

## A Generous Compilation of Stunning Visuals! From the celebrated Hayao Miyazaki

# THE ART OF HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE

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### **Includes 208 full-color pages!**



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# KUMORICON

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# COVER CONTEST



## CONGRATULATIONS

to our 2005 Cover Contest winner, Elizabeth Faulke Wallace Lundblade! Be sure to look for her table at the Artist's Alley section of the Exhibitor's Hall.

For information on next year's cover contest, please check the forums at Kumoricon's website (http://www.kumoricon.org). There may also be a contest for Kumoricon's next mascot. Contest winners will receive special prizes!

Also, enjoy these great runner-up entries. Thanks for participating!



Left: Cora Crabtree

Right: Rena Marek





Left: Marci-Joy Clark

Right: Erin D.





Welcome to all!

We return to bring you the third annual Kumoricon, the second held here in the fair City of Roses. This year, we have a beautiful new venue for all of you otaku to explore, courtesy of our Hotel Liaison and the good folks at Doubletree. Enjoy the cookies that are the mark of Doubletree hospitality. The mall and the park are nearby for off-site fun, but for those of you who are from outof town, and even for our locals, please use caution wandering the area when it gets late; this is a great big, beautiful city, but as a large city, it should not be traveled alone.

Kumoricon is more than just another anime convention. While anime is the largest focus, this convention embraces all things having to do with Japanese media and culture, including live action film, video games, traditional arts, and so much more. We also embrace all possible avenues of expressing our interests, from fashion and music to art and writing. Our continued commitment to fan creation and participation is what I feel sets us apart as a fun and friendly place to share our fandom.

In keeping with our vision, all your favorite live events are back, such as Cosplay, Karaoke, and the Anime Dating Game, and this year, they're better than ever. Karaoke has, in fact, been expanded to two whole contests and a dedicated room! Fan-made art and fiction remain a highlight, which our exhibits, panels, and guests reflect. A Fan Creation Station is open all weekend and Fan-fiction Bedtime Stories returns, along with this year's grand experiment: Fan-fiction Theatre: the cosplaying of fics!

Don't forget to introduce yourself to our wonderful guests at the guest dinner, or catch autographs at the autograph session! New this year, the wait for 24-hour anime is over! For those staying in the convention hotel, there will be a closed circuit channel of anime programming running throughout the convention . . . another reason why we love our new venue! Anime programming blocks continue for the viewing rooms, and the Anime Music Video Contest returns with the best the Northwest has to offer in AMVs.

Finally, our Anime Mystery event will put your wits to the test, and the dance will keep you up late rocking out to J-pop, J-rock, and anime tunes! Here's a true first: a massive LARP event hosted by our tabletop gaming staff. You'll want a piece of this action, and remember to stop by the rpg room as well! If you keep on the lookout for callers wandering the convention floor running spontaneous events, you might even win a prize! We'll keep you so entertained and busy that you'll never want to leave!

Come for the fun, but have a say to help the con in the long run. Fill out the con survey, and if you can stay long enough, attend the Rant and Rave session after closing ceremonies to tell the staff what worked, what didn't, and what you'd like to see next year. If you do find a moment to chill between the thrills, you are more than welcome to drop by the info desk and help out as a volunteer. You can have lots of fun and make even more friends—it's the way many of us started out!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend with us, and that you'll return year after year to see our convention just keeps getting better.

Best, Arlene Penrose 2005 Convention Chair

# CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

4 Age of Super Milk Chan.

- 5 Miyazaki's adorable forest spirit and Studio Ghibli mascot.
- 6 Organization in Witch Hunter Robin.
- 7 The lead character in Trigun.
- 10 Sakura's crush in Naruto.
- 14 Anime featuring a dog-demon.
- 15 Spike's nemesis in Cowboy Bebop.
- 17 Adult Swim's newest announced show.
- 18 Gifted 10-year old in Azumanga Daioh.
- 19 The flame alchemist.

