Welcome to the BayCon 2020 Masquerade. Your competition directors are, Raquel Santiago aka Lady Phoenix and Dr. Wanda Kurtcu. We will be available throughout BayCon at the Hotel.

BayCon 2020 Masquerade Official Rules:

There are three sections.

- First explains division placement.
- Second disqualifying rules.
- Third is the basic briefing of what you’ve got to work with. / Requirements.
- Fourth the instruction the judges will be receiving. “Presentation” and “Workmanship” judging are entirely separate.

There is a judging panel for Presentation and a judging panel for Workmanship. Each panel selects and gives its own awards. Workmanship judging is not required, and the decisions and deliberations of the Workmanship panel have no influence on the Presentation panel. Please remember, this competition is not all about you. It is all about you and your fellow competitors. By respecting the rules and procedures of this competition, you help ensure that your fellow competitors get a fair shake. This is the final revision of these rules. In the unforeseen circumstances that there are not enough official judges available during Masquerade judging times then one panel will decide all awards.

**Division Placement:** Notes; A group entry will be placed in the division appropriate for its most experienced member. Most entries will be placed in the Novice, Journeyman or Open Division. If there are only a small number of entries in Journeyman or Open division, the directors may combine those two divisions.

- **Open:** Any competitor may enter in the Open division. However, note that open division is the same as entering the “Master” division.
- **Journeyman:** If you have won more than three awards in the Journeyman division, you may not enter the Journeyman division. If you have won Best Journeyman, you may not enter the Journeyman division. If you have won an award in the open/master division you may not enter in the Journeyman division. Professional costumers may not enter in the Journeyman division.
- **Novice:** New costumers will likely enter this division. If you have won more than 3 awards in a regional competition, you may not enter in the Novice division. If you have won Best Novice you may not enter in the Novice division. If you have won an award in Journeyman or Open/Master division, you may not enter in the Novice division. Professional costumers may not enter the Novice division. If you have won an award at an international competition (WorldCon, CostumeCon, San Diego Comic-Con International) you may not enter the Novice division. NOTE: We will verify.
• **Young Fan:** The Young Fan division open to competitors under the age of 15 who have participated in the design and construction of their costumes. If a costume is entirely adult-designed and adult-constructed, it may not be entered in the Young Fan division.

• **Exhibition:** Any presenter may enter in the Exhibition division. The exhibition division is a presentation-only. Exhibition entries are not judged, nor are they eligible for any award. Entries that have already won awards at other conventions and have not been significantly modified may enter in the Exhibition division.

• **Division Placement notes:** If you’re not sure whether you should consider a past competition to be a major regional competition or a local competition, please ask the directors. The size of the event and number of entrants in the competition will be considered. Any competitor may enter in a more advanced division than they are placed. For this competition, any person who made more than 1/2 of their annual income from costuming in any of the last 5 years qualifies as a professional. Judges are free to enter into the Exhibition division but may have to go first in order to prevent delays in judging.

**The Rules:**

Violation of any of the following rules is grounds for disqualification from the competition. This disqualification will be recorded in the archives and can follow you throughout your costuming career. Follow the rules and have fun.

1. All contestants must be attending members of BayCon 2020. If the maker and presenter are different people, both must be attending members. This means you have to have a badge. There are no entry fees for entering the masquerade, it is part of BayCon 2020 membership.
2. Purchased and/or rented costumes may not be entered.
3. A costume may not be entered in competition if it has won "Best in Show" or "Best in Division" at another competition. It may be entered in the Exhibition division only and will not be judged.
4. Each presenter may only appear on stage in a single entry. No individual entry and group entry, one or the other.
5. The standard PG rule applies. No costume is "no costume."
6. No live (or dead for that matter) animals are allowed on stage with the exceptions of service animals as defined by law. Humans only.
7. No materials or effects that will leave a mess on stage or in the green room. If you have an article that will leave a mess such as glitter on the carpet please bring a tarp or something to put under you to catch the materials as they fall off. No materials or effects that may ruin another entrant's costume, hotel facilities, or other equipment.
8. Deliberate damage to others costumes will not be tolerated and can lead to an investigation, disqualification of your entry and possible ban from Baycon and other conventions.
9. No pyrotechnics or any open flames allowed.
10. All special effects must be reviewed with the directors before entry. Those approved will be reviewed again during the MANDATORY contestant meeting.
11. Attending the contestant meeting is required. You will need it to get a feel for the stage. We need it to double-check your tech, and to make sure the crew knows what to expect from your entry. If there are extenuating circumstances, you may email the directors to work around your schedule. The need will be verified and an accommodation meeting may be arranged. This meeting MUST be attended or you will not be allowed to compete.

12. If you're going to have large props, bring your own assistants to get them on and off stage. Note, your assistants must come to the contestant meeting.

13. Individual entries are granted 180 seconds, the equivalent of 3 minutes on stage. You may use less time. If you exceed the limit, you will be ineligible for any award.

