

# MCM COMIC CON

## COSPLAY VARIETY SHOW RULES



### GENERAL INFORMATION

Within the MCM Comic Con events, which are owned, organised and staged by Reedpop, a division of **Reed Exhibitions Limited** (“**Reedpop**”), Reedpop organises a Cosplay Variety Show (“**the Variety Show**” or “**the Cosplay Variety Show**”). These Rules set out and govern how each Variety Show is to be run by Reedpop at each MCM Comic Con.

Please send any queries by email to: [MCMCosplay@reedpop.com](mailto:MCMCosplay@reedpop.com) - please indicate which show you are attending in the subject line e.g. “MCM London Variety Show”.

Participation in the Variety Show does not grant free entry to MCM Comic Con. You must have a valid ticket to MCM Comic Con (“**the Event**”) in order to participate in each Cosplay Variety Show.

### HOW TO ENTER

- Online sign ups open approximately 7 weeks before each Event. Performance applications close after 3 weeks, so please check the application deadline on the Event website and complete and submit application form carefully.
  - No performance places will be available on the day at the Event.
- After applying via the website, the Cosplay Team will review the basic details. You will receive an email confirmation with a request for your performance proposal and instructions on how to submit this. This should include a full description of your performance and evidence of your skill/style. This can include similar previous performances, but rehearsal videos are very welcome and helpful for the panel assessing your use of the stage and your proposed performance. These must be sent by the deadline communicated in the application confirmation email and on the application form.
- Places are extremely limited and are allocated by a selection panel who will assess all performance applications, selecting a number of them to perform based on factors such as quality of scripts, originality, and variety.
- Successful performances will only be confirmed once the application and submission deadline has passed and the panel has made its selection.
- Only one application is permitted per person. If applications are submitted for multiple days (where available) only one performance submission will be considered by the selection panel. If you enter as part of a group, you cannot also enter as an individual.
- If you secure a place in the Variety Show, the ReedPop Cosplay Team will provide “Where and When” instructions for the week of the Event. On the day, you must check in at Cosplay Central by the time communicated to confirm you are still taking part and check your details.
- The Variety Show will take place on the Main Stage before the Cosplay Masquerade, at the end of the day.

### CRITERIA

The Variety Show is open to **over 16s only**.

The **maximum** group size is **eight people**.

Employees, staff, crew or guests of Reed Exhibitions Limited or any associated company of Reed Exhibitions Limited and/or any of their immediate families, and persons connected with the Variety Show, e.g. prize sponsors or judges and

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their agents, are not eligible to enter the Variety Show.

Here are some examples of typical cosplay performances:

- a short comical cosplay performance or 'skit'
- a dance or 'dance off' to music
- a lip sync/miming a song
- singing live
- playing an instrument
- re-enacting a dramatic scene
- a magic trick or other show of skill\*
- a choreographed fight scene\*

*\*the Selection Panel may need further reassurances before approving these.*

Please note the following:

- performance content **must** be suitable for a family audience. No profanity is allowed on stage. If your source inspiration is an age restricted movie, series or game, please consider the content of your performance carefully with a family audience in mind;
- the time limit for performances is 3 minutes (but we recommend aiming for 2 minutes maximum in most cases and especially for singing and dancing performances);
- a hand-held, live microphone may be permitted for certain performances, e.g. singing or comedy, conditional on having provided a similar performance observed by the Reedpop Cosplay Team. Other types of microphone are not available. For other performance types, you should use pre-recorded dialogue if your performance requires it, e.g. for dramatic performances and skits. It will not be possible for the audience to hear you talk from stage without a microphone;
- performers must submit a single sound file, in mp3 format, which we will start to play when you are in position to start as communicated to the Cosplay Team at check in and continue until the track ends or you exit the stage. We reserve the right to reject poor quality tracks and so recommend sending in voice recordings as early as possible, so that we can check and inform you if it needs to be improved. If your performance is accepted, you will be given a deadline to submit this by;
- energetic performances, e.g. running, gymnastics or martial arts displays, require extra checks on the skills of the performers, and we reserve the right to interrupt performances for safety reasons;
- any items for stage dressing and hand held props for performances must be disclosed and checked by the Cosplay Team at check-in on the day. Unchecked items will not be permitted on stage;
- the Cosplay Team may be able to provide some simple items for use on stage, e.g. chairs or a table, if requested in advance. Anything that is unavailable must be supplied by the entrants and must be able to be set up on stage and removed quickly;
- no costume or performance may include harmful or potentially harmful materials, including, but not limited to, water, cigarettes, flames, fireworks, silly string, or any other substance that can be fired, launched, or dripped. Items that can litter the stage, such as glitter or confetti or anything that will make the stage slippery, are not allowed;
- performers can apply with any type of costume including, handmade, bought or those made from modified/unmodified regular clothing;
- all costumes should provide enough coverage to be worn in public and should be in good taste and appropriate for a family-friendly show and must not contain material that is violent, pornographic or otherwise obscene, illegal, or racially or morally offensive or endorse any form of hate or hate group, each as determined by ReedPop

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Cosplay Team, at its absolute discretion. Additionally, each costume must comply with all laws including, but not limited to, those concerning copyright, plagiarism, trademark, defamation and invasion of privacy. Any costume or performance which ReedPop determines to be in violation of the aforementioned criteria will be rejected as ineligible and disqualified from the Variety Show.

