



# MASQUERADE CONTESTANT INFORMATION, RULES & ENTRY FORM

**What it is:** Our 46th annual **Costume Competition**, showcasing costumes inspired by movies, comic books, TV, anime, video games, fantasy, history, and the imagination of our attendees. Note this is **not** a dance or party, but a show on a stage. It is free for Comic-Con attendees to participate in or be in the audience. Most contestants provide recorded music and choreograph dramatic or humorous action for their presentations. Some entries will be individuals, others will be groups with a shared theme. The large stage will feature theater-style lighting and sound, and excellent viewing for all in the audience is provided by multiple giant high-definition video screens suspended overhead.

**When & Where:** 8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 20 in Ballroom 20 of the Convention Center. The event will run three hours, and doors open at 8:00 p.m. for audience seating. As the line will start forming long before then, early arrival is suggested. **Free tickets** for seating will be given out to those in the Masquerade line upstairs at 12:00 noon. A ticket guarantees a seat, so you need not stay in line after you receive yours, and can return later. After tickets have been distributed, any that may remain from the 3,900 available will be given out after 3:00 at the Masquerade Desk. There will also be non-ticketed seating in the Sails Pavilion and in the overflow ballroom where the event is projected on giant screens. Reserved seating is available for Comic-Con special guests.

No flash photography is allowed, and any photos or video taken must be for personal, non-profit use *only!* Photographers or press who wish access to the flash-friendly Photo Op Area, where contestants pose after exiting the ballroom stage, should write to the Coordinator at [Masquerade@comic-con.net](mailto:Masquerade@comic-con.net) to request a reserved spot, as spaces are limited.

**How To Enter:** Complete and send via e-mail an **Entry Form** no later than **June 28**. We usually fill up in **May**, so reserving a slot early is recommended! Photos of the costume you will be wearing is also required for evaluation by our 3-person jury to assure meeting of the Rules criteria for sufficient original crafting, quality and content. Until photos are evaluated your entry is only tentatively accepted. Send photos along with your Entry Form or send the form now and photos later by June 28. "Work in-progress" photos are acceptable if only a small amount of work remains. Group entries must provide photos of all costumes. We wish we could allow in every contestant that applies, but there is limited time and space in the show. The earlier you supply your photo(s), the sooner we can fully confirm your spot in the event! There will be a **Waiting List** to fill spots arising from cancellations.

Please don't wear your Masquerade costume at the con before it is seen in the Masquerade, or it will be ineligible. Why, you may ask? Our audience waits hours in line to see something very special, not what they've already seen in the halls. This will also protect it from the wear and tear that can happen in our huge crowds, long lines and warm temperatures. We've seen great costumes sadly drop out from damage or exhaustion, so please keep your competition costume 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!

**What if you've a great costume to enter in the show but were unable to buy a badge during the sales?** If you submit an Entry Form and provide photos of your construction process and at least two photos of your finished (or mostly finished) costume(s), and we deem it/they meets the acceptance criteria, we can arrange for you to buy needed attendee badge even though they are sold out. Write to [Masquerade@comic-con.net](mailto:Masquerade@comic-con.net) for more information. Note there are a limited number of such badges available, and a limited number of contestant slots.

**San Diego Comic-Con Awards:** Our panel of guest judges assembled from industry professionals will select winners of the beautiful **Comic-Con Masquerade award medallions** in the following categories:

- Best In Show**    **Judges' Choice**    **Best Re-Creation**    **Best Original Design**    **Best Workmanship**
- Most Humorous**    **Most Beautiful**    **Best Presentation**    **Best Young Fan**

The medallions, custom designed for us by fantasy artist Sue Dawe and crafted by the company that makes the Emmy® and Golden Globe® trophies, are given out at a maximum of five per category, but larger winning groups may purchase additional ones at our cost. **PLUS:** Winners the above Comic-Con categories will receive a **FREE FOUR-DAY BADGE** to our **2020 COMIC-CON**. Badges are non-transferable; if a group wins, up to five will be given.

