

# *International Costumer*

*Volume XVIII Issue 1*

*Jan – Feb 2019*



*Happy New Year*

## President's Message

By Marianne Legume



*"William, Marianne, and Seth Pease as PJ Mask's Gecko vs. Luna Girl and Romeo, Photography by The Fan's POV"*

Happy New Year!

It is my pleasure as president of the ICG to receive the nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Lifetime Achievement Award is given in recognition of achievement and service in the costuming community. Nominees should have, at minimum,

ten years of activity in the costuming community, received significant recognition for their costuming skills, and made significant contributions in service to the costuming community. This year Costume-Con is earlier- March 22- 25, and so the nomination process is likewise earlier in the year than last year.

**Nominations are due by January 22.**

**[laa-nomination@costume.org](mailto:laa-nomination@costume.org)**

**Subject Line: LAA Nomination**

There are many extremely worthy individuals in our community and I look forward to reading them! Competition is always fierce and previous nominees are eligible for nomination again. Most nominations are several paragraphs to a page long, and detail the nominee's achievements and contributions to the community. Any ICG member may submit nomination. For more information about the Lifetime Achievement Award and the process for nominations and voting, check out the website: <http://costume.org/wp/icg-lifetime-achievement-award/>

### President's Awards

I also have the honor of giving a President's Award at Costume Con. Presidents can give these awards at their discretion and I like to give mine for service to the ICG- whether it's to the ICG as a whole or individual chapters. If you know of someone who's made your chapter better, more successful, or who just deserves to be recognized for what they do to please let me know! You can email me at [icg-president@costume.org](mailto:icg-president@costume.org)

### Archives Update

I would also like to give everyone a short update on the status of the Archives website project. Leslie Johnston has been working hard evaluating and testing the new platform and there is definite progress being made! I was pleased to get a look at the test site this past month and it's beautiful as well as functional. I hope everyone has survived the holidays and is working hard to get ready for Costume-Con and other 2019 events! I'm looking forward to seeing you all there!

Yours in Costuming,  
Marianne Pease

## Co-Editor's Message

By *Melina Chestley*



*The Snow Maiden (Snegurochka) Photo by Open Shutter Photography*

Welcome to the New Year and my first ever newsletter. Thank you, Vicky for helping me out with this and putting up with all my questions.

Costume Con 37 is coming up quickly and with it being a little earlier in the year this time, I'm pretty sure that a number of us are working steadily at our projects. I hope your holidays have been good to you and restful enough that you all have energy to spare to spend on all your costuming plans.

Thank you to our contributors this issue; Aurora Celeste, Sara Meserve, Ariana Bauer and Jennifer Old-d'Entrement.

### About the Cover

by *Melina Chestley*

The cover photo was taken at the Fashion History Museum in Hespeler, ON from a 2016 Exhibit called "Tying the Knot, 200 years of Wedding Attire". The FHM is a non-profit museum with a collection of over 10,000 garments, changing exhibits and a comprehensive library. If you are in the area the museum is well worth a look, especially at \$5 CDN. [www.fashionhistorymuseum.com](http://www.fashionhistorymuseum.com)

### Costume-Con 37

By *Aurora Celeste*

Costume-Con 37 is hard at work! Join us in Danvers, Massachusetts on March 22-25 for a wicked good time! Our website has been updated with rules for the competitions, the folio password has been emailed out to members, and we're preparing a special display of informational posters to go with our hat and doll contests

and costume and documentation displays. Hope you can join us! Five cool costume places to visit while you come to Costume-Con 37:

5. Downtown Salem - shopping in Salem is as eccentric as the rest of the village! Whether you want modern fashion from J.Mode, vintage fashion from Modern Millie, steampunk at Emporium 32, cheese at The Cheese Shop or spices from Salem Spice, or take a break with tea and a pastry at Jolie Tea Company.
4. Fabric shopping! The chairs love Fabric Place Basement in Natick and Sewfisticated in Framingham, Dorchester, and Somerville. Natick and Framingham are close, so maybe check them both out!
3. Plimoth Plantation - It's on the other side of Boston, but it's worth the drive. Plimoth plantation has costumed interpreters teaching about 17th century life in Massachusetts from the perspective of both Colonial English and the Wamponoag people. The Plimoth Jacket, a reconstruction by over 200

embroiderers and craftspeople of an elaborately embroidered seventeenth century jacket, is in the permanent collection (see <http://www.winterthur.org/pdfs/Plimoth-Jacket.pdf> for more info on the making of this gorgeous piece).

2. Museum of Fine Arts Boston - an easy trip on public transit, the MFA is a great place to see historical fashion displayed. In addition to the permanent fashion collection the museum will have special exhibitions about fashion in the works of Sargent and jewelry during the con.

1. Peabody Essex Museum - Right around the corner in Salem, this museum is in the top ten collections of American clothing in the United States. The museum is undergoing a major renovation to open a new wing, so we can't be for sure what permanent exhibits will be open in March, but even if there's no clothing or fashion items it's worth checking out for their special exhibitions of Japanese, Native American, and Chinese art.

