

# CONvergence Masquerade Judging Criteria

## ENTRY CLASSES

All entries will be classified in one of four levels depending on the experience of the costumer. The entry classes are:

*Master* - An individual who has won four times as a Journeyman. An individual who has professional qualification as a costumer. An individual who has won Best in Show at CONvergence or any other major convention.

*Journeyman* - An individual who is not a professional and has won one or more major prizes at previous CONvergence masquerades, regional conventions or has won a major prize at Worldcon.

*Novice* - An individual who is over thirteen, not a professional and has never entered a masquerade or won a major prize at a previous CONvergence, regional convention or Worldcon.

*Young Fan* - An individual who is 13 years or younger and has not won three awards as a Young Fan.

Entry levels are set by the CONvergence Masquerade. An individual who qualifies as a Journeyman cannot participate as a Master.

Group entries are categorized based on the skill level of the most skilled member of the group.

## AWARDS

Five awards will be given using the combined score of the Workmanship and Performance Judges:

*Best in Show* - Awarded to the best combined score for all entries.

*Best Master* - Awarded to the Master with the best combined score. In the event that individual wins Best in Show, this award goes to the second ranked Master

*Best Journeyman* - Awarded to the Journeyman with the best combined score. In the event that individual wins Best in Show, this award goes to the second ranked Journeyman

*Best Novice* - Awarded to the Novice with the best combined score. In the event that individual wins Best in Show, this award goes to the second ranked Novice

*Best Young Fan* - Awarded to the Young Fan with the best combined score. In the event that individual wins Best in Show, this award goes to the second ranked Young Fan

Workmanship judges may also present the following awards:

*Best Workmanship* - Presented to the costume considered to have the best workmanship. If the costume received an award for Best in Show, it is not eligible for Best Workmanship.

*Awards of Merit* - Up to four awards of merit may be given for costumes the Workmanship judges consider worthy of recognition. They are not required to give any awards of merit.

Performance Judge may also present the following awards:

*Best Performance* - Presented to the costume considered to have the best workmanship. If the costume received an award for Best in Show, it is not eligible for Best Performance.

*Awards of Merit* - Up to four awards of merit may be given for costumes the Performance

judges consider worthy of recognition. They are not required to give any awards of merit.

The following special awards may at times be given at the discretion of all the judges:

*Best Make-Up*

*Best CONvergence Theme Related Costume*

*Best Props*

*Best Re-creation*

## **Workmanship**

### **OVERVIEW**

Workmanship judges are responsible for determining how proficiently a costume has been built. The workmanship score is half the score considered for the Best in show, Best Master, Best Journeyman, Best Novice and Best Young fan awards.

They will also award the Best Workmanship award and up to four additional Judges choice awards at their discretion.

They will examine the costumes prior to the performance and will also watch the performance to view how the workmanship looks on stage.

The Workmanship and Performance judges will work in conjunction on the awards.

### **JUDGING PROCEDURE**

Prior to the performance, all Masquerade entries will meet with the Workmanship Judges. Costumers will be informed of their expected workmanship judging time at registration. Entries are expected in the Green room in costume and ready to be judged no later than fifteen minutes prior to their scheduled time.

Expect to answer questions concerning:

What inspired you

What materials you used

What problems you had to solve and how you solved them

If the costume is a re-creation, please provide source material for comparison

What you are most proud of

The judges will inspect your costume at close range so they can get a good idea of the construction methods used to build your entry. They are looking to award the most exceptional craftsmanship

Even if you do not feel that your workmanship is of the best quality, remember that the judges are not only looking for the best constructed costumes, they are looking for costumers who came up with creative designs and solutions. You should be proud of your work. Let the judges know that!

All workmanship judging will be completed prior to the beginning of the Masquerade so the judges can watch the show. When they watch the show, they will consider how the workmanship looks under stage lights and in presentation. They will not judge the presentation itself.

### **CRITERIA**

The workmanship judges will award up to ten (10) points in three categories. The top workmanship score possible is thirty (30) points.

The three categories are:

*Overall Design* - What was the costumer attempting and did they achieve it?

*Technical Proficiency* - How well is the costume put together?

*Creativity/Problem Solving* - How did the costumer solve the unique problems presented by the costume they were creating?

While it is acceptable to create a costume out of purchased pieces, a costume will not be considered for workmanship awards unless part of the costume was built and/or altered by the entrant.

Purchased costumes are not eliminated from consideration for performance awards.

To understand how these points will work when the awards are presented, please refer to the Award Criteria below.

## **Performance**

### **OVERVIEW**

Performance judges will consider how the costume looks during presentation. They are not looking solely for the most entertaining entry, they are looking for the costumer who can best present their work on stage. For an elaborate and impressive costume, this could be as simple as ensuring the judges get a good look at all sides of your costume.

They will be responsible for half of the points awarded for Best in Show, Best Master, Best Journeyman, Best Novice and Best Young Fan.

They will also award the Best Performance award and up to four additional Judges choice awards at their discretion.

They will work in conjunction with the Workmanship judges to determine the awards.

### **JUDGING PROCEDURE**

Performance judges will have only one opportunity to view your work. They will watch your presentation on stage and score immediately. Costumers will have only 30 seconds to a minute to make an impression on these judges. Make that time count!

Judges will want to see all sides of your costume. If your costume has moving parts, they will want to see them move. If you have built props, they will want to see them. If you do not show the judges part of your costume, they will not see it and cannot judge it.

Photos will be taken during Workmanship judging. These pictures will be used to help the judges recall the costumes they saw. This is especially important for the Performance judges as they have very little time to consider a costume. Remember that dim lighting may seem appropriate for your theme, but if the lighting is too dim, the performance judges will not be able to see your costume.

Be prepared to bring appropriate music on CD for your piece. The proper sound elements can enhance any presentation.

### **JUDGING CRITERIA**

The performance judges will award up to ten (10) points in three categories. The top performance score possible is thirty (30) points.

The three categories are:

*Presentation* - How well did the costumer/performer present the costume on stage? Did the judge see the entire costume?

*Visual Impact* - What is the visual impact of the costume during the performance? Does the performance overshadow the costume?

*Technical Performance* - How well does the performer execute the presentation of the costume? Did the costume function correctly? Was the accompanying music appropriate? Were props used effectively? Was blocking executed correctly? Was it performed well?

The Performance judges will be looking for a good performance as well as an impressive costume. They are looking for people who are having fun on stage.

To understand how these points will work when the awards are presented, please refer to the Award Criteria below.