#### DOWN

1 Link's princess.

- 2 Turtle-fearing martial artist in Love Hina.
- 3 Sailor Moon's cat mentor.
- 4 Abbreviation for Furi Curi.
- 6 First anime to win an Academy Award (English title).
- 8 Powerful vampire in the Hellsing organization.
- 9 Black-clad antagonists in FMA.
- 10 Villain in Final Fantasy VII.
- 11 Nintendo's plumber hero.
- 12 # of limbs Ed loses in FMA (ep. 1).
- 13 Kumoricon 04's hotel.
- 16 Kaneda's pal in Akira.

FMA = Full Metal Alchemist

Answers on page 13.

# 2005 POLICIES

**INTENT AND CONTENT:** Kumoricon's intention is to provide a fun and interactive environment for sharing enthusiasm for learning about anime and Japanese culture, and to make our convention an enjoyable experience for as many people as possible. The convention's content is for the most part similar to the spirit of the MPAA's PG rating, and is in accordance with lawful standards of public decency. In the later hours, some videos and panels may exceed that rating, and will be clearly marked, and ID checked when needed. However, given differences in international rating structures and the disparity of cultural attitudes towards such things as violence, non-sexual nudity, profanity, and the age-appropriateness of more mature or thematic content, parental guidance is especially recommended.

**CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR OF GUESTS:** In order for everyone attending Kumoricon to have an enjoyable time, all attendees need to be courteous of others and follow the hotel and convention policies as well as all applicable laws. You are responsible for your own actions. Use good judgment in your public behavior. Please refrain from being disruptive or overly loud. Repeat offenders ("this is the fifth time I've asked you to stop") or severe offenders ("you did WHAT?") will have to hand over their badges and leave the convention area. Police will be called if necessary. It is your responsibility not to violate Portland and Oregon laws.

**PDA:** Restrict your public displays of affection and make sure you are wearing appropriate attire for being in public. Mild kissing and holding hands is acceptable public affectionate behavior, regardless of the genders of the persons involved. Groping a person's breasts, buttocks, or genitals is not. If you are doing something inappropriate in public, you will be asked to stop or remove yourself to a hotel room.

**INDECENT EXPOSURE:** Indecent exposure is a crime. Guests of the convention must wear at least a non-thong style swimsuit while in public. Attire can be deemed inappropriate at the discretion of con personnel and the attendee will be asked to change or told to leave the facilities.

**COSTUMES:** Costumes must fit under the category of appropriate attire. They must also not pose a health or safety hazard, or be deemed inappropriate for all-age viewing. Fetish items can be worn only so long as they do not pose a safety hazard, but displays of BDSM/bondage behavior in public are not acceptable. Finally, shoes must be worn in the facilities at all times regardless of whether it's "in-character." Costumes can be deemed unacceptable by con personnel at any time and the attendee will be asked to change or told to leave the facilities.

**SIGNAGE AND SOLICITATION:** No attendee of Kumoricon may wear or carry a sign offering paid services, whether for cash or other form of payment, offering free services, or soliciting behavior from other attendees. When in doubt, check your sign the way you would a prop weapon, with a Yojimbo or at the Operations Room, to make sure it is acceptable. Kumoricon staff and Yojimbo reserve the right to confiscate signs they deem inappropriate.

**WEAPONS:** No live steel (meaning any exposed weapon with an edged blade) is permitted. No working projectile weapons are permitted. All prop weapons must be checked through Yojimbo or at the Operations Room, and prop weapons must be peace-bonded in order to be carried in the convention space.

**BADGES:** The badge you are issued at Registration is your pass to the convention, including all its related activities. You must have your badge with you at all times, and it must be visible for you to be admitted to any convention-specific area, event, or activity. If you lose your badge, go to Registration and bring photo ID. If you find a lost badge, please turn it in to Registration.

**MINORS:** Age 12 and Under: All children age 12 and under must be accompanied, at all times, by a parent or guardian who is also a registered guest of Kumoricon. Age 13 and Up: All minors 13 and up must have permissifrom their parents or legal guardians to attend the convention in written form. This form will be available online. A parent/legal guardian must be present at the convention site from midnight to 4:00 AM. All guardians must be 18 or over and have parental permission from the minor's parent or legal guardian.

