

# Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

## Silicon Web Staff

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## President's Message *Kevin Roche\**

I am writing this just before we start shipping our trunks to Chicago for Chicon 7, the 2012 World Science Fiction Convention. I know that Worldcon and the Worldcon Masquerade are a major event for many of our members, and I look forward to seeing you there. This year, while I am on a number of costume-related program items, I have no role in the Masquerade other than to be an enthusiastic audience member, and I look forward to enjoying the magic (and a perhaps helping to select a Dreamcatcher Award winner with some of you). I know our chapter will be well represented both onstage and off, with members involved as contestants, crew, and judges.

In past years those trunks might have been filled with costumes for wear or

display, but this year they are transporting ThinBot, the robotic bartender who serves cocktails to guests at the Westercon 66 "Ordinary Room Party" Andy and I are hosting Friday night at ChiCon. (If you missed that bit of news, my husband Andy and I are the co-chairs of next year's Westercon, July 4 weekend in Sacramento). Please stop by the 33rd floor on Friday if you can; costumes are encouraged and Secret Agents is the party theme. What to wear, what to wear...

Halloween is not far off, and I know lots of us have events, haunts and parties we're already preparing for, but Fall out here on the West Coast is full of costuming opportunities. Even the Bay Area Gay Rodeo is encouraging Wild West costumes



Kevin Roche with ThinBot, his robotic bartender.  
Photo by Randy Byers on [Facebook](#).

this year, in celebration of their 20th anniversary! We have a new convention, Con-Volution, in early November, and of course there is LosCon Thanksgiving weekend. I'm planning to be at all of those.

Where are you going this fall, and, more to the point -- what are you planning to wear? Send us some pix; maybe we can do a spread in future issue of VC.

Yours in costuming.



## From the Editor *Philip Gust\**

Halloween is just around the corner, so it's time to turn our attention to hauntings and horrors. This issue explores many aspects of the supernatural, and the opportunities they present for creative costuming.

First up is a description of an event based on the supernatural romance movie, *Somewhere in Time*. [Art Deco Society of California](#) former president Cherie Oliver tells us about this annual early 20<sup>th</sup> century recreation event at the elegant Grand Hotel on historic Mackinac Island, Michigan, where the film was shot.

Next, I describe how costumers can take advantage of post-Halloween sales to

stock up on hard-to-find costuming special effects (cFX) items at bargain prices. Some may even inspire a new costuming idea.

Debbie Bretschneider, together with husband Ric, loves Disney's "Haunted Mansion," and created a masquerade entry in tribute to the ride and the movie. How they cut off son Justin's head, and made up Debbie with the deathly pallor of a ghostly bride is revealed in this entertaining article.

Noted movie and TV makeup and special effects artist Ed Martinez is a big fan of the *Creature from the Black Lagoon* movies. In the first of two articles in this issue, Ed relates the thrill of meeting and spending time with Creature actor Ben Chapman, and his quest to research and recreate his own Creature costume. This article includes many rare behind-the-scenes photos from Ed's collection.

The late Kent Elofson has been responsible for many memorable masquerade presentations at major shows, including Comic-Con and Costume-Con. Danica Lisiewicz and Sa Winfield, who portrayed two of Dracula's Brides in a recreation of the ballroom scene from the movie *Van Helsing*, pay tribute to Kent by describing how they became involved, and the many steps and the documentation required to create this truly memorable masquerade presentation.

In a change of pace, long-time costumer Courtney Rale describes a technique she refined for making stilts that provide a "digigrade" stance and gate to

creature costumes. In this article, she documents the steps (and mis-steps) she went through to make the ones she entered as part of a Costume-Con 30 masquerade presentation. She also includes links to YouTube videos to watch them in action.

Ed Martinez returns to provide a lesson on zombies, one of Ed's professional specialties. He not only provides costumers with tips and professional secrets for producing truly scary zombies, but also provides step-by-step instructions for creating zombie makeup using simple techniques that any costumer can master with a little practice. According to Ed, the real secret isn't the makeup but the acting.

Finally, professional theatrical costumer Gail Wolfenden-Steib provides a fast-paced ride around the subject of using blood in theatrical settings, including types of applications, effects on fabrics, and issues like care of garments, and taking the type of wound into consideration.

Here is a quick preview of what is upcoming in VC. The November 2012 issue explores "Costuming and Technologies." From basic techniques and materials, to useful devices, and even some truly wacky inventions, this issue pays tribute to the technologies that have made today's practice of costuming possible. The theme for the February 2013 issue will be "Spring Cleaning," covering a range of costume-related topics including managing large costuming projects, and organizing sewing room workspaces. I'm pleased to announce

that the theme of the May 2013 issue will be Furry costuming. The Furry community designs and creates spectacular costumes that portray animal characters, both real and imaginary, and brings their creations to life by developing unique personalities for their characters. Although they are sometimes controversial, their costumes are always entertaining. This issue introduces this thriving costuming community and explores the basics of Furry costuming, including construction techniques and sources for materials.

See the [Upcoming Issues](#) page of the SiW website for details. Now is a great time to start writing for VC, and share what you know and love with your fellow costumers.



Happy Halloween from our haunt to yours. The Editor and his Bride at the [PEERS](#) "Le Bal des Vampires."