

International Costumer

Volume XIX Issue 6

Nov – Dec 2020



From the President's Desk October 2020

October 26, 2020

Costuming in Place... day 229 and counting



Greetings from your President; I hope you and yours are all still safe and healthy during these trying times.

First: the BIG NEWS: the results of our 2020 ICG Officers Election are official. We had 75 ballots submitted; after deleting duplicates and a very small

number posted by individuals whose memberships were not current, we had 61 valid ballots, voting unanimously FOR the offered Slate of Officers.

So, first, congratulations to my fellow officers, especially new officers Jan Price (Vice President) and Corresponding Secretary Ann Ware. In addition, thank you (and congrats) to continuing Officers Jeanine Swick (Treasurer) and Anne Davenport (Recording Secretary).

This also means that I can now retire that pesky *pro tem* that has been following me around; it was cute and was very good at snuggling up to your Pres' and purring, but it's time for it to go retire to someplace less crowded than my little office.

As I mentioned in the last issue, we're now ready to create replacements for the old ICG-D list, and any others you would like. We've received notification that the yahoogroups are about to vanish completely, so let your chapter reps know what you want. I was holding off on trying to expand our communications network until I had

all our officers in place, as this falls under their jurisdiction. I am **still** working with Slack Customer Support on regaining control of the ICG Slack workspace.

Halloween is coming up; I'm toying with the idea of a Zoom blackout party with some of my gang I attended Glow parties in person over the last few years, since clubs aren't open yet in Santa Clara County. I **did** finish my neopixel Mask project, which will fit right in with the fluorescent theme of a glow party.



Stay well this Autumn -- let your reps know what you want, and we'll get going on those resources for you!

Kevin Roche
ICG President *pro tem*

From the editor: This month's cover photo: "The Snegoruchka" Costume made & worn by Melina Chestley. Photo by Richard Dufault @OShutterPhoto

Thank you to Anne Davenport for her contribution to this issue's content.

From the editor:
We're still looking for a new staff member!

By Melina Chestley

Time seems to be flying by quickly this year, for me at least. I am unsure whether that is just because that's how time works or if its because this chaotic year is just full of lost days, weeks or months.

Winter is my favourite season of the year and I am looking forward to the quiet times that I can spend happily stitching. There are costumes to be made even if, at the moment, there is nowhere to wear

them. I know of a few costumers and cosplayers that have taken to have socially distanced photo-shoots as a way to bring back the deadlines some of us need to get our projects done.

If you are one of those costumers who has or will be participating in a photoshoot in order to show off your quarantine or pandemic projects, feel free to contact me as I would love to show off your work in the newsletter. This newsletter is definitely another place to show off your costumes and tell us about your work.

The newsletter is still looking to fill a staff position for working on the digital aspects of the newsletter, getting it uploaded to the website and sent out to our members. The full job description is in the previous newsletter. If you are interested in helping out, please feel free to contact me.

This is the final newsletter for the year 2020 and it will be a year looked back upon like no other before it in our lifetime. Regardless of the difficulties, we have managed to keep our community together in new ways. Costumes were still created, even if they have not had a chance to shine yet, or at least, not yet in the way we've been used to in the past.

Going Digital: Watching the Virtual Friday Night Workmanship and the Sunday Night Masquerades on Virtual DragonCon (September 4-7, 2020)

by A.R. Davenport

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most of 2020 has, and likely a good part of 2021 will become, the times of the canceled or sometimes the virtual conventions. CostumeCon cancelled. BayCon cancelled. The Pennsic War cancelled. WorldCon ... not cancelled, but held in New Zealand with a mandatory 14 day quarantine before even thinking about attending the con. Otherwise, every other major costuming and cosplay event is gone for now, or at best gone virtual.

So, because cramming 85,000 costumed fans into 5 hotels, a food court and exhibition space in the middle of downtown Atlanta would be a supremely bad idea during a pandemic, I sat down in front of my computer on the Friday and Sunday nights that would have been at DragonCon.

Overall, the whole, virtual convention was a bit like a video DragonCon sampler with a drastically reduced schedule. At a live DragonCon there can easily be fifteen

other things to do, plus perpetual hotel lobby parties during the costuming events. Plus, attendees have the option of watching much of the convention programming from the comfort of their rooms if they are lucky enough to be in one of main hotels, because DragonCon also provides two channels of current and previous year's programming via the hotels' cable service.

This year, the whole thing was collapsed into 3 channels of DragonConTV, plus virtual dealers, art show and a few other online activities. But the minimalist online programming only made the costume contests more important, because there was not a lot else going on at the same time.

