

International Costumer

Volume XIX Issue 2

Mar - Apr 2020



Outgoing President's Message

By Mera Babineux



Briar Bramble, Unseelie Faerie of the Garden Path, MarsCon 2020. Created by Mera Rose. Photo by Jacalyn Boggs

Costume-Con® is just around the corner, and many of you are probably feeling the Con Crunch for the competition entries you are preparing. One of my favorite things about conventions is seeing all of the wonderful creativity that each costumer brings to their creations, and so I am sad that I will miss this event this year. Fortunately, the ICG has wonderful photographers and archivists that will preserve images of these pieces of wearable art for years to come, and so I will look forward to seeing the fruit of your labors through their lenses.

As my last day of membership with the ICG is 2/29/2019, Kevin, our newly elected Vice President, will chair the annual meeting in my place. We also have a slate of officers

that I invite you to review before the annual meeting so that you are prepared to cast your vote at the Meeting of the Members. The candidates are:

President: Kevin Roche

Vice President: Jan Price

Treasurer: Jeanine Swick

Corresponding Secretary: Ann Ware

Recording Secretary: Anne Davenport

The link to the Annual Meeting Agenda is a google doc available at this URL:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10EDOGwzXs2YUwtLTMKI5KKraEMbM3oWbgblfojTur4>

Please contact Kevin Roche with any additions or changes that you feel should be made.

As there are discussions to be had on changes to Standing Rules and Bylaws, with possible votes occurring on changes or additions to the Standing Rules, it is imperative that each chapter's Board member is either present to vote, or assigns their proxy to someone who can vote in their stead for the annual meeting. Members who wish to have someone carry a proxy for their vote may do so as well. The proxy form is available at <http://costume.org/wp/about-the-international-costumers-guild/icg-annual-meeting-proxy-form/>.

There will be discussion at the Board of Directors' Meeting, and a possible vote, on whether the Standing Rule regarding candidate nominations should be amended to take nominations from the floor. If the Standing Rule is amended, please be prepared to make any additional nominations at the time that they are called for in the Meeting of the Members, and also let Kevin know in advance of anyone you may wish to nominate so that he can prepare a contested ballot in advance of the meeting, should the Standing Rule be passed.

Please also bring copies of any materials that you wish to discuss during the meeting in sufficient number for the expected number of attendees.

Additionally, on the 12-8-2019 Board of Directors conference call, a discussion followed by a vote to move to GoogleGroups as the platform for official ICG communications occurred. Yahoo and Slack are still active at this time, as migration to GoogleGroups has not occurred yet, so keep an eye on future communications for information regarding that transition.

It has been an honor to serve the members of the ICG as an elected officer since 2017. While the last year has been difficult, I have no doubt that the guild will see its return to glory under Kevin. The LAA

ballots have been counted, and President's awards prepared for presentation at Costume-Con. While these awards are a reflection on the creativity, dedication, and service of the past, I hope that they will be a reminder to all of what each costumer has to offer for the future of the guild.

May your seams be straight, your designs be inspired, and your costumes be perfect reflections of your creativity. Best wishes in all your future endeavors!

Cordially,
Mera

Editor's Message

By Melina Chestley



The Snow Maiden (made & worn by MChestley). Photo by Richard Dufault.

By the time this issue makes it out to you, Costume-Con will be right around the corner. And while I am very excited to see the costumes that will be worn, please remember to take care of yourself. Con crunch can be a fun bit of pressure to work

under but not at the expense of sleep, eating or emotional and/or physical health.

For those attending CC38, Montreal is a lovely city and I hope, especially for those for whom this will be their first visit, you get a chance to see a bit of it.

The next issue of the International Costumer will out for May 1st and covers the months of May and June. At this time I do not have any articles or content in reserve. So, if you've ever had any interest in or thought about writing something up, please feel free to contact me and I will help you out as best as I can.

Articles are due on April 15th and should be in word or email text format (with photos as attachments), about 200-300 words in length. Longer articles can be submitted but they may need to be broken up over a couple of issues.

If you or your chapter know of any events happening in your area that will be of interest to our community or are hosting/participating in any events, please send in that information so we can all share in what our members and chapters are doing.

Thank you to the contributor's for this issue; Byron P Connell, Manu Henault and Anne Davenport. Cover photo from Manu Henault.

Corporate Pups

By Byron P. Connell, President, New Jersey-New York Costumers' Guild, Inc.



