



# The ICG Newsletter

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The International Costumers' Guild, Inc. (ICG), is an affiliation of amateur, hobbyist, and professional costumers dedicated to the promotion and education of costuming as an art form in all its aspects.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Holiday Traditions with a Costuming Twist from Nora Mai, ICG President

- \* Getting together with friends to reminisce about the past year. Discussing the best events you attended, best presentations you saw, the funniest costumes. Laughing, talking and drinking.
- \* Picking out your new holiday outfit. Finally sequins are totally acceptable, even expected, during the day at the office. Also provides entertaining moments when "normal" people push their personal envelope in fashion (and don't come even close to yours).
- \* Decorating the Christmas tree or Chanukah bush or Festivus pole or alternate inanimate object chosen to represent the holidays. Use leftover bits and supplies from this year's costuming projects to make homemade decorations.
- \* Taking the annual family photo. Trying to keep the kids clean, animals in frame and all the adult's attention for one minute. Since that's not possible, settle for the picture with the least amount of blurring. Preferably where your youngest child isn't biting the dog.
- \* Watching all the old holiday specials and movies. Especially "White Christmas" 'cause the stage outfits are totally keen. Or "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"; not exactly costume related. But elves as dentists is amusing. Try picturing Legolas in a lab coat.
- \* Going out to look at holiday light displays. Try and be realistic - you cannot recreate them in a single costume, maybe a group.
- \* Holiday baking. The gingerbread men will be way overdressed, just deal with it.
- \* Shopping for gifts. This is a difficult time of the year for costumers to stay focused while shopping. The bright shiny stuff just speaks to us. It is recommended that at least 25% of all purchases be for other people.
- \* Family gatherings. Another chance to explain to those cousins you only see at weddings or funerals exactly what you do with all your time and money. If you spent it on guns or cars, they'd understand.
- \* Getting together with friends to celebrate another year well-wasted and plan next year's costumes. And drink.

Happy holidays everyone! Hope whatever you celebrate, you do it with panache and have a wonderful new year!!!

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Happy holidays, everyone!! Hope your winter season is calm, peaceful, and as stress-free as possible. For our family over the last few years, the holidays have been a time of overspending, over-eating, and staying up waaaaay too late Christmas eve putting together bicycles, doll houses and the like for our sugarplum-dreaming darlings. This year, my pre-New Years resolution is going to be more eating, less spending, and the baking of fresh cookies on Christmas eve (no more nasty, stale ones like what we had waiting for Santa last year). And to finish that darned Dickens Faire costume before the faire is over!

So have a wonderful holiday season! And please accept the Newsletter Editorial Board's wishes for a new year full of happiness and prosperity!!! See you next year!

*Denise Hartman*

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### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES 2007

- JANUARY 1!
- MARCH 1!
- MAY 1!
- JULY 1!
- SEPTEMBER 1!
- NOVEMBER 1!

REMEMBER: SUBMIT EARLY, SUBMIT OFTEN!!!

**ICG TREASURER'S REPORT  
as of October 31, 2006**

by Bruce MacDermott, ICG Treasurer

ASSETS

Checking .....	\$6,515.26
Un-deposited funds .....	\$560.50
Other Assets .....	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$7,075.76</b>

LIABILITIES

Other liabilities .....	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES .....</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

EQUITY ..... \$7,075.76

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY .....** **\$7,075.76**

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**SURPLUS/<LOSS> STATEMENT  
YEAR TO DATE (10/31/06)**

INCOME

Income - Exempt:	
Archives .....	\$100.00
Memberships .....	\$1,740.00
<b>Total Inc - Exempt .....</b>	<b>\$1,840.00</b>
Income - Non-Exempt:	
Ad Sales .....	\$352.50
Sales .....	\$38.59
<b>Total Income - Non-Exempt .....</b>	<b>\$391.09</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$2,231.09</b>

EXPENSES

Expenses - Exempt	
Awards .....	\$114.60
Postage and Delivery .....	\$629.50
Printing and Reproduction .....	\$1,730.82
Supplies .....	\$100.53
Web Site .....	\$22.47
<b>Total Expenses - Exempt .....</b>	<b>\$2,597.92</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$2,597.92</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL .....</b>	<b>&lt;366.83&gt;</b>

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**CHAPTER NEWS FROM AROUND THE  
WORLD!**

Over the last month or two, we've asked the various chapter representatives and Presidents to brag about their chapter's members' accomplishments in the past year. Here's some of what we've heard:

DFWCG Year in Antics

2006 was the first year of formation for the Dallas Fort Worth Costumers Guild. We began the year by gathering all of our costume-y internet friends together to discuss starting our own ICG chapter. Of course, several of us were really excited to get that ball rolling.