**CURFEW:** Kumoricon has a curfew on all convention space from Midnight to 4:00 A.M. All unaccompanied minors (ages 17 and under) in Kumoricon function space during this time should be asked to leave. Minors aged 15-17 who are with their parental guardians may be allowed to stay unless the content of the event deems otherwise. If appropriate, also warn them that the city of Portland has the following curfew ordinance with respecto wandering outside:

28.010. Curfew: It is unlawful for any minor under the age of 18 years to be in or upon any street, park, or other public place between the hours specified in this Section, unless such minor is accompanied by a parent, guardian or other person 21 years of age or over and authorized by the parent or by the law to have care and custody of the minor, or unless such minor is then engaged in a school activity or lawful employment that makes it necessary to be in or upon such street, park, or other public place during the hours specified in this Section. For minors under the age of 14 years who have not begun high school, the curfew is between 9:15 P.M. and 6 A.M. of the followin morning, except that on any day immediately preceding a day for which no public school is scheduled in the city the curfew is between 10:15 P.M. and A.M. of the following morning. For children 14 years of age or older who have begun high school, the curfew is between 10:15 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. of the following morning, except that on any day for which no public school is scheduled in the City, the curfew is between 10:15 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. of the following morning, except that on any day immediately preceding a day for which no public school is scheduled in the City, the curfew is between 12 midnight and 6 A.M. of the following morning. All minors must have a legal guardian with them at all times after midnight.

**FLYERS:** An appropriate area will be designated for posting flyers and information. Do not put up or allow others to put up flyers in any other hotel space. They will be removed. Check at the Info Desk. Content of the flyers must be acceptable and fall within the PG parameters of the convention.

**HOTEL:** Abide by all hotel policies. Realize that if you permanently stain hotel towels with makeup or hair dye, you will be charged - so bring your own towels. Do not sleep in public areas of the hotel. Please refrain from making excessive noise in your rooms as this can disturb other guests of the hotel who may be trying to sleep. Keep in mind that there are non-convention attendees who are also guests of the hotel, and that not all con-goers will share your enthusiasm at 3:00 A.M.



# POLICIES

**LIABILITY:** Kumoricon, its personnel, and its affiliates, are not responsible for any damage, theft, injury or loss. Attendees of the convention are responsible for their actions as individuals, as well as for any resulting repercussions. Staff are on hand for assistance in any situation; however, any civil or medical emergencies that may occur must be handled directly by appropriate authority.

**MERCHANDISE:** You must pay for all merchandise obtained from vendors. Save your receipts as proof of payment. Be patient with the crowds in the Vendors Room and make sure to pay the appropriate vendors for all the things that you purchase.

**HARASSMENT:** Harassment of attendees will not be tolerated. Harassment can be defined as any behavior that another person finds annoying or alarming. This includes but is not limited to threats of physical violence, making conversation or physical contact that has been refused, or following another person around in a public area without good cause. If someone tells you to leave them alone, or says 'no,' stop what you are doing and leave them alone. If you do not do so at once, your actions probably constitute harassment. If you feel that you are being harassed or threatened with physical aggressive force, immediately bring the matter to the attention of convention security who will be wearing red ribbons. Repeat and/or severe offenders will be required to hand over their badges and leave the convention.

**APPEALS:** To appeal a decision by con personnel which you feel to be unfair (such as whether attire is appropriate) visit the convention Operations Room. Any decision then reached by the convention officers present (at least two officers and the member of personnel who originally made the decision), will be final.

