

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL 2007

San Diego Convention Center, July 26-29
America's Largest Comic Book & Pop Culture Convention

MASQUERADE

What it is: The 33rd annual **Costume Competition**, showcasing costumes inspired by movies, comic books, fantasy, Japanese Animation, and the imagination of our attendees. Note this is **not** a dance or party, but a show set on a stage. It is **free** for Comic-Con attendees to participate in or be in the audience. In 2006 the audience filled the 4,200-seat ballroom to capacity, with a thousand more watching on large screens elsewhere. Most contestants provide recorded music and choreograph dramatic or humorous action for their presentations. Some entries will be individuals, others groups with a shared theme. Trophies and also cash and merchandise awards will be presented in various categories. The large stage will feature theater style lighting and sound, and excellent viewing for all in the audience will be provided by four giant video screens suspended overhead.

When & Where: **8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 28** in Ballroom 20 of the Convention Center. The event will run three hours, and doors will open at 7:45 p.m. for audience seating. As the line will start forming long before then, early arrival is suggested. Tickets will be required for seating, and these will be given out **FREE** to those lining up beginning at 4:30 PM and until all 4,200 tickets are gone. This assures no one waits in line only to be turned away. Those unable to obtain ballroom seating may watch the show on giant screens in the Sails Pavilion and in Ballroom 6. Program participants, press, and exhibitors may get their tickets before Saturday at the Masquerade Desk. Reserved seating is available for convention special guests and for the disabled.

No flash photography of the show is allowed. Personal cameras are permitted, but all photos and video taken must be for personal, non-profit use *only!* Photographers who wish access to the flash-friendly **Photo Area**, where the contestants will pose after exiting the ballroom stage, must sign-up at the Masquerade Desk, or write to the Coordinator ahead of time to request a reserved spot. There will be a **Masquerade Review** on Sunday afternoon so contestants may watch a large-screen video of their presentations.

How To Enter: Sorry, but as of June 2, all of our contestant slots have been filled, and we are accepting entries only for the **Stand-by List**, from which we fill spots arising from cancellations. You may send in the form in this pamphlet up until July 11, and if a spot opens up, you will be notified. You can also find out the status of cancellations at the Masquerade Desk at the convention Thursday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you reserve a spot and later find you will be dropping out, please let us know so the space can be given to another. **Do not wear your costume at the convention before it is seen in the Masquerade**, or it will be ineligible for the competition. People line up hours in advance to see something special, and there is no reason to present on stage what has already been seen walking around the convention.

Contestants must submit a photo of the costume they will be wearing, and until received your entry is only tentatively accepted. It may be any size of photo, or a digital photo sent by e-mail. A "work in progress" photo is acceptable if it gives a good idea of what the finished costume will look like. Send it with your Entry Form, or as a follow-up, or bring it with you to the convention. This is to assure that all costumes meet the criteria listed in the Rules, and to assist us in helping your presentation be the most effective by letting us know what to plan for. Also, let us know about any especially large costume or prop items you will have. Photos will be kept confidential so that you will still be a "surprise" for the audience and judges.

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 Stand-by List!** Completed forms must be submitted by 12:00 noon 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.

Comic-Con International: San Diego 2007
Masquerade Advance Entry Form (Stand-by list)

Contestant name (or representative of group) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone number _____ Country _____

Costume title _____

Original Design _____ or Re-Creation _____ If re-creation, list source: _____

Number appearing in group _____ Please mark age(s) if Young Fan(s) (age 8-14) _____

E-mail _____ Today's date _____

To request a contestant spot in the show, send the form above to:

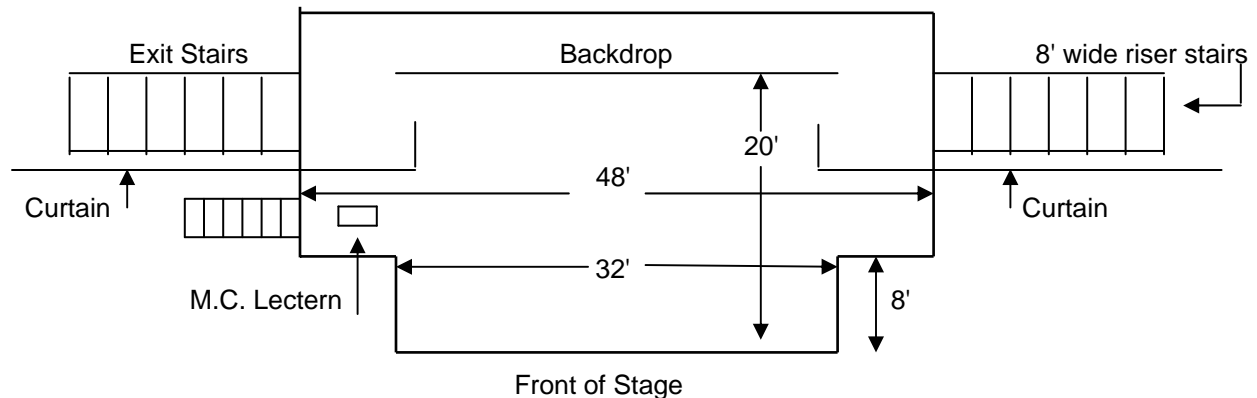
Masquerade Coordinator/Comic-Con International
P.O. Box 128458
San Diego, CA 92112-8458
USA

