

MCM COMIC CON COSPLAY MASQUERADE RULES



GENERAL INFORMATION

Within the MCM Comic Con events, which are owned, organised and staged by MCM Expo Limited, part of the Reedpop group of companies (“**Reedpop**”), Reedpop organises a Cosplay Masquerade (“**the Masquerade**” or “**the Cosplay Masquerade**”).

These Rules set out and govern how each Masquerade is to be run by Reedpop at each MCM Comic Con.

Please send any queries by email to: MCMCosplay@reedpop.com. -Please indicate which show you are attending in the subject line of your email, e.g. “MCM London Masquerade”.

Participation in the Cosplay Masquerade does not grant free entry to MCM Comic Con.

HOW TO ENTER

- There are two types of Masquerade entry: Costume Display and Performance
 - **Costume Display** entries show off their costumes through a simple walk on and in character posing. They are the majority of entries in the Masquerade. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis to eligible entries. Most Costume Display entries will be on stage for 30 - 60 seconds, or two minutes for large groups.
 - **Performance** entries display a talent or skit for the audience. Places are limited and are allocated by a selection panel by comparing the merits of all Performance applications.
- Online sign-ups open 6 weeks before each Masquerade. Performance applications close 3 weeks ahead of the Masquerade. Costume Display applications will close when places are full or 1 week before the Masquerade, whichever event occurs first.
- Only one entry is permitted per person or group. If you enter as part of a group you cannot also enter as an individual.
- We occasionally accept sign-ups for Costume Display entries on the day of the Masquerade at the MCM Comic Con event if capacity has not been reached; on the day sign-ups close at noon or when the places are full, whichever comes first. Please visit the Cosplay Central stand at the MCM Comic Con as early as possible to find out if any spaces are available.
- We do not accept Performance entries on the day of the Cosplay Masquerade.
- On the day of the Cosplay Masquerade, you must check in at Cosplay Central by the time communicated by the Reedpop Cosplay Team to confirm you are still taking part and check your details. If you wish for your costume(s) to be judged competitively, you will be allocated a time slot (a 15-20 minute window) to appear for pre-judging so the judges can assess your costume construction. All entries will present their costume or performance on the Main Stage in the Cosplay Masquerade, which usually takes place at the end of the relevant day of the MCM Comic Con.

CRITERIA

Cosplay is not limited to costumes from anime and games - any pop culture costume is welcome. Original costumes based on pop culture can also be entered if supported by an explanation of the inspirations behind the costume.

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Employees, staff, crew or guests of MCM Comic Con, any other ReedPop companies, Reed Exhibitions Limited or any group or associated company of Reed Exhibitions Limited and/or any of their immediate families, and persons connected with the Masquerade, e.g. prize sponsors or judges and their agents, are not eligible to enter the Cosplay Masquerade.

COSTUME DISPLAY ENTRIES

Juniors (11-15 years old) and family entries (adults with children) can enter the Costume Display category regardless of whether or not they made their own costume, but they are not judged or eligible for prizes.

The **maximum** group size for Costume Display entries is **six people**.

Costume Display entrants aged 16 or over must wear a costume that meets the following criteria **(there is no exception for people who do not wish to be judged)**:

- All costumes must be made by the wearer or one of the group. A portion of the costume (such as leotard, tights and shoes) may be from purchased, finished goods, but the majority of the costume should have been constructed by the entrant: at least 70% should be their own work. Any customisation work to bought wigs, props, etc. should be the original work of the entrant. If entrants have made heavy alterations to or completely transformed a store-bought garment and wish to enter it into the Masquerade, they must be able to explain how they have altered it and the processes that such an endeavour entailed.
- Commissioned and bought costumes or costumes mostly made up of bought general clothing are not accepted for Costume Display entries, even in a group with some eligible costumes.
- The costume should not exceed 2.5m/8ft in any one dimension, the entrant should be able to safely move in the costume with limited assistance and the costume must not impede the entrant's ability to get on and off the stage. The Reedpop Cosplay Team reserve the right to intervene should they believe a costume is not safe to participate on stage.
- The costume must not have been entered into a Cosplay Masquerade at any previous Reedpop event.
- 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 endorses any form of hate or hate group, each as determined by the Reedpop Cosplay Team, at their sole discretion. Further, no costume 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. 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 which Reedpop determines to be in violation of the Criteria will be rejected as ineligible and disqualified from the Masquerade.

Costume Display entries are allowed their own choice of music which should be sent to the Reedpop Cosplay team by the deadline communicated by the Reedpop Cosplay Team on acceptance. This should be a general background track, without any spoken script elements, so that the pacing of the Masquerade can be managed fairly for all participants. It should be a minimum of 30 seconds' long, with any tracks longer than 1 minute being faded out as you leave the stage.

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PERFORMANCE ENTRIES

The Best Performance prize is awarded for taking to the stage and impressing the audience. Performance entries are open to over 16s only and you are allowed to perform with bought or handmade costumes.

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

Here are some examples of Masquerade performances:

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A short comical performance or 'skit' | A dance or 'dance off' to music |
| A lip sync/miming a song | Re-enacting a dramatic scene |
| A magic trick or other show of skill | A choreographed fight scene* |

**Reedpop may need further reassurances before approving these.*

Performance applications close a minimum of 3 weeks before the Masquerade, with no Performance places available on the day. After signing up via the website, we require a full description of your Performance and examples of your skill/style. This can include similar previous performances, but rehearsal videos are very helpful for the panel assessing your use of the stage. These must be sent by the deadline communicated by the Reedpop Cosplay Team.