**SMOKING AND DRINKING:** Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the public areas of the hotel or within ten feet of any entrance thereof. It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to consume alcohol in the State of Oregon. For those who are of age, be responsible. Drunk and disorderly conduct is against the law, and anyone behaving in a disruptive or disorderly fashion due to intoxication in the convention areas will be dealt with accordingly. Do not drink and drive. Driving under the influence is reckless, criminal, and poses the risk of killing yourself or others.



let involved! Visit the info desk to learn about voluntcorrect deck chind the scenes and get to know our friendly staff and tellow or

# PERSONNEL

#### Sponsors

Viz Central Park Tokyopop Funimation AnimEigo Darkhorse

#### EXHIBITORS

Yes Anime Anime Pavilion Comic Cellar Kinokuniya Bookstore Greg Dean and Real Life Comics Anime Palace Yaoi-Con Sean's Anime Superlime Industries

#### PRESENTERS

MECHANIZED PROPULSION SYSTEMS: Earle Bishop

FAN-FIGTION: Blackjack Gabbiani Shen Hope Amanda Lemoncelli

#### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

#### Elisabeth Faulke Wallace Lundblade, Cover Artist

#### KUMORICON STAFF

Arlene Penrose Bronwyn Williams Nathan Hansen Sean Larson Valerie Watrous Tara Fuller Ryan Stasel Eric Teitzel Brian Hammond Lyle Clingman Jr. Tammy Nezol Peter Verrey Convention Chair Director of Operations Director of Programming Director of Relations Director of Publicity Treasurer N.A. Guest Relations Exhibitor Relations Assistant Director of Relations Registration Operations Volunteer Coordinator Staff Coordinator

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Tournament Coordinators: Morgan Holland, Kaite Rupert, Mark Webb, Steve Melton

Miscellaneous Staff: Josh David, Beau Gentry, David Reynolds, Michelle Grant, Marie Landers, Nicole Wilson Eric Paugh, Marci-Joy Clark, Andrew Stoneman, Duncan Barth, Christine Chinn, Jess Shelton

#### VOLUNTEERS

Get involved! Visit the info desk to learn about volunteering during Kumoricon. Experience events from behind the scenes and get to know our friendly staff and fellow volunteers.

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#### JOSHUA SETH

Joshua Seth is one of the busiest voice-over actors in Hollywood. Millions of kids know him as the voice of Tai, the leader of the Digimon, in "Digimon: The Movie" as well as on the daily cartoon series. More recently, kids know him as the voice of "Shobu" the main character on "Dual Masters". Joshua can also be heard this year in "The Spongebob Squarepants Movie" and "Racing Stripes".

To adult fans of animation, he is best known as the villainous voice of "Tetsuo,"

the starring role in the newly restored anime masterpiece "Akira" (2001). He's also generating new buzz for his performances as "Hige" in "Wolf's Rain" and "Lord Dio" in "Last Exile". Joshua also voices the evil "Young Knives" in "Trigun" and the heroic "Elk" in "Arc the Lad" as well as "009" on "Cyborg Soldier 009", "Spencer" on Tokyo Pig, and "Sparky" on the new "Speed Racer". Other series he's voiced include: Giant Robo, Candidate for Goddess, Eagle Riders, Honeybee Hutch, Anemia & Iodine, DNA Sights, Technoman, Wild Seven, Super Pig, Journey to the Heart of the World, and the new pilot Schmutz!

Joshua can also be heard on numerous video games, movies and TV Series. Chief among them are: Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Lemony Snicket's, Tony Hawk, Xenosaga II, Maximum Exposure, and over 50 national commercials. Currently, Joshua's the voice of "Tower Records" as well as the voice of "Kids WB" where he does promo and announce work on: The Batman, Pokemon, Jackie Chan Adventures, Mucha Lucha Gigante, Mecha Man Access, Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends, and Yu-Gi-Oh!



#### GREG DEAN

Greg Dean is the author and illustrator of the popular online comic, Real Life (http://www.reallifecomics.com). Updating every weekday, the comic focuses on video games with an autobiographical slant.

Greg Dean has recently appeared at SugoiCon, RECCA Con and Sakura-Con.



#### TOSHIFUMI YOSHIDA

Anime Producer Toshifumi Yoshida got his start in the anime and manga world during the late '80s as a founding member and staff translator of the gone-but-not-forgotten anime magazine, ANIMAG, although of course he grew up watching the stuff as a wee spanker living in Shizuoka, Japan. Toshi has been a video producer for VIZ, LLC. for the last 12 years working at the home office in San Francisco and at the recording studio in Vancouver, Canada. For the past three years, he has been working on Inuyasha for Cartoon Network's Adult Swim and also for home-video release.