14. Group entries are granted 270 seconds, the same as 4 ½ minutes on stage. The group may use less time. If the limit is exceeded the group will be ineligible for any award.

15. Competition entrants CANNOT walking around Baycon with your entry until the Masquerade is over. It is not fair for other contestants and gives the illusion of partiality if a judge sees the costume before judging. This is part of ICG Fairness guidelines. Exhibition costumes are the exception to the rule (photobomb away on those.) Once it is decided that to be an exhibition costume and photographed and/or seen you will not be allowed to change divisions.

16. Baycon operates on a “NO HATE” policy. Be respectful of genders and identity, we all come from different walks of life, embrace the diverseness around you. If in doubt ASK.

17. There are no exceptions to the rules. ICG Fairness guidelines are important and these awards carry through to other conventions. There are cash awards are in place.

18. The judge’s decisions are final. Notes are taken during the judging process, including constructive criticism and positive critiques. These are then archived but are not made public or published. After the Masquerade is over you may ask for critiques for improvement. Judges take their jobs seriously and debate long and hard on awards, no awards are awarded arbitrarily.

19. IF IN DOUBT ASK. Do not wait till the last minute to ask questions.

Recommendations: The following information will help ensure you get the most out of the competition

- All entrants are encouraged to participate in workmanship judging. You can’t win a workmanship award if you’re not judged. If you're entering a re-creation costume, bring documentation. A letter-size color photocopy or color print of your source is sufficient to show the judges what you're trying to recreate (1 copy is sufficient). Printed reference materials only.
- If you feel a personal or business relationship with a judge will make it difficult for the judges to be impartial, please talk to Raquel Santiago AKA Lady Phoenix during the mandatory meeting. The directors will consult with the judging panel, chairs or con-ops depending on the situation to find a reasonable course of action.
- Technical: Power will not be available on stage. Lighting is very simple. If you have special requests we will try to accommodate. Simple on/off queues may be accommodated, but we won’t have the equipment for anything more complex than
that. Microphones will not be available for Masquerade entrants. The MC will be the only person with a mic during the Masquerade.

- Audio: Narrative for your presentation must be provided as either a pre-recorded audio file or a printed script provided when you register. You may speak from stage as well, but an unamplified voice will not be as effective. All pre-recorded narration must be provided as digital files formatted as either MP3 or MP4. Relevant music is also recommended. **NO late music will be accepted past the posted deadlines.** Audio files should be emailed to the Directors masquerade@baycon.org
  - Email TITLE must include; YOUR ENTRY NAME AND SONG NAME.
  - The BODY of the email MUST include a BRIEF DESCRIPTION.
  - Don’t forget to attach the file.

- If you do not have access to email you must bring your files to the **MANDATORY MEETING on a flash drive.** Remember the "3-copy rule." Make a master and keep that for yourself. Bring 3 copies on FLASH DRIVES ONLY. Pack them in separate bags. The Masquerade director will upload all songs to Dropbox for the tech crews ahead of time.

- We will not do last minute music changes. If something does happen to your music, the Masquerade director will assign PRESELECTED music.

**Judges' Instructions:**

"Excellence deserves award" is your watchword. You are asked to be serious in granting awards. A serious award with a funny name is fine. No "joke" awards. Please don't grant an award if you don't think the entry has real merit. You are encouraged to award "Best in Division" (for each division) and an overall "Best in Show" as appropriate. For all other awards, please judge each entry on its own merit. For each award granted, please identify the entry and the competitor being granted the award.

For example:

- If you wish to give a child a presentation award for a costume made by an adult. Name the child.
- If you wish to give a workmanship award to the person who did all the beading on a group entry. Name that person.
- If you need help identifying the appropriate person to grant an award, ask your clerk.
- Competitors who have entered re-creation costumes are asked (but not required) to provide as documentation a color photocopy or print of the image the costume is based on. You may choose to ignore any documentation beyond that.
• If you think a personal or business relationship with a competitor will make it difficult to be objective in your judging, please talk to the directors. As well as your fellow judges. A reasonable course of action will be found.
• NOTE: Any judge taking pictures before the Masquerade with a masquerade contestant in the costume they are to be judging will be disqualified from judging that costume in all aspects. The contestant also risks forfeiture of cash prizes and awards and placement of the costume. If the contestant is just doing an exhibition piece you can take photos before the masquerade as it is not being judged.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE CASH PRIZES FROM SPONSORS for 2020 and will be awarded the following DAY. If you are not available the following day please speak with the Masquerade director to arrange for prize money to be sent to you.

Young Fan   $50.00 (cash)
Novice       $50.00 (cash)
Journeyman   $50.00 (cash)
Open/Master  $50.00 (cash)

Each division will also get a ribbon and certificate. There may also be gift bags depending on sponsor donations (to be updated.)

X

Contestant Signature

X

Masquerade Director Signature