After more than 30 years as merely a litter of Pups, on January 22, 2020, the New Jersey-New York Costumers' Guild became a New York Not-for-Profit Corporation!

Better known as The Sick Pups of Greater Monmouth County, or merely as the Sick Pups, the Guild decided to incorporate after lengthy deliberation, to assure its long-term existence and to make it possible to seek recognition from the IRS as tax-exempt under section 501(c)3 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. We found it rather easy to incorporate in New York, where the process of not-for-profit incorporation can be conducted online and the filing fee is only \$75.00.

Founded in the 1980s, the Pups were among the guilds that created the ICG as a corporation. Our defined geographic area is the states of New Jersey and New York, but we've never been reluctant to accept members from anywhere in the world (or out of it?) who want to be part of our weirdness. Currently, we have 44 members. However, they include costumers with memberships in more than one chapter – I myself am an Armed Slut Puppy with memberships in the Armed Costumers' Guild and the St. Louis Ubiquitous Tailoring Society as well as the Pups -- and local members who choose not to be members of the ICG.

While our defined area is New Jersey and New York, at present only six of us live in New Jersey, while 12 live in New York State and nine live in Pennsylvania. We also have members in Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and West Virginia. In the past we've had members from Ontario and Quebec, Canada. We're not quite as geographically diverse as Silicon Web, but we're pretty spread out.

We hold face-to-face meetings six times a year – generally three each in New Jersey and New York – with a social hour, a workshop of some kind, and a business meeting that often includes planning future activities, such as group entries in masquerades, and discussing costumes

we're making, conventions and events we've attended, and upcoming conventions and events. Meetings may include show and tell about new sewing techniques or books or materials, or discussions of theatrical, media, and fashion shows.

We make costumes to wear ourselves and for our spouses, offspring, or friends. As we make them, we learn new techniques, use new fabrics or materials, or try new embellishments. After we make them, we display them at conventions and other events by presenting them in masquerades or competitions or by wearing them in the halls. We may use them in Cosplay or wear them on Halloween or other public occasions.

We help run costume competitions and masquerades. We serve on panels and present demos and workshops relating to costume design, construction, display, photography, history, sources, and similar topics, particularly in the New Jersey-New York area. We may do group trips to costume-related museum exhibits. We also actively support the ICG, and over the years have contributed quite a few of its presidents and other officers.

We welcome visitors and new members at any meeting.



Guild Highlights

By Melina Chestley

As it is the month of Costume-Con and the ICG annual meeting, in this issue's Guild Highlights I'm spotlighting the Lifetime Achievement Award (or LAA).

The LAA is an annual award that "recognizes a body of achievement in the costuming art and service to the costuming community". It debuted in 1990 and is the highest honour that the ICG confers to costumers.

As written on the ICG website, the candidates for this award:

"-Shall have been active in the costuming community for at least 10 years.

"-Shall have achieved significant recognition for their costuming skills, which may be in the form of, but not restricted to, competitive awards, professional accomplishments, teaching of skills, and/or media recognition.

"Shall have made significant contributions in service to the costuming community."

Nominations for this award can be made by any member in good standing of the ICG, as well as ICG chapters or SIG (special interest groups). Tips on preparing a nomination can be found on the ICG website under Awards: Lifetime Achievement. Once the nominations are received, they are reviewed and voted on by the ICG Chapter presidents and the five elected officers. It is then presented at Costume Con.

The ICG website has a list of each recipient from 1990 to current. Please take some time to have a look at the costumers who have made such an impact on our community.

News from Costume-Con

By Manu Hénault CC38 President



Bonjour!/Hi!

We are almost there! At the date of publication, here are some useful info.

Registration at the door:

For the whole convention or one day (NO SALE ON MONDAY):

- Student \$100 (Must have a student ID valid in 2019 or 2020)
- Youth (14-17 at the time of the convention) \$60
- Child (6-13 at the convention) \$10
- Upgrade from Supporting to Youth \$30

For the whole convention:

- Attending Membership \$160 (Currently \$120)
- Upgrade from Supporting to Attending \$130 (Currently \$90)

For one day only (NO SALE ON MONDAY):

- Attending Membership \$100
- Upgrade from Supporting to Attending \$70

Here is the link to the directions depending where you are from:
<http://costumecon38.org/en/location/directions/>

However, as this is being written, VIA RAIL has stopped all services toward and from Montreal. We strongly suggest you find an alternative transportation.