Or you may **FAX** this form to **(619) 414-1022**, or email this to: **ccimasquerade@sbcglobal.net**

This form may be duplicated. All personal information you supply will be held confidential.

Closing date for advance entry is July 11

→ Remember to include a photo of your costume, or bring a photo with you. ←



Stage Information: The stage will be 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 has doorways of 9' high by 6' wide. Nearby rooms will contain dressing rooms, and there will be bathrooms for make-up needs. Standard entry will be stage-left, with the exit stage-right, behind the M.C. lectern. Groups may enter and exit from both sides if desired. Special accommodations for the disabled are possible, if we are notified of the particular needs in advance. For more information, contact the Masquerade Coordinator via one of the addresses provided.

Important note: New for this year, Comic-Con will be limiting the number of memberships sold!

Last year on Saturday we reached the capacity of the building, so while we hate to turn people away, we've no choice. A limited number of one-day badges for Saturday will be sold, and they will probably sell out before the convention starts. Also, there will be a limited number of 4-day badges. Therefore, it is important that to buy your membership as soon as possible, especially if you want a Saturday-only badge. Contestants need a badge valid for Saturday to be in the Masquerade Saturday night.

Also, be sure to allow plenty of extra time to find parking. With the convention being so large, nearby parking will be difficult to find. Comic-Con provides shuttle buses that stop at many hotels and the Convention Center, and they are **free** to ride for those with Comic-Con badges.

Trophies & Awards: A panel of guest judges, assembled from professionals in costume-related fields, will bestow trophies for **Best In Show, Judges' Choice, Best Re-Creation, Best Original Design, Best Novice, Best Workmanship, Most Humorous, Best Presentation, Most Beautiful** and **Best Young Fan**. There will be a special workmanship judge for those who would like a close-up appraisal of their costumes. In addition, the following companies will bestow cash and merchandise prizes to costumes that they select as outstanding:

- **Frank And Son Collectible Show**, of the City of Industry, California (www.frankandsonshow.com), will present to the entry they deem the audience favorite a cash prize of **\$1,000**.
- **DC Comics** will present **\$300** to the finest costume entry portraying a DC Comics character or characters.
- **Lucasfilm Ltd.** will once again reward the best *Star Wars* costumers in the Masquerade with very special awards from the Lucas Licensing archives. The best entry or entries from the *Star Wars* galaxy will be selected by a Lucasfilm representative, and the costumers will receive special limited-edition collectibles.
- **Anime Pavilion** will present, for their favorite anime costumes, **\$150** booth credit for first place, **\$50** credit for runner-up, and **\$40** credit for the best Young Fan anime costume.
- **Century Guild** will award, to the entry they select as best portraying the elements of fantasy or Art Nouveau, the winner's choice of either **\$200** in cash, or up to **\$500** in credit at their convention booth.
- **The Comic Gallery Stores of San Diego** will present **\$125** cash to the entry they select as their favorite, and **\$75** to their favorite Young Fan costume.
- **Capcom**, the international video game developer and publisher, will present to the Best Video Game character a **\$250** Best Buy gift certificate, plus a gift pack of games including *Lost Planet*, *Okami*, *Ace Attorney 2*, and *Capcom Classics Collection*. Also, limited edition figurines of Phoenix Wright, "Hardballer" from *Lost Planet*, and from *Street Fighter*, *MegaMan*, and *Resident Evil*.
- **Lynn Perry of Dark Desires** will award **\$150** to the best costume inspired by horror or other dark genres, such as vampires, demons, creatures of the night, and so on.
- **ConDor and Conjecture**, San Diego's annual science fiction conventions, will award to the best first-time solo entry a "Con-Tour" prize. The winner will receive **\$100** cash, plus memberships to **Conjecture VI** on Sept. 28 -30, **ConDor XV** on February 29 - March 2nd, 2008, and **Comic-Con International** in 2008.
- **The Testmarket Evolution** will award **\$100** for the best anime costume as chosen by their anime division, and **\$100** for the best video game entry as chosen by their video game division.
- **AgentSakur9 Entertainment**, dedicated to providing the best coverage and quality images of Cosplay and costuming (www.AgentSakur9.com) will award **\$200** and a trophy to their choice for Most Outstanding Entry.
- **Warner Home Video** will present, for the best costume entry based on *Babylon 5*, the NEW, soon to be released (due in stores July 31) made for video film: *Babylon 5: The Lost Tales*, as well as complete DVD sets of the entire 5 seasons of the television series and *Babylon 5: The Movies*.
- **Committed Comics**, the publishing division of Committed Entertainment (www.committedcomics.com) will present two prizes totaling **\$300**: \$200 cash to the best Young Fan portraying a comic book character, and to reward promising new costumers, a \$100 cash prize to their choice of best first-time entry in the show.
- **The Costume Designer's Guild, Local 892** (the organization of professional motion picture costume designers), will present to their Favorite Entry a prize of a Guided Set Visit for two to a Hollywood soundstage or a Location shooting of a current TV series or Film in production, plus **\$100** in cash to cover travel. Tour arrangements will be made with a professional Costume Designer member of The Costume Designer's Guild.

