

# *International Costumer*

Volume XV, Issue 2

March-April 2016



*Photo by Matt Cherwin.*

## The Promise of Spring

## President's Message

By Philip Gust

Spring is a busy time for the ICG, and this year is no exception. The ICG Board is considering several items of business. As I write this, voting on authorizing an ad-hoc committee to consider revisions to the ICG Guidelines to Ensure Fair Competition has just passed. The purpose of the Guidelines is to promote fairness and equity in masquerade competition and judging. The current Guidelines are available on the ICG website:

<http://www.costume.org/documents/fairness.html>.

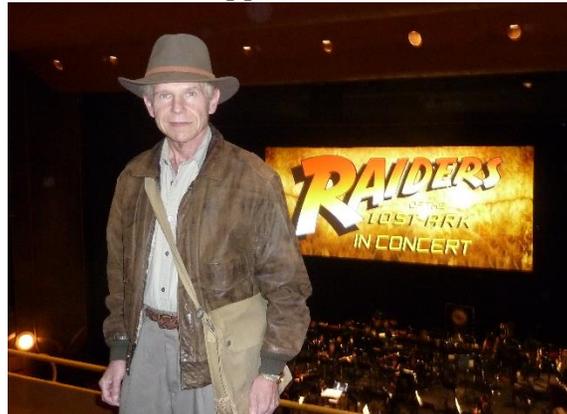
To paraphrase Captain Barbossa from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, the Guidelines are more what you'd call "best practices" than actual rules. Masquerade Directors can adapt them when writing the rules for the masquerades they run, from the largest international competition to the smallest regional gathering. They are also welcome to announce that their masquerade rules are based on the ICG Guidelines. The best known feature is the skill divisions to ensure that newer costumers don't have to compete against more experienced ones, but they also offer helpful guidance in many other aspects of running a masquerade.

As masquerades evolve, it's a good idea to review the Guidelines periodically and update them to reflect today's best practices.

The Guidelines were originally adopted in 2006 and revised in 2010, so it's about time to do it again. You'll hear more about it as the committee begins its work and seeks input from the costuming community.

The board is also considering a request from the Archives for authorization to digitize and preserve three rare masquerade videos from 1976 and the early 1990s that are part of a private collection which only recently became available.

The ICG's Pat and Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives is the largest existing collection of photographs, video and paper ephemera that record the costuming art, and this is an opportunity to digitize and add these three rare masquerade videos to the collection. This opportunity came up after the 2016 ICG budget was finalized, so the board must approve this additional



*"Indiana Jones" shows up for a showing of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" in concert, with the Symphony Silicon Valley orchestra in San Jose, California in January 2016. Photo: Kathe Gust.*

expenditure from the Archives' existing funds.

Finally, the Board is considering a request to recognize a new Special Interest Group (SIG). SIGs enable ICG members with an interest in a particular area of costuming to form a group to share information and provide expertise to the ICG and the costuming community. A SIG is similar to a chapter, but is centered on an interest rather than a geographic location. SIG membership is open to any ICG member, and members can belong to any number of SIGs. The ICG Board authorized SIGs in 2014.

The proposed SIG is the "Masquerade Runners SIG", also known as "Hey kids, let's put on a show!" (HeLP). Fourteen ICG members have signed on as charter members. Byron Connell of the New Jersey/New York Costumers Guild (AKA "The Sick Pups") submitted the application on behalf of the SIG. You'll hear more about this proposed SIG in the coming months.

Costume-Con 34 in Madison, Wisconsin is just around the corner, and the annual ICG Board and Members meetings will take place during this event. Information about the exact date and time will be announced in the next several weeks. This year, we are looking into the possibility of broadcasting the meetings using Google Hangouts on Air, and recording it for later viewing on

the ICG's YouTube channel. Stay tuned for further information about this.

If you are unable to attend, please consider completing a proxy and sending it with someone who will be attending. A proxy allows another ICG member to vote on your behalf for the election of 2016-2017 ICG officers, and any other business that may come before the meeting.