Fast-forward to spring and we had our first impromptu meeting of minds to introduce ourselves and talk about really putting the pedal to the metal for the formation of our chapter. As we were getting in gear to join the ICG, we had a few more meet and greets at the local Renaissance faire, and one fun "Stitch & Bitch" to further get to know one another. It was quickly noted that we had several very talented people amongst our group and the excitement over our own chapter grew.

Once summer came along, we began the process of being an official chapter of the ICG. We began arranging meetings and discussing our future plans as well as trying to figure out just what the officers were supposed to do. In July of 2006 we had our very first Business meeting in conjunction with our Paper Tape Dress Dummy workshop. Both were a success.

DFWCG's first event was a small one. In August, our Madam President, Traci Hunniwell, threw a Spectacular!Spectacular! event for her birthday and we all dressed in the theme of Moulin Rouge.

From there, we finished out the year with monthly meetings and a couple of us attended a Victorian Antique show in costume.

In December we have plans to attend a candlelight event at the Dallas Heritage Village. We will be in costume for this event and we are planning on taking lots of pictures to share with everyone.

Although sad, our biggest news was the resignation of our Madame President, Traci Hunniwell. Due to having too many things on her plate in life right now, she stepped down from her position as president. Our Secretary, Jennifer Thompson, will be taking the position as President for the rest of the term. We are currently accepting nominations for a new Secretary for the Guild.

For next year, we are aiming to be more organized as well as have clearer ideas for our monthly meetings/workshops. We are currently tall on ideas, but short on instructors, so we will be seeking out people who can teach us new things. We also have ambitions for participation in other organization events throughout the year. Many of our group are involved in the SCA, Single Action Shooting Societies, and Sci-Fi Fantasy conventions across the nation. We are also putting our heads together for improvement upon our website this year: <http://www.dfwcg.org>

It looks like the newest guild has lots to do for the next year and we are all very excited about it. This year was a big one for us in that we started this ball rolling. Next year will be a big one as well in that we are hoping to bring more content and excitement to the group and ICG as a whole.

**Continued on Page 4**

**COSTUME IN PERFORMANCE:  
A Calendar Review**

by Dana MacDermott



Reviewing a calendar is a multi-faceted undertaking. The new generation of calendars involves substantially more than a single picture and squares where you can write your appointments. The high quality productions are mini-reference books and are full of information on the calendar theme and the holidays of the world. This calendar is part of the Costume Society of America series, published by the Texas Tech University Press.

Costume in Performance is somewhat misnamed. Although the pictures are performance costumes, the focus of the calendar is the collections from which the costumes come. Twelve different collections are included, and the pictures and write-ups vary with the nature and quality of the collection. Some months have several



© 2006 Wadsworth Atheneum, Museum of Art

examples and interesting information, and some contain little information and essentially repeat the same pictures several times. The impression in several cases is that the collections are extremely limited, since they have so much redundancy in the visual representations. This is true of nearly half of the featured collections/ months.

The choice of featuring a single costume (as interesting as it is) is surprising as a representation of the Smithsonian's American History Museum's collection.

It appears that the Costume Society is publicizing some of the lesser known collections. In some cases, such as the National Museum of Roller Skating, this can be a pleasant surprise. In others, it is frankly boring.

The pre-calendar page contains a very well written introduction to costuming for performance and serves to tie together the diverse contents which include costumes from dance, roller skating, Mardi Gras, film, USO, a student pageant, Chinese Opera, a county fair and cabaret.

In general, the primary photos are interesting, and the write ups on the costume and collections are worth reading. There are however, several peculiarities in the presentation. I have no problem when additional pictures show details, but the detail shots should be higher magnifications of small areas, not merely portions of the primary picture repeated in the same view and approximate size in which they were already shown.

There seems no reason for these pictures at all, except for padding, and implies a lack of material, and a greater concern with filling the page visually than with content.

Another oddity is evident in January, which pictures some costumes from the Ballets Russes from the collection of the Wadsworth Atheneum. The secondary pictures on that month's calendar show both a costume rendering and the finished costume, a combination that is rarely seen and is of significant interest to theatrical costumers. Unfortunately, for reasons I can only assume are those of the graphic designer, the two are mirror images (the design is not symmetric). This should either be explained if the piece was actually constructed that way, or not done.

The basic and original function of a printed calendar is to provide a listing of the days and holidays. Over the years, I have developed my own quick evaluation method. If the calendar includes the Jewish Holiday of Purim, I figure it has gone beyond the minimum. This calendar did not achieve that level of completeness.

In short, Costume in Performance offers some good pictures and some information on esoteric collections. It offers some unexpected visuals and in general, the photos are lush (there is one velvet costume where the details are difficult to ascertain). But it could have been better.

*Dana MacDermott has a Master of Fine Arts in Costume Design and is a freelance theatrical designer. She has been active in the International Costumers' Guild as the co-founder of two chapters, a BOD officer and member, and a participant in various committees. She has recently stepped down as president of the Silicon Web chapter, and is the editor of the SiW's Newsletter, the Virtual Costumer.*



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