

International Costumer

Volume XII, Issue 4

International Costumers' Guild

July-August 2013



Dawn McKechnie of Toronto, Ontario, Canada

An ICG First!
TWO
LAA
Winners
in the same year!



Tina Connell of Albany, New York, U.S.A.

President's Letter

by Phil Gust

Welcome to the July-August issue of the *International Costumer*. I hope that those of you who were able to attend Costume-Con 31 in Denver have had a chance to relax after what, for many, is months of preparation followed by a wild few days while attending. I want to offer my congratulations to Denver Costume & Cosplay Society President and CC-31 Chair, Michael Bruno, for putting on such a great convention. I was especially pleased to see how he brought together so many members of the Colorado costuming community to help put it on. What a talented group of costumers!



Nora Mai, Bruce Mai, and Pierre Pettinger receiving President's Awards from Phil Gust.

Congratulations also go to those who received ICG awards on Saturday evening after the sci-fi/fantasy masquerade. I'm keenly aware of how much time and effort

that so many people put into making the ICG such a great organization. As we say in judging, excellence deserves reward. That's why I was pleased to present ICG President's Awards to Bruce Mai, Nora Mai, and Pierre Pettinger, *For Extraordinary Service to the ICG in Preserving and Sharing Its History*. Bruce, Nora, and Pierre are responsible for the ICG Archives and Gallery, and have produced a remarkable set of videos from archive material showing what the art and science of costuming is all about. These videos contribute to our educational mission and help us reach out to the wider costuming community.

I was honored to welcome *ten* past Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) recipients to help me present this year's award to two recipients, a first for the ICG.



The ten past LAA recipients present at Costume-Con 31.

The first was to Tina Connell for her work not only in costuming but also behind the scenes at local, regional, and World Science Fiction Conventions (*aka Worldcons*). Past LAA recipient Byron Connell presented the award to Tina.

Past LAA recipient Byron Connell got to present his wife, Tina Connell, her LAA at Costume-Con 31.



The second was to Dawn McKechnie for her brilliant construction of wild and wonderful creatures, plus her work in running masquerades and disseminating ICG practices into the Anime and Cosplay communities.



Dawn McKechnie receives her LAA at Costume-Con 31. Photo by Eric Brine and used with permission.

You can read their full citations on the ICG website <http://www.costume.org/>

No sooner is CC-31 over then it's time to start thinking about CC-32 in Toronto in April 2014. Tickets are on sale now and the block of hotel rooms just opened. I hope to see many of you there, and at other conventions and costume events throughout the year.

••••• Editor Note: •••••

• We have more information about Costume-Con 32, 33, and LoneStarCon 3 - this year's Worldcon in San Antonio, Texas - in this issue. •

Riding Up: LoneStarCon3 Masquerade

By Jill Eastlake, Masquerade Director

Yee haw! The LoneStarCon3 Masquerade is going to be deep in the heart of Texas at the Marriott San Antonio in the Grand Ballroom on Saturday, August 31st.

Pack your bags for a rip roarin' grand time at the Masquerade!

We want you to compete! A limit of 50 entries is in place this year to insure that we can do right by everyone in the competition, and get out in time to do a little partying after the show. So, please pre-register if you are even just thinking about competing to hold your spot.

Toastmaster Paul Cornell

(<http://www.paulcornell.com/>)

will also be our Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Although he hasn't yet been an MC for a masquerade, Paul is very enthusiastic about performing this function and anxious to be involved in all aspects of getting this job done.

We're also going to feature Special Guest and renowned Filker Leslie Fish

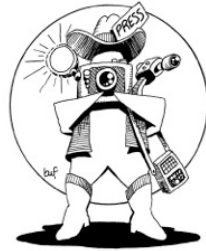
(<http://www.lesriefish.com/>)

during the half time. She will be singing for us about fandom, conventions, and whatever strikes her fancy along the way.

The other half of our half time entertainment is magician Drew Heyen.



A magician since 1995, Drew has performed at the Texas Renaissance Festival, the Excalibur Fantasy Festival in Smithville, Texas, as well as working private and corporate events.