Special costumes' exhibit - Opera of Montreal

Costume-Con 38 was able to take advantage of the Opera of Montreal costumes' sale!

The costumes will be on exhibition during the convention but how about you take them home? Yes you did read well! Most of the costumes in this exhibit will be put on a silent auction. Part of the profits will go to an environmental cause to plant trees and the other part will go for the drama club's wardrobe of the "Nouvelle école secondaire de Pierrefonds" high school to buy items they can't get from donations.

See you very soon!

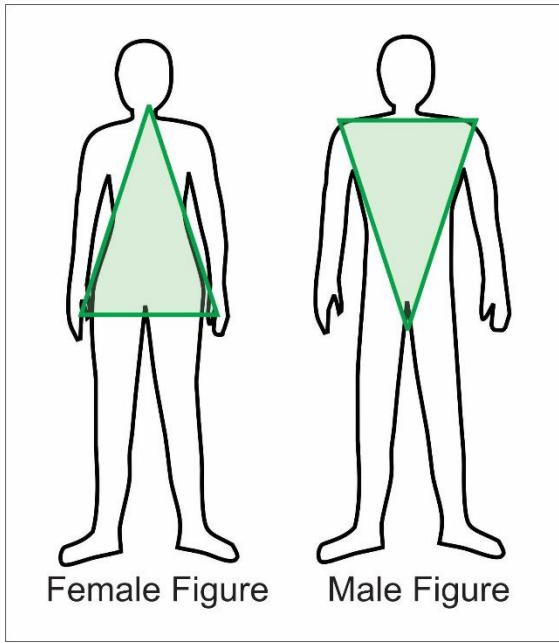
BASIC ELEMENTS OF FIGURES: MALE, FEMALE AND IN BETWEEN *by Anne Davenport*

The body of homo sapiens has many shapes and forms that break down into many categories. Two of the most fundamental are male and female. But the human form is not limited to being just one or the other, it can be, and often is, parts of both.

The silhouette is one of the simplest visual design elements in a costume that can convey masculinity, femininity, neither, or both. So, when designing or assembling a costume for gender, simply altering the shape of the silhouette can achieve that goal.

Body Elements In Two Genders

The more fundamental shapes, reduced to a minimum, for the two, most-common genders are a triangle with the apex pointing up for female and a triangle with the apex pointing down for male.

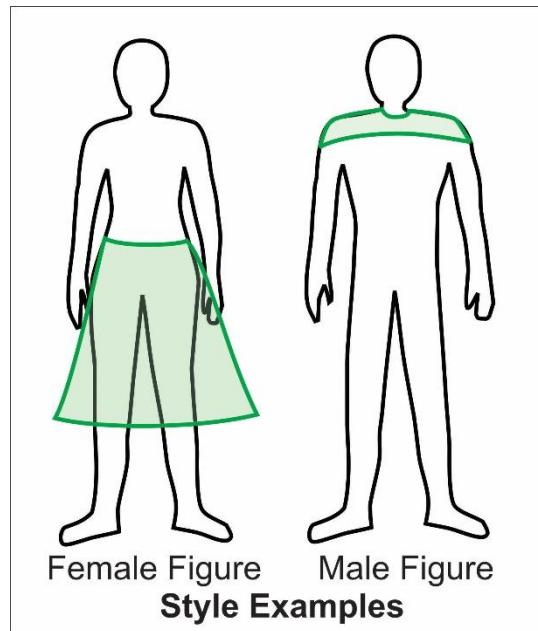


Minimum Design Elements for Female and Male.

Stripped down of any other features like breasts and muscles, these two forms are the simplest way of sorting body types; hips for the base of the triangle torso for females, shoulders for the base of triangles for males.

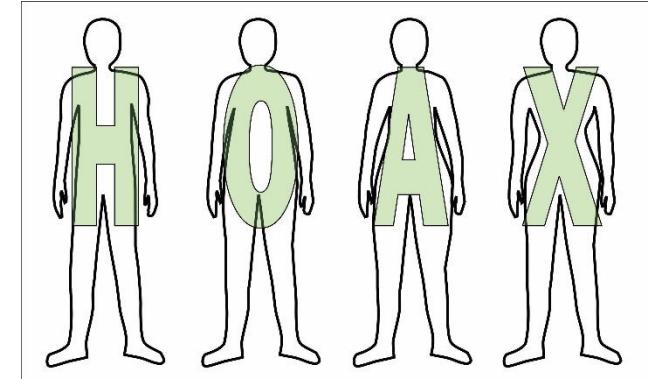
Clothes, styles and patterns that emphasize these two triangles are the simplest way of projecting either of these two body types

underneath, such as flaring, A-line skirts for female, horizontal stripes at the shoulders for male.



