



dailydragon.dragoncon.org

# The Daily Dragon

## Cosplaying Masquerade Hosts by Max Caracappa

Dragon Con is known as a premiere convention for cosplayers. It is one of the cons that cosplayers work towards all year long, creating brand new costumes for the event as well as bringing several cosplay options to display over the weekend. The capstone event of the con for this community is the Masquerade. There are entire traditions around gathering in room parties or getting into the Hyatt Centennial II-IV ballrooms on Sunday evening year after year (and of course, watching Duck Dodgers after).

The Dragon Con Masquerade is hosted by Tony Gowell and Eddie McClintock, and they have become as much a staple of the event as all the costumes and cosplayers. Gowell has hosted for the last ten years and with McClintock for nine. Both were kind enough to sit down with the Daily Dragon to talk about their time as hosts.

**Daily Dragon (DD):** How did this masquerade partnership come into being? Whose idea was it?

**Eddie McClintock (EMcC):** What I remember is, while I was there, someone approached me and said 'How would you like to host the Masquerade?' I didn't really know what that entailed because I had never been to the Masquerade. But Dragon Con had historically been so kind to me by continuing to invite me that I just figured any way that I can give back to them to show my appreciation... still to this day it's a way for me to give back to what I consider to be my home con. I just love coming and I look forward to it.

**DD:** Did it start the year that you were Grand Marshal of the Dragon Con parade?

**EMcC:** Yeah, it may have been! That was what popped into my head first when you asked the question.

**Tony Gowell (TG):** I was first involved in the Masquerade the year before Eddie started, that's why I have one more year hosting than him, when Jason David Frank (God rest his soul) was brought on to host. He was really nervous about doing it by himself, so the company asked me if I would go and assist. And my response was 'I'm currently in drag with some friends doing Wonder Woman cosplay and I'm dressed as Etta Candy. I don't really have time to

get out of this, and I didn't bring formal wear or something really nice to host.' Because like Eddie I was unfamiliar... it sounded like a big fancy event maybe I should have fancy clothes. They were like 'No, that's fine,' and then they were like, 'Wait what are you wearing?' ... So I stood there in full winter outfit from the Wonder Woman movie. I was doing photos with Bryan Humphrey with all my friends when I got the call that I was needed.

And then when Eddie was brought on, everyone noticed that after we worked together the first year that we had a very comfortable energy... so Dragon Con was like, how about we make you guys a duo moving forward? I was like, sure

like the year you did the WandaVision cosplay.

**TG:** It is, but of course I always consult with Eddie because if he ever vetoed an idea for whatever reason then we would absolutely not do it. But it's easy here since I'm local and know the underpinnings of who would be able to join us, with all my local friends and family and people that are avid cosplayers. I have asked people to come and open the show that maybe didn't win the big prize the year before. Since I have that intimate information and contact information of those contestants, I just go, hey, Eddie, what do you think of this? And he has never had an objection, not a single one.



absolutely. I had the best time with Eddie. When Eddie came on board it was just seamless.

**EMcC:** What did we wear the first year? Do you remember? What was our cosplay?

**TG:** You dressed as yourself the first year because I hadn't met you or known you yet to wonder if you would be brave enough to follow my lead and just put on a costume I provided. So, I did Jumanji the first year because I had that little safari outfit. Then you saw me and were like, oh my god I would love to be a part of this. The first year we dressed together you were Willy Wonka and I was an oompa-loompa.

**DD:** Do you collaborate on the theme or costume ideas from year to year or is it mostly Tony's brainchild? It sounds like mostly it's Tony coming up with an idea that's kind of relevant for the year,

**EMcC:** I love it, I love it. I just trust him and he says hey, this is what you're gonna do, are you cool? And I'm like, yup.

**DD:** Eddie, is there something you can think of where you would be like, nope, not going to do that? Where is the line? Because you seem pretty game.

**EMcC:** Yeah, no. If Tony is in, I'm in.

**TG:** I do try to make Eddie more of the center piece because he is the celebrity guest where I am the employee. So that's why he was Willy Wonka and I was like the comedic foil being the oompa-loompa. Because I don't mind making fun of myself. And then as I've gotten to know Eddie, he doesn't mind being a little comedic either. This year [in a Daily Dragon exclusive], we are going to do *One Piece*. Eddie is going to be our Monkey D. Luffy and I am going to be Tony Tony Chopper, the reindeer.

Read the full interview on the Daily Dragon website!

