

Stitching Time:

The Forms, Functions and Fascinations of 'Cosplay' Fandom

Saturday 18th March, 2017

Yamanashi Gakuin University, International College of Liberal Arts, Kofu City

Guests of Honour: Helen McCarthy and Steve Kyte

Speakers: Dr. Ed Hoff, Prof. Renato Rivera Rusca and Prof. William Reed

This conference invites presentations, and papers for publication from scholars and students on issues relating to cosplay fandom – history, popular practice and connections to fandom in general. We especially welcome presentations from those who practice the craft in a practical way, as the centrepiece of the conference will be the work of Kofu's 'Handmade Samurai Project', in which local crafters have sought no traditional ways to supply sufficient suits of armour for the massive, annual Kofu Takeda Family Festival.



However, though this conference is rooted in a 'Japanese' setting, as well as what is perceived as part of Japanese popular culture we invite contributions from all perspectives and from all corners of the globe, for it is clear that the bounds of this fandom go deeper and broader than many in the community might admit.



Topics of Special Interest:

- Cosplay History, Worldwide.
- Cosplay Morality and cultural Sharing
- Fan Pathology and creativity
- Social Movements in Cosplay Communities
- Cosplay as an extension of other
- Fandoms and/or media.

Attendance is free, to both participating presenters and general audience members. Conference proceedings will be published by the YGU press in the months following the conference.

For more information, or to register interest, please contact the iCLA at:
AshmoreD@ygu.ac.jp

Stitching Time - Speakers

10:00 – Opening Address and Introductions

10:10 - Helen McCarthy.

Helen McCarthy (1951-) has been researching and writing about Japanese popular culture since 1981. After a decade hearing that there was "no interest in that sort of thing" she founded a magazine, Anime UK, to disprove the claim. Her first book was published just over a year later, and she's been writing about anime, manga and Japan ever since. Her work has been translated into Chinese, French, Italian and Korean.

In 2010 she won a Harvey Award - the Oscars of the comics world - for her tenth book, 'The Art of Osamu Tezuka: God of Manga'. The book was also nominated for an Eisner Award. Helen's other awards include a Japan Foundation Award for furthering understanding of Japanese culture in the United Kingdom, and a Society of Authors/Sasakawa Foundation award.

11:00 – Prof. Will Reed Cosplay and Nanba

William Reed founded The Dragon Gate Nanba Arts Association on Nov 1, 2015, as a platform for sharing insights, teaching and certifying instructors, coaches, and mentors in the core content offered by the association. William Reed is a full professor at the iCLA (International College of Liberal Arts) of Yamanashi Gakuin University, located in Kofu City, Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, where he teaches courses related to the Art of Presentation, Critical & Creative Thinking, Critical Thinking & Debate, Career Design, Spiritual Dimensions and Traditions in the Japanese Martial Arts, as well as Workshops in Aikido, Nanba, Shugendo, Experiencing Shinto, Remembering the Kanji, and Reading Kanji in Context. At iCLA he is also leading projects in Handmade Samurai Armor, and a Japan themed Photography Competition.

William Reed is a certified Shihan in Aikido with Yuishinkai Aikido, in Calligraphy with Sogeikai Shodo, and in Nanba as a Tokubetsu Shihan with the Nanba Jutsu Association. He is also a Director and Certified Instructor at the Mandala Chart Association, and an Adviser to the Japan Creativity Society and to the Birth Color Academy. He is a bilingual Amazon #1 bestseller with books on World Class Speaking in Japanese (世界最高プレゼン術) and co-author in English of World Class Speaking in Action. He is the first person to Certified as a World Class Speaking Coach, and has coached executives and their teams at multinational corporations in Japan in the techniques of World Class Speaking. He has written books and numerous articles on Ki and Japanese Culture in English, and was recently awarded the Toyo Shogei Sho (Asian Calligraphy Art Prize) at the Zen Nichi Shodo Ten (Zen Nichi Calligraphy Exhibition).

12:00 – Lunch and Cosplay Contest.