Your vote really does count, so please complete your proxy statement and give it to another member who will be attending. You can find a copy of the proxy form on the ICG website:

<http://www.costume.org/documents/proxy.html>. If you need help locating someone who is attending, please post a note to the ICG-D Yahoo group, or contact your chapter ICG Board of Directors representative.

This is a last call for nominations for the ICG's highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award, which is presented each year at Costume-Con. The award recognizes "a body of achievement in the costuming art and service to the costuming community." Thirty two recipients, including five couples, have been honored since 1990. Nominations for 2016 are now being accepted.

The ICG President oversees the nomination and election process. Nominations can be

made by any ICG member, chapter, or SIG in good standing, and are due no later than March 5, 2016. ICG chapter presidents and the five elected ICG officers vote on the nominations. Send nominations to [laa-nomination@costume.org](mailto:laa-nomination@costume.org) and use "LAA Nomination" as the subject line. Your nomination will be promptly acknowledged.

Preparing a good nomination really does take time. If you are in the process of preparing a nomination, please submit it as soon as possible. Nominations received after the March 5th deadline will not be considered for this year's award.

Visit <http://www.costume.org/lifetime> for a full list of qualifications, to read past recipients' citations, and for tips on preparing an effective nomination. Citations are based on information provided in recipients' nominations. Thanks in advance to those who submit a nomination for your efforts on behalf of a fellow costumer who deserves this special recognition.

Spring is also a busy season for costumers who are rushing to complete projects for the many conventions and events that take place in the first half of the year. I wish all of you success in whatever you are working on, and I look forward to seeing many of you at Costume-Con 34 in early May.

## Costume-Con 34 Volunteering

By Danielle McKinney



*The Wonder of Nature. Photo by Matt Cherwin.*

Looking to be part of the action behind the scenes? Registering late and want to reduce the registration fee? Be part of our Workforce! We have volunteer opportunities for a wide variety of skills and interests:

Registration  
ConSuite  
Panels  
Runners  
Vendor Hall  
Exhibits Hall  
Green Room Den Parents

We will work with your schedule so you don't miss anything, and aside from Green Room volunteers, most staffing needs end in time for you to be able to watch the Masquerades! Please contact us at: [cc34workforce@gmail.com](mailto:cc34workforce@gmail.com)



## Costume-Con 34 Tours

By Danielle McKinney

One of the things I love about Costume-Con is how the convention moves from city to city giving attendees a chance to take in new sights and explore a variety of locales. Costume-Con 34 is no exception and a variety of tours have been organized that will highlight places both unique and fun.

Tours that Costume-Con 34 will host and assist in organizing will be held on Friday and Monday. Start times are for when the tour leaves the Marriott Convention Center. You will need to register for the listed tours below; please contact us at [CC34madison@gmail.com](mailto:CC34madison@gmail.com) with which tours you'd like to attend. Thank you!

### Friday:

*Capital Square, Wisconsin State Historical Society and State St*

Start: 9AM

This tour give you an opportunity to explore our gorgeous State Capital, the Veteran's Museum, and the State Historical

Society. Lunch can procured from a variety of stores along State Street. Total walking will be up to 1/2 mile.

Return: 3pm to return to the Marriott around 3:30pm



*Wisconsin State Capitol.*

*Gayfeather Fabric, Atwood Ave and Willie St*

Start: 10am

This tour will start at a locally owned fabric store and then to walk along Atwood and Willie Streets; part of the Madison corridor between the lakes. Atwood and Willie have wonderful locally owned shops and fantastic local eateries. This is a great tour for folks who don't mind walking a bit. Total walking will be up to 1 1/2 miles.

Return: 4pm to return to the Marriott around 4:30pm

### Monday:

*Touring with the SLUTS: Exploring Dr. Evermore's Forevertron*

Start: 10:30

Bruce and Nora Mai will be your tour guides as you explore the unique Forevertron, have lunch, and then head over the Baraboo Bluffs to visit the Circus World Museum. 4-5 spaces are available in the Mai's Bus.

Return: 4:00 – 4:30 PM



*Wisconsin Veteran's Museum.*

*Henry Vilas Zoo and the Arboretum*

Start: 10AM

Visit Madison's famous free Zoo and then visit the Arboretum, a lovely natural haven in the middle of Madison. Attendees of this tour will decide where they want to have lunch.

