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Sakura
Conduit
November
Issue

the 11th Annual Sakura-Con ~ March 28-30 2008

It may be Fall, but here at Sakura-Con, we are already planning for Spring! Everyone had a blast at our 10th Anniversary, and we're aiming towards making year 11 even better!

Welcome to our Fall 2007 newsletter where you'll find guest biographies, staffing and volunteer information, photos of recent Sakura-Con Staff and Team Sakura events, an exclusive announcement about our Convention Performances and more!

As always, we have Anime Previews for you about shows that are just now showing in Japan. Thanks go out to the good folks at Anime News Network (<http://www.animenewsnetwork.com>) for providing information for these shows.

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Team Sakura

Ever wished you could make Sakura-Con last all year long? Well, with Team Sakura, you can make your wish come true!

Team Sakura is the way to keep in touch with all things "Sakura-Con". First, it's the con's street team, distributing fliers and getting the word out about Sakura-Con. Secondly, it's a notice to members regarding community news and event such as upcoming J-rock concerts and cultural events in the Greater Puget Sound. So whether you want to pitch in, and post some fliers or just enjoy the news and events, everyone can be part of "Team Sakura".



This year was one of the most successful in Team Sakura history, and we've still got 5 months to go before Sakura-Con 2008! One of the events we are most proud of is our first ever Cosplay Parade, as part of the larger Chinatown Seafair Parade. The first Cosplay Parade Seattle's ever seen, outside of Freeway park during Sakura-Con, of course, was a great success! 85+ cosplayers and volunteers participated in this event.

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Anime Preview - Moyashimon

Moyashimon - Tales of Agriculture tells the story of one Sawaki Tadayasu, a student at Tokyo Agricultural University. He possesses a rare, possibly unique gift to see and converse with bacteria and other microscopic organisms. Based on a popular manga, this comedy has a unique premise and an eye-catching art style. The show started airing in Japan in October.





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The Cosplay Parade was a great excuse to cosplay, meet and greet, and take photos, a lot like the halls at Sakura-Con. The public loved our band of cosplayers. They cheered and applauded them as they walked by with the Sakura-Con banner. What a wonderful way to represent ourselves to the public at large, with happy cosplayers doing what they love best! Thanks to everyone that came out for this event as well as all the Team Sakura volunteers that made it possible!

Other "Team Sakura" events of note from this summer and fall are: Anime Expo, Otakon, Anime Evolution, Kumori-Con, Japan Night at the Seattle Mariners (with discounted tickets for Sakura-Con members - a first!) and Aki Matsuri (presented by ENMA - a free Japanese cultural festival at Bellevue Community College).

Please keep an eye out for Team Sakura announcements as well as our updated calendar. Also, if you wish to pitch in and help Team Sakura put on an event or distribute fliers please contact teamsakura@sakuracon.org to be added to the volunteer list!

Anime Preview - Gundam 00

The perennial fan favorite franchise returns. Gundam 00 starts off a new timeline for series, set in AD 2307. The world has depleted its natural energy resources. Three world superpowers maintain orbiting solar power stations that provide the world's best energy source. Smaller nations fight over the scraps. A private organization called Celestial Being maintains four of the titular Gundam suits to stop the fighting. The story follows Setsuna F. Seiei, pilot of Gundam Exia, and his struggles to make the world war free and avoid the spirals of mecha pilot angst.





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How to be a Volunteer or Volunteer Staffer

Everyone that works for ANCEA/Sakura-Con is a volunteer. None get paid for their contribution - even board members (they are elected by staffers/voting members).

At Sakura-Con, there are two ways to be involved behind the scenes. You can be a Volunteer at Sakura-Con, and put in a few hours, Or you can be a Staffer before, after and during Sakura-Con and put in a minimum of 16 hours, participate in general meetings and be involved year round.

How to be a Volunteer at the Convention,

Short Version:

You must be at least sixteen years old and be a registered member of ANCEA/Sakura-Con 2008. Contact volunteers@sakuracon.org or just go to the Volunteer Office (room 203) during Sakura-Con and let them know you want to volunteer. The volunteer office runs all kind of giveaways as a thank you to volunteers. It's just that simple. Visit the Volunteer Page on our website for more information.