Last year, Toshi has left his full-time position at VIZ to continue his career as a contract translator, writer and producer-for-hire. This allows him to work from home and spend more time with his wife, Trish Ledoux, and with their new son, Hajime. Even though Toshi is no longer working from the VIZ office, he is continuing as the producer of Inuyasha under contract with VIZ

### DR. ANTONIA LEVI

The author of *Samurai from Outer Space: Understanding Japanese Animation*, Dr. Antonia Levi has been a guest at Sakura-Con on several occasions. Having lived and studied in Japan, Dr. Levi was an otaku long before anime began to be popular in America. She has been a part in anime-themed user groups online for years. Holding her Ph.D. in Japanese History, Dr. Levi has an impressive knowledge of such anime-related phenomena as shojo, yaoi, fan-fiction, mythology, and other topics. She is currently a professor at Portland State University, where she has taught courses in Japanese political history, Asian studies, and Japanese animation and manga.

#### BRAD DEMOSS



Brad DeMoss has been making music videos since 1989, but did not focus on anime music videos until his first one, "The Distance", won the Action/Adventure category at Anime Expo 1997, as well as audience favorite at Anime Weekend Atlanta the same year. Since then, he has made nearly thirty more videos, including "Episode I", winner of the grand prize at Anime Expo 2000 and best in show at Anime Weekend Atlanta's Music Video Exposition, "Rhythm of the Heat", winner of the drama category at Anime Expo 2000, and "I'm Super", winner of the audience favorite award at Project A-Kon 2001. Earlier this year,

his most recent videos won runner-up technical and artistic achievement awards at Project A-Kon.

Most recently, Mr. DeMoss has turned more of his efforts to "The DDR Project", a series of music videos using music from the various "Dance Dance Revolution" games. Each project runs more than 60 minutes in length and is compiled from music videos created by editors from all over the U.S, as well as Canada and Great Britain.

In addition, Mr. DeMoss's voice has been heard on a handful of anime projects, including "Nazca", "Amazing Nurse Nanako", "Neia\_7", and "Spirit of Wonder."

#### BAKAZOKU

A comic cosplay group that offers hilarity beyond comprehension. Members: Mike Stark, Chris Vance, Jeremiah Rosario, Joe Jennings, and Joanna Staebler.



## AUTOGRAPHS

Have something signed by one of our guests in the special autograph session designated for this purpose. Page 19 is left open for attendees who wish to have their con book signed.

# EVENT AREA MAP



# JOIN US AGAIN!



# HTTP://WWW.KUMORICON.ORG

#### ACROSS

- 4 Five
- 5 Totoro
- 6 STNJ
- 7 Vash
- 10 Sasuke
- 14 Inuyasha
- 15 Vicious
- 17 Neon Genesis Evangelion (one word in puzzle)
- 18 Chiyo
- 19 Mustang

#### DOWN

- 1 Zelda
- 2 Motoko
- 3 Luna
- 4 FLCL
- 6 Spirited Away (one word in puzzle)
- 8 Alucard
- 9 Homunculus
- 10 Sephiroth
- 11 Mario
- 12 Two
- 13 Marriott
- 16 Tetsuo

# PROGRAMMING

### I 🤕 THE COSPLAY CONTEST

A friendly competition aimed at getting all those creatively inclined, or just looking for a fun time, to dress up as a character from a manga, anime, video game, etc., and entertain an audience by re-creating a scene or demonstrating their skills in dance, comedy, music, costuming, or something completely new and exciting! Forms to enter will be available at the information desk. This event will be ticketed. Tickets will be available at the information desk on the morning of the contest. Tickets are free with your registration badge, one per attendee, on a first come, first served basis.

#### 📃 FRUITS FASHION SWAP

FRUiTS is a bright and colorful fashion straight from Tokyo. Come check out these fun clothes and trade with people with similar interests.



