

Keeping you cool

We took a look behind the scenes of the Estrel building's technology.

Keeping your cool isn't easy, especially when it's summer and the sun is



blasting full force. Fortunately, there is technology to help you with that problem.

Here at the Estrel, there are three separate air conditioning systems to make sure your hotel rooms and the event space stay at comfortable temperatures. Now, how does this work? Basically, the same way a refrigerator works. In the basement, water enters a heat exchanger and is cooled down to 5°C. The water then gets pumped up to the rooms where it cools down the air when you turn on the fan. The excess heat is "pumped" outside to a big coil, where a fan blows air over it and gets rid of the unwanted energy.

Three separate machine



Steampunk? On the contrary!

photos: aev

rooms house the big chillers, each providing up to 245 kW of cooling power, about 100 times more than a home air conditioner. Is that enough? In fact, no, it is not. With the summer being as warm as it is and with us furies filling the hotel up to the roof, the Estrel actually rented an additional chill-

er to lighten the load on the existing installation.

But is that enough? No! The convention center has their own systems, totally independent from the hotel. Sitting under the roof, they contain massive fans to pull the hot air from the big convention halls and return it cooled and filtered. (aki)

BUT BUT...WHAT ABOUT THE BADGES



DPIS

THE DAILY EUROFURENCE



Eurofurence 21

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While Eurofurence's own pawpet crew is taking a break, a group of Swiss pawpeteers is filling in for them on the Estrel Hall stage today.

photo: web

Same stage, different pawpeteers

There's one thing almost as old as Eurofurence itself. One thing that no one would dare imagine missing from any Eurofurence and that is the Pawpet Show. This year, however, the unimaginable happened. There is no Pawpet Show! At least not in the usual format.

It's true that the fantastic Eurofurence Pawpet team around Cheetah won't be doing a show this year. The reasons for that are manifold, though two main ones have emerged after last year's Eurofurence. One issue is the new, larger and much more demanding main stage, which had proven to be quite a challenge for the stage crew. The new environment and scale made it simply impossible to produce all the events with the

high-maintenance Pawpet Show on top. At least not without sacrificing the quality for which it is known, said Cheetah, producer, director and co-writer of the Eurofurence Pawpet team. Another issue was a general sense of burn-out that had affected in the crew and which came to a boiling point after last year's stellar show. Technical issues as well as tension due to stress and overworking took their toll and left some of the crew on their knees. Therefore it had been decided that this year would be Pawpet show free to help the stage crew accommodate to the new event space and to let the Pawpeteers recharge their batteries.

As understandable as those reasons may be, the absence of the Pawpet show was a huge blow to a lot of

con-goers. Some even started wondering if it was worth the trip if there would be no Pawpet show this year. True, this might be a little bit exaggerated but the disappointment could still be felt.

An unexpected offer

This was why the programming team came up with a bold plan. They invited one of the smaller Pawpet shows that had been inspired by the great work done by the Eurofurence team to do a guest performance. The Swiss Pawpeteers dgot the golden ticket and now there's going to be a Pawpet Show after all, albeit a smaller and more humorous one. So this year con-goers will be treated to a guest show, normally only done once a year at the Swiss Golden Leaves Convention. Fendracus, the show's di-

rector, was caught out of the blue when the programming crew of Eurofurence approached him and his little rag tag band of puppet wranglers, inviting them to perform. But he eagerly accepted the challenge.

