



# KUMORICON

THE PORTLAND-VANCOUVER  
ANIME CONVENTION



## NEWS AND INFORMATION GUIDE

Kumoricon is coming to Vancouver, WA this Labor Day Weekend!

The Portland metro area's only convention dedicated to Japanese animation celebrates its 5th anniversary this September 1-3.

Join us for three full days of videos, contests, performances, exhibitors, and fun—all dedicated to anime, video gaming, and Japanese culture.

All volunteer, and run by fans, for fans.

[WWW.KUMORICON.ORG](http://WWW.KUMORICON.ORG)



Kumoricon is a production of Altonimbus Entertainment.

# KUMORICON ANIME CONVENTION

---

## WELCOME

Samurai fighting to the modern beats of American hip hop music; a notebook that can kill anyone whose name is written within it; old jazz and martial arts in space, in a future not so far off from our own. What am I talking about? Japanese animation, of course, better known as *anime*. In the last several decades, more and more Americans have been falling in love with anime and the reasons why are clear—anime can make the ordinary extraordinary in a way that few other mediums ever have.

Ever since Akira Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai*, we've been fascinated with Japanese culture; now in anime we can delve into that rich culture again through the eyes of some of the most creative minds in Japan. Anime is not just about cartoons. They can have plots as complex as *Hamlet* or as ridiculous as *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, and they can be intended for everyone from children to exclusively adults. Anime is undoubtedly an incredibly diverse medium, with something different for everyone.

Kumoricon 2007 is your opportunity to come and explore the exciting world of Japanese animation, comics, and culture with the people who love it the most. Aptly named *kumori*, meaning "cloudy", Kumoricon is the Portland metro area's one and only anime convention. There you will find a constant stream of panels, workshops, competitions, and performances all while enjoying a friendly, enthusiastic atmosphere. You'll also see a wide variety of costumes worn by dedicated fans known as *cosplayers* (short for costume players). There are always video rooms open where you can watch anime, and a gaming room where you can come and play video games, with everything from the classics to the newest releases. And, of course, there's the dealers' room where you can buy anything from comic books to kimono.

Some of the main events include the karaoke contest, the cosplay contest where fans who have made their own costumes perform skits on stage, the anime music video (AMV) contest where fans create short music videos using clips from anime, video game tournaments, and much more. The convention also invites guests of honor, usually well-known anime voice actors or producers, comic artists, or the like who hold panels in which they discuss their work and answer questions from fans. And there are a number of workshops for those interested in learning more about Japanese culture and anime, how to make costumes, create fan stories or art and much more.

One of the biggest attractions of conventions is the fans themselves. Kumoricon is our chance to get together in a fun, laid-back atmosphere and enjoy each other's company. This is a great way to make new friends, meet people from all over the Northwest and even the world. Beyond just striking up conversation in the halls, there are a number of social events, such as the dance, where you can have fun with old friends or meet new people. This is a community that embraces creativity and innovation and everywhere you look you'll find freedom of expression. By the convention's third day, you'll feel as though you're part of one big, eccentric family.

Whether you're new to anime or a diehard *otaku* (a word used to describe only the craziest and most obsessed of fans), you're welcome here. Whether you come for one day or all three, remember: this is **your** convention. What you'll take away from this experience are priceless memories, friendship, good times and, of course, at least a year's savings worth of anime and comics. But some things are just worth it.

*Contest-winning article by Maura Lydon*

## CONTACT

### Convention Chair

Meg Uhde  
[chair@kumoricon.org](mailto:chair@kumoricon.org)  
503-544-1712

### Director of Publicity

Jeff Tyrrill  
[publicity@kumoricon.org](mailto:publicity@kumoricon.org)  
206-255-8063

### Mailing Address

Altonimbus Entertainment  
818 SW 3rd Avenue #167  
Portland, OR 97204-2405

**WWW.KUMORICON.ORG**

# NEWS AND INFORMATION GUIDE

## REGISTRATION

Register at the door, 8am-7pm  
\$40 - Full weekend  
\$25 - Saturday only  
\$25 - Sunday only  
\$20 - Monday only  
\$25 - Child registration (ages 6 to 12)  
Free - Children age 5 and under  
\$150 - Special VIP badge - guest dinner, priority seating to all events, and more!