## Exploring Outer Space with Les Johnson by Nancy Northcott

Author Les Johnson has published more than two dozen works that include novels, short stories, edited anthologies, and nonfiction books and articles, as well as a host of technical articles. A physicist with decades at NASA and a host of awards to his credit, he is an elected member of the International Academy of Astronautics, a fellow of the British Interplanetary Society, a cofounder of the Interstellar Research Group, and a member of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America

and of MENSA. He also holds three patents. Earlier this year, he retired from NASA and his latest position there, Chief Technologist for the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Daily Dragon (DD):** When did you first know you wanted a career devoted to outer space, and what was your path to NASA?

**Les Johnson (LJ):** I was seven years old when my parents awakened me to

watch Neil Armstrong land and take the first steps on the moon. At about age 12, my older sisters allowed me to stay up late with them on a Saturday night to watch reruns of the original *Star Trek*. Seeing Captain Kirk exploring strange new worlds was all it took for me to realize I wanted to become a physicist, work for NASA, and help make the dream of traveling to the stars a reality.

Read the full interview on the Daily Dragon website!

# Schedule Changes

Hy = Hyatt  
M = MarriottHil = Hilton  
W = WestinCG = Courtland Grand  
AM2/3 = AmericasMart Bldg 2/3

The following previously confirmed guests are unfortunately not able to attend Dragon Con 2025: **Andy Belanger, Alex Brown, Olivia Dudley, Colton Haynes, John Gregory Keyes, Maggie Lawson, David Mack, Jim Shooter, Tom Wilson**

## ADDITIONS

**\*NEW\* John Barrowman** will be on "Arrowverse Guests: Star City Memories" Friday 1PM, Centennial II-IV (Hy).

**\*NEW\* John Barrowman** will be on "Arrowverse Guests: Return to the Arrowcave" Saturday 2:30PM, Centennial II-IV (Hy).

**\*NEW\* John Barrowman** will be on "Arrowverse Guests: Into the Future" Sunday 1PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

**\*NEW\* John Barrowman** will be on "Arrowverse Guests: One Last Visit to Starling City Monday 10AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

**Guy Dorian, Sr.** will be on "Kickstarting Comic Books" Friday 1PM, 204J (AM2).

**Raymond Carr, Kevin Kelly, Lenore Romas, Hallie Zeller, and Richard Gomez** will be on "Puppet Karaoke" Friday 8:30PM, A704 (M).

**K.N. Lee** will be on the author "Autograph Session" Sunday 2:30PM, Overlook (W).

**Charles Kelso and Veronica Dashiell** will be on "Felt Nerdy's Stargate Puppet Show!" Monday 1PM, Chastain DE (W).

**Mark Zoran** will be on "Giant Walkarounds and Body Puppets" Saturday 8:30PM, A704 (M).

**Dan Jolley** will be on "15-Minute Mentor Session" Sunday 4PM, Embassy G (Hy).

## CANCELLATIONS

**\*NEW\* Alex Brown** will not be at the "Dragon Award Nominee and Past Recipients Meet & Greet and Signings" Friday 7PM, Overlook (W).

**\*NEW\* Colton Haynes** will not be on "Arrowverse Guests: Star City Memories" Friday 1PM, Centennial II-IV (Hy).

**\*NEW\* Colton Haynes** will not be on "Arrowverse Guests: Return to the Arrowcave" Saturday 2:30PM, Centennial II-IV (Hy).

**\*NEW\* Colton Haynes** will not be on "Arrowverse Guests: Into the Future"

Sunday 1PM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

**\*NEW\* Alex Brown** will not be on "Reimagined: Diverse Retelling of Classic Stories" Sunday 1PM, A707 (M).

**\*NEW\* Alex Brown** will not be at the "Dragon Awards Ceremony" Sunday 4PM, Centennial I (Hy).

**\*NEW\* Alex Brown** will not be on "Love without Limits: Revolutionizing LGBTQ Representation!" Sunday 7PM, Hanover AB (Hy).

**\*NEW\* Colton Haynes** will not be on "Arrowverse Guests: One Last Visit to Starling City Monday 10AM, Atrium Ballroom (M).

**Andy Belanger** will not be on "Kickstarting Comic Books" Friday 1PM, 204J (AM2).

**Allora Lee** will not be on "Red Sonja" Sunday 5:30PM, L401-L403 (M).

## UPDATES

"What We're Reading" was Monday 10AM, A707 (M) and is now Monday 11:30AM, A707 (M).

"Bring Your Own Book Game" was Monday 11:30AM, A707 (M) and is now Monday 1PM, A707 (M).

