

COSPLAY

Issue 3 • Oct. 2004 • Silicon • Japantown Anime Faire • Sacramento Anime Show



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**Coming in Issue Three:
Cosplay at Metreon Festival of Anime
Coming soon to www.efanzines.com**



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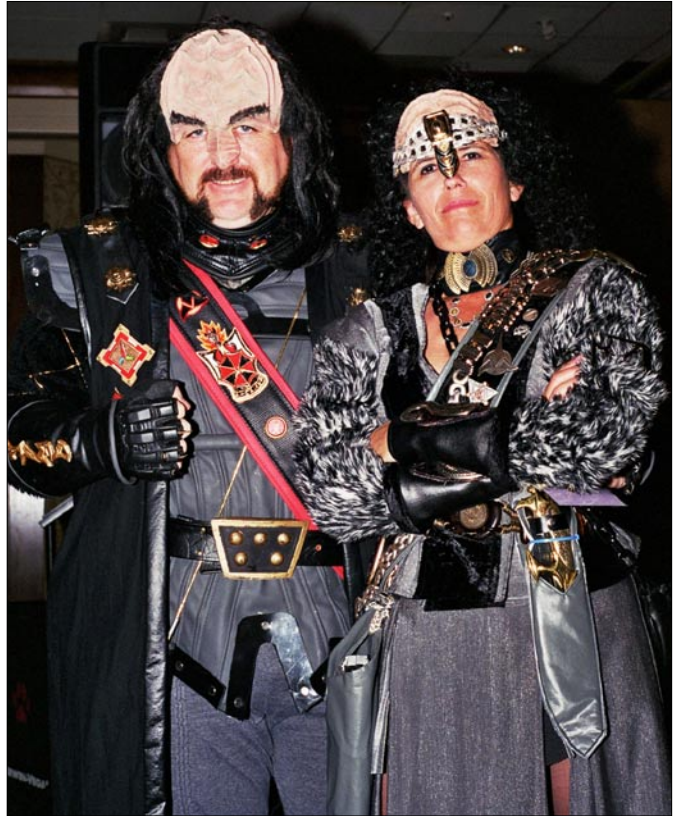
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Silicon 2004

Silicon 2004 was held over the Labor Day weekend at the Doubletree Inn where so many San Jose conventions are held. (I keep wanting to call it the Red Lion Inn, that's how far back I go.) I had never attended this convention before, although I've gone to several Baycons, which are held over Memorial Day weekend. Since I was looking for more cosplay photo opportunities, and since I was roughly in the neighborhood anyway, I decided to stop by on Saturday evening to see the masquerade.

After going to a library book sale and hunting for used books in the East Bay, I arrived in San Jose about 4:30 or 5 p.m. and found out that a one day registration would cost \$30, but a night registration would only cost \$10. Since the night

Jack Sparrow from Pirates of the Caribbean



Klingon Couple

registration began at 7 p.m. I decided to wait. While I would not be able to go into any panels or the dealer's room, I really didn't miss anything. A quick look into the dealers room showed that no dealers were selling used books and none of the panels being held sounded interesting.

While waiting I enjoyed several shows at the anime room being put on by the Bay Area Anime Society. Now this sounds at first as if I'm getting in without paying, but by long tradition, and legal requirements, anime showings like this should be free and open to the public. Permission to show licensed anime is contingent on not charging for admission and anime fansubbers would be very upset if anyone charged for what they give away for free. So I had no qualms about enjoying a few hours of good anime. I saw *Read Or Die* again. Always a good choice. I just love an adventure anime based on reading and books. And who knew that the Special Engineering Division of the British library had a commando-equipped nuclear sub on standby?

They were also showing the hard science fiction show *Planetes*, which I did not know had been made into an anime, although I've read and enjoyed the manga. This was also very good, but it was spoiled by some guy and his little brat. The guy was obviously not interested in the anime as the boy kept doing shadow puppets against the screen. This was very annoying, particularly when he obscured the subtitles. The man would tell the kid to stop when he noticed what was going on and this stopped him for about five seconds until he was back at it. The pointed comments from those there who wanted to watch the anime didn't seem to do any good. I also saw an episode of *Melody of Oblivion*, which I now know I don't ever have to watch again. Part of the joy of these shows is finding unexpected gems, part is finding out what titles not to bother with.