"It's a great honour to do our thing at this year's con," he said, and feedback has been fantastic so far. "So many people said they want to see it, even though we are small and have less production value. Also, we have the additional handicap of performing in German only." He added, smiling. "But even that won't keep interested parties away. Some English blokes said "We are going to watch, even if we don't understand one word of it. It's a Pawpet show and Eurofurence without a Pawpet show would be like tea without crumpets." (cur)

TIMETABLE

9:00

Charity Poker Tournament
Qualification Round 2.....
ECC Room 4

10:00

Convention Wipe-Outs (Super-
sponsors Event).....
Panel Room 3: Paris

Drawing Cute Furrries with Ritka!
Panel Room 4: Lyon

Dog Photography For Beginners
Panel Room 7: Nizza

11:30

Group Photo.....
Outside

12:00

Jam Session Etiquette.....
Panel Room 1: ECC Room 3

The Anatomy of a Pawpeshow...
Panel Room 2: Estrel Hall A

Fursuit 101.....
Panel Room 3: Paris

Wildlife Protection Round Table...
Panel Room 4: Lyon

Planning Pictures, Creating Con-
cepts.....
Panel Room 5: Straßburg

12:30

Fursuit Gameshow Rehearsal.....
Main Stage

13:30

Fursuit Gameshow.....
Main Stage

14:00

Open Musical Jam Session.....
ECC Foyer 1: Open Stage

Dancing for Beginners.....
Panel Room 1: ECC Room 3

Giving a 3D Model some Color
and Spine (2 of 3).....
Panel Room 3: Paris

Writing Likeable Antagonists.....
Panel Room 4: Lyon

Building Realistic Fursuit Masks...
Panel Room 5: Straßburg

What is Furry? (Open Talk).....
Panel Room 7: Nizza

All the songs you really hate

Through thick smoke, Cosmik and Rhubarb the Bear entered the stage, greeting the audience with an energetic “Hello World” welcome song.

Cosmik then engaged in a naughty song about Massachusetts and all the girls, ehm towns, he had entered there, like “Mariam”, “Beverly”, “Sharon” or “Dennis”. He received lots of laughs and announced that Pinky had allowed him to present an even dirtier song at the charity concert.

The main motto of the show was “All the songs you really hate” (for several reasons). The duo improvised and altered infamous songs like “Rock me like a hurricane”, “Staying alive”, “We

are family”, “Take my breath away”, “Hakuna Matata” and many, many more.

With every improvised song, the mood and the atmosphere in the hall were rising, till every new piece was accompanied by frenetic applause. And when Rhubarb pulled off a perfect persiflage of the “Bohemian Rhapsody” (a song most singers won’t touch with a ten foot pole) it became apparent that both artist are experienced pros in the music business and not “just” some guys doing musical stand-up comedy. No matter how desperately both tried to hide their great talent behind their comedy, it would just shine brighter with every successive song.



Rhubarb & Cosmik photo: ang

The only thing that stopped their show was the fact that Uncle Kage needed the stage for his Story Hour. If you missed yesterday’s show, it’s strongly advised that you visit the charity concert. Good deeds have never been so much fun. (ker)

Fursuits on the cheap

In the well-attended panel “How to build cheap fursuits,” Tioh gave pointers towards constructing fursuits on a budget. He proved that creatively utilizing products available from a hardware store can lead to very low material expenses, for example using gutter mesh and cable ties for the head structure, and making fursuit eyes from items like transparent christmas ornament balls or camping coffee cups.

Remoldable thermoplastic beads can be used for making head parts like teeth and snouts, and parts originating from bicycles can be repurposed. Bowden cables are usable for straight-forward, inexpensive ani-



Gutter mesh, a 3D-printed face and camping-mat foam. Voilà! photo: kam

matronics and a bicycle inner tube can be used to form the core of a light, flexible fursuit tail.

A feature beneficial to every fursuit presented itself in making the fur on the head detachable for wash-

ing by using push-buttons; this simplifies head maintenance. Even the fur itself can in some cases be very inexpensive. Tioh showed a light dancing fursuit made by reusing a bed cover costing a mere 25 euros. (hhp)

COMMENTARY

Endangered Species?

While the rest of the newsroom is out hugging fursuiters or parading in their own suits, one of our writers is having second thoughts. Are non-fursuiters still welcome at EF, he wonders?