Return: 3:00pm

## Recommended Spots to Visit:

We are not offering tours to these locales, but highly recommend visiting them if you have time and want to explore between panels and masquerades. There's an enormous list of area attractions at <http://www.costumecon34.com/location-and-travel/attractions/>, including sites of interest to historical costumers and history buffs, nature nuts, and anyone looking for a good time in the Greater Madison Area.



*The UW Arboretum. Photo by Matt Cherwin*

Additionally, the [Dane County Farmer's Market](#) will be open for the summer season during Costume-Con 34! The Farmer's Market is held on the Capitol Square on Saturday morning, which may conflict

with some programming items of interest so we cannot organize a sponsored tour to visit. Attendees who wish to go to the Farmer's Market and pick up delicious local foodstuffs like cheese curds, cream puffs, and Stella's Bakery's famous hot cheese bread will be on their own, but we will provide maps!

## Costume-Con 34 Historical Masquerade

*By Jamie Butler*

When you think of Wisconsin, think of History! Costume Con 34's Historical Masquerade is in Madison, Wisconsin this year. Madison is ripe with historical inspiration, such as the beautiful capital building, one of the largest in the country, with spiraling staircases and remarkable painted ceilings! You can also take inspiration from this year's theme, the Wonder of Nature. People have always had an appreciation for nature, and it often shows in fashion, from garments designed specifically for walking through parks, to turn of the century faery costumes created for a Duchess' masked ball.

Wisconsin has many parks and beautiful scenery perfect for photo opportunities in your nature inspired historical garments! A great place is Olbrich Gardens, especially the Serenity Garden, where you can pose with a variety of nature inspired costumes, or take from the location's Thai Pavilion and surrounding cherry trees.

This year's historical masquerade will follow the Vintage rule, going back fifty years to 1966. Our Master of Ceremonies will be the very charming and witty Vicky

Assarattanakul: Vice President of the Madison Area Costuming Society, Editor of the ICG Newsletter, and an active member of the costuming community for many years now.

Our judges are Phillip Gust, Kathe Gust, and Catherine Cherwin. Philip is President of the ICG, editor of [The Virtual Costumer](#), Silicon Web

Costumers' Guild's costuming magazine, teaches classes and writes articles on costuming, enjoying both Historical and Sci-fi costuming. Kathe Gust is Recording Secretary of the ICG and has been sewing since childhood. She also enjoys both Historical and Sci-fi costuming. Catherine Cherwin is newer to the Costume-Con scene but is not new to costuming. She has won a multitude of awards in performance at the international level. She is best known for her sci-fi and fantasy costumes, but loves historical costuming and dramas.



*Historical Costumes. Photo courtesy of Jamie Butler.*

## Gallifrey One - Station 27

By Rebecca Rowan

We have attended Gallifrey One since 1999. It has grown substantially over the years. In the last 5 years or so, they've started cutting off ticket purchases at around 3800 people. That's still too many in my mind but it also can bring a variety of costumes, and different interpretations of the same outfit.



Photo by Christine Mak.

We set up the Costume-Con 36 table in the hallway on Friday morning. We handed out ribbons because Gallifrey has become known as "Ribbon Con," too. In order to get a ribbon, people had to go on a photo hunt.

I ordered 6 different ribbons – Weeping Angels, Daleks, Cybermen, Tardis, companions, and Timelords. The eager people searched for 3 examples of each of the characters on the ribbons. When they had pictures of them, they showed us, and they received a ribbon and a charm. We later realized, we should have made it so they would not get the charms until they had finished the photo scavenger hunt. A lot of people participated (we went through almost 400 charms) but I'm not sure it managed to get what I wanted done. Although we had people come up and ask "Oooh, Costume-Con...when is it? Where is it?" Of course, there were a few who confused it with Costume College.



Photo by Christine Mak

Throughout the day, we caught glimpses of some of the guests. We saw Patricia Quinn (Magenta), Sir John Hurt, Peter Davison, Colin Baker, Nicola Bryant, Samuel Anderson, and quite a few others. Because we were staffing the table, we couldn't get

away quite so easily to see the panels. The room with the main panels was consistently full and the halls were full of people.