#### 📿 45 MINUTE COSTUME CONTEST

This is one contest no costumer should miss! Contestants will be given 45 minutes of working time and lots of wacky materials, including essentials of putting it together such as glue, safety pins, thread, and duct tape, and set to work. Use your creativity to create an amazing original costume designed entirely by you—you could even win a prize!

#### 📃 HALL COSPLAY

To honor all those hall-wandering cosplayers who have amazing costumes, but don't do the contest, judges will be on the lookout for excellent costumes and props and handing out awards during the con. All winners must be willing to give their name, badge number, and permit us to take a photo of their costume for display on our website (with the option of being identified only by a nickname online). Attendees are allowed to nominate any staff and volunteers they see with exceptional costumes. All costumes/props must be handmade by the wearer/bearer or someone else to be eligible; due credit should be assigned to both the creator and the model if they are different.

## L KUMORICON DANCE

Get ready to strut your most elegant Lolita or your best cosplay costume. You can even just come as you are, but be ready to rock out. Our dance will feature a blend of anime music and J-tunes that will keep your feet moving all night and into the early morning hours!

#### 🧵 РНОТО ВООТН

Stop by the Photo Booth and have your cosplay pictures taken! There's no charge for taking the picture; you can pay to have your own copies of the photo or just "donate" it as a record of cosplayers at the con. This is also a great chance to get a group photo shoot of cosplayers from particular anime and video games. Ask at the info desk for details!

From hair paints and dyes to on-the-skin accents, to the materials used for forming prop weapons, this panel is the beginning costumer's guide to available products: what works, what doesn't, and what is just plain messy.

#### AAKING COSPLAY ARMOR PIECES

In this how to demo-and-discussion, we'll cover everything from expense to workability, outlining several basic options that a cosplay has when creating armor pieces for their costume. The pros and cons of working with cloth, paper mache, and plaster wrap, moldable air-hardened products, and leather will be included.

#### FIRST EPISODE THEATER

Held in one of the video rooms. We will be screening the first episode of five different newer series not yet available or coming soon to the U.S. domestically. Come and see some of the latest shows airing in Japan.

#### VIDEO ROOMS

Check the schedule to see what is playing in the video rooms. Major events include the Sailormoon Live Marathon and Hong Kong Cinema Block.

#### VIEWER'S CHOICE

Here's your chance to decide what is shown at the con! Visit the video rooms, bring a DVD to share, and you the viewer will vote on which anime title we show. Share an old favorite or discover something new. (Mature content will only be shown after curfew.)

#### $\mathbb{Z}_{i}$ comedy hypnotism show by Joshua Seth

Voice-over artist and comedy hypnotist, Joshua Seth, brings you his fast-paced, highly entertaining show that will keep you on the edge of your seat! The show combines side-splittingly funny comedy with the mysteries of the human mind. Be sure to attend this unique and highly-interactive event!

### 【 📿 THIS IS J-HORROR FANDOM

The Survival Horror Society is here to serve as your guide to the frightening and foreboding world of Japanese Horror Fandom. Whether the medium is video games, manga, anime, or live action film, the Japanese have their own techniques to scare, disturb, and disquiet you, and this panel showcases the fandom niche for Japan's special brand of horror, including where to find it, a viewer's guide, recommendation list for movies, and more.

### ANIME THAT SCARRED ME FOR LIFE

Does some anime just hurt your head? Have you ever finished a show feeling confused, brain-fried, or in need of a little therapy? This is a "support group" for all of us who have been traumatized by our anime viewing experiences, everything from Eva, Excel, Guu and Cat Soup to the Utena movie, Lain, and stuff by CLAMP. If it warped your mind, we share your pain!

#### AMV CONTEST

Entries are grouped into categories, shown, and voted on. Winners will be chosen by vote for each category, plus one or two general awards: Best of Show, and possibly Judges' Choice. Categories are "Cutting Edge" Action, Traditional Japanese Setting, "Cutting Edge" Dance Video, Instrumental, and Comedy, Parody Trailers, and Parody Commercials. Come to see how your video does or just sit back and watch!

#### ADULT MEDIA DISCUSSION FORUM

Open discussion of adult content in anime and manga. Topics include hentai, yaoi, yuri, and other genres intended for the 18+ crowd. No minors will be admitted to this event.