We'll have the standard Fan Photo area for those that sign up at the Masquerade Registration Desk. For those that do not sign up, we will have a separate ad hoc photo space available starting

at half time. After the contestants have gone through the Fan Photo area, any interested contestants may come to the ad hoc photography space. Ad hoc photographers are expected to respect the formal Fan Photo area and not interfere with the photographers in that area.

But wait, there's more!

There's the normal competition, and the themed competition. See *What's In A Theme?* article that follows.

If you aren't competing, we'd like you to volunteer. As usual, we'll need Den Moms (and Dads), Ninjas, Ushers, and other help along the way.

Look here for more information:

<http://www.lonestarcon3.org/masquerade>

Send an email to masquerade@lonestarcon3.org

to communicate with us, to enter, for more details on the site, and anything else (please volunteer!).

We hope that everyone who can come, does come and has a grand time!

What's in a Theme?

By Jill Eastlake, Masquerade Director

This will be my second time directing the Worldcon Masquerade - and I couldn't be happier about it! Let's talk about themes, as I believe they aren't done enough or presented enough.

This year's theme is *Deep in the Heart of Texas*. Yes, it's corny, and it's true. Many people simply will roll their eyes and say, *Why bother?* Here's why.

Most of us realize that being SF and Fantasy fans means that we're not normal. And, we are proud of it! Then, sometimes, we get hung up making things that really other people have invented already. We use

patterns, copy published works, and occasionally make them our own. I've seen a huge number of wonderful re-creations and adaptations. Lets go a bit further and use those strange imaginations we are so proud about having.

Think about *Deep in the Heart of Texas*. Deep. Hearts. Texas. Here are a couple of my whacky thoughts that could lead to some strange and wonderful ideas.

I started typing "deep," but instead typed "Depp." Hmm. What would Johnny Depp do that's incredibly creative and might have something to do with Texas? What would Captain Jack Sparrow do were he somehow in Texas? How would



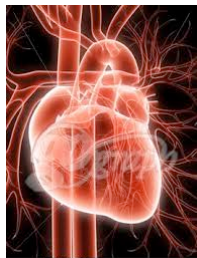
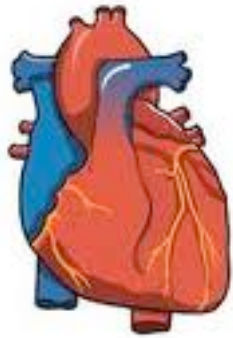
he land in the middle of the state, nowhere near the Gulf? How would he be in the Gulf, so shallow at the edges?



Hearts both in the abstract, see Valentine Hearts, or in the body, see pumping hearts.

This could get

sweet. It could get gory. Candy hearts. Beating hearts. Sacrificing hearts to the candy ghods?

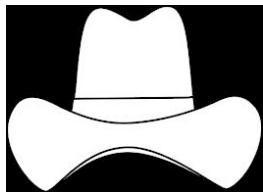


Texas has a long

tradition, and some rip-roaring good symbols. The lone star. The shape of the state. Western wear. 10-gallon hats. How about some aliens who saw

Dallas, the TV series, and came here believing we're all like that? Funky?

I'm into doing group entries. How about 71 aliens who are all somehow embedded in Texas? Well, that was odd.



So, if the Editor is daring enough to publish *this* article, are some of you crazy enough to enter the themed competition? I'd love see where you go with this.

See y'all in the middle of Texas, *real soon now*.

Next Up: Costume-Con 32

by Dawn McKechnie

Congratulations to Michael Bruno for hosting a successful Costume-Con 31! As we say goodbye to Denver, we now turn our thoughts towards the upcoming Costume-Con 32 in Toronto, Canada.

If you're not coming to Costume-Con 32, why not? Surely you are not going to want to miss attending in one of the most exciting cities in the world? This will be an amazing conference of costume, performance and artistry, featuring some of the world's biggest names in costuming. Here are my five reasons why Costume-Con 32 is going to be amazing:

1. *The People* - The people at costume conventions genuinely make me happy. They are there for the love of the craft, and to be honest, the craft is never showcased as well as it is at Costume-Con, so expect some very happy folk at this convention. Speaking of happy people, we are looking for more leaders to organize and promote on site meet ups for interest groups.

