

CACTUS NEEDLES

Newsletter of The Southwest Costumers Guild
Vol 10 #8, August 03

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Please e-mail or mail contact updates to the editor.

Calendar

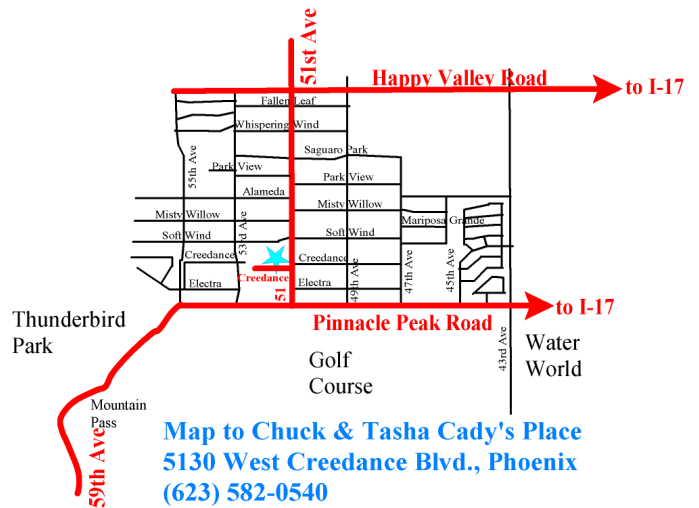
*Indicates an event organized by SWCG. Unless otherwise noted, SWCG meetings begin at 1:00 PM.

August 21, 2003, 12 noon and 7pm - **Art in Practice: How Noh Costumes are Used in Performance**, Phoenix Art Museum, Steele Gallery www.phxart.org

August 23, 2003, 10am-12 noon - **Noh Dance Workshop**. Phoenix Art Museum, Steele Gallery. Cost: \$35 (less for museum members). Pre-registration is required - call the Education Department at 602-257-2178.

August 24, 2003, 1pm: **The History and Practice of Noh**. Phoenix Art Museum, Whiteman Lecture Hall.

August 24, 2003, 4:00 PM - **Swim Parrty*** SWCG social at Tasha's place. This is our annual in-the-pool costume party. This year's theme is "Pirates."



September 5-7, 2003 - **Coppercon 23** Fan-organized SF/Fantasy convention at the Embassy Suites on the southeast corner of Interstate 17 and Greenway Road in Phoenix, Arizona. Guests of honor include Author Connie Willis, Artist David Mattingly, and Musician Larry Warner. The con includes a masquerade directed by your Editor. Go to www.coppercon.org for more information on the con and to <http://members.aol.com/cumask> for masquerade information

September 21, 2003, 1-3pm: **Taiko - Japanese Drumming**. Phoenix Art Museum, Steele Gallery. www.phxart.org

September 28, 2003 - **Mask Making*** SWCG workshop at Tasha's place. We'll build some masks using the forms built in July.

October 26, 2003 - **Fabric Burning*** SWCG workshop at Randall's place. Learn to use burn tests to distinguish different fabrics and fiber blends.

November 22 & 23, 2003 - **Devonshire Renaissance Faire** at Los Olivos Park, north of 28th Street and Indian School Road in Phoenix. A fine little one-weekend renfaire.

November 30, 2003 - **Duct and Cover*** SWCG workshop at Jean's place. Learn to make a dress form of your body using duct tape and stuffing.

December 14, 2003 - **Parasol Covering*** SWCG workshop at Jean's place. Learn to build a custom parasol over a standard frame. Annual officer elections.

January 25, 2004 - **Lord of the Pants*** SWCG workshop at Stephanie's place. Learn how to prepare custom-fitted stockings and tights.

February 29, 2004 - **Leap Into Leap Year*** SWCG meeting at Stephanie's place. Annual calendar planning.

Random Thoughts From Your Editor

by Randall Whitlock

Using the funds donated by SWCG, I've acquired materials and built some prizes for the **Coppercon 23 Masquerade**.



Best in Show will receive a brace of **Mundial Craft Scissors** in a red velvet presentation case. The novice and experienced division winners will receive

our semi-traditional capes.



This year's **Newbie Cape** is tan rayon blend twill with gold braid trim and a pleated hood.



The **Mantle of Experience** is a nearly full-circle cotton herringbone invernass cape with gold braid trim and a falling collar.



For **Participant Favors**, we have 20 emergency sewing kits in hard plastic cases. All of these prizes bear SWCG Tags. Young Fen prizes and Hall Costume ribbons are still in the works.

Details on the masquerade can be viewed at <http://members.aol.com/cumask>.

Of note to potential masq contestants, Ethan tells me he will not be able to accept music or narration on cassette. Sound should be on a CD, or in a digital format like MP3 or WAV. Ethan adds that he has an enormous selection of music in his collection, so he probably already has

something suitable for your presentation. If the no-tape thing is a problem, please contact Randall and we'll figure out a way to get your sound transcribed to CD before the con.

MoiRandall's is three for three for precipitation this year, with lots of rain and hail at the Highlands War following the soakings at Estrella and Renaissance in the Pines. Be sure to bring your umbrella to Devonshire. On the upside, six guild flatcaps sold at the Highlands War.