#### ART SHOW

The Art Show offers a chance for any artist to show off his or her talent. All ages and levels of experience are welcome. Any format or mixture of techniques, including pencil sketch, pen and ink, watercolor, and computer prints will be accepted. This year's show will include a silent auction for those who wish to participate. The Art Show will also feature special guests from the Bonsai Society of Portland and Team Exodus Faded Spirits. Visitors are requested to leave their cameras and camera phones in their bags while viewing the Art Show.

#### DEVIANTART GATHERING

Deviantart is an online community of millions of artists, many of whom draw anime. Come and learn about this popular website. Or, if you're already a part of Deviantart, it's a chance to meet your fellow deviants in person. There will be stories, strategies, and techniques to share!

Wonder how the pros get those smooth lines or crisp clean colors? Have you ever wanted to clean up those pencil sketches and never knew how? This panel will be a general overview and demo of popular programs and basic techniques.



### ART & MANGA CONTEST

Three categories: best manga (or start of one), best original character(s)/universe, and best canon character(s)/ universe. Drop by and vote! Spontaneous additional contests may be added throughout the convention.

#### KUMORICON CHARITY AUCTION

Another first for Kumoricon, all proceeds from this auction will benefit p:ear (http://www.pearmentor.org), a local organization that benefits homeless and transitional youth through education, arts, and recreation. Help out a good cause and bid for great anime-related items, generously donated to Kumoricon.

### KARAOKE OPEN MIC

Want to show off your karaoke skills in a non-competition atmosphere? Unlike the contests, Open Mic will not be judged, and participants can sing anything they want, whether it's Japanese or not. This is also a great opportunity for anyone who is curious about karaoke and would like to try it for the first time. Check the schedule for hours.

### ARAOKE CONTEST I: JAPANESE IDOL

Hear serious singers perform beautiful songs. Japanese Idol contestants are judged on vocal ability and talent. All songs are of Japanese or anime origin. Visit the info desk for audition date and time.

See cosplay and karaoke collide in this Kumoricon first – Karaoke where your acting skills and cosplay count! Contestants will put on skits, perform artistic acts, and go for audience appeal, all while performing songs to compliment their performances. Karaoke cosplay will range from the serious to the hilarious. Visit the info desk for audition date and time.



### FAN CREATION STATION

Fans are the core of Kumoricon, and fan creations – written, performed, or drawn – are the heart of the Fan Creation Station! All day and all night, all con, come by and join the fun! Free art, writing and editing supplies will be available all weekend in a warm, welcoming, cozy room! You may also add your own art or fic event in the room. Come by the station to coordinate.

#### FAN-FICTION BEDTIME STORIES

Born at Kumoricon and ran ten hours at Sakuracon! Sign up to read (or to have read for you) your own or others' fan-fictions out loud to the adoring crowd. Prizes for best performances as well as best writing! A warm, appreciative, slumber party atmosphere complete with free snacks. Works containing more mature content will be featured after curfew (for ages 17 and older).

### E FAN-FICTION THEATRE

New this year! Cosplay your own and others' fan-fictions or cheer on our performers and vote for best props, best costumes, best storyline, and best performances! Prizes and snacks will be provided.

#### BETA STATION

A chance for those who write, want to write, edit, or want to edit, to get together and share fan-fiction.

#### 🛛 🗾 IMPROVISATIONAL FAN-FICTION CONTESTS

Throughout the weekend, the Fan-Fiction group will have several collaborative and competitive games that merge improvisational drama and fan-fiction. Events include, but are not limited to:

• Story Story Die: Each in turn must continue telling/performing an improvised story where the prior speaker left off; those who pause must act out an untimely demise!

• Scenes From a Hat: Participants will propose topics, then draw one out of a hat and have a certain amount of time to write about it before reading their works aloud.

### 🖓 FAN-FICTION 101 & 201

Includes two separate events to accommodate different experience levels. One will assist those who are just starting out as authors, editors, or readers of fan-fiction. The other will be for those who are more advanced in these areas. All ages and all questions are welcome!