Attendees in anime-themed costumes

## HOURS AND SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Convention Hours—8am-2am	Convention Hours—8am-2am	Convention Hours—8am-5pm
Opening Ceremonies—10-11am Guest VIP Dinner—6:00-7:30pm Karaoke Idol—8pm-10pm Saturday Night Dance—10pm-2am	Cosplay (costume) Contest—4-7pm Masquerade Ball—7pm-9pm The Slants Concert—9pm-11pm Sunday Night Dance—11pm-2am	Charity Auction—11am-1pm A-Key Kyo Concert—1pm-3pm Closing Ceremonies—3pm-5pm Rant and Rave—5pm

## VENUE

Join us at the Hilton Vancouver Washington!

301 West 6th Street  
Vancouver, Washington 98660



# KUMORICON ANIME CONVENTION

## FAST FACTS

- Roughly one-third of attendees dress in elaborate costumes, known as *cosplay*, of their favorite characters.
- Convention programming runs for 18 hours on Saturday and Sunday, plus 8 hours on Monday.
- Kumoricon is run entirely by volunteers.
- Kumoricon is the only anime convention in Oregon or the Portland metro area. Founded in Eugene, it has been in the Portland metro area for 4 out of its 5 years.
- Kumoricon is held annually on Labor Day Weekend, except for its first year, when it was held for 2 days on Thanksgiving weekend.

## CHARITY AUCTION

Kumoricon's annual charity auction benefits p:ear, a Portland-based non-profit that aids transitional and homeless youth through education, art, and recreation. To learn more, visit [www.pearmentor.org](http://www.pearmentor.org).

Last year, Kumoricon raised \$2455 for p:ear. Donations can be made by contacting [auction@kumoricon.org](mailto:auction@kumoricon.org).



## EVENTS

### Cosplay Contest

Show off your best costumes while acting out entertaining skits. One of the convention's most popular shows.

### Gaming

A large room open 18 hours a day with the latest game consoles. Play Wii, PS3, and Xbox 360 on our LCD TVs and remember your youth with classic games. Scheduled tournaments plus always-open free play.

### Karaoke

Test your singing ability—both open mic and contests.

## WEB SITE

The screenshot shows the Kumoricon website for the 2007 convention. At the top, it says "KUMORICON THE PORTLAND-VANCOUVER ANIME CONVENTION". Below that, it lists activities: "COSPLAY • CONSOLE AND LAN GAMING • FAN FICTION • SPECIAL GUESTS • VENDORS • PANELS • WORKSHOPS • KARAOKE • ANIME VIEWING • CHARITY AUCTION • RPG". The dates are "SEPTEMBER 1-3, 2007". There are several menu items on the left: INFORMATION, REGISTRATION, HOBBIES, CALENDAR, CONTESTS, GAMING, GUESTS, EXHIBITORS, SWAGS, GALLERY, NEWSLETTER, DOCUMENTS, PUBLICITY, STAFF, CONTACT, and FORUMS. The main content area has sections for "Kumoricon 2007" (a friendly reminder that pre-registration ends August 10), "Registration" (\$35 until August 10), "Contests" (Cosplay, AMV, Photo Karaoke, Fanfic, Sketch), "Guests of Honor" (A-Kira Kyo, Kiki Thomson, The Streets, Appogees), and "Upcoming Events" (August 11 - General Meeting and Meet-up, August 25 - Final General Meeting). There are also calendar widgets for August and September 2007.

Our web site, [www.kumoricon.org](http://www.kumoricon.org), is updated year-round. Our fans visit the forum daily to chat about anime, plan local meet-ups, and discuss the latest news.

## EVENTS

### Fan Fiction

A room dedicated to fanfic and all types of fan creation. Learn story-writing techniques, compare fan art, and read your short stories aloud.

### Exhibitors Hall

Shop for all types of merchandise relating to anime, manga (Japanese comics), costumes, fan art creation, and more.

### Anime Viewings

Two rooms running 18 hours a day with anime episodes, old and new, from every genre.

### Panels and Workshops

Talks and activities on specific topics in a small environment. Subject are diverse, ranging from cosplay construction to Japanese cultural issues in anime to contests and games to comedy skits. The “hidden gem” of Kumoricon.

