

PRESENTING YOUR COSTUME

What Do I Do After the Sewing is Done?

Who We Are



Samaru

What This Panel Covers

- Hallway/Photoshoot Posing
- Costume Contest Participation
- Con Survival Tips

POSING

You want me to do what?

Hallway Posing



- Quick Snapshot Poses
- Have 2-3 Poses Prepared
- Avoid standing in front of windows or doorways
- Don't block traffic!

Group Photoshoots

- Usually include shots of each single cosplayer, popular pairings, and whole group
- Know how your character would act around others so you can come up with poses as needed
- Usually 5-10 seconds per pose



COSTUME CONTESTS

Just what do I do on stage anyway?

Basics of a Masquerade

- Pre-Judging
- Green Room/Pre-Show
- On-Stage Performance/Skit
- Walk-Ons

Preparing for a Masquerade

- Signing Up
- Requirements
- Reference Art
- In-Progress Pictures
- Judges' Speech
- Final Details

Signing Up

- Check the convention's web page for sign up method
- Usually e-mail or form on site
- Sometimes only at con

Masquerade Requirements

- Check the Website!
- Handmade vs. Found Item
- % Self-Made vs. Store-Bought
- Allowed Characters/Series
- Judging Whole Costume
- Prop Rules
- Skit/Performance Rules
- Models?
- E-Mail Judges for Questions!

Reference Art



- Bring It!
- Artwork shows what you are creating
- Different Angles are Helpful
- Used by Judges to Judge Accuracy of Costume
- Especially Useful for Unknown Characters
- Official vs Fan Art
- Color!

In-Progress Pictures



- Show the work that went into your costume
- Some masquerades require these to prove you made your costume

Judges' Speech

- Usually 3-5 Minutes
- Have talking points to show off the details of your costume
- Highlight any especially difficult or well done parts
- Don't point out flaws
- If you learned something or tried something new point it out
- Be confident!

Final Touches



- Seam-Finishing
- Loose Threads
- Iron Your Costume!
- Check Makeup/Wig
- This is the Time for Your Costume to be Perfect!

Judging

- Be there early and plan on staying late
- Judging is where you have a chance to show the judges all the work that went into your costume
- Judges will most likely pull at your costume and may check finish and fine details
- If they make you uncomfortable let them know

Judging

- This is the time to point out good things. Lead them through the good/away from the bad
- Have your speech ready and be prepared to answer questions
- Show your reasoning for what you did. Especially deviations from the artwork

Before the Masquerade

- Green Room
- Be prepared to run late
- Remember your order
- Do not bring anything you don't absolutely need
- Drink plenty of water/use the bathroom

During the Masquerade

- Relax! Make new friends :D
- Most walk-ons will be simple stop and pose
- Check requirements for skits ahead of time. See if you need a pre-recorded dialog or if you will be doing it live.
- Make sure you bring an emergency repair kit

On Stage

- Try to pick poses to show your costumes from all sides.
- Action poses are good with props or weapons
- Face different parts of the audience
- Don't walk on stage, run, and walk off



After the Masquerade

- DO NOT HARSHLY CRITIQUE DURING SHOW OR IN ROOM
- Just because you don't win, doesn't mean your costume wasn't good
- Many judges will provide feedback on costumes if you'd like (ask ahead of time)
- HAVE FUN!!!

Con Survival Tips

- Have a costume repair kit with needle, thread, safety pins, duct tape, etc.
- Drink plenty of fluids and be mindful of heat
- Have fun!

More Information

- Sanddiverstudios.com – our website, working on How To's detailing construction of our costumes as well as con photos
- [American Cosplay Paradise/Experience-Costume](#) listing and discussion forums
- Cosplay.com – Cosplay discussion forums, anything you need to know!
- [Costume Construction Basics-Sunday 1PM](#)

Questions/Comments?