"Diplomatic Faux Paw" SWCG Members' presentation at the Westercon 2003 Masquerade. Left to right: Frances Burns, Lyn Jeppesen, Chuck Cady, Tasha Cady. Photo by David Jeppesen.

Costume College 2003 Friday Tour

by Jean Palmer

I flew to LAX took a shuttle on to Van Nuys California on Thursday July 31st, went to room in Airtel Plaza Hotel (Frances had made reservations for us.) unpacked, got sorta organized before Frances and Debbie Kruhm (from New Mexico) arrived. Relaxed. Wandered around greeting old acquaintances from previous Costume Colleges. Bed early.

Friday, up at 6, breakfast (yummy) gathered for Tour named 'Blockbuster to Backyard'. A bus took us to Sony Pictures' new costume warehouse facility. Rows & rows of costumes of all types, we were allowed to wander up and down the aisles and allowed to touch! Amazing number of costumes of all types and sizes and colors and time periods. Then we looked at props on two or three levels. Everything from pictures, paintings, sofas, chairs, tables, desks (including old school desks), old hair dryers and permanent wave machines (electric with metal clamps which went on curlers in hair—my first perm was on one of those.

Went to lunch then on to J & M Costumers. The owner, Ms. Corbett, had her home re-zoned to be able to create her shop on the back of her lot. They make characters and animals, do special FX and have a wonderful ageing and dyeing section. Many other houses send to J & M dye projects too big for the stove top but not big enough for a commercial dye house, with excellent results. We saw some marvelous items they had made. I had never seen mannequins with legs before, some were specific actresses. They do custom work for stars and movies.

More to come

Incoming E-Mail

Leprecon 30 Masquerade Director Needed

Contact Chairman Mark Boniece at boniece@aol.com

Dave Ayres Offers FX Makeup Classes in Scottsdale

From his e-mail:

Hi Everyone,
Here's the new info. If you have any questions please contact me. I hope you can make it.

CLASS AND MAKE-UP MATERIALS COST
Many have asked about the cost. Costs are still in flux, but the classes so far are \$25 per student, per class, plus supplies.

MAKE-UP KITS

Make-up materials will be purchased at Mardi Gras Make-up Counter, such as brushes, make-up colors and bases, spirit gum, blood, powder, anything that we need to complete our make-ups. You can start building your class make-up kit this way and reuse the brushes and materials in the next class, adding some items to your kit each time you take a class. Before each class we will review rubber prosthetic pieces available for your character to help enhance and improve your design.

THE CLASSES

Each Saturday class will feature a different character design taken from the screens most popular summer blockbusters and classic monster and fantasy films. The class will start at 9:30 AM (1 1/2 hours before the store opens). Mardi Gras is allowing us to mingle with the customers after we have finished. So, expect to have some fun.

CLASS SUBJECTS (Different subject each Sat.)

- Pirates of the Caribbean; treasure hungry zombies
- Terminator; cyborgs, killer robots.-Harry Potter; evil elves, terrible trolls, magical wizards.
- Star Wars Theme; alien scum, bounty hunters, ETs.
- Star Trek Theme; aliens, villains, radiation burns cosmic mutations.
- Monsters We Have Known And Loved; Frankenstein

Monsters, Werewolves, Vampires, Mummies, Mr. Hyde, Freddy, Jason.

-Gore; automobile accidents, cuts, bruises, eye gouges, and cut-throats.

-Halloween; Witches, The Skull.

-Old Age.

-Your Design.

-Repeat Favorite Theme Different Character.

ENROLLMENT

NOW! Classes are limited. I want to keep the classes small, for individual instruction, about 5-6 students. I don't want anyone getting lost in a large class. I like the one-on-one type of teaching.

PAYMENT

\$25 at the beginning of each class. Purchase materials needed for each class at Mardi Gras's make-up counter. I hate the huge costs of make-up schools, up in the thousands of dollars. I think it discourages a lot of people. I want to make this inexpensive and fun.

WHERE?

Mardi Gras Costume
5895 N. Granite Reef Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ., 85250
480-948-4030

LAST WORDS

Let me know if you have any favorite characters you would like introduce, or do yourself. Look over the list of themes and characters. Choose your classes and characters. Let me know by E-mail, or call me so I can put your name on the enrollment list. I will let you know the class schedule, dates and time. It's as easy as that.

Beast witches,
David Ayres
602-254-4229 (creatrem@aol.com)

From the Mailbox

Vintage Fashion, Vol. 1, No. 1,

This is a new magazine spun off from *Renaissance*. I received two copies of the premiere issue (they want to sell me advertising space). At 10 by 12.5 inches, the format is big and thin. The target audience is theatrical costumers, collectors, and other semi-professionals. The premiere issue includes a feature on movie/opera costume company Sartoria Tirelli, a pictorial on historical mideastern jewish caps and headdresses, a market report on vintage clothing, a summary of period films in production, and a historical retrospective on influential designer Ruth Reeves. Lotsa full-color pictures on slick paper.