



# MASQUERADE

## CONTESTANT INFORMATION, RULES AND ENTRY FORM

### WHAT IT IS:

Comic-Con's 48th annual on-stage Costume Competition, or Cosplay Contest to use another term, showcasing costumes crafted by our attendees and inspired by movies, comic books, TV, anime, video games, fantasy, history, art, and original designs from their imagination. **Not a dance or party** as the name might imply, it's an exhibition on an elevated stage, and is free for our Saturday attendees to participate in or just be in the audience. Most contestants provide recorded music to add mood and story to their presentations, and some include dramatic or humorous choreography. Some entries will be individuals, others will be groups with a shared theme. The large stage will feature special lighting and sound, and viewing for all the audience provided by giant high-definition video screens. The usual audience is approximately 3,500 attendees, and during the judging intermission we'll have performances by The Saber Guild *Star Wars* group and The Corps Dance Crew.

### WHEN & WHERE:

Saturday, **July 23 at 8:30 p.m.** in Ballroom 20 in the San Diego Convention Center. The event will run two hours, and doors will open at 8:00 p.m. To reduce line waiting, **Free** tickets for seating may be obtained at 12 noon Saturday at the Masquerade advance ticket line, and again at the Masquerade Desk from 3-5 p.m. A ticket guarantees a seat, so you can enjoy the convention and return to the line that evening and know there's a seat for you. After the ticketed line has gone in, those without tickets are welcome if seating remains. Comic-Con special guests and approved press can request reserved seating. An American Sign Language interpreter will be available for the hearing impaired.

### HOW TO ENTER:

E-mail an Entry Form no later than **July 5** to [Masq@comic-con.org](mailto:Masq@comic-con.org). Reserving a contestant slot early is recommended as the number of entries is limited. Photos of the costume you will be wearing are required for review to assure criteria for sufficient original crafting, quality, and content are met. Until photos are approved your entry is only tentatively accepted. Send photos with your Entry Form or send a form now and photos no later than **July 5**. "Work-in-progress" photos are acceptable if only a small amount of construction remains. Group entries must provide photos of all costumes. You may also submit an entry at the Masquerade Desk at the convention Friday by noon if there are available slots. For safety reasons Young Fan participants must be at least age 10.

### PHOTOGRAPHY:

Cameras are permitted, but **no flash photography** of the stage is allowed, and any photos or video taken must be for personal use only. Photographers or press who wish access to the Photo Op Area, where contestants pose after exiting the stage, should write to the Coordinator at [Masq@comic-con.org](mailto:Masq@comic-con.org) to request a reserved spot, as spaces are limited.

### TROPHY CATEGORIES:

The panel of guest judges will select winners of Comic-Con trophies in categories of **Best In Show, Judges' Choice, Best Re-Creation, Best Original Design, Best Workmanship, Most Humorous, Most Beautiful, and Best Young Fan**. Winners of these trophies will also receive **Free 4-Day Badges for Comic-Con International 2023!** Badges are non-transferable. If a group wins in a category, up to five badges will be awarded.

### SPONSORED AWARDS & PRIZES:

In addition to the Comic-Con trophies, companies and organizations will be presenting their own generous prizes to winners that they select:

- ▶ **Frank And Son Collectible Show**, of the City of Industry, California, "Your one-stop show for ALL your collectible needs" will take a break from their large and fun bi-weekly mini-conventions to present to the entry that their representatives deem the Audience Favorite a generous **\$1,000** cash prize plus a beautiful trophy!
- ▶ **The Art Directors Guild, IATSE Local 800**. The ADG has among its members Art Directors, Graphic Artists, Illustrators & Storyboard Artists, Model Makers, Pre-vis Artists, Production Designers, Scenic Artists, Set Designers and Title Artists of the motion picture, theater, and TV industries. The ADG is presenting **two awards**: *The ADG Cosplay Award for Original Concept Design*, presented to the entry most exemplifying a wholly original concept, and *The ADG Cosplay Award for Best Visual Media Design*, presented to the entry whose design best interprets a character or concept from a television show or motion picture. Each award comes with a **\$500** prize.
- ▶ **The Costumer's Guild West**, southern California's costuming fandom group, will present a one-year membership to their CGW group and a full scholarship and one night's complimentary hotel stay to their annual weekend conference, **Costume College**, held the last weekend in July (winner may choose 2023 or 2024) at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, California, to the entry they select as showing the most promise. Costume College promotes the art of costuming by providing educational lectures and workshops.
- ▶ **3DHQ** will offer each Comic-Con trophy winner a free **3D Digital Self Avatar** and create a free 3-D figurine of them in their winning



costume, taken at 3DHQ's Exhibit Hall booth on Sunday (normal cost \$324), plus a fast-pass to the start of the line. Best of Show winner will receive a larger size figurine. If a group wins a category, only one member receives the figurine, but all contestants, winners or not, available to be scanned Sunday can receive a free **3D Digital Self Avatar** in their costume.