The Mayor's Wife from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*

One quibble I had is that they didn't have a schedule posted in advance, something that made planning a bit difficult.



When not watching anime, I wandered the hotel and took photos of some of the hall costumes. I saw a couple of anime cosplayers who I'd met at Tales of Anime. I didn't recognize Dany who was showing off her new Jem outfit (from cartoon *Jem and the Holograms*) as she looked very different from Tales of Anime where she was dressed as Mina Harker from *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. But mostly this was a completely different crowd from the anime convention circuit.

Once night registration was open, I paid for my membership and found a good seat for the masquerade. Unfortunately the lighting was very dim and yellow and my photos of the event itself did not turn out well. The number of participants was low, and I think the judges gave everyone an

This Psycop from *Babylon Five* knows what you're thinking



award. Dany took best of show. Another cosplayer I met at Tales of Anime took “Most Demonic.”

While the judges conferred, there was a cute skit where Writer Guest of Honor Wanda Haight, who was emceeing the show, was attacked by a guy in a shark costume and was rescued by Godzilla and Gamera. Unfortunately, with the lighting and the speed they were running around, I couldn’t get a good photo. The Godzilla and Gamera costumes were quite impressive.

After watching some more anime and deciding that it was getting late, I left for the two-hour drive home. It was worth the \$10, but I can’t see making this convention a regular stop.

These two had the best hall costumes I saw, but didn’t show up for the Masqueuerade. The rat guy is a Skaven from the Warhammer game.





Dany as Jem, lead singer of Jem and the Holograms won best of show for this costume





Left: Easterlings from Lord of the Rings. These were two of the judges for the Maskquerade and with the talent to produce these costumes I can see why they were asked to be judges.

Above: Xena.

Below: A Klingon.





Left: Fan GOH
Sara Bruce as a Jedi.

Right: Fantasy artist
Jennifer O'Meara. I forgot
to ask what her costume
is from.

Lower Left:
Camera attacks.

Lower Right: an excellent
Planet of the Apes
costume, although I think
I heard that he had it
made, rather than made it
himself.



Japantown Anime Faire 2004

I really enjoyed this show, but I find I don't have much to say. I didn't think it was quite as easy to talk to people here as at Tales of Anime. Perhaps it was the more public setting.

Saturday was quite hot, while Sunday started out very cold. I felt sorry for the cosplayers who got sunburned on Saturday and frozen on Sunday.

There were many of the same dealers at this show with the same merchandise as I have the past several, so I didn't end up buying much.

With the dealer's room inside and requiring a badge, and the costume contest outside where



Alex Rowe from Last Exile



Max from Robotech

anybody could watch, I thought it was exactly backwards from what I'd think was reasonable. I think dealers rooms should be free, after all the dealers are paying to sell their wares, so there should be no bar on potential customers, while the cosplay should be reserved to the attendees, for security issues if nothing else. As an example of this, a group of Resident Evil cosplayers, who haven't had any trouble at any of the other local conventions, were stopped and questioned by the SFPD about their outfits and props at JTAF. If we'd all been inside with only fans present I doubt there would have been a problem.

The anime program was OK, but I didn't see much new stuff that I haven't seen before. This was mostly because I've been catching a lot of new stuff, as there was a good variety and one track was dedicated to as-yet unlicensed titles. I caught the second episode of Soukyuu no Fafner that makes me think this will be another GunParade March (first episode good, the rest of the series unwatchable). I also saw enough of Nurse Witch Komugi to let me know I never have to watch another episode again. Good shows they played included the very funny Keroro Gunsou and Miami Guns.

