

KUMORICONTENT 2009

Con is in the air! The forums are ablaze with people desperately selling last year's treasures to earn money for this year's must-haves. Cosplayers know they are running out of time and compensate with extra caffeine. Gamers are bandaging up blisters from extra practice. And everyone is checking under the couch cushions for any extra spending money they can scrounge up.

All the mini-events, forum discussions, staff meetings, and sleepless nights of prep have been leading up to this year's Kumoricon, set to be one of the best years yet. Don't believe me? Look at all the things we have going for us!

- A high profile hotel, set in Oregon's most thriving city.
- Thousands of con-goers and friends taking hundreds of thousands of pictures.
- More contests this year than you could shake a Kumoricon umbrella at, including favorites like the cosplay, fanfiction, art, and AMV contests.
- New guests of honor, including Jason Thompson, Svetlana Chmakova, Last Stop Tokyo, and Soul Candy.
- A huge variety of Exhibitors and Artist Alley artists, selling exclusive items and art at "exclusive" prices.
- I don't think I can list all of the new, exciting panels, dances, events, and everything else I'm looking forward to, buuuut....
- This year we're heading toward our first 24-hour con! We'll be keeping gaming and viewing rooms open for the insomniacs and sleep deprived (but DO try and get SOME sleep ^^)

MINI-EVENTS



Dance Dance Kumoricon was a blast! Gamers and otaku who attended had the chance to rave through more than 4 hours of video game based music and soundtracks. I would've loved to see a harmonic triage of LED lights, background anime, and huge Super Mario Bros. props on stage! It was sure to make for some amazing pictures! Some of the crowd favorites were Darude: Sandstorm, The Village People: YMCA, Immortals: Mortal Kombat, Sir Mix A Lot: Baby Got Back, Hamsterdance, Vengaboys: We Like To Party, Michael Jackson: Beat It, and Powerglove: Tetris.

Bored after KumoriCon?

Come see us at Festival Japan, Sep. 26-27,
taking place at Uwajimaya in Beaverton!

CONTESTS AND EVENTS

Just because there are so many contests and events this year doesn't mean you only have to enter one. We still have plenty you can sign up for, such as Karaoke contests, Art Show, Cosplay Chess, and the Art Auction. If you're looking to participate in the AMV contests, I'm afraid you're too late, but they can be saved till next year.

CREATION STATION

Creation station crew have been involved in Kumoricon since its inception, from our first fanfic panel and contest at KC '03 to present. Our Beta Station, at KC '04, made KC the vanguard in Fan Creation Programming, as it was the first known room, at any anime con, to be dedicated to fanfiction! Copic-sponsored art contests, fanfic improv & performance, adult events, hands-on crafts workshops, and how-tos from making manga to Putting it in Print, now enrich our Creation Station programming. Join us in the Directors and Council rooms on the 3rd floor of the Hilton, and at the_creation_station@yahoo.com.

We got lots of fanfic and art contests that you can enter at the con, also - preferably, by the end of the first day. That'll leave time to do some (or rather, a lot) of the judging. Don't underestimate the amount of entries we get, though!

Check out http://www.kumoricon.org/?page_id=94 for all the contests and information, as well as some of the forms needed.

Check out ALLLL of the How-To workshops and panels, including making plushies and bears to improving your drawing skills to perfecting your grammar and character development for fanfics! ^^

GAMING

Not just video game consoles! There will be tabletop gaming, collectible card games, and a Local Area Network to play online. Gaming contests? Of course! There will be the favorites from previous years, like DDR, Super Smash Bros. Brawl, Mario Kart Wii, and Starcraft, to name just a few genres. New and awesome games coming out for the new and awesome consoles means new and awesome contests! You'll have to check them out for yourself. Hey, BlazBlue anyone? Ask about some spontaneous contests, too.

We need a few more GMs/DMs to run some adventures for tabletop gaming still. Feel free to bring your own RPG books to hold your own campaign with a system you're familiar with. ~ A friendly warning ~ If you play a Dragon Ball Z RPG, and you want to get a few more dice for a better chance of successes or damage, you can act out your character's amazing technique. But under pressure, trying a fusion technique by touching fingers with another person is a LOT harder than it sounds!

EXHIBITORS HALL/ARTIST ALLEY

You CAN'T forget to get here at least once during the con. The pressure to buy those rare items/manga/videos or commissions from the best artists around is way too overwhelming! You saved up your allowance for months, or worked that overtime just to spend a few hundred dollars here. Remember, you only get this chance once a year! Support your favorite starving artists and vendors and make sure they come back next year and years to come. However, with the current weather, I couldn't imagine purchasing an umbrella and going outside without it spontaneously combusting >_> Make sure your clothes aren't flammable this year!

OTHER PANELS AND STUFF

Once you get to the con, you'll have a couple seconds to get organized and plan your days ahead of time before you're bombed with cameras (or doing the bombing) and reuniting with friends.

ANIME MUSIC VIDEO

If you don't know what AMV stands for, you've been missing out on about 80% of life! You like anime? You like music? That's why you're here, right? This year, there's more than 70GB of AMVs to show off. How much is 70GB? Well, my computer would start having heart spasms. You're looking at almost 2 hours of videos here. The seven categories this year include:

TENSION (Replaces DRAMA 1) Any story or strong theme holding the audience in high suspense throughout. This could be (but not limited to) situations like: a conflict of wills, a calculated risk during a race against time, or confronting an ominous and shifting threat, or exploring and probing an unknown menace.

GENKI! (Replaces DRAMA 2) The sugar-blast category. Light and fun exuberant works, possibly using dance beat. Themes with a fun-for-all, positive feel or outcome.

JAPANESE MUSIC An open category using any sort of Japanese music, from traditional to enka to J-pop.

RETRO This category has FOUR conditions. The AMV must meet any TWO of them:

- (a) MIDI music from 'classic' game console systems.
- (b) Audio source is anything created before 1983.
- (c) All anime is 20th century.
- (d) Video must appear as monochrome or black and white. You may add a sepia tone to the light color for the 'faded old film' look. (Grainy film treatments, longitudinal vertical scratches, or 'strands of hair and other cruff stuck in the projector window' effects are optional.)

Your choice - pick any two from the above.

RANDOM AMUSEMENT This is a broader category than Comedy / Parody; it also includes bizarre or off-beat works that con-fuse as well as a-muse.

TRAILERS Includes fake commercials, TV spots, and movie and game trailers. May use actual advertising audio or a fictitious creation in the style of a commercial, trailer, or fake episode opening credits. Serious and intriguing dual-openers will also show in this category. Comedy trailers may get redirected to RANDOM AMUSEMENT.

ACTION & EFFECTS This is where the high-speed music and flashy stuff meet. Take your Bonine® and buckle in!

More info can be found, along with the rules, at <http://www.opusnet.com/guy1656/k2009-amv.htm>

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THIS YEAR!

REGISTRATION HOURS:

Friday: 4pm-9pm

Saturday: 6am-7pm

Sunday: 8am-7pm

Monday: 8am-3pm