2. *The Artists* - You put this many talented costumers, photographers and performers all under one roof, and you are in for a big one. With all these masters of the craft, this will be one of the most unique and exciting masquerade lineups ever. A wide variety of classes, demos, lectures and workshops are planned. We have guest lecturers from the film industry, local museum curators, as well as local craftspersons willing to share their techniques with you. For the more technically inclined attendees -

photography panels plus a class on how to digitally master your sound for stage.

3. *The Shopping* - Onsite, we have many vendors, such as Farthingales Corset Making Supplies, Northern Armoury Guild, Wolf Brother's Makeup, and so much more for you too spend your well-earned cash on! Then, we have the tours!



Tours confirmed include the Gerrard Indian Bazaar Marketplace for some sari and fabric shopping, the Queen

Street Textile district (which also features some fantastic bead and trim shops as well as being steps away from Toronto's famous Chinatown!), a tour to the Toronto Textile Museum, and the world-famous Bata Shoe Museum.

If you're interested in vending at CC32, the rates and application form:

<http://costumecon32.com/register/vendors/>

4. *The Masquerades and Other Competitions* -

Masquerades

Not only does Costume-Con feature a traditional "anything goes" masquerade perhaps mistakenly called by the overly specific title, the Sci-Fi & Fantasy Masquerade, but it also features a Historical Masquerade, where historical costumes, both recreation and interpretational are welcome. A special

prize exists for well-researched and presented documentation.



On another note, we have a large and helpful stage crew. The stage ninjas are well-trained and organized with over 10 years experience as a working

team. Always had a big crazy production you wanted to try, but were worried there would be nobody to wrestle it on and off stage? Now's your chance! The ninjas are standing by to help!

Future Fashion Folio

If you're fashion focused, perhaps you'd like to try your hand at entering, and perhaps winning, the Future Fashion Folio design contest, or perhaps you'd like to produce a design for the Fashion Folio Runway show? Several special prizes are to be awarded this year. We are happy to announce that three of our sponsored theme categories are:

Classic Universal Monsters – Sponsored by Castle Blood, *Plus Size - Fashion Forward*, and *Monster Fashion*.

Single Pattern Competition

Are you a creative and clever magician of taking the mundane and giving it that extra special something? Give the *Single Pattern Contest* a whirl. Use one (or both!) of this year's patterns to make a unique

creation and show it off in a head to head battle of creative genius against other masters of the textile arts.

The two patterns selected by our Single Pattern Director Lucie "CatsLuna" Fontaine are: a mermaid - Simplicity 4043, and a werewolf/Sherlock/Vampire – Simplicity 2513 by former Costume-Con guest Andrea Shewe, which is available to buy directly from the Costume-Con 32 website for only \$7.50 CAN

<http://costumecon32.com/programming-2014/competitions-events/single-pattern-competition/>

Doll Show and Competition

Like to work on a small scale? Perhaps the *Doll Competition* appeals to your passion for detail on a daintier level.

Hall Costume Awards

Are you shy? Crossing the stage not your thing? Relax, we always need an audience, and besides, you may still snag a nifty award if our judges see you in the halls and like what you're wearing. Anything from Cosplay to Historical, Media Recreations to Original Designs, Fursuit and Steampunk, Homemade or purchased by commission, *Monster, Myth, or Legend* (our theme) are all eligible for our *Hall Costume Contest* which runs all four days. These, and other fun and fantastic costuming related competitions, await you at Costume-Con 32.



5. *The Other Unique Events and Atmosphere* - Plan to attend our *Monster Club* themed *Friday Night Social* organized by the amazing minds behind the highly popular and successful *Café Delish*. Consider joining the *Monday Night Pool Party*. Don't forget to stop by the Hospitality Suite to relax with friends and get a snack.

We also have plenty of exhibits for you to visit or participate in. Kimono, Japanese dolls on loan from Anime North, and a corset exhibit are just a few you might see!

Don't miss out what is sure to be a fun and fresh weekend in the Great White North. Don't forget to book your room. See you soon!

Hotel Information

Please use this link to book:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/CCD24A>

Important Information

If you are arriving Thursday, 2014-04-24 or before, and staying over Monday 2014-04-28 or later select "CLUB FLOOR." Per our contract, there is no additional charge for the club floors!

