, it is not an appropriately safe environment for small children.**
- 10) You are not required to wear your costume yourself; someone else can present it in the show. But if is worn on stage by someone other than you, that person should not be a paid individual, nor may your soundtrack or narration or costume include content that advertises an actual product, service, or website.**

A FINAL NOTE:

It's called a Masquerade and not just a costume contest or fashion show because it's not just about costumes, but about characters and storytelling too. It's about creativity and celebrating the art of costuming. The event is intended to be fun, so don't be so concerned about winning that you forget to enjoy that you're bringing smiles to thousands of people. The Masquerade staff are volunteers, donating time to the event because we love costuming as much as you do. So, thanks for being a part of the show!

— Martin Jaquish, Masquerade Coordinator. Lori Sartain, Assistant Coordinator.



MASQUERADE ENTRY FORM

(Use Adobe Acrobat or similar program to complete this form. Save the edited form to your computer, then attach your edited file to an email. If you encounter problems, email Masq@comic-con.org. All personal information you supply will be held confidential and not shared.)

ENTRY DEADLINE: MARCH 21, 2022



CONTESTANT NAME (OR REPRESENTATIVE OF GROUP)

TODAY'S DATE

COSTUME TITLE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

COUNTRY

PHONE NUMBER WITH AREA CODE

EMAIL ADDRESS

COMIC-CON MEMBER ID (NOT PASSWORD)

Costume Design is (check one): **Original** **Re-Creation**; source: _____

Number appearing in your group: _____ Mark age(s) if any are Young Fans (ages 12-17): _____

If a group, please list first and last names for all members. Use this area for additional descriptions and comments.

Email completed entry form and any evaluation photos no later than March 21, 2022.

Group entries should provide photos of all costumes. We will notify you if your entry is accepted, declined, or on the Waiting List. If you do not receive confirmation of your mail, email Masq@comic-con.org. Please do not contact the Center with venue questions, refer them to us.