## PROGRAM BOOK

Every attendee receives a full-color, magazine-style program book when entering the convention as a special souvenir.



## MASCOT CONTEST

Our *chibi* (young, cute) version of the mascot. The adult version is on the first page.

### THEME

*Kumori* means “cloudy” in Japanese, reflecting the weather in Oregon. Every year’s mascot features an umbrella, and clouds are often visible in Kumoricon art!

### JAPANESE CULTURE

The 2007 mascot contains a *teru teru bouzu*, a traditional hand-made doll believed to bring good weather.



Kumoricon holds an annual mascot art contest. Anyone can enter an adult and *chibi* version, and the staff votes on the winner. The *chibi* winner for 2007 is on the right. The program book for last year, on the left, shows the entries and adult winner for 2006.

# KUMORICON ANIME CONVENTION

## KICKOFF PARTY

Kumoricon and Backspace have teamed up to put on a special party the Thursday night before the con!

Backspace, Portland's entertainment hub, presents a night of nerdcore, with performances by three local artists featuring techno and hip hop set to otaku and Japanese themes. While there, check out previews of Kumoricon content playing on a large screen along with open Wii gaming—plus the usual LAN gaming and cafe at Backspace.



### Ultraklystron

Nerdcore Hip-Hop

Otaku Rhymes

The kick-off party has free admission and is open to the public!

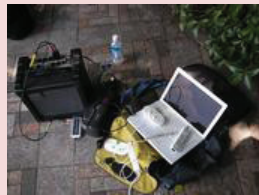


### RAI

Nerdcore/Electro in Japanese

Thursday, August 30

8:00pm to midnight



### Gradual Meltdown

Wii-Mote/Guitar Hero-controlled techno

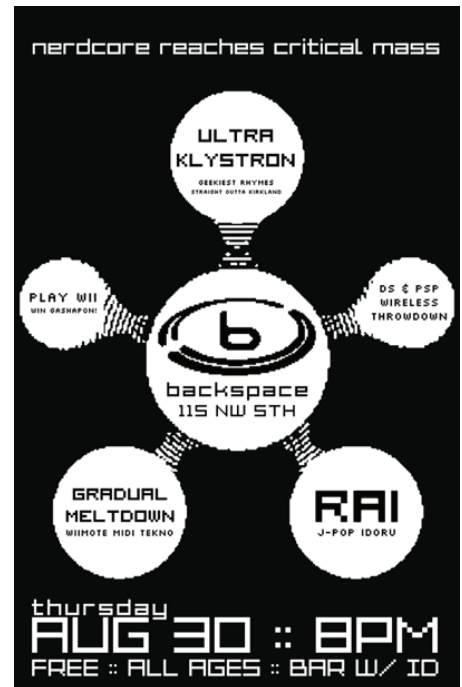
### Pre-Registration

Online pre-registration for Kumoricon has already closed, but we're offering a final opportunity to pre-register for a discount! At the kickoff party only, 8:00 to 10:00pm

\$35 for the weekend



Backspace, in downtown Portland—featuring LAN gaming, video games, and a café. Open late every night.