Body Elements for Female Types

One of the best references for female body types is "The HOAX Fashion Formula" by Mary Duffy (1987). While his book is sadly out of print (at least the last time I looked for it) it is not difficult to find online. This book shows that nearly all female bodies fall into some combination of the four types in the title, "H", "O", "A", "X".



Female Body Types

Regardless of what combination of the basic shapes that your own body falls into, Duffy has some simple instructions when choosing clothes style:

- Measure what your body is (the book has a list of more than a dozen body measurements to take).
- Plug the measurements into the formula to determine which combination of body types, that you are.
- Choose clothes styles (from the wonderfully extensive styles for women's fashions – with illustrations – from button down collars to bell bottom pants) that best flatters that body type.

This formula is based on one principle: the better the clothes follow the contours of the body shape underneath – no matter what that body shape is -- the more comfortable, natural and flattering the clothes will look.

Clothes designed for one shape and put onto a different body shape will sag, bag, pull and stretch because they will be too small and/or too big for different parts of the body.

Note that while the book references only a person's body measured in simple undergarments, there is no reason that it could not be applied to someone wearing body-shape-altering undergarments. So, the process for this case might be:

- Measure what your body is.
- Create or purchase body-shape-altering foundation garments that comfortably (or at least tolerably) fit your body.
- Measure the body in the foundation garments.
- Plug the measurements into the formula to confirm which body type, or combination of body types, that the modified body is.
- Choose clothes styles that best flatters the modified body type.

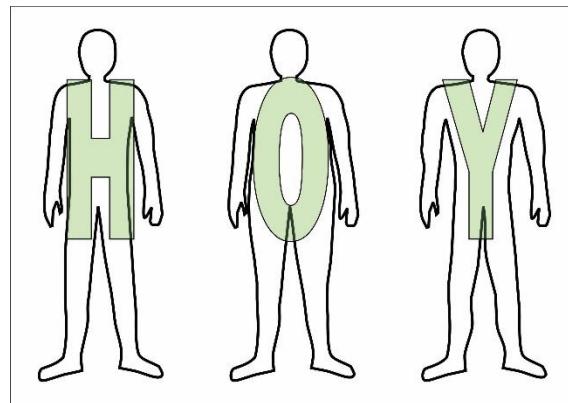
As an aside, when I applied the HOAX fashion formula to my own body, I was nearly a pure "A" shape. No pleated skirts for me; only A-lines will do.

Alas, Duffy does not really address how color patterns can also contribute to the final look of clothes. But the most basic rule is:

- Wherever you want to look wider, use a horizontal pattern
- Wherever you want to look narrower, use a vertical pattern

Body Elements for Male Types

Sadly, I have found no corresponding body type references for males. But if there was one, it would most likely be a "HOY" Fashion Formula" for "H" "O" and "Y" body types.



Male Body Types

Similar rules for designing for these types would apply:

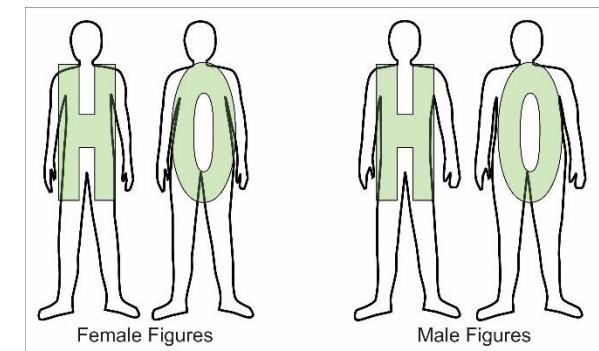
- Measure the body (or body with shape altering undergarments).
- The HOAX formula would need to be modified to be a HOY formula and applied to determine which body type, or combination of body types, that you are.

- Choose clothes styles that best flatters that body type.

I would have to defer here to someone with more experience with tailoring for male body for how the "HOAX" formula could be modified to be a "HOY" formula as well as compile a list of men's fashion styles appropriate for each type.