**Sponsored Awards & Prizes:** In addition to the Comic-Con awards, representatives of various companies, professional organizations, and educational institutions will be presenting their own trophies and prizes to winners they select:

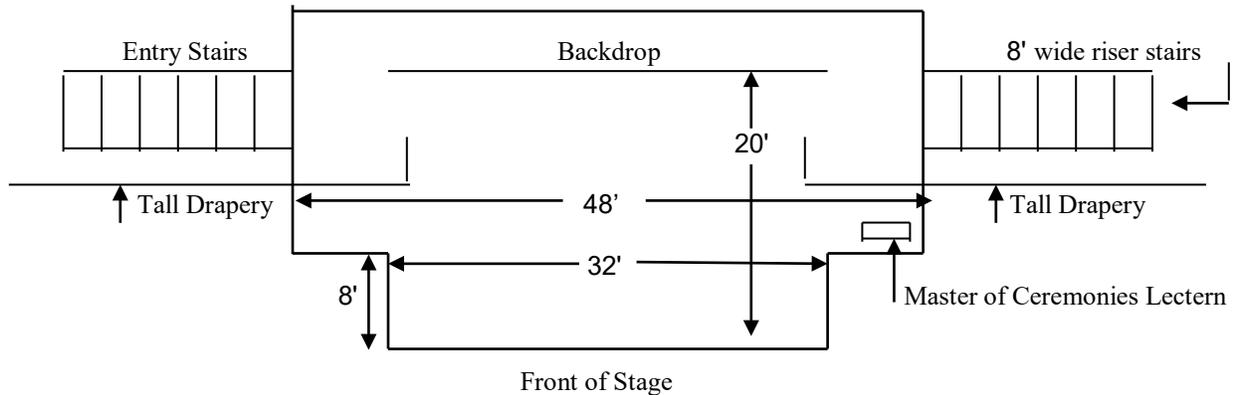
- **Frank And Son Collectible Show**, of the City of Industry, California, “Your one-stop show for ALL your collectible needs” will take a break from their bi-weekly mini-cons to present to the entry their representatives deem the audience favorite a **\$1,000** cash prize, plus a very impressive trophy!
- **The David C. Copley Award for Most Innovative Costume:** UCLA's David C. Copley Center for The Study of Costume Design will bestow on their favorite entry the UCLA/TFT Copley Center Design Award of a **\$1,000** gift card to Amazon.com, plus a copy of *Hollywood Costume*, (cover price \$39.99) by Copley Center Director Deborah Nadoolman Landis, PhD.
- **Costumer's Guild West (CGW)** will present a one-year membership to CGW, as well as a full scholarship and two night's hotel stay (valued at **\$500**) to their weekend conference, **Costume College®**, held the last weekend in July at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, CA, to the entry their representatives select as showing the most promise. Costume College provides educational lectures and workshops in every aspect of costuming.
- **DC Comics** representatives will once again present a special limited edition **DC Collectibles** statuette from their **ShopDCEntertainment.com** website store to the finest costumed entry portraying a DC Comics character or characters from the DC Universe of publications, movies, and television shows.
- **The Will Eisner Spirit of Storytelling Award** reminds us that the costume and the story are often equally important. Costumes can inspire the story or the story can dictate the costume, and this award commemorates Will Eisner's contributions to the comics medium and his imaginative storytelling skills as exemplified by his iconic character, *The Spirit*, and his many graphic novels. 2017 marked the centennial of Will Eisner’s birth and this award is bestowed by Will Eisner Studios on the entry they deem best showcases that all-important “art of storytelling” in their presentation. At its peak, *The Spirit* Sunday comic newspaper section reached 5 million readers and was known for its imaginative stories, creative artwork, and eye-catching splash pages. The winning entrant act will receive **\$250** in Amazon gift cards plus 5 limited-edition Will Eisner giclée lithographs.
- **The Art Directors Guild (IATSE Local 800).** The ADG, which has presented panels at Comic-Con for a dozen years, has among its members art directors, graphic artists, illustrators, matte artists, model makers, production designers, scenic artists, set designers and title artists of the motion picture, theater, and TV industries, is presenting two awards: *The Art Directors Guild Cosplay Award for Original Concept Design*, presented to the entry most exemplifying a wholly original concept. The “Idea” is paramount in this category, the implementation and craftwork are secondary to the original notion; and, *The Art Directors Guild Cosplay Award for Best Graphic Design*, presented to the entry whose printed, painted or sculpted graphics are superior. Each award comes with a **\$500** prize.
- **The Motion Picture Costumers, Local 705** is pleased to once again present TWO awards: “Best Technical Costume Construction”, and “Costumer of Tomorrow”. Both awards will be a beautiful custom trophy and a generous prize sure to delight any Cosplayer. Their technical awards are for entries whose skillful execution, creativity, and attention to detail most highlights an imaginative adaptation of the source or a custom design. Local 705 is the Labor Union supplying movie and TV studio costume departments, costume rental houses, and made-to-order costume houses with artists and craftsmen, and are part of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, AFL-CIO.
- **Sideshow:** Do you think your costume entry into this year's contest will elicit lots of oooh's and ahhhh's from the crowd? If that's the case, you'll be in the running to win a **\$350** gift card from Sideshow for use on their web site full of great collectibles! Bring your best costume creation to Comic-Con's Masquerade contest and you might walk (or strut) away with Sideshow's generously donated prize.