If you have already booked your room, please move it to our room block CCD24A. The room block supports the conference, and confers advantages to you, such as reduced rates.

Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre

801 Dixon Road

Toronto, ON, M9W 1J5

Canada

Telephone:

1.866.932.7058 (External Booking Service)

1.416.675.6100 (Direct to Hotel)

Fax: 1.416.675.4022

Then Comes: Costume-Con 33

by Sandy Swank, Costume-Con 33 Con Chair

How did we come to choose Charleston is what most people ask. Well, the back story begins in 2008 when Rob Himmelsbach had to go there for a business conference, and I decided to tag along. I had spent some time in Charleston during the early 1980s while I was active military stationed for a brief time at the Air Force Base. I always wanted to return someday, and I finally had my chance.



On our first full day there, we had the opportunity to get out and do some sightseeing. Rob had been there before and knew some of the sights, but for me it was a chance to refamiliarize myself with this once much-loved place. Not much at all had changed over the little more than 20 years away, and the memories came flooding back. It was like reuniting with an old friend. One evening, just before our stay was over, we were out to dinner downtown when the thought occurred to both of us that Charleston, South Carolina would be the perfect location to host a Costume-Con. Here is this beautiful destination city with a little something to

pique everyone's interest, from historic sites to breath taking sunrises and sunsets. A food lover's dream with restaurants galore from gourmet to the neighborhood luncheonette, Charleston has something to suit everyone's taste.

Rob, having already been a Con-Chair at Costume-Con 17, was a little skeptical of the idea at first, but I was ready to dive in. However, I did realize a few things had to happen first. Number one being I was heading into this venture with no means of support except for that of a former Costume-Con Con-Chair. I needed help, but where would it come from? No established costumer or even fandom groups were in the area, and then the thought came to me that this could be to my advantage. The possibility existed that I could pull together my own core group of fans and costumers from other parts of the country and put together a diverse conglom and gather ideas from those more experienced than myself who had already done this before. I needed a support group, so I lobbied my fellow costumers of the *Greater Delaware Valley Costumers Guild*. I got mixed reaction from them, but not enough to discourage my efforts. After some initial convincing, I was told that if I could pull the plan together and lay it on the table before them, I would receive their backing. I always believed that if I built it, they would come. Now it had come time to build the foundation.

At this point I was asked by Dora Buck, the chosen Con-Chair for Costume-Con 29, to be her vice chair. This was going to be my introduction to the headaches of running a Costume-Con. I had lessons to

learn if I had any desire at all of hosting my own.

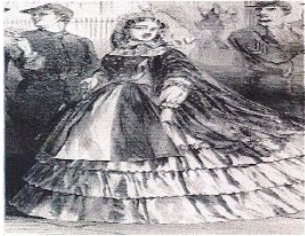
At Costume-Con 28 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin I began to make some quiet inquires. I made subtle suggestions to folks asking how they felt about the possibility of having a future Costume-Con in South Carolina. It was in the con suite after one of the masquerades that the topic of future Costume-Cons arose, and I was all ears. Pittsburgh was already awarded the bid for Costume-Con 30, (later to be changed to Tempe, AZ), and then Denver was bidding on Costume-Con 31. Toronto was considering throwing their hat in the running for Costume-Con 32. That is when I asked the fatal question *Has anyone considered a bid for Costume-Con 33 yet?* It was out of my mouth before I could even think about it. Before I could take it back, someone said *Costume-Con 33? Well, you were asking about holding it in Charleston, South Carolina!* It was at that point I was told that I got that deer in the headlights look on my face, but I began to think sure why not, I can make this happen.

I had to come up with a bid committee, and surround myself with the experience of others. Rob was a no brainer, as a former con chair and one who had arranged many hotel contracts for events related to his work, not to mention being my significant other, he became the first official co-conspirator in this adventure. Then, I approached Dora Buck, as the next logical person on my list of experienced con runners since she'd be fresh from being a con chair herself. Last, I went back to my home group the *Greater Delaware*

Valley Costumers Guild and asked fellow member Joni Dashoff to act as treasurer. Upon the acceptance of this small group, Costume-Con 33 found its humble beginnings.