Each evening, there were gatherings with the "stars" and you could also pay for the privilege of an autograph or a picture. Saturday was much the same as Friday although we changed the rules of the scavenger hunt to finding the 3 photos in order to get a ribbon. After they had collected all 6 ribbons, then they could choose a charm. There were quite a few of the War Doctors wandering the halls and one reminded me of an ICG member:



A War Doctor costume.  
Photo by Rebecca Rowan.

Costume-Con 36 donated a membership to the winner Best Novice in the masquerade. It was won by Stephanie Ratcliffe dressed as the Yeti.

Margaret Hagar, who helped me sit the table, had to drive back down to San Diego for the opening night of Tosca at the San Diego Opera since she was dressing it. And although we really didn't do much running around while we worked the table, I was exhausted so we didn't attend any of the evening events. I understand there weren't many entries in the masquerade.

Sunday, being the last day, was almost as hectic as the previous two. We still had plenty of people coming by the table and we ended up giving out about 6 coupons for discounts on membership.



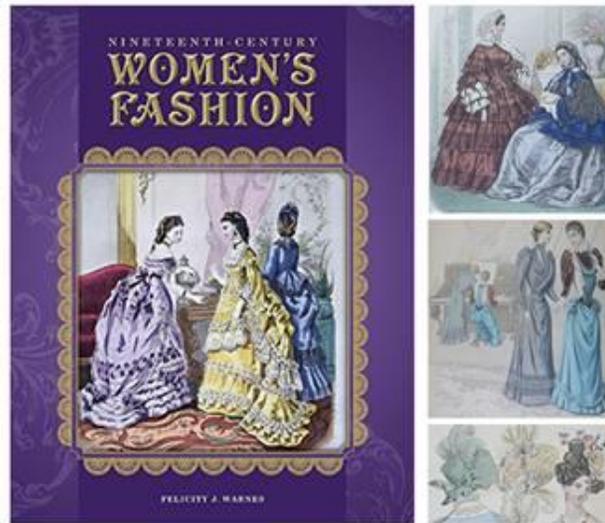
Stephanie Ratcliffe as the Yeti.  
Photo by Rebecca Rowan.

All in all, the convention was fun, enjoyable, and exciting. There were many, many great costumes and great people. We are looking forward to next year.

## New Book on Nineteenth-Century Women's Fashions

By *Andrea Kiliany Thatcher*

Warnes, Felicity J. *Nineteenth-Century Women's Fashions*. Pennsylvania: Schiffer Publishing, 2016. ISBN: 978-0764350139. Pp. 408.



You probably know the term "fashion plate" originated with illustrations of the latest fashions on stone lithographs or metal "plates" with a smooth surface. A new book from Schiffer Publishing – [Nineteenth-Century Women's Fashions](#) by Felicity J. Warnes – features 374 original, hand-colored fashion plates from Warnes' private collection.

Follow high-style couture trends over a 100-year period from 1800 to 1900, as illustrated in 374 color photographs of original, hand-colored fashion plates from the author's private collection. The 11 chapters (organized by decade) include a brief survey of the subtle changes in clothing design through each decade and a social history of the times. Follow the whims of fashion on this promenade through the 1800s, when high-society women sported beribboned toques and turbans and crinolines, capes, and extravagant sleeves. Based mostly on original French artwork, the fashion plates, which appeared in magazines of the day, also document fashion illustration as an evolving art form, making this book an invaluable resource for historians, scholars, theater costume designers, artists, and fashion enthusiasts.

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 2016 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>

Send comments and suggestions to the ICG board and standing committees:

### **Board of Directors**

[icg-board@costume.org](mailto:icg-board@costume.org)

### **Budget and Finance Committee:**

[icg-financecommittee@costume.org](mailto:icg-financecommittee@costume.org)

### **Costuming Arts & Sciences Grant Fund**

[icg-grants@costume.org](mailto:icg-grants@costume.org)

### **Public Relations Committee:**

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### **Publications Committee:**

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### **Technology & Web Committee:**

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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**

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](mailto: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 "Spring16Thread".