A panel will assess all Performance applications, selecting a number of them to perform based on factors such as quality of scripts, originality and variety. Performance places will only be confirmed once the application deadline has passed and the panel has made their selection.

Please note the following:

- Performance content **must** be suitable for a family audience. No profanity is allowed on stage. If your source 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 dancing and lip sync performances is 2 minutes, and 3 minutes for any other form or Performance.
- The Reedpop Cosplay Team may be able to provide some simple items for use on stage, e.g. chairs, if requested upon your acceptance of a place. Any prop that is not readily available must be supplied by the entrants and must be able to be set on stage and removed from it quickly and easily.
- 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 endorses any form of hate or hate group, each as determined by the Reedpop Cosplay Team in their sole discretion. Further, no costume 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. 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 which Reedpop determines to be in violation of the Criteria will be rejected as ineligible and disqualified from

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the Masquerade.

- A hand-held, live microphone may be permitted for certain Performance entries, e.g. singing, conditional on the entrant having provided a similar performance observed by the Reedpop Cosplay Team. For other Performance types you must use pre-recorded dialogue if your Performance requires it, e.g. for dramatic performances and skits.
- We can only accept a single sound file, which we will start to play when you come on the stage and continue until the track ends. We reserve the right to reject poor quality tracks and so recommend that entrants send in voice recordings as early as possible, so that we can check and inform you if it needs to be improved.
- Energetic performances involving running or martial arts displays by way of example require extra checks on the skills of the performers, and the Reedpop Cosplay Team reserve the right to interrupt performances for safety reasons.

JUDGING & PRIZES

The contest element is open to **ages 16 and over** only.

- Participants may choose to showcase their costume on stage only and not to be judged if they do not wish to enter competitively.
- A 'Best in Show' and 'Best Performance' prize will be awarded to the best entries as determined by the judges. The judges may award additional prizes depending on the size of the Masquerade.
- Groups will be judged as a whole and not just on the basis of the best or worst costumes.
- Prizes are awarded per entry, not per person in a group.
- For a costume to be judged competitively, entrants must attend a pre-judging session as well as participating in the stage show. Any reference pictures or other supporting material to be shown to the judges should be brought to that pre-judging session.
- All performances are eligible for the 'Best Performance' prize. This is awarded solely on the basis of the stage performance without consideration of the costumes; pre-judging is only necessary for performance entries with hand-made costumes that also wish to be considered for the 'Best Costume' prize.
- **The judges' decision is FINAL.- Please respect the judges and the other participants by accepting their decisions.**

USE OF DATA

Each Participant's information will be collected and used by Reedpop 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 Cosplay Masquerade, each participant agrees and acknowledges that he or she has read, understood and agrees to be bound by (i) these Rules; and (ii) the Privacy Policy, each as may be amended by Reedpop.

All participants are expected to review the Privacy Policy carefully before participating in the Masquerade and each

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participant acknowledges that, in the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the terms of these Rules and the terms of the Privacy Policy, the terms of the Privacy Policy shall prevail, govern and control.

In addition, Reedpop may engage third party entities to administer certain aspects of the Masquerade, including, without limitation, the collection of participant information. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Privacy Policy, Reedpop may share participants' information with such third party entities to the extent needed to perform their duties and functions in connection with the Masquerade or otherwise in accordance with their own independent privacy practices.

PUBLICITY

Except where legally prohibited, participation in the Masquerade constitutes each participant's grant of permission for Reedpop to use such participant's name, voice, likeness, photograph, video, testimonials, biographical information, and/or statements made in all media now known or hereafter discovered, worldwide and in perpetuity, without additional notice, approval or compensation.

Each winner's name may be included in a publicly available winners' list.

LIMITATION ON LIABILITY; FORCE MAJEURE

Each participant agrees that, save for applicable law, Reedpop 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 a winner's failure to receive the same due to any cause, including without limitation human or technical problems, failures, or malfunctions of any kind, whether originating with participant, Reedpop or otherwise, that may prevent or limit any participant's ability to participate in the Masquerade 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 Masquerade; (c) any problems or technical malfunction of any network or lines, servers or providers, equipment or software, including any injury or damage to any participant or any participant's property resulting from participation in the Masquerade; (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 Rules or who have committed fraud or deception in participating in the Masquerade or in claiming a prize; or (f) any delays or disruptions are as a result of a Force Majeure event, which is defined as "any event beyond the control of either party, including but not limited to fire, flood, epidemic, earthquake, explosion, labour 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 state or local government law, order or regulation, any court or tribunal order, any epidemic or pandemic and/or any other cause not reasonably within either party's control.

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Reedpop reserves the right to modify, suspend, extend or terminate the Masquerade or any part thereof if Reedpop determines, in its sole discretion, that the Masquerade is technically impaired or corrupted or infected by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorised intervention, fraud, technical problems, failures, malfunctions or other causes have destroyed or undermined the administration, security, fairness, integrity or feasibility of the Masquerade or that Reedpop is prevented from continuing with the Masquerade or awarding any prizes by a Force Majeure event.

Although Reedpop shall always attempt to ensure the integrity of the Masquerade, Reedpop is not responsible for the actions of participants in connection with the Masquerade, including any participant's attempt to circumvent the Rules or otherwise interfere with the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of the Masquerade.

Reedpop reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any participant and/or revoke any prize award to any participant whom Reedpop finds to be (a) tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Masquerade or with any website promoting the Masquerade; or (b) acting in violation of the Rules; or (c) entering or attempting to enter the Masquerade through the use of any robotic or automated devices.

In the event of any dispute arising, these Rules, which were last updated on 25th August 2021, are to be interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.