We needed to come up with a creative theme that fit our location. My first thought was something with an *Old South* theme.

One of my favorite novels being *Gone With The Wind* as well as it being a favorite movie, and one of the sequels to the book titled *Rhett Butlers People*, (yet another favorite book of mine) told the back story of Rhett Butler and his Charleston beginnings.



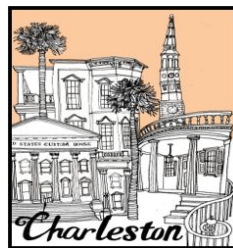
Pirates was Rob's thought for the overall theme. After all, the coast of both North and South Carolina have a history of pirates

and pirate raids. Then, it was suggested that we do something with a 1920s theme. Chicago the movie had been recently released on DVD; there was talk of a remake of the movie *The Great Gatsby* in the works, and the hottest series on HBO *Boardwalk Empire* was just heating up. Suddenly it all made sense; our theme began to take shape, so we came up with *Buccaneers, Belles & Bootleggers*. It fit as the City of Charleston has a history of all three themes.

At Costume-Con 29, Karen Schnaubelt was approached and given the bid fee and

told "Charleston, South Carolina would like to host Costume-Con 33." With the bid accepted, the work of building the concomm began. I had a vision, and that vision was to get the right people into the right positions on the concomm. Things slowly fell into place over the course of that following year. By the time of the official announcement of the bid at Costume-Con 30, I had established about 70% of the concomm that I had hoped for, and Rob had approached our very dear friend Janet Wilson Anderson, who accepted our offer to be an honored guest.

Costume-Con 33 promises to be something quite special. Sure, it is going to host all the usual stuff that you expect. However, we also have a few new things for your enjoyment, like the Sunday morning brunch cotillion, and the new *Miss Ellen's Portieres* competition created just for CC 33 by Co-Chairman Rob Himmelsbach, daily hall costume competitions, and so much more. Check our website at CC33Charleston.org for regular updates, and we hope to see you in Charleston for *Buccaneers Belles & Bootleggers*.



Ordering Costume-Con 31 DVDs

To order DVDs for CC31 and many other conventions, Eric Cannon's website is:

<http://www.rarerecordedvideos.com>

Photos From Costume-Con 31

Photos by Don Searle
Justin McQueede and team,
"Darth Maul Cyborg." Best
Novice.



Leah
Watts,
Member
Choice
Award,
Bridezilla



Leah Watts,
"Simple Gifts."
Best Research for Documentation,
Most Authentic in Presentation.

Award.

Kevin Roche,
"Red Planet
Mars" Single
Pattern
chaps.
Judge's
Choice



ICG President Philip
Gust, "The Rehearsal,
March 18, 1782."
Costume by Kathe Gust,
wig by Philip Gust. Best
Analysis of Source for
Documentation; Best in
Show Workmanship;
Best Presentation in the
Masters Division.



Chapter Newsletters

Does your chapter publish a newsletter? Is there a costuming e-zine that would be of interest to ICG members? Send your recommendations to:

icg-newsletter@costume.org

If your ICG chapter wants to start a newsletter, the Publications Committee can help you get started. To learn more: icg-pubscommittee@costume.org

ICG By E-Mail or Internet

All members are welcome to join the ICG general discussion *Yahoo! Group* and participate in lively conversations on costuming. Please send comments and suggestions to the board and the standing committees using these e-mail addresses:

WebSite: <http://www.costume.org/>
Yahoo! Groups

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icg-d@yahogroups.com

Board of Directors
icg-board@costume.org

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ICG Membership Benefits

Your ICG membership benefits include participation in a chapter(s) of your choice, voting rights, and a subscription to the *International Costumer*.

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Members who have an e-mail address on record are notified when a new edition is available. Those who receive the print edition are welcome to view the online edition by going to:
<http://www.costume.org/currentnewsletter>
When prompted, enter the user name "costumer" and the password "goingCC31."

Back issues of the ICG newsletter are available online for the entire costuming community to enjoy. Contact the newsletter editor e-mail address to report problems or comment on the newsletter. 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 will not be re-mailed.

Online Submissions

Submit copy as rtf, doc, docx or txt files to the newsletter editor e-mail address. All current graphics formats are accepted.

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