► **San Diego Comic Convention** will present a special award given in memory of a long-time Committee and Board member Alan Campbell, who passed away and is sorely missed. Alan was a great fan of the Masquerade, at times generously donating his own prize. The Alan Campbell Award will be **\$500** cash, presented to the entry deemed Best Re-Creation of a Comics Character or Characters, as selected by a representative of the Board of Directors.

### COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS:

Participants will need to follow any mask and vaccination protocols implemented for the convention. Please check our Covid FAQ page [www.comic-con.org/cci/covid-19-faq](http://www.comic-con.org/cci/covid-19-faq) for the latest updates on covid protocols. Keep in mind the appearance of your mask can be customized to match or enhance your costume.

### IMPORTANT CONTESTANT INFORMATION:

Soon after you arrive at the convention, sign-in at the Masquerade Desk in the **Ballroom 20 lobby** to confirm your arrival and complete your show forms. Completed forms must be submitted no later than 12 noon on Saturday, either at the Desk or the Contestant Orientation. If you don't sign-in by noon, we may assume you have canceled and release your spot to someone from the Wait List. All contestants and their helpers need **Backstage Passes**, obtainable at the Desk and at the Orientation. Desk hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

We recommend attending the Contestant Orientation at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday in room 31AB, where we'll discuss your technical requirements and other details. You may bring your costume at that time if you like and store it there or wait until show check-in. The Ballroom 20 stage will be in use for other events during the day, but the practice stage will be the same size (32' wide by 20' deep, with curtained entrances on both sides). It will be available all day for practicing. A stage diagram is available upon request. A storage room is available starting Thursday and loading dock access and a large freight elevator is available if you need one but requires reserving at least a day in advance.

**Please don't wear your contest costume at the convention before it is seen in the Masquerade, or it will be ineligible for trophies.** Our audiences wait a long time in line to see something very special, not what they've already seen in the halls a few times. This will also protect your costume from the wear and tear that can occur wearing it for many hours, especially if the weather is hot. We've seen great costumes drop out before the show from damage or the wearer's exhaustion, so keep yours safe and secret until Saturday evening so as to be a surprise and in perfect condition for the photographers and the close-up examining by the judges.

### MUSIC:

If you are using music, recorded narration, or other audio with your presentation, e-mail an MP3 format file to [Masq@comic-con.org](mailto:Masq@comic-con.org) by July 11 to allow us time to review it for any needed changes. There will be **no microphones** given to contestants, so any speech must be on your recording, or printed for the Master of Ceremonies to read. We pay ASCAP/BMI music performance fees, so we can play any copyrighted music without legal issues. If you can't decide what fits, tell us and we can assist. But if you prefer dramatic silence for your costume, that's fine too.

### PROJECTED BACKGROUND IMAGES:

We arrange for special projection equipment so that contestants can accompany their costume with a background image to suggest an environment. If you would like to have a specific projection on the curtain behind you it must be provided. Your image should be a **JPG** or **PNG** file no larger than 2048x2048 pixels, but do not choose a small file or dark image or it may project poorly. E-mail your image file to [Masq@comic-con.org](mailto:Masq@comic-con.org) by July 11, or sooner, to give us time to check it for suitability. Please, **no** video, just still images.

If you don't supply a projection image, that's perfectly fine. We can select something that will compliment your costume well. Note that **NO copyrighted/proprietary characters** should be in your projected image, so keep it to scenery, sets, historical images, non-character artwork, or abstract designs.

### SHOW CHECK-IN TIME:

When arriving for the event Saturday, contestants must **check-in** with the staff at Room 32. You may check-in at **5:00 p.m.** or after, but **no later than 7:00 p.m.** and you must be **stage-ready by 7:15 p.m.** to allow for judge photos to be taken and judges to get a close look at your costume. We're sorry, but if you are late, we may have to pull you from the show. Private dressing areas will be assigned when you arrive. Worktables and clothing racks will be on hand, a costume repair kit is available for emergency repairs, and we usually have a couple of professional make-up artists donating their time and talents to help with final touches and advice for your make-up, wigs, pointed ears, and so on that you've brought along.

### REFERENCE MATERIALS:

If your costume is a Re-Creation, we suggest providing the judges with one or more reference images of what it is based on, since not all judges may be familiar with your design. You may submit reference materials at the convention, and they will be returned afterwards. Most contestants simply provide a photo or two, but some create elaborate booklets detailing the features, design, and construction process, even fabric samples. In addition to helping the judges, such booklets can also be a handy resume' item for those aiming for a career in costuming, or just a fun memory book of your experience.