Common Features for Both Genders

It is very obvious that these two genders have two common types, the "H" and the "O".



Common Body Types

The "H" and the "O" are also the most common types for pre-pubescent children of any gender.

When designing for neither male nor female, the "H" and the "O" types are the easiest design choices.

A cautious mention should be made about another well-known body type system,

somatotyping, where the human body is described as being one of, or a combination of three types:

- Ectomorph (the "H" type for both male and female)
- Endomorph (the "O" type for both male and female, and the "A" type for female)
- Mesomorph (the "X" type for female; the "Y" type for male)

Regrettably this body type system was devised in the 1940's with good and bad psychological virtues also assigned to the different types, a prejudice which has long since been debunked. But the somatotyping lingers with people being assigned to some combination of the three types. Very often this system is cited in weight loss, exercise and weight training information with the mesomorph being (at least tacitly, if not overtly) the type to aspire to and the ectomorph and endomorph shapes being somehow lacking. So, the prejudice perpetuated through this body type system still lingers.

Designing for Both Male and Female

When designing for a body with both male and female the design needs to go beyond the minimum. Combining the two triangles produces an hourglass, which looks like an "X" making the female dominant. Combining "X" and "Y" still looks like an

"X". This is when more overtly male and female attribute are needed. In short, emphasizing the female breasts and the male crotch.

This was an issue I confronted with The Unisex Cavalier, a costume meant to display both male and female attributes based on a historical costume style that always seemed to me to have both male and female attributes. I used skirts and pants, a fake goatee, a wide collar for shoulders, cape and a great big hat. But the female still swamped the male. My solution was to add a contrasting color and some bulge at the crotch, just to bring out the male. It seemed to have worked; I got honorable mentions for workmanship and stage performance.

Summary

So, when designing or purchasing an outfit, start with the basics, the minimum shape for male, female or otherwise. Choose the style that best fits the contours of your measurements (or your foundation garments) and wear your costume -- or just your everyday clothes -- in comfort and style.



Unisex Cavalier, backstage in the green room, Con Jose, 2002 Worldcon.

This Proxy Statement is for ICG members who will not be attending the Annual Meeting at Costume-Con. If you want to vote, print and complete the form and give it to someone who will be attending. You must sign this form for it to be valid.

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International Costumers' Guild 2020 Annual Meeting Proxy Assignment Form

On this _____ day of _____, 20____, I, _____, assign my vote to and authorize the below named member of the International Costumers' Guild, belonging to _____ Chapter, to represent me in all business coming before the 20____ Annual Meeting of the International Costumers' Guild.

Assignee Name*: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Assigner Name**: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Signature: _____

*Who you are authorizing to vote on your behalf.

**Your name

About the ICG

Membership Benefits

ICG membership benefits include participation in local Chapters and in Special Interest Groups, voting rights, eligibility for grants, online forums, learning and volunteer opportunities, and the International Costumer.

ICG Online

Visit the ICG website for current information and resources:

<http://www.costume.org/>

Join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/internationalcostumers>

Join the ICG-D Yahoo! group for lively discussions on costuming-related topics:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/icg-d>

Amazon Smile link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1656188>

Send comments and suggestions to:

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icg-financecommittee@costume.org

Costuming Arts & Sciences Grant Fund

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The Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund

The Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund provides grants for projects and activities that promote the art and science of costuming. For information on how to apply for a grant, please visit

<http://www.costume.org/grants/grants.html>

The International Costumer

The *International Costumer* newsletter is published bi-monthly by the ICG. The current issue is for members only. Back issues are freely available to the costuming community on the ICG website.

Online Submissions

We welcome short costuming articles, book reviews, event reports, and news items. Submit your copy as rtf, doc, docx or txt files to the International Costumer editor:

icg-newsletter@costume.org. All graphics formats are accepted.

Contacting the Editor

Please contact the editor to report problems, or to offer comments and suggestions:

icg-newsletter@costume.org.

Newsletter Delivery

The *International Costumer* is available as both an online and print edition. Your preference is part of your ICG membership record. To change or verify your preference, contact your local chapter.

If your postal or e-mail address changes, notify your local chapter promptly, or send your updated information to icg-membership-corrections@costume.org. Returned copies of the print edition cannot be re-mailed.

Members who have an e-mail address on record are notified when a new issue is available.

Access the online edition at

<http://www.costume.org/currentnewsletter> The user name is "costumer" and the password is "ConSeason2020"