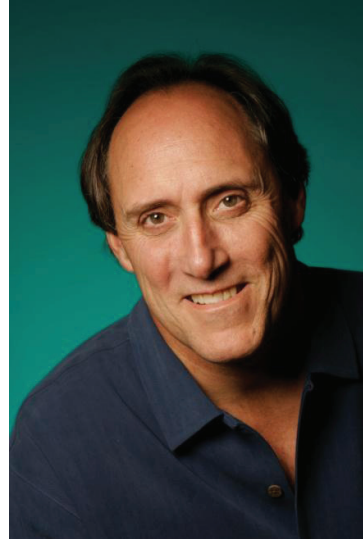


# GUESTS OF HONOR



SEAN SCHEMSEL

Sean Schemmel gets paid to stand in a sound proof padded room and make wacky voices all day—with good reason. He’s good at it. Ever since he was discovered doing so at an undisclosed mental institution, Sean has been gainfully employed as a voice actor for some of the top anime titles in history. He is most noted as the voice of Goku in the internationally acclaimed anime series **Dragon Ball Z**, **Dragon Ball**, and **Dragon Ball GT**. Other notable roles include Amidamaru and Rio in **Shaman King**, Tetsugyu in **Giant Robo**, and Onsokumaru in **Ninja Nonsense**. Current projects include Dr. Vellian Crowler in **Yu-Gi-Oh! GX**, Chortles in **Viva Pinata**, Maxxor in **Chaotic**, and Gonard in Animation Collectives’ hugely popular **Kappa Mikey** ([www.kappamikey.com](http://www.kappamikey.com)). Sean has also adapted for English and directed the following anime series: **Space Pirate Mito**, **Sadamitsu: The Destroyer**, **Midori Days**, and **Ah! My Goddess**. Sean currently resides in New Jersey, and in his spare time enjoys playing the French Horn, writing electronic music and moving heavy objects with his mind.



KIRK THORNTON

Kirk Thornton came to Kumoricon (his first con as a guest) last year and couldn’t wait to come back. A native of Oregon, he worked his way into anime taking the traditional path: classical actor training (University of Washington), Oregon Shakespearean Festival, New York off Broadway and regional theatre, Los Angeles film and television, and dry cleaners where he ran into an anime director. 18 years in the trenches and some of the roles he has to show for it are Jin (**Samurai Champloo**), Hiei (**Yu Yu Hakusho**), Tazuna (**Naruto**), Saidoh (**Bleach**), and Gabumon and Mummymon (**Digimon**). Several of the projects he can currently be heard on are **Bobobo** as Don Patch, **Haré+Guu** as Lazy, **GUNxSWORD** as Claw, and various bad guys in **Idaten Jump**, **The Prince of Tennis**, and **Zoids**. He has just finished work on **Planetes** as Hachirota, **Ghost In the Shell: Stand Alone Complex** as Kuze, **Gankutsuo: The Count of Monte Cristo** as Baptistan and Caderousse, and **IGPX** as Mark. Other credits include **Gungrave** (Brandon Heat), **Blackjack** (Blackjack), **Kikaider** (Hattori), **Dual** (Dr. Sanada), **Duel Masters**, **Bedaman**, **Last Exile**, **Stellvia**, **Vandread**, **Heat Guy J**, **Love Hina**, **Wolf’s Rain**, **Akira**, **Fushigi Yuugi**, and **Rurouni Kenshin**.

His voice has also appeared in video games, such as **Kingdom Hearts II** (Saix), **Resident Evil Outbreak**, **Mission Impossible**, **.hack**, **Scaler**, **Company of Heroes**, **Tales of the Abyss**, **Call of Duty 3**, and **TimeShift**.

Kirk has directed the English dubs of **S-CRY-ed**, **Gad Guard**, **Cosmo Warrior Zero**, **Tsukihime**, **Mars Daybreak**, **Otogi Zoshi**, and **Destiny of Shrine Maiden**, holding the lead script adapter and story editor positions for all of them. He is currently co-directing **Bleach**.

Video games that he has directed include **Enchanted Arms**, **Rogue Galaxy**, **Samurai Champloo**, and **Time Crisis 4**. He’s just finishing up a whirlwind road tour chasing down wrestlers in a mobile recording studio and directing them in the **WWE Smackdown! vs. RAW 2008** video game.

# KUMORICON ANIME CONVENTION

---

## GUESTS OF HONOR (CONT.)



### THE SLANTS

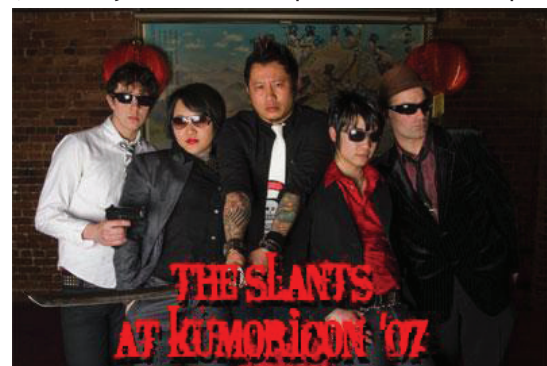
The Slants are an Asian dance/rock band from Portland, OR, formed in 2006 by members of The Stivs, Son of Rust, and Evening at the Black House. Collectively, the members have had over 2500 live performances, and have worked with legendary producer Jack Endino (Nirvana, Soundgarden, Murder City Devils), as well as shared the stage with Joey Ramone, Nine Inch Nails, and members of Social Distortion, NOFX and Bad Religion. The band has also produced remixes for Bjork, The Cure, and Information Society.