If your costume is a re-creation, we suggest providing the trophy judges with one or more reference images of what it is based on (a photo, comic book, trading card, etc.), since not all of them may be familiar with your costume. You may submit materials for the judges at the convention. They will be returned to you afterwards

Video cameras will be providing close-up views of you for the screens. Following your stage appearance, you will be escorted to the **Photo Area** to pose for a few minutes, and you will need to remain in the Masquerade areas until all the award presentations conclude. You may win a prize and be called back on stage to receive it!

We strongly suggest attending the **Masquerade Orientation** from **10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** on Saturday in Room 31 where we will discuss your technical needs and answer questions. You need not bring your costume. This room will contain a practice stage available to contestants for the rest of the day. The show stage will be in use for other events during Saturday, but the practice stage will have similar dimensions..

When arriving for the show that evening, all contestants must check-in with the staff at Room 31. Check-in is important so that we know you have arrived! You may check-in as early as 5:00 p.m., but **NO LATER than 7:15 p.m.** and you must be **stage-ready by 7:30 p.m.** to allow for judging photos to be taken. We are sorry, but if you are late, you will probably be pulled from the show. Dressing rooms will be assigned when you arrive.

If you are using **MUSIC** with your presentation, it can be on audio compact disk or audiocassette. If you are "burning" your own CD, test it on various CD players to assure it has wide compatibility! CD-R's are fine as long as they are audio format. Avoid computer-only formats (such as MP3's). Bring two copies, one to give to us, and one to keep for rehearsing and as a back-up. Label them with your name and costume name, and label cassettes which side to play. Submit your music when you sign-in or at the Orientation (no later!). There will be **NO MICROPHONES** for contestants. Any speech must be on your recording, or written for the M.C. to read.

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. 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. This is a show of creativity and craftsmanship, not shopping ability. Costumes entered in our previous shows may not return.
- 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 costume out of sight until Saturday night!
- 3) Maximum time allowed on stage: 1-3 people: 1 minute 30 seconds. 4-6 people: 2 minutes. 7 or more: 2 minutes 30 seconds. If you would like more time, check with the Coordinator beforehand.
- 4) No liquids, messy substances, or anything that may pose a danger is allowed on stage. Unsheathing of bladed weapons is not allowed without clearance from the Coordinator. Nothing is allowed that would be prohibited in a "PG"-rated movie. 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, 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:** Age 8 to 14. For safety reasons, children under age 8 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.
- 6) A costume that has previously won **Best In Show** or **Best In Master Class** at a Costume-Con, NASFiC, or Worldcon convention is not eligible for a trophy, but is still eligible for company prizes.
- 7) Contestants agree to show up no later than the specified time the evening of the show (7:15 P.M.), 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, because of too many purchased items, or because the event has reached its limit for entries.
- 9) If your costume is worn on stage by someone other than you, that person should not be a paid individual, nor should your soundtrack or narration have content intended to market an actual product or service.