How to be Staff/Voting Member:

To become a staff member, you have to first apply and be hired by the Director of the department to which you apply. Again, this is a volunteer position and you must apply before Sakura-Con. Staff become Voting Members and have to have their hire approved by a Director, donate at least 16 hours of time at Sakura-Con and honor all Sakura-Con policies to be eligible for staff benefits (as of 9/07-4/08).

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Anime Preview - Ghost Hound

This latest Masamune Shiro show features three boys who learn to transfer their souls into the "Unseen World," a parallel dimension inhabited by ghosts. This ability seems linked to traumatic experiences that they had as children. Production I.G. helped create the show as its 20th anniversary production, and they reassembled the writer/director team from Serial Experiments Lain to provide a well animated, top billing show.





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Staff Benefits:

- ◆ Complimentary Voting Membership to ANCEA/Sakura-Con. Only staff can vote on how who and how to run Sakura-Con- this is how we are truly “For the Fans, by the Fans”.
- ◆ Free Staff Shirt (Only staff get the cool black shirt).
- ◆ Staff Parties (Several times a year, staff are invited to staff only social events).
- ◆ Staff Discounts (as available from local businesses and sponsors).
- ◆ Hotel Reimbursements/credits (Some manager and coordinator level positions require 24 hour attendance to the convention and thus receive assistance with the cost as available).
- ◆ Valuable Job/Resume enhancing experience. You will learn new skills and perhaps hone your existing talents. Some staff have even been able to turn their Sakura-Con staffing experience into a new career path.
- ◆ The undying thanks of fellow anime fans and the warm fuzzy feeling that comes with a job well done!

Currently openings are available in all departments.

Contact the following directors to apply:

operations@sakuracon.org for tech, registration, SAS and logistics openings

publicity@sakuracon.org for merchandising, info booth and public relations openings

screlations@sakuracon.org for transporter and exhibits hall openings

programming@sakuracon.org for “zombie minion” programming positions.

OR come to a Sakura-Con/ANCEA general meeting to apply in person. Meetings are listed under “general meetings” at www.sakuracon.org



Anime Preview - Mokke

This slice of life show deals with two sisters forced to live with their grandfather. They were forced to separate from their parents because of their unique abilities: they can see monsters that no one else can. While Shizuru, a high school student, takes the sightings in stride, her younger sister Mizuki becomes extremely frightened. The series isn't about horror, though. Instead, it has more of a heartwarming feel.



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Sakura-Con Staff Halloween Party

Being a staffer has its perks. Not only do you get the cool black shirts at con-but you become part of the team in work and play. The Sakura-Con Annual Staff Halloween Party is a tradition of costuming, good food and fun.

On October 21st a group of over 50 staffers got together at the University Heights Center in Seattle. This was the third year our party was in the "haunted school" and we put it to good use! Karaoke, Guitar Heroes, Apples to



Apples, and an impromptu anime theater kept the party hopping. A few courageous spirits went on the annual "ghost walk" -snatching digital photos in the hopes of catching a ghostly apparition-or just enjoying the ambiance of one of Seattle's historic schools.

We thought you'd like to see us with our hair down-or rather with wacky hair on? In any case, here are some pictures. Many thanks to the staffers who helped make this event possible. Our next event will be the Annual Sakura-Con Holiday Party-details to come to the staff only list very soon.



Anime Preview - Maple Story

The popular Korean MMORPG follows games like Ragnarok Online and receives its own animated tie-in show. While not much is known about the plot, the show retains the distinctive look and feel of its online incarnation. Madhouse Studios is providing the animation, so expect the series to be visually arresting, at the least.



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Guests of Honor

Sakura-Con Welcomes the following performers

Vic Mignogna

Vic joins us here at Sakura-Con once again. A renowned voice actor, as well as a professional actor and composer, Vic is best known for his roles in Full Metal Alchemist, Macross, RahXephon, Full Metal Panic, Saiyuki, Dragonball Z and much more.



<http://vicsworld.net/>



Steve Prince

Steve Prince will be joining us for the first time at Sakura-Con '08. He has done voice acting work for many anime including Love Hina, Naruto, Digimon, Bleach, Paradise Kiss, and the .hack series. He also runs an online radio show through his personal website.