Their music is a cacophony of melodic rock intricacy tempered by darker dance themes with anthemic choruses and shattering hooks reminiscent of groups such as The Faint, Depeche Mode, Daft Punk, and Joy Division—except with an Asian spin.

Perla Cadena of Sony BMG Music Entertainment claims “If you like danceable rock or anything Asian, you’ll love The Slants!” The band is currently writing and recording for their first release (to be scheduled in summer 2007), which will be followed by aggressive touring and promoting.

The Slants are a hardworking band: every show is supported with full Internet advertising, listings and releases in the weekly papers of every city they play in, and for hometown shows there is always unprecedented saturation with posters and flyers. Their energy carries through not only on recordings, but live performances as well: as founder Simon Young said, “usually at every show, one of us ends up bleeding” (Pretty Vacant Zine).

Visit The Slants online at [myspace.com/theslants](http://myspace.com/theslants).



### A-KEY KYO

A-Key Kyo is a cover band specializing in J-pop and anime cover songs. Their outstanding performance at Uwajimaya’s Sakura Festival earned them a place on the Kumoricon stage in 2006 and they are returning to Kumoricon for a second year.

A-Key Kyo band was founded in early 2003 in Portland, OR by five Japanese girls. They play Japanese pop, rock, and other genres. After two girls left, three guys joined the band. They play at several festivals featuring Japanese culture, such as Japanese Festival (at Uwajimaya Beaverton / sponsored by jaso), Sakura Festival (sponsored by Uwajimaya Beaverton), Mochitsuki Festival, and more.

Misa, one of the band’s members, tells us, “People love us because we play Japanese songs, and our motto, ‘be happy and be healthy’. I believe we are rare ‘anti-drug band’. Haha!”

## MUSICAL PERFORMERS



# NEWS AND INFORMATION GUIDE

## APPLEGEEKS



MOHAMMAD F. HAQUE, ARTIST

**Mohammad F. Haque** draws Applegeeks and maintains the website. He also works full-time at a firm in D.C. as a designer, illustrator, and programmer. Hawk's artistic influences run the gamut, but there is a definite mainstay in American comics—Spiderman and Batman are two of the obvious ones. He has received an award nomination from CGTalk, the popular online digital art forum. Hawk has also done work for a wide range of people, mostly coloring: the Penny Arcade CCG, Megatokyo's Miho poster, and the cover of Ctrl Alt Del: Vol. 1. He has also illustrated short graphic stories Seven and Disconnect in the graphic novel anthologies Disposable Parts and City Limits, respectively. Mohammad is also a college graduate, having gained his degree from the University of Maryland, College Park. His personal website can be found at [www.hawkstudios.net](http://www.hawkstudios.net), which features a wide range of work.

## ANANTH PANAGARIYA, WRITER

**Ananth Panagariya** writes Applegeeks and other comic scripts in his spare time. His interest has oscillated variously between American comics, anime, manga, film, and more recently, American television (with the advent of shows like LOST). He is currently working on a novel, and is also an artist himself, able to draw with both real and digital media. He graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park in May 2005, and has since been working in the creative industry—first in VA, and more recently at a firm in D.C. as a designer, illustrator, and most recently animator. He has written graphic short stories for two graphic novel anthologies: the stories are Seven, Disconnect, and Transmigration—the first of which appeared in Disposable Parts, the last two appearing in City Limits. His personal website is now a writing blog that can be found at [www.ahpcreate.com](http://www.ahpcreate.com).



## WEBCOMIC CREATORS

## KUMORICON HISTORY

Year	Attendees (est.)	Staff (est.)	Location
2003	400	22	Eugene, OR - Clarion Hotel
2004	1250	34	Portland, OR - Portland Marriott Downtown
2005	1750	40	Portland, OR - Doubletree at Lloyd Center
2006	2250	70	Portland, OR - Red Lion on the River
2007	predicted: 3000+	100 and growing	Vancouver, WA - Hilton Vancouver Washington

# CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS!



2003



2007



2004



2005



2006

# SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!