I planned on going to the cosplay panel, held after the cosplay contest, but either it was cancelled or I was too stupid to find it. I went to the panel with r*k*milolland instead. I'm a big fan of his web

Members of Sugar High, cosplaying as characters from Dynasty Warriors and .hack/sign





Left: Zhou Yu
from Dynasty
Warriors



This group, Sugar High, had a terrific and very innovative sketch in the contest. They were awarded the grand prize, and deserved it. Characters are from .hack/sign and Dynasty Warriors.



comic strip “Something Positive” so I wasn’t too disappointed. In fact it had been a hard choice between panels. millholland is as funny in person as he is in the strip, perhaps a little less caustic than his main character, but only a little.

Everybody seemed to have a good time. Cosplayers tended to hang out around the Peace Pagoda, and during lulls in the activity ran around, sang and played jump rope. A bystander, one of the parents of one of the cosplayers I guess, observing the jump roping cosplayers mentioned that they organizers hadn’t programed enough to do. I disagree, the kids were having fun hanging out and cosplaying with their friends. What more could you ask?

When I got home, I found out that the really cheap film that I’d used to take photos of the contest was really cheap because it was black and white. Not even Pocky could console me. And oh Lord, did I try. So that’s why I have black and white photos here as well as color. I’m not being artistic, I’m just an idiot.

Anyway, well worth the cost, the two days, and the drives down to the city and the bridge tolls. I’m looking forward to next year.

Elegant Gothic Lolitas





Elegant Gothic Lolitas

Lain, top photos, was seen as Gackt at Tales of Anime in issue two.

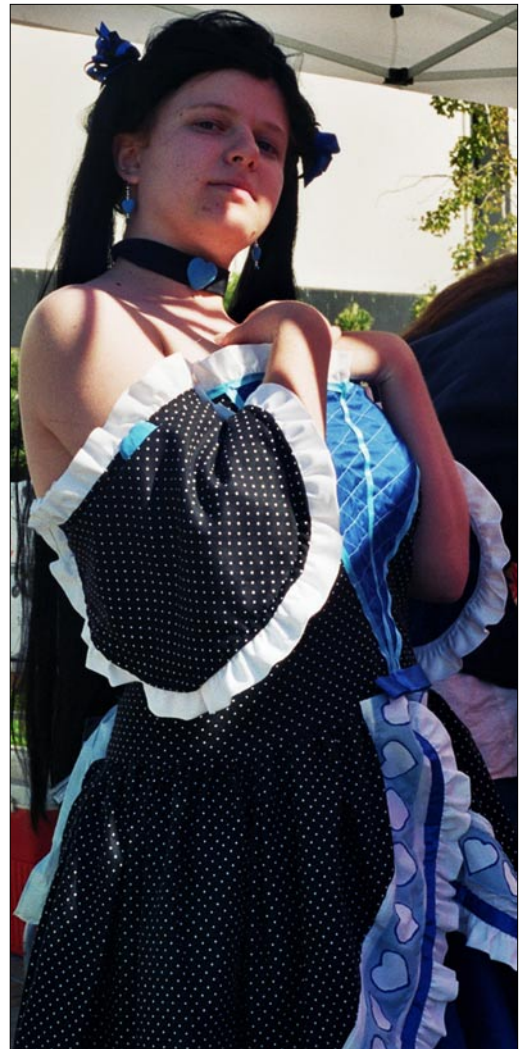
Right: this pair were Rolling 88s at Tales of Anime, here seen in ELG outfits.





From Left: Luka, from Chrono Trigger, won for Best Classic Costume. Quistis Trepe from Final Fantasy 8 in pink. Mizaki from Magic Knight Rayearth, Below Left: Spike Siegle from Cowboy Bebop. Center, 3/4 of the crew of the Bebop. Edward from Full Metal Alchemist.





Top Left: Black Mage, Red Mage from Final Fantasy.

Top Right: Con Artist Cosplay's Miku's blue version of "Red Hearts" based on artwork by Nene Thomas.

Right: Mai Shiranui from King of Fighters





Haruko from FLCL



Aerith from Kingdom Hearts