<http://www.steveprinceproductions.com/>

More guests will be announced throughout the year. Stay up-to-date with guest announcements on our website!



Anime Preview - Blue Drop: Tenshi-tachi no Gikyoku

The 800 people living on Kamikakushi Island vanish without a trace, except for Mari. The events scar her emotionally, and she loses all memory of the event. Years later, she transfers to an all girl dormitory school, where she meets Hagino. Hagino is the school's star, class representative, and advance scout for an alien invasion. Her ship, the Blue, was damaged in the events on Kamikakushi. As the two girls grow closer, Mari begins to come out of her shell, while Hagino starts doubting her mission.



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Newsletter Exclusive Announcement! Performers

ketchup mania

ketchup mania has been red-hot since winning Shojo Beat's "Best Japanese Punk Group" award in the 2007 Music Issue. In May 2007, the band released their first CD on Japanese major label Toy's Factory, titled "U.R.G.E." Guitarist and co-songwriter Dai says that the album's title comes from the urge they all have to play music and share it with their fans - and the four periods in between the letters are for each member of the band putting their mark on the music.

In June 2007, ketchup mania partnered with JapanFiles.com to make their debut in America at A-Kon 18 in Dallas, Texas. The band rocked the stage for 2500 fans, their biggest audience ever. "It was like a dream," said singer Hiro, who couldn't stop smiling after the show. "Meeting our fans in the USA made me so happy!"

ketchup mania returned to Japan for non-stop touring, with songs from "U.R.G.E." and their chart-topping CD "Greetings from Tokyo" dominating the set list. In August 2007, they released the follow-up CD "L.O.V.E." and have just announced their return to the USA to perform at Sakura-Con 11 in Seattle, Washington in March of '08!



ketchup mania is:
Hiro - vocals Dai - guitar
Yosei - bass Wani - drums

Anime Preview - Soukou Kihei
Votoms: Pailsen Files
Fans of old-school mecha rejoice! Armored Trooper Votoms returns, brought to you by the original staff. The new installment is set as a prequel to the original TV series and deals with the end of the hundred years war. The series will feature the latest in 3D CGI which, while not quite Pixar level, blends exceptionally well with more traditional anime styling. The show will be released as 12 OAV volumes, so everything should look brilliant.



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The Slants are:

- Aron Moxley - Vocals
- Simon Young - Bass
- Micheal Pacheco ("Gaijin") - Guitar/Keys
- Jen Cho - Keyboards
- Jonathan Fontanilla - Guitar
- Andrew Carrion ("AC") - Drums

The Slants

The Slants are an Asian dance/rock band from Portland, Oregon. The Slants were formed in 2006 by members of The Stivs, Son of Rust, and Evening at the Black House. Their music is a cacophony of melodic rock intricacy tempered by darker, dance themes with anthemic choruses and shattering hooks reminiscent of groups such as The Faint, Depeche Mode, Daft Punk, and Joy Division - except with an Asian spin. Perla Cadena of Sony BMG Music Entertainment claims "If you like danceable rock or anything Asian, you'll love The Slants!"

The Slants have just released their first album, "Slanted Eyes, Slanted Hearts" and have been receiving incredible international press. Within three months of playing live, the band has headlined numerous shows, and has been requested to play not only throughout the United States, but in Asia, Europe, and Australia as well.

Anime Preview: Minami-ke

This humble, slice-of-life show tells us what to expect in its opening titlecard: "This story gives a straightforward account of the three Minami sisters' normal, everyday lives. Please have no expectations beyond that." Fans of light comedy like Azumanga Daioh will find a lot to like here. The humor comes from the sisters' interactions and the comedy inherent in everyday life. While it may be a bit of a niche title, people who enjoy their comedy sweet and a bit frantic should get plenty of laughs.





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Sakura-Con Cosplay Guide

Sakura-Con is just 5 months away. That may seem like a long time but it can pass very quickly-especially when you are putting a costume together! Many a devoted cosplayer has been through the “last minute costume march of death”.

Waiting on the mail order costume that doesn't show in time can really impact your con experience. So can staying up all night sewing on ruffles-the day before the con starts. How about fumbling for the steam iron at 3 am, to press that “last seam” and spilling water all over your dry clean only silk skirt? That can make you cry (I should know!).