Both costume contests were paced well and had a respectable number of entries, though not as many as usual. I did not see any significant technical issue (at least on my computer) during the Friday contest. Sunday's contest was not so fortunate. One video glitch on Sunday was immediately fixed, but another video got the wrong introduction from the MCs and then was cut off and then shown later. And there was a bit more pointless MC banter than necessary between the entries on Sunday night, so there were likely more technical glitches that I didn't see.

The MCs for the Friday night costume contest were Bob and Carl, two yellow sock-puppet janitors who usually provide pointless banter during programming breaks on DragonConTV (their usual hazmat-suit attire was coincidentally appropriate this year). They did the usual time-killing jokes at the beginning, but once the show started, they kept it moving.

The Friday night competition is for workmanship judging only. Entries must submit pictures in advance and the judges are professionals in costume and design. There are no stage skits or special music; the costumes are presented on stage for the audience to 'ooh' and 'ahh', but not for performance. The judging is only for workmanship. The virtual DragonCon contestants this year, instead of presenting themselves to the judges at the con, submitted photos and videos of their costumes.

The videos (for Friday and Sunday night competitions) were a highlight. The online audience got to see the contestants wearing their costumes (in various indoor and outdoor home settings), plus long, loving close-ups of the costumes, details that would be impossible to see at a contest held in a hotel ballroom.

The video close-ups were appreciated, but they do make me wonder if either the Friday or Sunday night masquerade had inadvertently become at least partly a video competition as well. A contestant with a wonderful costume may not have the right equipment, or background, or expertise to make a good video. And the costumer with no video capability would be completely shut out of a virtual contest.

The judges for the Friday night costume contest were all shown on video at home, some diligently working on judging the contest on their computers. They were:

- Travis Scott Merrill,
- Freddy Clements,
- Cheralyn Lambeth,
- Robert Allsopp,
- Kathleen O'Shea David.

And these judges provided the biggest surprise for either contest for my virtual experience. After the last costume appears on the Friday night competition was shown, the two MCs immediately announced the winners.

My jaw just dropped.

I have never, ever seen instantaneous judging results at any masquerade or costume contest. But, of course, if they had all the information, pictures and

presentations ahead of time, why not? I might suggest that all costume contests consider doing this to reduce judging time, but this would place photo and video demands on the contestants, plus the judging process would be spread out over days, not hours. So, using video costume submissions are probably impractical, except for a pandemic virtual convention.

The Sunday Masquerade MCs were Tony Gowell and Eddie McClintock, two senior DragonCon staffers who have hosted before. They were introduced by a video from the previous year's Best-In-Show Masquerade winners, the Minnesota Mystery Machine, a picture-perfect Scooby-Doo gang recreation. They were reasonably good at killing time when necessary (no instant judging on Sunday), though I've never seen MCs show off their pets. One of the advantages of being an MC on a home video feed.

Even more than the Friday contest, the Sunday Masquerade entries seemed to be competing as much as videos as they were costumes. Along with music, the presentations included settings like garden bridges and balconies, a junkyard, a farmyard (with animals) and other unattainable settings for a regular masquerade. And Sunday judging took about half an hour that was filled with

photo submissions of the hall costume contest for this virtual year, fan videos and more MC banter.

I would go into more description, but that would be redundant because both the Friday and Sunday night masquerades are online, now part of DragonConTV, more than a month after the con.

(Sunday)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEUck6qdCUs&t=7309s>

(Friday)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SQLYnvCihc>

This alone will ensure that the virtual con and video-costume-contest will at least be memorable long after Covid has passed and we can costume in person again.

Contestants:

Friday Night Costume Contest

Youth:

(Age 12 and under, made most of costume themselves)

- Clara Smith: Winifred from Hocus-Pocus
- Faith McCullough: The Child in Mandalorian Armor (Best Youth)



Friday Night Novice

Novice:

(Have never competed in a major competition & does not make costumes professionally)

- Ian Finley: Gender-bend Jaina Proudmoore (Honorable Mention: Best Prop)
- Michelle Horris: Zelda
- David Shoemaker: Godzilla
- Jennifer Carter: Malificent
- Hunter Smith: Demon Hunter, World of Warcraft
- Cameron Pierce: The Heretic
- Theresa Speck: Lillian Voss, World of Warcraft (Teresa Speck (Honorable Mention: Best Tech)
- Nate and Erin Smith: Skelator and Evil-Lyn (Best Novice)
- Denise LaFrenier: Lady Ogel (Honorable Mention: Best Use of Materials)
- Patricia Morgan: Joker's Daughter, DC Bombshells