## Friday Parties & Events

### Improvised Dungeons & Dragons LIVE!

Back by popular demand, Dungeon Master Mark Meer, celebrity guests, and members of Atlanta's own Dad's Garage Theatre Company act as improvisers attempting to survive with only their wits, character sheets, and high charisma stats. No board, no script, yes costumes. Friday 7PM, Peachtree Ballroom (Westin).



### Subspace Rhapsody Picture Show & Sing-Along

Prepare to embark on a mission that Trek Track has never seen before! Our Directive? To sing and dance our way through the first-ever Star Trek musical episode, shadow cast-style! Saturday 7PM, Imperial Ballroom (Marriott).



### MST3K Event – Joe Don Baker

Join the bots as we enter the school of hard knocks with Joe Don Baker as the teacher! There'll be trivia, prizes, & a Joe Don Baker costume contest. The first 100 guests receive a badge & a (pretend) punch in the gut! It's a night of BOOZE, BLONDES, 'n' BAKER! (No alcohol or punches provided.) Friday 7-9:30PM, Grand West (Hilton).



### The Gather: Welcome to Literature

A celebration like none other as fans gather to meet and celebrate the colorful and diverse world of Literature. You will be sure to leave with signed books

to add to your collection! We have so many authors that we could not list them all. Friday 8PM–12AM, International North-South (Hyatt).



### Friday Night Costuming Contest

Entrants compete in Youth, Novice, Journeyman, & Professional categories in this workmanship costume contest. Cheer on your favorites & vote for the Social Media Fan Favorite on Facebook. Friday 8:30–11PM, Atrium Ballroom (Marriott).



### Klingon Karaoke (Honor)

You won't need to speak Klingon (or Klingonese) to board our vessel for this musical journey. Sing with honor, and don't behave like a filthy targ! Friday 10PM–12:30AM, Galleria 2–3 (Hilton).



### An Evening in Bree

The annual celebration with live music, dancing, and High Fantasy frivolity. Plus, the much-anticipated costume contest and awards! Friday 8:30PM–12:30AM, Grand West (Hilton).



### Paint the Night Fantastic: After-Hours Artistry!

Unleash your inner artist at our exclusive paint party! Surround yourself with fellow creatives, and enjoy a vibrant evening of artistic expression where every stroke is a celebration of imagination. Friday 10PM–12:30AM, Hanover AB (Hyatt).



### Dragon Con's Pin-ups by the Pool

Don your best poolside pin-up attire... there's gonna be a pin-up competition! Register for the competition poolside 30 minutes before the party begins. Judges will be mixing and mingling in the fray, so don't be a wallflower. Remember the judges love a nerdy twist to your pin-up creation! Friday 8:30–11PM, Pool and Courtyard (Courtland Grand).



### K-Pop Dance Party

Bring your best moves to the K-pop Dance Party with DJ 1C3NIN3, where we will be playing your favorite hit songs! Friday 10PM–12:30AM, Imperial Ballroom (Marriott).



### Zombie Prom: Viral Uprising!

Step into the sinister glow of our breached biohazard containment laboratory as it transforms into a dance floor for the undead! Show off your best infected look & compete for King, Queen, & Best Costumes. Pulse-pounding music, creepy decor, & zombie chaos await. Survive the night...if you can! Friday 10PM–2AM, Grand Salon (Hilton).



Check out the Parties/Events pages on the *Daily Dragon* website for more!

## Daily Dragon Social

Don't miss the latest Dragon Con news and announcements. Follow @daily-dragon on BlueSky!



## Costuming Exhibit

Some of Dragon Con's finest costumes are on display for your wonderment. Be amazed and inspired by these incredible works of craftsmanship, artistry, and ingenuity. Friday–Sunday 1PM–8PM, 305 (Hilton).



## Charity Book Fair: Blind Date with a Book

We've opened our own Mystery Books Fair, where all the books are a secret until you buy one. Stop by during the day and pick up a new read for Charity—proceeds go to NAMI GA. \$5 donation recommended. Books are available all day while supplies last. See a volunteer! Friday–Saturday 11AM–7:30PM, Augusta (Courtland Grand).



Check out the Parties and Events pages on the *Daily Dragon* website for more!



## Arcade Gaming with Joystick

Come get your "game on" at the pop-up from our friends at Joystick Gamebar, Atlanta's official retro arcade. Classic arcade cabinets and pinball machines are on FREE PLAY, located in the old Benihana space of our beloved food court in Peachtree Center Mall. Live long and party on! Wednesday 6PM–4:30AM; Thursday–Sunday 10AM–4AM; Monday, 10AM–5PM.

## NAMI Georgia

Dragon Con's Official 2025 Charity. Follow the link via the QR code or text NAMIGA to 24251.



bit.ly/DragonConGivesBack