13:30 – The Main Event - Looking Good in Samurai Armor and Kimono

In the worlds of Anime, Cosplay, Ninja, and Martial Arts, you will find many costumes inspired by or Samurai culture and Kimono. But you do not often get a chance to learn how to wear and move in such costumes so that you look like the real thing. Samurai Armor and Japanese Kimono developed over centuries to be both beautiful in design, and highly functional in movement. Good posture is a given, but there are subtle elements at work in creating harmony of form and function. While it might take years to learn how to move well in Martial Arts, Tea Ceremony, or Noh Drama, it is possible to learn the essentials of how to move in Japanese costume through the principles of Nanba: The Art of Physical Finesse. Japanese costume, tight-fitting with obi, tasuki, and other forms of binding, seems quite restrictive of movement. It is in fact unforgiving of poor posture, and of movements which are twisted or disconnected. However, it actually frees you to make movements which are well coordinated and connected. Nanba teaches you how to move without forcing, twisting, or disconnecting. The result is that you will look better in Japanese costume, both in photographs and in movement. In this workshop we will demonstrate how this is done, using Handmade Samurai Armor made by our professors and students.

An added benefit of Nanba is that it works equally well in Western clothing and daily life, and has applications for enhancing performance in sports and music.

14:30 – Dr. Ed Hoff

Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Dr. Hoff's research and personal interests are in the area of popular culture and, specifically cosplay. Indeed, since 2003 he has been the driving force behind Nagoya's World Cosplay Summit, working with the local coordinators of the event, giving them advice, background on the competition, and my thoughts with regards to any major decisions. He is also responsible for communicating with various other organizers and cosplayers involved in WCS from all over the world, both past, present, and future.

15:30 – Prof. Renato Rivera Rusca

Renato Rivera Rusca is a graduate of Japanese Studies at Stirling University in Scotland and has conducted research on Japanese popular culture in Osaka University and Kyoto University. He has lectured at the Manga Faculty at Kyoto Seika University and has participated in many projects involving the Kyoto International Manga Museum since its inception. He is currently a lecturer at the School of Commerce, Meiji University.

16:30 – Closing Ceremonies

Directions.

From Tokyo:

The Most practical route for folks coming up from Tokyo on the day is via the following semi express route.

Route4		Take time: 94 Minutes Transfer: 1 Times Distance: 1209 km Total ¥ 4,130(Ticket Fare: ¥ 2,270 Seat Fee: ¥ 1,860 Commuting ticket(1mon: ¥ — 3mon: ¥ — 6mon: ¥ —)			Commuting ticket
Time	Route	Fare	Seat Fee	Useful Link	
07:00	SHINJUKU(JR) [Departure track No.10] Station timetable Add to favorite			Map Rent-a-car Hotel Restaurant	
[82 Min]	LTD. EXP SUPER AZUSA 1 Train timetable Interval timetable				
08:22 08:31	SAWA-ONSEN Station timetable Add to favorite	¥2,270		Map Rent-a-car Hotel Restaurant	
[3 Min]	JR Chuo Line for KOFU Train timetable Interval timetable			Map Rent-a-car Hotel Restaurant	
08:34	SAKAORI Add to favorite				

However, if you are traveling the day before and staying overnight, other train times can be found on Hyperdia.

<http://www.hyperdia.com>

University location:

The iCLA buildings are on the main YGU campus, with distinctive Orange and Green tower buildings (please see map below)



Route from Sakaori via Google Maps:

<https://www.google.co.jp/maps/dir/Sakaori+Station,+Kofu,+Yamanashi+Prefecture/35.6562489,138.6023148/@35.6579143,138.6001165,374m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m1!4m13!1m10!1m1!1s0x601bf9762273999b:0x8ba1cc4b7004da19!2m2!1d138.599339!2d35.659683!3m4!1m2!1d138.598497!2d35.6582695!3s0x601bf99d80f79b6b:0x771bd45967c671c9!1m0!3e2?hl=en>