## 2022 COMIC-CON® MASQUERADE RULES

- 1) Costumes must be of original construction or show significant modification of pre-existing materials.** No costumes are allowed that are purchased or otherwise obtained from a commercial source. This is a show of creativity and craftsmanship, not shopping ability. It is expected that some costumes may include as minor elements some purchased items. If your entry utilizes many of these, check with the Masquerade Coordinator for approval. As a general rule, at least 75-percent of what you bring onto the stage must not have been purchased. If it could pass for street clothes, it's not a costume. You need not have made the costume yourself, perhaps a friend or family member did, but it can't be a purchased one.
- 2) If your costume participated in our virtual Comic-Con@Home or WonderCon@Home Masquerades in 2020 or 2021, it is eligible to compete in this Masquerade as well. However, competing costumes must not be worn at the convention prior to the show.** If everyone's seen your costume in front of them, there's no point in displaying it on stage, so keep your entry out of sight until Saturday night. You may of course wear your costume around the convention afterwards. Costumes that have appeared at our 2022 WonderCon Masquerade may also compete here.
- 3) Maximum time on stage:** 1-2 people: 1 minute 30 seconds. 3-6 people: 2 minutes. 7 or more: 2 minutes 30 seconds. If you would like more time, check with the Coordinator beforehand. Show off your costume well and have fun but remaining on stage too long can lessen the impact of your presentation, but don't be too quick, either!
- 4) No liquids, messy substances, fog, or anything that may pose a danger is allowed on stage. Unsheathing of bladed weapons is not allowed without clearance from the Coordinator. No throwing things into the audience. Nothing is allowed that would get a movie an "R" rating. Violating these rules will disqualify you, and possibly result in escort off the premises. Due to safety concerns, minors may not perform combat simulations.**
- 5) Category definitions: Re-Creation:** A costume copied from a pre-existing design, such as from a movie, comic book, famous artwork, history, etc. **Original:** A design original to the maker/wearer. It may be inspired by some work of fantasy, science fiction, mythology, etc., but is not a copy. **Young Fan category:** Ages 10–17.
- 6) A costume that has won Best In Show or Best In Master Class at an in-person Costume-Con, NASFiC, or Worldcon convention is not eligible for an award from the judges but is still eligible for company and organization prizes.**
- 7) Contestants agree to report in with staff in the Masquerade backstage rooms no later than 7:00 p.m., (6:00 p.m. or earlier is suggested) and to sign a legal release to allow video recording and photography of their costumes for non-profit promotional purposes.**
- 8) The Coordinator may reject an entry on the basis of inappropriate or unsafe behavior or content, or because of too many purchased items, or because the construction materials or techniques used do not meet the criteria of quality for the show, or because the event has reached its limit for entries.**
- 9) For safety reasons, children under age 10 are not allowed on stage or in the backstage rooms. Minors must have a parent or guardian present with them backstage and parents will be asked to sign a permission form. Please do not bring small children into the backstage areas. With many costumers, helpers and staff rushing around, some wearing sight-limiting masks, some carrying large props, tools, or scissors, it is not an appropriately safe environment for small children.**
- 10) You are not required to wear your costume yourself; someone else can present it in the show. But if it is worn on stage by someone other than you, that person should not be a paid individual, nor may your soundtrack or narration or costume include content that advertises an actual product, service, or website.**

**A FINAL NOTE:** It's called a Masquerade and not just a costume contest or fashion show because it's not just about costumes, but about characters and storytelling too. It's about creativity and celebrating the art of costuming. The event is intended to be fun, so don't be so concerned about winning that you forget to enjoy that you're bringing smiles to thousands of people. The Masquerade staff are volunteers, donating time to the event because we love costuming as much as you do. So, thanks for being a part of the show!

— **Martin Jaquish**, Masquerade Coordinator  
**Lori Sartain and Lindsay Harold**, Masquerade Assistants



# MASQUERADE ENTRY FORM

(Use Adobe Acrobat or similar program to complete this form. Save the edited form to your computer, then attach your edited file to an email. If you encounter problems, email Masq@comic-con.org. All personal information you supply will be held confidential and not shared.)

**ENTRY DEADLINE: JULY 5, 2022**



CONTESTANT NAME (OR REPRESENTATIVE OF GROUP)

TODAY'S DATE

COSTUME TITLE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

COUNTRY

PHONE NUMBER WITH AREA CODE

EMAIL ADDRESS

COMIC-CON MEMBER ID (NOT PASSWORD)

Costume Design is (check one):  **Original**  **Re-Creation**; source: \_\_\_\_\_

Number appearing in your group: \_\_\_\_\_ Mark age(s) if any are Young Fans (ages 12-17): \_\_\_\_\_

If a group, please list first and last names for all members:

**Email completed entry form and any evaluation photos no later than July 5, 2022.**

*Group entries should provide photos of all costumes. We will notify you if your entry is accepted, declined, or on the Waiting List. If you do not receive confirmation of your mail, email Masq@comic-con.org. Please do not contact the Center with venue questions, refer them to us.*