- performers who act in violation of the safety briefing given by the Cosplay Team, or act in violation of the criteria in these Rules or who attempt to use undisclosed props or stage dressing, may be disqualified from the Variety Show and banned from participating in future competitions and sessions across ReedPop events. The length and extent of this ban will be determined by the ReedPop Cosplay Team, at its sole and absolute discretion, based on the severity of the breach. Once a decision on eligibility to participate has been notified by ReedPop, it cannot be appealed in any way.

### JUDGING & PRIZES

The judging panel will assess the performances based on the stage presentation only before choosing the 'Best Performance' who will receive a prize. Examples of what they may consider include: how well a character's essence is captured on stage for a dramatic performance; how amusing it is in the case of comedy or parody performances; or the level of skill demonstrated for talent-based performances. Costumes are not judged for the Variety Show.

Overall a good performance should entertain the audience regardless of the style of the performance and without complete reliance on audience knowledge of the source material.

**The judges' decision is FINAL.** Please respect the judges and the other participants by accepting their decisions in good faith and good spirits.

**USE OF DATA:** Each Participant's information will be collected and used by Reed Exhibitions Limited in accordance with the Privacy Policy ("the Privacy Policy") posted on <https://privacy.reedexpo.com/en-us.html>, which is incorporated herein by this reference. By entering the Variety Show, each Participant agrees and acknowledges that he or she has read, understood and agrees to be bound by (i) these Official Rules; and (ii) the Privacy Policy, each as may be amended by Reed Exhibitions Limited. All Participants are expected to review the Privacy Policy carefully before participating in the Variety Show and each Participant acknowledges that, in the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the terms of these Official Rules and the terms of the Privacy Policy, the terms of the Privacy Policy shall prevail, govern and control. In addition, Reed Exhibitions Limited may engage third party entities to administer certain aspects of the Variety Show, including, without limitation, the collection of Participant information. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Privacy Policy, Reed Exhibitions Limited may share Participant's information with third party entities to the extent needed to perform their duties and functions in connection with the Variety Show or otherwise in accordance with their own independent privacy practices.

**PUBLICITY:** Except where legally prohibited, participation in the Variety Show constitutes such Participant's grant of permission (and agreement to confirm such grant in writing) for Reedpop to use such Participant's name, voice, likeness, photograph, video, testimonials, biographical information, and/or statements made by Participant in all media now known or hereafter discovered, worldwide, without additional notice, approval, or compensation and in perpetuity. Each winner's name may be included in a publicly available winners' list.

**LIMITATION ON LIABILITY; FORCE MAJEURE:** Each Participant agrees that Reed Exhibitions Limited shall not be responsible or liable for, and is hereby released from, any and all claims, costs, injuries, losses or damages of any kind, relating to any of the following: (a) incomplete, inaccurate, lost, late, misdirected or illegible entries, winner notifications, Prize claims, or Winner Forms or the failure to receive same due to any cause, including without limitation human or technical problems, failures, or malfunctions of any kind, whether originating with Participant, Reed Exhibitions Limited or otherwise, that may prevent or limit any Participant's ability to participate in the Variety Show or send or receive messages requiring action or response by such Participant; (b) any computer system, phone line, hardware, software or program malfunctions, or other errors, failures, hacks, unauthorised access, delayed computer transmissions or network connections in connection with the Variety Show; (c) any problems or technical malfunction of any network or lines, servers or providers, equipment or software, including any injury or damage to Participant or Participant's property resulting from participation in the Variety Show; (d) the awarding, acceptance, possession, use, misuse, loss or misdirection of any Prize or participation in any Prize related activities or any inability of any winner to accept a Prize for any reason; (e) any Participants who do not comply with or who violate the Official Rules or

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who have committed fraud or deception in participating in the Variety Show or in claiming a Prize; or (f) any delays or disruptions as a result of a Force Majeure (as defined herein).

Reed Exhibitions Limited reserves the right to modify, suspend, extend or terminate the Variety Show or any part thereof if Reed Exhibitions Limited determines, in its sole discretion, that the Variety Show is technically impaired or corrupted or that infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorised intervention, fraud, technical problems, failures, malfunctions or other causes have destroyed, corrupted or undermined the administration, security, fairness, integrity or feasibility of the Variety Show or any portion thereof as contemplated herein. In the event Reed Exhibitions Limited is prevented from continuing with the Variety Show or awarding any Prizes by any event beyond its control, including but not limited to fire, flood, epidemic, earthquake, explosion, labor dispute or strike, act of God or public enemy, satellite or equipment failure, riot or civil disturbance, terrorist threat or activity, war (declared or undeclared) or any federal state or local government law, order, or regulation, order of any court or jurisdiction, or other cause not reasonably within Reed Exhibitions Limited's control (each a "**Force Majeure**" event or occurrence), Reed Exhibitions Limited shall have the right to modify, suspend, extend or terminate the Variety Show at its sole discretion or to select a winner from entries received prior to such Force Majeure or as otherwise deemed fair and appropriate by Reed Exhibitions Limited.

Although Reed Exhibitions Limited shall attempt to ensure the integrity of the Variety Show, Reed Exhibitions Limited is not responsible for the actions of Participants in connection with the Variety Show, including any Participant's attempt to circumvent the Official Rules or otherwise interfere with the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Variety Show. Reed Exhibitions Limited reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any Participant and/or revoke any Prize award to any Participant whom Reed Exhibitions Limited finds to be (a) tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Variety Show, or with any website promoting the Variety Show; (b) acting in violation of the Official Rules; or (c) entering or attempting to enter the Variety Show through the use of any robotic or automated devices to submit entries. Once a decision on disqualification or revocation has been made or notified to the Participant, it cannot be appealed in any way.

**In the event of any dispute arising, these Rules, which were last updated on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025, are to be interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.**