I have heard people say in all honesty: “I can’t go to Eurofurence; I can’t afford a fursuit yet.” And if I tell people I’m a furry, they will invariably ask: “What does your costume look like?” By now, a fursuit is pretty much a must-have item at Eurofurence. Having no interest in, nor talent for fursuiting, I’m beginning to feel like I’m part of a dying breed.

Soon, fursuiters will become the majority. And Eurofurence will, of course, adapt to that, with many of its main events and institutions catering to fursuiters. There’s the lounge, the parade, the gameshow, the photoshoot, the fursuit-friendly dance. We’re even giving fursuiters priority when it comes to elevator usage.

Already, I’m feeling pushed out of the way; sometimes quite literally, when a suiter, or a group of them, want to do their antics where I am standing. I fail to see why I need to stand aside if a suiter wants to use the elevator, when there is a perfectly good fursuit lounge on the ground floor. A place, by the way, that I’m not allowed to set my foot into anymore. I also don’t see why suiters need to stand around where people are smoking and later complain that their fur smells of smoke. That actually happened last year.

If this development continues, there might be a time where I don’t feel at home anymore - simply because I refuse to dress up. I would then feel like a spectator, or a supporter, instead of an attendee.

Of course, the remedy is simple. Plop down 2000 Euros, get into a suit, and be part of the happy crowd again. Unfortunately, it just doesn’t work that way for me. I do not identify with a cartoonified, oversized anthropo wolf. It would be pre-

tending. And that has always been the best reason for me to go to Eurofurence: To be where I don’t need to pretend anything.

Don’t get me wrong: I do like fursuiters. A lot. A well-made suit is a piece of art and making it come alive even more so. I have the highest respect for those who can do it and I greatly enjoy watching such a performance.

But... does that mean that I have to become a suiter myself? No, it doesn’t. I’d much rather have fun with all of my friends, old ones and new ones, suiters or not just by talking to them, drinking, discussing art or stories. Attending panels, learning new stuff. Listening to music, possibly singing a bit... just being myself. This is why Eurofurence has been and still is the greatest time of the year for me. Please, dear suiters and program planners, don’t forget us - the endangered species of the non-suiters.

(Akeela)

TIMETABLE

16:00

Charity Poker Tournament
Qualification Round 3.....
ECC Room 4

Digital Composition for Orchestra
Panel Room 7: Nizza

16:30

Fursuit Parade.....
Outside

18:00

Blender in practice.....
Panel Room 5: Straßburg

20:00

Stand Up Comedy Performances
ECC Foyer 1: Open Stage

Ottopia — Danke für den ganzen
Fisch (German).....
Panel Room 2: Estrel Hall A

Effective Writing.....
Panel Room 3: Paris

Games Corner— Lets Play!.....
Panel Rooms 5 and 7: Straßburg
and Nizza

Furry Hypnosis.....
Panel Room 8: Cannes

20:30

Bandthro Concert.....
Main Stage

21:00

Photographers’ Round Table.....
Panel Room 4: Lyon

23:00

Fureoke.....
ECC Foyer 1: Open Stage

How to draw a crowd of furrries



Method 1: Start queuing. Others will fall in line... photo: ang



Method 2: Set up a piano. Works every time. photo: aev

Impressum: Michael “Luxen” Graf (lux), Oliver “Aeverus Black” Lentz (aev), Peter “Akeela” Plickert (aki), Matthias “Angus” Bauer (ang), Andreas “Chitatz” Semmelmann (chi), Andreas “Curry” Wieland (cur), Alexander “draconigen” Lanchev (dra), Till “Draugvorn” Baar (dgv), Hannu-Heikki “hHP” Puupponen (hhp), “Kamuniak” (kam), Marc-Oliver “Kerocat” Krug (ker), Danny “Pegla” Palic (peg), Jürgen “webby” Härig (web)

If you are reading this, thank ConOps. Without their help, you wouldn't be reading anything today.