Friday Night Journeyman

Journeyman

(At least 1 year costuming experience, has won an award at another costuming contest, has entered this contest 2+ years, does not make costumes professionally)

- Christy Holt, Armored Might
- Cori Leyden Sussler, Princess Peach
- Kerstin Sietz, Vignette Stonemoss, Carnival Row (Best Journeyman)
- Mike Shenputo (Nancy Alonso), Aguilar de Nerha, Assassain's Creed
- Sarah Townsend, Princess Leia, Star Wars

- Natasha Bieberfield, Outlander Wedding Dress
- Charlotte Murphy, Mab LaFae
- Elizabeth Rice, Mary Poppins.



Friday Night Professional

Professional

(Either produces costumes professionally or has previously placed as Journeyman of a major costuming contest)

- Brittney Fischer, Hunchback of Notre Dame
- Devon Baker, Kahmira, Elder Scrolls Online (Best Professional)
- Kathia Rodriguez, Cetrion

- Nicole Wilcox, Ysera the Dreamer, World of Warcraft
- Melissa Sowers, Aerith, Final Fantasy 7
- Celia Sullivan, Mandos, Silmarillian (Honorable Mention: Best Makeup)
- Kat Ingersoll, Kirsten Larson, American Girl Doll
- Josh Duart, Glinda, The Wizard of Oz (Best in Show)

Contestants:

Sunday Night Masquerade

Youth under 6:

- Clara, Rainbow Brite (Best Youth Under 6)

Youth over 6:

- Keeley, Roadhog (Best Youth Over 6)
- Jesse, FedEx Stan Lee
- Faith, Mandalorian, the Child (also a contestant in the Friday night competition)

Novice Category

- Stephen Willis, SuperMandalorian (Superman/Mandalorian mashup) (Best Mashup)

- Corey Infinger, The Spider (Elizabethan-era Spiderman) (Best Comic)
- Nathan Carter, Assaultron from Fallout (Best in Show)
- Erin McCullough, The Stig
- Joshua Morita, Assassin Amon
- Brian and Becky Noyse, Toothless and Hiccup (Best Infomercial)
- Ali, Brett, Abby, Clare, Johnny and Paul, Bedazzled Family Super Smash (Best Novice)

Journeyman Category:

- Eric Engler, Commander Adama, Battlestar Galactica
- Elizabeth Rice, the Doctor (singing 'Let It Go')
- Celia S., Kathleen D., Torrey S., Grace J., Julia M., Marie S., Suyntia Z., Stacey W., & Sasha K. as Lantern Elves (Best Journeyman)
- Leigh Targaryen, Rydia from FFIV
- Amber Bray, Jester Lavorre, Critical Role (Best Fantasy)
- Yugiri315, Alucard (Best Videogame)

Master Category:

- Devon Baker, Sun Wukong— Monkey King (Best Master)
- Torrey Stenmark, Prince Zuko

- Kathia Rodriguez, Sindel from Mortal Kombat 11
- Owen & Erin Smith, Dustin and Suzy from Stanger Things
- Sierra Thalia, Clarathallya, Maou from ARchenemy & Hero
- Mera, Dustin, Thalen, Braeden, Clara, Kaia and Cordelia Babineaux, WonkaPool Funny Farm

Newsletter content reminders:

The International Costumer publishes on the first of the following months:

- January
- March
- May
- July
- September
- November

This means that if you wish to add content to the newsletter I'd like it by the 15th of the month prior to publishing. You are free to send me content well in advance, just make sure you put in the subject line of the email which newsletter edition you wish it to appear in.

I prefer to get content in word or email text form with any photos or charts as

attachments. If you have any questions regarding the suitability of a piece for publishing, please feel free to contact me and I'll gladly work with you. We have proofreaders to help you out as well.

Suggestions for content (and this is just a sample of ideas):

- Costuming in quarantine (what have you been working on)
- Chapter updates (let us know what your chapter has been up to lately)
- Tutorials on techniques or tools
- Event reviews, book reviews, video reviews, etc.

I no longer have any content stored for the next or future editions, so if you have been thinking about sending something in, I would love to hear from you.

icg-newsletter@costume.org

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>

Coming soon: the new ICG google groups

[Amazon Smile link:](#)

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

Send comments and suggestions to:

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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.

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Access the online edition at

<http://www.costume.org/currentnewsletter> The user name is "costumer" and the password is "WintersHere2020"