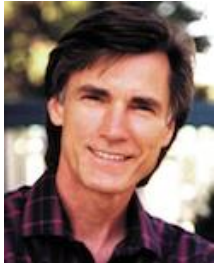


Interview



An Interview with a Virtual Costumer

Greg Evans with Gunther Berger*

Millions know Greg Evans' characters from his syndicated comic strip, "Luann." VC is proud to present the first-ever interview between Greg and his costuming wizard character, Gunther Berger.

Greg Evans: Gunther, I've been asked to interview you for "The Virtual Costumer." Fans of your costuming work are curious to know more about you.

Gunther Berger: Really? I have fans?

Greg: Apparently. So the obvious first question is, how did you get interested in costuming?

Editor's Note

Thanks to Dana MacDermott for her suggestion to invite Greg and Gunther to the pages of VC, and to Carole Parker for reminding me about Dana's suggestion. Thanks also to Greg Evans for taking time from his busy schedule to arrange this special interview.

Gunther: I got it from my mom. She's a great seamstress. When I was a kid, she made me all kinds of costumes: Peter Pan, Superman, Woody from Toy Story, you name it. I loved dressing up in those costumes. Gradually, I became interested in the process of making them.

Greg: Some people might say that you were trying to escape your own dull personality by dressing up as fantasy characters.

Gunther: Who would say something like that?

Greg: An interviewer.

Gunther: You think I'm dull?

Greg: You're not exactly Mr. Fascinating.

Gunther: Whose fault is that?

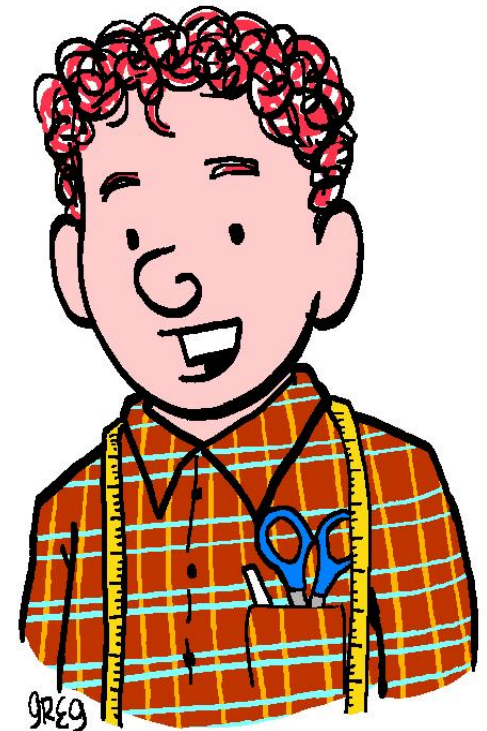
Greg: Let's move on. So you learned to make costumes from your mom.

Gunther: Yes. She taught me to sew. I know, I know. "How nerdy can you get?"

Greg: I didn't say anything.

Gunther: I just wasn't made to be a linebacker, okay? Or a wrestler or a basketball player. I'm non-athletic. I completely lack that gene. I hate P.E..

Greg: I'm a cartoonist. I understand.



Gunther: But I love theater and fantasy and "pretend." I'm not a performer but I'm fascinated by the skills involved in transforming people into characters.

Greg: You do perform magic though, right?

Gunther: I dabble in magic. But I'm no good. I lack the confidence. That's the thing about dressing up - you get to be someone else. When I was in my Superman costume, I wasn't shy, clumsy, uncertain Gunther Berger. I was The Man Of Steel.

Greg: Maybe you should try doing magic as Superman! (Laughs)

Gunther: For a professional humor writer, you're not very funny. Sorry.

Greg: Tell me about your workspace. Do you have your own sewing machine or do you use your mom's?

Gunther: I have my own. And since it's just my mom and me in a 3 bedroom house, I get to use one of the rooms as a workspace. It's where I make all my costumes.

Greg: You just finished a big job, right?

Gunther: Yes, our school's production of "West Side Story." Mr. Fogarty, the director, originally wanted to make the show a contemporary piece. But I talked him into doing it vintage. It was fun to research and create those great old 50's style clothes.

Greg: You could've just dug into the back of my closet. So what are you working on now?

Gunther: I make costumes for Luann to wear at the library when she reads to the kids. I'm currently sketching designs for a panda bear, a spider, Betsy Ross and a robot.

Greg: Wow. Quite a variety.

Gunther: That's the fun of it. I'm not just cutting and stitching cloth. I'm fabricating all kinds of accessories, textures, wigs and appendages. There's even electronics.

Greg: So is this your career path?

Gunther: I think so. I'd like to get a degree in Costume Design. Then work for a theatre troupe or a theme park or something. Or start my own costume company.

Greg: Well, that sounds very ambitious and interesting, Gunther. I take back what I said.

Gunther: What?

Greg: That you're not Mr. Fascinating. You are.

Gunther: Oh. Well. Thank you.

A Resolution by the Board of Directors of the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

Whereas, Greg Evans is a nationally syndicated cartoonist who created the popular "Luann" comic strip, and

Whereas, Greg developed the character "Gunther Berger" as a hobbyist costumer in the "Luann" comic strip, and

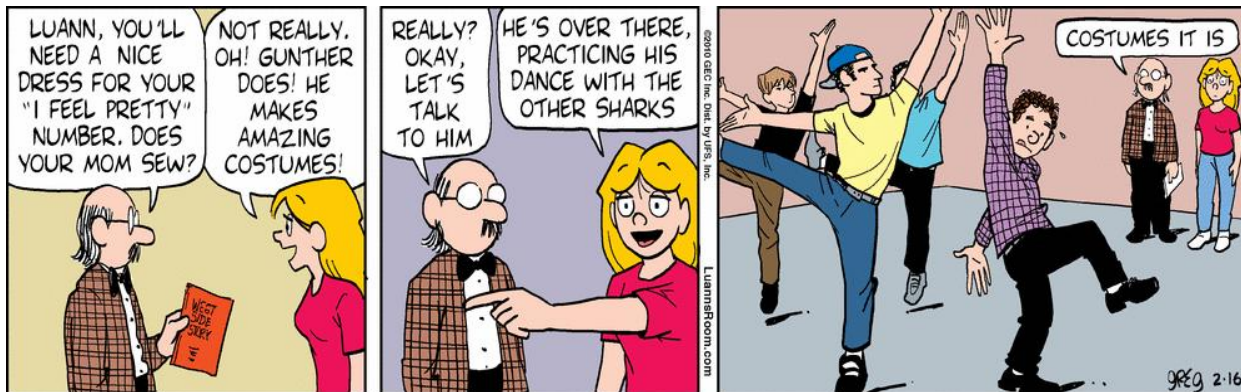
Whereas, Gunther presents a positive, wholesome, and endearing image of costumers and costuming to the general public,

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the *Silicon Web Costumers' Guild* (SiW), a chapter of the *International Costumers' Guild* (ICG), thanks Greg Evans for promoting the art of costuming, and welcomes Gunther Berger as an **Honorary Member** of SiW.

Greg: Do you take back what you said? That I'm not very funny?

Gunther: No.

Greg Evans created the syndicated comic strip "Luann" twenty-five years ago. In 2003, he received the National Cartoonist Society "Ruben" award for "Luann." He also wrote a musical based on the comic strip. Greg has attended SD Comic-Con for over twenty years, and especially enjoys the costumes and the masquerade. Visit Greg's [web site](#) to learn more about his work.



Luann comic strip used with permission of Greg Evans.