Check the [www.comic-con.org](http://www.comic-con.org) website regularly for more prizes that may be added as the convention approaches.

When you arrive at the convention, sign-in at the **Masquerade Desk** upstairs near Ballroom 20 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 show forms must be submitted no later than 5:00 PM Friday, or, if you are a Saturday attendee only, you may submit it by 11:00 AM Saturday, either at the Desk or the Orientation. All contestants and helpers need **Backstage Passes** for the show, obtainable at the Desk and at the Orientation. **Masquerade Desk hours are 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.**

**MUSIC:** If you are incorporating music, pre-recorded narration, or any other recorded sound with your costume presentation, e-mail an MP3 format file to us by **July 10** (earlier is better) to [Masquerade@comic-con.net](mailto:Masquerade@comic-con.net) to allow us time to check it. If you are simply unable to e-mail your music early, or you have last-minute changes to make, you may bring it with you to the convention. An MP3 file on a USB is best, CD's are acceptable too, but if you record your own audio CD, please use a CD-R, test it in CD players to assure compatibility, and label it with your name and costume name. Deadline is **12 Noon** Saturday and we'll TRY to include it if time permits. Smart contestants always bring a back-up copy. 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. If you've no music we can provide some if you'd like. You may use copyrighted music from a purchased CD or music you downloaded since our conventions pay ASCAP and BMI performance royalty fees to cover all music used at the convention.

**Comic-Con Ballroom 20 Stage Diagram – Top View**



The presentation area of the stage is 32' wide by 20' deep, elevated 48" from the ballroom floor. Going up to stage level will require traveling up seven wide 7" high stairs. The ballroom doorways are 9' high by 6' wide. Nearby rooms will contain dressing rooms, and there will be contestant-only bathrooms if you need a sink and large mirror for make-up needs. Standard entry will be stage-right, with the exit stage-left, behind the M.C. lectern. Groups may enter and exit from both sides. Special accommodations for the disabled are possible if we are related the particular needs in advance. For more information contact the Masquerade Coordinator. Please do not contact the facility with questions, thanks!

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 **Photo Area** to pose for a few dozen photographers, 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 notify us of any especially large costumes, props, or set pieces. Freight elevators, storage space and rear-building access for unloading are available, but must be arranged days in advance. Experienced costumers know the rule: "Surprise the audience, but never surprise the backstage crew." We love elaborate costumes and presentations, but please inform us at least a week in advance if your item is especially bulky or heavy, and assure you are able to carry it yourself or with helpers that you bring (we can help your helpers buy badges too). Our backstage crew is VERY happy to assist you, but are not intended to be your primary means of carrying heavy things.

We strongly suggest attending the **Masquerade Orientation** from **10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** on Saturday, in Room 31, 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 available all day. The Ballroom 20 stage will be in use for other events during Saturday daytime, but the practice stage will have similar dimensions. There will be a **Masquerade Review** on Sunday so contestants and others may watch a large-screen video of their presentations.

**IMPORTANT CHECK-IN TIME:** When arriving for the event Saturday evening all contestants must **check-in** with the staff at Room 32. You may check-in at **5:00 p.m. or after**, but **NO LATER than 7:00 p.m.** and you must be **stage-ready by 7:15 p.m.** to allow for judging photos to be taken and judges to get a close look at your costume. We're sorry, but if you are late, we may have to pull you from the show. Private dressing areas will be assigned when you arrive, work tables and clothing racks will be on hand, a costume repair kit is available for emergency repairs, and there will be some professional and student make-up artists donating their time and talents to help with those final touches and advice for your make-up, wigs, pointed ears, and so on that you've brought along.

