

Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

Silicon Web Staff

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President's Message Kevin Roche*

Happy New Year!

Only two months into 2018 and things are already buzzing. Andy and I have been to LosCon as Fan Guests of Honor (Thanksgiving weekend in November), Further Confusion in January and Gallifrey One in February, with what seems a never-ending whirlwind of meetings and appearances stacked all around it. We have a two-weekend respite before the pace picks up again, and we're also in the in the final 6-month stretch leading to Worldcon 76.

To give you an idea how crazy things get, Worldcon 76 had representatives at 7 events over Presidents Day weekend, and I believe we have over a dozen coming up in March.

Loscon was a lovely weekend, and as part of being good guests of honor, we (and Worldcon 76) hosted a party in the recently renovated Presidential Suite at the LAX Marriott. We had Jackbox Games hosted in one room, and Thinbot pouring cocktails in one corner of the main parlor while fan bartenders poured a selection from our cellar at the bar. It was great fun, and a sneak peek at the new decor, which was very useful this year at Gallifrey.

While at Loscon I purchased a piece of art that caught my eye ("Candied Apples" by [Céline Chapus](#)) as worth attempting to create as a costume. I finished the first version of the Unicorn King in time for Furcon, and am going to revamp parts in time for Costume-Con 36 in San Diego -- so no full photos of it in this issue. In the meantime, here's a snap of the test fitting of the unicorn horn (3D printed in flexible fiber!) I designed for the costume.

I'm happy to report that Céline was thrilled with even what I call the "first draft" of the costume, which was great fun to wear at Furcon, but I want to reengineer the tail, tailor the waistcoat and tweak the legs and hooves to get even closer to her drawing.



Test fit of 3D printed unicorn horn.
Photo: Kevin Roche.

This was the first Gallifrey after the end of the Peter Capaldi run as the Doctor. It was great fun to see SO MANY fans cosplaying as Bill Potts and even better to see the plethora of women, girls, and a few men who all turned out versions of the 13th Doctor as portrayed by Jodie Whittaker. Even with only the few glimpses we've had of her Doctor, that was enough for enterprising fans to replicate the signature look for her first season appearance!

Tiki Dalek took a turn through the crowd which turned into a 2-hour photo posing session. As all his moving parts are entirely muscle-powered, that was quite a workout, but it's still a joy to see the effect he has on a crowd. This time around we determined (via ad-lib) that he is not only equipped with an internal Mai Tai dispenser, but there is also the reserve Piña Colada supply, an emergency backup margarita tank, and the dire-circumstances-only extreme emergency daiquiri cache. I think I'm going to have to sketch a cutaway showing how all these party supplies fit inside him. I also got to take my robot "dog" A-9 for a walk!





Tiki and 12, Photo: Robbie Bourget.



Dog Walk. Photo: Christine Doyle.



Thirteenth Doctor Meetup, 2018 Gallifrey One. Photo: Monica Duarte.

Thursday morning, before Gallifrey officially started, Andy, Jade Falcon, Erik Anderson, Steven Ricks and I took the opportunity to drive into Hollywood. I haven't been there in over a decade, and Andy had never been. We were heading in to visit the [Hollywood Museum](#) (in the old Max Factor factory/studio building) and especially to see the temporary Batman 66 exhibit. It was COMPLETELY worth the visit -- so much fun to see what the actual on-screen props and costumes looked like.

We also discovered a couple secrets we can use to improve the Dynamic Duo and Catwoman costumes from last October. (And I learned my belt was better constructed than some of the on-screen Robin belts). If you can get there while the exhibit is still open, I highly recommend it -- the rest of the museum is worth a look, too.

Putting on my Worldcon Chair hat -- Hugo nominations are now open, so if you are eligible to nominate, please do so! Remember that costume-related books, blogs and podcasts might be eligible as Fanzines, Related Work or Fancasts, so if you think one deserves recognition from the Worldcon community, don't fail to include it on your ballot! Nominations are due by 11:59 pm Pacific Daylight Time on March 16, 2018 (6:59am UTC on March 17, 2018)

Events coming up this quarter in our neck of the woods include Silicon Valley Comic-Con (our Bat-gang plans to stop by), Fogcon, Robogames (for me, anyway -- I'm going to enter the Tower), and of course

Costume-Con 36 in San Diego. There are also plenty of other conventions and opportunities to costume coming up across the globe. Where are you going and what are you going to wear? Send pictures!



Bat-Selfie. Photo: Kevin Roche.



From the Editor *Philip Gust**

Change is good, at least when it applies to costumes that transform while being worn. That is the theme of this issue of *VC*, and several articles demonstrate ways to accomplish it.

First up is a Virtual Author Talk by professional prop maker Eric Hall. His new book, *The Prop Maker's Guidebook: Lights, Motion, Sound, and Magic* describes how to transform ordinary materials into props and effects, including electricity, lights, motion, sound, smoke, and fire. Eric discusses becoming interested in props, why he wrote the book, and what will interest costumers.

Sci-fi/fantasy writer J.M. Frey wondered what the TARDIS would say about her Time Lord, and decided to costume the part to find out. In her article, she describes the context of having the

TARDIS come to live as a real person, and how the concept was even adopted by the BBC as an episode of Doctor Who. She also describes the design and construction of her costume, and collaborating with a friend who is a theatrical costume designer.

In her article, Sheryl Nance-Durst explains how her interest in the art of the quick change, popular on the Edwardian stage, was sparked by a *Punch* cartoon of the time. Quick-change artists transform from one character to another by changing costumes many times in minutes. She designed her costume after studying those of historical and modern quick-change artists. She presented her costume and showed off the art of the quick change in the Costume-Con 33 historical masquerade.



At the FIDM Museum "Oscars" Costume Exhibition.

Costumers Gaia Eirich, William Kennedy, and Sharyn Eirich were fascinated by the characters Lock, Shock, Barrel, and Santa Claus from the Pixar/Disney film, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. In their article, they describe how they created their costumes, including the use of an ingenious mechanism they developed to attach the double-masks. Their appearance in the Costume-Con 34 sci-fi/fantasy masquerade was nothing short of supernatural!

In my Event Spotlight, I describe attending the opening of the L.A. FIDM Museum's "Art of Motion Picture Costume Design" exhibition with assistant *VC* editor Kathe Gust. I also provide a virtual tour of the exhibition and some of our favorite Oscar nominated costumes on display.

Here is a preview of what is upcoming in *VC*. The theme of the the May 2018 issue will be "To Boldly Go..." about costumes that push the limits of current design, materials, and construction techniques, or introduce novel approaches to presentation, workmanship, or documentation.

For August 2018 the theme will be "Accessories," about all the things that costumers carry or wear to complete their ensembles, and give them extra authenticity, whether for historical, sci-fi/fantasy, or any other kind of costume.

See the [Upcoming Issues](#) page of the SiW website for details. Now is a great time to start writing for *VC*, and share what you know and love with your fellow costumers.