#### STORY TIME WITH UNCLE SLICKS AND YOUR EVIL MONKEY The stories of conventions, fandom, and general wackiness not usually reserved for the general public. Mature content is likely (ages 17+ only).

### ✓ ANIME CLUBS 101

Here's just the thing to make your dream of running a local anime club come true! A question and answer sessio with people who have done it their own way, and seen it done by others that will cover basic questions, plus any additional ones from attendees.

#### RANT AND RAVE

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It's your con – own it! Good feedback or bad, we want to hear your thoughts. Stop by after closing ceremonies to tell the staff what you thought of the con.

Q MECHANIZED PROPULSION SYSTEMS Learn about the team dedicated to building the world's first real anime-style mech. For six years, MPS has been designing and creating their first prototype mech. Their team is composed of engineers, craftsmen, programmers, and test pilots, and continues to recruit for these roles and others. Learn what they do and how we're doing it; they will have mecha-tech demonstrations with verbal explanations and actual mech parts on hand. Visit their website at http://ww.MechaPS.com for more information.

#### VIDED GAME TOURNAMENTS

Check your con schedule for tournaments in the gaming room, including favorites like Super Smash Brothers, Mario Cart Double Dash, Soul Caliber II, Tekken 5, Naruto 3, DDR (both for Style and Score), Guilty Gear GGXX#R, Halo 2, and Mario Tennis.

Q DNEESAN'S EXTREME ANIME TRIVIA BATTLE Do you really know your anime and video games? Hontou ni? Then what are you waiting for? Come participate in a no-holds-barred anime trivia contest with all new questions and a new, sleek game format, but the same great theme: last otaku standing wins the ultimate prize! Contestants are chosen from the audience. Round winners will also win prizes and there may even be a prize for "best death" . . . if you haven't seen anime trivia done Battle Royale-style, you don't know what you're missing!

Q ANIME DOES JEOPARDY This trivia contest follows a format similar to the long-running game show, Jeopardy, but with anime-themed categories an interactive otaku twist. More than a contest; it's fun for the audience too! If you miss the Trivia Battle, be sure to stop in here for your does of anime trivia goodness.

#### RETURN OF THE ANIME MYSTERY

When the official mascot art went missing at the first Kumoricon, we turned to our attendees to solve the problem. Now, a new mystery plagues the con and it's up to you, the loyal and brilliant attendees, to figure out whodunit!

#### THE SLIGHTLY ANIME DATING GAME

Want to see lots of people do really stupid things for a very small chance at a (possibly) hot date? Just how desperate are these otaku? Come and find out! An event brought to you by Slightly Anime.

#### BOUNTY HUNTER

Track down the rare and mysterious object pictured in our Wantedposters and return it to its Keepers at the info desk for an instant prize! Running several times throughout the convention.

#### RAMEN FIRE BOWL ATTACK!

Do you think you have what it takes to survive until the finish? Can you handle the heat? Then come test your abilities. Or if you're weak, just cheer the others on.

# Secrets, Secrets Are No Fun



**Boys Over Flowers** SHHH! Shizuka gave up

everything (and everyone)

## Sensual Phrase

SHHH! To become a model, what behind-the-camera favors will Aine fulfill to get in front of one?

SENSUAL PHRASE © 1997 Mayu Shinjo/Shogakukan, Inc.

## Unless you are a part of one!

With great storylines and characters you can actually relate to, it's no secret that VIZ Media has the best shojo manga around. We're not ashamed, so go ahead and tell your friends. It's not something we like to keep to ourselves, anyway.





Hana-Kimi

SHHH! Mizuki's a girl pretending to be a boy. Will a class trip to the hot springs put this bathing beauty in hot water?

Hanazakari no Kimitachi he © Hisaya Nakajo 1996/HAKUSENSHA, Inc.

You may notice that our logo has changed.

HANA-KIMI

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HISAYA NAKAJO

With the merger of VIZ and ShoPro Entertainment, a groundbreaking new company has formed-VIZ Media.

art by HISAYA NAKA

# AUTOGRAPHS