## Devore (Burnout) Velvet Tutorial

*By Sara Meserve, Vice President of the Northern Virginia ICG Chapter*

To create Devore velvet, a mixed-fiber material undergoes chemical and heat processing to dissolve the cellulose fibers to create a semi-transparent pattern against more solidly woven fabric. The same technique can also be applied to textiles other than velvet and is commonly seen on elegant scarves and dress overlays from designer and couture sources. Although time consuming and delicate, the process is possible at home with the correct materials and patience.

### Materials:

- Wax Paper and tape/pins (for patterning)
- Fabric Etch
- Iron and ironing board
- Velvet: Silk-backed with a Rayon pile. The silk will not dissolve, the rayon will. Do not use velveteen or solid silk velvet. A natural, plant-based

fiber must be the pile and the woven backing must be synthetic or silk to avoid holes.

- Paint brush as needed

### Steps:

1. Secure the pattern to where you are working. Trace your pattern onto the papery side of the wax paper, then iron to your ironing board wax side down (melting the thin wax to the board as a temporary adhesive).



2. Secure the fabric over the pattern. Place your velvet pile side down (wrong side up) and use pins to keep it in place.



- Use Fiber Etch, which can be ordered off Dharma Trading. The gel will eat through plant-based fibers and leave everything else behind. The chosen fabric here is silk-backed velvet with a rayon pile.



- Apply the gel to the areas you want to dissolve. Be generous with application. If your application is too thin, you will not get a clean burn and will need to redo the application. You can see the areas where the

Fiber Etch is applied are darker and wet. You can either use the gel straight out of the bottle or use paint brushes to create your designs on the fabric.

- Let the gel dry completely. It will be white, and the velvet pile will be stiff. You may use a hair dryer to speed up the drying process.



- The most nerve-wracking part... The actual burning. Use a dry iron on a wool setting with a dry press cloth. Gently iron the back of your piece to activate the gel, checking the fabric frequently. Keep the iron moving over small sections to prevent burns.



- The fabric will turn a light golden-brown color (if working on white fabric). This is fine. Do not let it become dark brown or black, as this likely means you have burned the fabric and will have holes in the silk fabric. The velvet pile will now be very brittle and scrape off easily. If not, iron until the pile is easily removed.



- Scrape off the burned pile. Many items can be used for this, including nail care tools,

small screwdrivers, and palate knives; make sure the tool selected has no sharp or jagged edges. Wear a mask if desired, the dissolved pile will dust up and clean up will take a bit of time.



9. Gently hand wash your fabric to remove any residue Fiber Etch. This is especially important if the fabric will undergo a dye process as the Fiber Etch will interfere with the absorption of pigment.



See more of Sara Meserve's creations:  
<https://www.facebook.com/SaraGoBragh/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/SaraGoBragh/>

Original Merida Artwork: Hannah Alexander Artwork  
[https://www.instagram.com/hannah\\_alexander\\_artwork/](https://www.instagram.com/hannah_alexander_artwork/)

Photo credit: Dan Seiter Photography  
<https://www.facebook.com/DanSeiterPhotography/>



Final Costume photo:  
*Hannah Alexander's Merida featuring hand-dyed Devore Velvet, costume made and modeled by Sara Meserve. Photo: Dan Seiter Photography*

## Get Started Streaming to Share Your Costuming Knowledge and Love of Costuming

*By Ariana Bauer*

The world of costuming is expanding, and a new generation is showing great interest in the long-standing art. Known to the youngsters as cosplay, the fine art of costuming involves many different skills. It is our job as long-standing members of the community to pass along our knowledge and skills if our craft is to survive as the generations pass. I teach sewing and run Cosplay Sewing School. My goal is to bring the art of sewing to those who have never learned to sew and help those who have knowledge take their skills to the next level and beyond.

Reaching more people and younger audiences requires some new styles of communication. I am sure you have watched YouTube videos, but now there are so many more options and platforms to choose from. I have started expanding how and where I

teach using platforms that offer live streaming. Twitch, Mixxer, YouTube Live and Facebook Live are just a few of the most popular platforms. Discord is another great way to offer community alongside streaming.

With so many platforms, how do you choose? What do you need to get started?

### **What is Live Streaming and Why Stream**

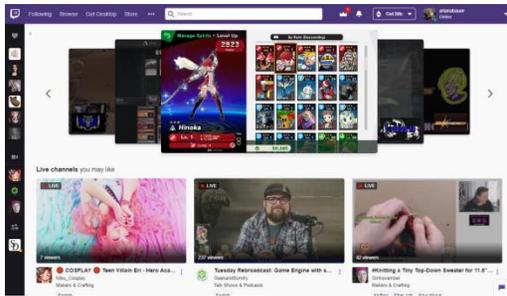
Live streaming is publishing content over the web live. It is like a video call but live to the world to anyone who chooses to watch you on the platform you stream on. Twitch and Mixxer are two of the most popular live streaming communities. While both of these platforms in video games, the content areas are expanding rapidly to include creative and other forms of art. Twitch recently expanded their categories in order to diversify the ways that streamers can identify themselves in the creative and maker areas.