We want you to have the BEST con you can! So if cosplaying is in your plans, the time to start your costume is NOW. Cosonline.net has donated a beautiful cosplay color plate to this newsletter, to inspire our dreaming. Here is a quick list of resources to make the dream a reality.

Of course, Sakura-Con doesn't recommend or endorse any outlet (we just did some Googling for you)-so be a careful consumer. Always ask for references when possible and check them. Be sure to shop around and make sure you are getting a reasonable offer-beware offers that sound too good to be true as they usually are. Talk to your fellow cosplayers on forums, such as the one we offer at www.sakuracon.org -we even have a cosplay commissions thread where you can ask for or offer specific costumes.

Do it yourself Resources

www.cosplay.com

A great place to start! Forums, commissions, Cosworks shop, tutorials, picture galleries-it's all here.

<http://www.cosplayunderground.com/>

Find photos, how-to's and forums .

<http://www.janchan.com/>

Cosplay patterns, iron-ons, printable temporary tattoo images, anime paper-crafts, galleries, kao-ani, e-cards, cosplay cards and much more.

<http://amethyst-angel.com/armormaking.html>

‘Recreated from my "Armor For the Fiberglass-Phobic" Thread at the Cosplay.com Message Forum. A tutorial on the creation of decent-looking, non-molded armor using plastic, craft foam, and a variety of other materials.’



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Commissions and Ready Made Costumes and Accessories

Tons of new and used cosplay costumes and accessories can be found at the world's biggest garage sale!

www.ebay.com

Katie Bair's site, a recognized expert on wig making.

<http://www.pettingzoowigs.com/>

In The Starlight (Gothic Lolita fashions)

<http://www.inthestarlight.com/>

The Lawrarashop

<http://lawrarashop.com/>

Moon Costumes

<http://www.mooncostumes.com/>

Cosaru

<http://www.cosaru.com/>

qqcosplay

<http://www.qqcosplay.com/>

Cosplay Closet

<http://www.cosplaycloset.com/>

Setsuna Kou's Specialty Shoppe

<http://www.setsunakou.com/>

Lime Barb

<http://www.limebarb.com/>

General Cosplay Resources

A Fan's View

<http://www.afansview.com>

Cosplayers Network

<http://cnet.cosplay.ne.jp>

Cosplay Lab

<http://www.cosplaylab.com/>

The International Costumer's Guild

<http://www.costume.org/>

Obsessed with Anime

www.obsessedwithanime.com

The Copure

<http://www.copure.net/>

Know others? Want to be added to this list?

Please, feel free to send your links to

publicity@sakuracon.org

so we can be sure to include you in our cosplay links.



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BLEACH
THEATRICAL

WebZine
COSONLINE

COSONLINE.NET

BEFORE CRISIS
FINAL FANTASY VII



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Anime Preview: Tobaku Mokushiroku Kaiji

Kaiji is a loser. He failed to find work after high school because of Japan's crippling recession. He barely strings himself along by gambling for small stakes against his neighbors. A coworker defaults on a loan, leaving Kaiji (who cosigned) responsible. With a sizable debt and no hope, Kaiji has two options: work the debt off over ten years, or board the cruise ship *Espoir* and gamble his life on winning enough money to pay back the debt. With his life on the line, Kaiji discovers a hidden talent for gambling. Originally written in 1997, the source manga won the Kodansha Manga Award.



Thanks for checking out our newsletter! Expect the next issue to be released sometime next year before the convention, filled with even more goodies for you to savor as we count down the days to Sakura-Con 2008.

Have an idea for an article to go in our next newsletter? Have an event or some photographs you want to share with the Sakura-Con community? Want to share your opinion about the newsletter or have any questions? We'd love to hear from you! Feel free to e-mail newsletter@sakuracon.org before our next issue.

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All articles were written and edited by Elizabeth Burt-Schultz (Newsletter Coordinator), Elmira Utz (Director of Publicity), and Marcques Domask (Newsletter Staff). The text and layout of this newsletter are © ANCEA, 2007, unless otherwise stated. All images used with permission. Thanks go out to Anime News Network for providing new anime information. Printing permission is granted for personal use only. This newsletter may not be sold or distributed.

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