**REFERENCE MATERIALS:** If your costume is a **Re-Creation**, we suggest providing the judges with one or more **reference images** of what it is based on, since not all of the judges may be familiar with your costume design. You may submit reference materials at the convention, and they will be returned afterwards. Most contestants simply provide a photo or two, but some supply elaborate booklets detailing the features, close-up photos of the construction and even fabric samples that show their entire construction process. In addition to helping the judges, such booklets can also be handy as a resume' item for those aiming for a career in costuming, or just a fun memory book of your experience.



**PROJECTED BACKGROUND IMAGES:** As has been done the past few years, we install special projection equipment for the Masquerade so that contestants can accompany their stage presentation with a background image to suggest an environment. If you would like to have a specific image on the projection curtain behind you, such as an alien world, palace throne room, Gotham City skyline, Jedi temple, Parisian theater marquee, elven forest, ancient graveyard, or some interesting abstract design to set a mood, you may provide one.

Your background image should be a **JPG** or **PNG** file no larger than 2048 x 2048 pixels, but don't choose a small photo/image or it will have poor quality when projected on the large stage. Avoid very dark images, or ones that are so busy they detract from your costume. Please e-mail your image file to **Masquerade@comic-con.net** by **July 10** to give us time to check it for suitability, but send it sooner if you can. Please, no video, just still images.

If you don't supply a projection image, that's perfectly fine, not all contestants do. We'll select something that will show off your costume well. **Note that NO copyrighted/proprietary characters should be in your projected image**, so if you supply an image please keep it to scenery, sets, historical images, non-character artwork, or abstract designs, or just leave it to us.

## **2019 SAN DIEGO COMIC-CON 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.
- 2) Competing costumes must NOT be worn at the convention prior to the show. If everyone's seen your costume, 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 convention after it has been in the show. Costumes entered in our previous shows may not return. Costumes entered in the Masquerade at our sister convention **WonderCon** may also compete at Comic-Con.
- 3) **Maximum time on stage:** 1-2 people: 1 minute 15 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 10 to 16.
- 6) A costume that has won **Best In Show** or **Best In Master Class** at a 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 or earlier is suggested) and to allow video recording and photography of their costumes for non-profit 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 10 are not allowed. A Young Fan must have a parent or guardian present with them backstage and minors' parents will be asked to sign a permission form. Please do not bring small children into the backstage areas. With a hundred costumers plus helpers and staff all rushing around, some in 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 your costume 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, organization, 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 too, and drama, humor, song and dance and stories. It's about creativity and celebrating the ancient and modern art of costuming. The purpose of the show is for fun, so please don't be so concerned about winning that you forget to enjoy that you're bringing smiles to 5,000 people. Our Masquerade staff are volunteers, and we donate our 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, Ian Branson, Lindsay Harold, Assist. Coordinators.

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# San Diego Comic-Con International Masquerade Contestant Entry Form 2019



*(All personal information you supply will be held confidential and not shared with anyone.)*

CONTESTANT NAME (or representative of group) \_\_\_\_\_

COSTUME TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

Comic-Con Member ID (not the password, just ID) \_\_\_\_\_

Original Design \_\_\_ or Re-Creation \_\_\_ If re-creation, list source \_\_\_\_\_

Number appearing in group \_\_\_\_\_ Please mark age(s) if any are Young Fans (age 10-16) \_\_\_\_\_

If a group, list first and last names of other members \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What day are you are expecting to arrive at the convention? \_\_\_\_\_

***To request a contestant spot, complete this form and e-mail it (and any photos) to:***

**Masquerade@comic-con.net**

*Please use e-mail for Masquerade correspondence as the Comic-Con office receives a large amount of postal mail. However, if you do have a reason to contact us via postal mail instead, please use:*

**Masquerade Coordinator / Comic-Con International  
P.O. Box 128458  
San Diego, CA 92112-8458  
USA**

Closing date for advance entries is June 28, but we often fill up much earlier!