Streaming gives you the unique capability to interact with your audience in real time. No other type of

content delivery allows you to truly interact with others in the way that streaming does. This means people can ask you questions and you can help them to understand what you are doing in your stream in real time. Streaming is fun and offers a new way to extend your reach into the community in way no other platform does.

### **Streaming Services on the Web and Selecting a Platform**

There are many different services available to you and finding the right one depends on who your audience is and what you plan to stream. The main services I will discuss are: Twitch, YouTube Live, and Facebook Live. No matter which platform you choose, setup as much personalization and branding as you can. People make a strong opinion of who you are based on the look and feel of your page. If you are not good with graphics, use service such as Fiverr to hire someone to make some graphics.

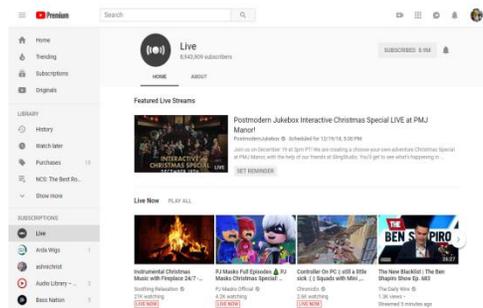


## Twitch

Twitch was originally designed as a platform for gamers but has grown to include all forms of arts and making as well as cooking and talk show type streams. Twitch is a massive platform run by Amazon and is probably the most recognizable live streaming service on the web. It is free to join, watch, and use. Streamers earn money through users purchasing channel subscriptions as well as through users cheering with bits. Bits are Twitch currency that is purchased using real money or earned from watching ads. Amazon takes a cut of the money from both subscriptions and bits and earns money this way, enabling them to keep the platform free.

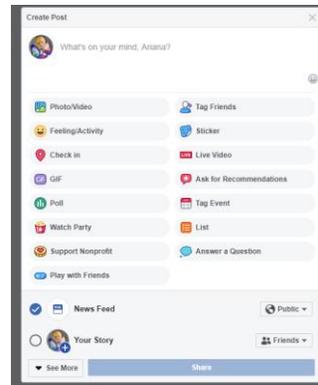
While Twitch is the most popular, it also means there is a lot of competition. It takes time to earn the ability to make money as a streamer

and you will need to figure out when your audience prefers to watch you.



## YouTube Live

YouTube Live is live streaming over the YouTube Platform. YouTube Live offers the ease of use of YouTube and gives you a way to reach a large audience fast. This platform is great if you already have a YouTube following and channel. YouTube Live streams are free to viewers and streamers.



## Facebook Live

Facebook Live may be something you are already familiar with. This is live streaming over Facebook. This also works best when you already have a following on your Facebook page.

*Editor's note: Part two of this article will be in Issue 2.*

## Dressed to the Nines

*By Jennifer Old-d'Entremont, President  
Kansas City Costumers' Guild  
Photographs taken by Bethany Padron and  
Jennifer Old-d'Entremont.*

Presented by the Kansas City Museum at the Historic Garment District in Kansas City, MO, Dressed to the Nines is the second in a series of exhibitions that the Museum has created focusing on the fashion worn by generations of Kansas citizens.

The Kansas City Costumers' Guild took a field trip to visit the exhibit, and the Garment District Museum, located across the intersection from each other at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Broadway in downtown Kansas City.



On display were example garments which defined the style of an era, as well as small comparison sets looking at the use of elements such as beading or sequins across decades. The attendant was quite tolerant of our antics as spent time nearly standing on our heads and leaning behind the displays to get a better look at the gowns. While we could not touch or use flash photography, we could get within inches of the garments and most of them could be viewed from almost 360 degrees.

We got an impromptu lesson on couture engineering sitting at the skirts of a dress by Chicago designer Charles James. The oldest gown on display was created in Kansas City in 1902 and the most popular within our group was a stage costume from the 1920s. Several groups of dresses represented important Kansas City events, such as the American Royal Pageant, the Jewel Ball, and the debutante balls held by African American sororities.

Tickets to the exhibit are \$5 at the door and the dresses will be on display through March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Or you can explore the exhibit remotely by stopping by the KCCG Facebook group to see all of the pictures that we took.



## 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>

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### The Kennedy Memorial Archives and Gallery

The ICG's Pat & Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives is the world's largest archive of photographs, video and paper ephemera of costuming. Exhibits include an online photo gallery (<http://www.costume.org/gallery2/>) and the ICGArchives YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ICGArchives>).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:icg-newsletter@costume.org).

### Newsletter Delivery

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