

# "You can feel the rich history"



"I guess it's nice to be a special, one-of-a-kind bear!" Rhubarb posing with his beloved guitar. photo: kam

We interviewed Rhubarb, one of the two guests of honor at this year's EF.

Welcome to Eurofurence. So, what was your first impression when you arrived here?

We arrived Monday, and even then there were already some fursuits, giving you a "warm welcome" feeling. Personally I think it'd be nice to have more bears around instead of all these felines and canines...but on the other paw, it's nice to be a special "one-of-a-kind" bear.

This is your first European convention, what do you think of the place? You can feel the rich and long history of Berlin. In

Orlando, even what looks old is not older than about thirty years.

What are your personal plans for Berlin?

I don't know yet. Maybe I'll do a spontaneous performance at the Brandenburg Gate. Or I will just see what other people have on their schedule.

How about German food and drinks?

Oh we already had some traditional German Sauerbraten (marinated beef) yesterday. Although I think it's kind of funny that you have to travel through the whole town just to get some German food. In addition, it's a shame that I prefer light and swift beer, so I think I will

not be able to try all the dark and heavy beers this country has to offer.

And your plans for EF?

Well...we are looking forward how our performance will work out here. Normally we use popular songs that people know and alter them in our show. So we must see whether it will work out here too.

We are all looking forward to it. Anyway, thank you for your time. Any personal statement you wish to add?

We would like to thank Fox Amore. No exact idea WHAT he did, but I know that it's thanks to him that we are able to be here now. (ker)

## First Time at Eurofurence

Kivi thought EF would be a good way to spend his birthday money. An experienced congoer in the Goth and Anime scene, he just wants to experience the vibes and emotions.



Aviador isn't only new to EF but also fairly new to the fandom and wants to meet new and interesting furs. He is especially looking forward to the panel "Drawing for Beginners".



Aeverus has upgraded from smaller cons to the big thing. He also joined the Daily EF team. He's especially interested in the dealers den, meeting artists and looking at their work.



Settox is one of only 18 furs of Luxembourg. He has been following EF for some years now. He is looking forward to meet new people and finding an artist he can commission. (aki)



# THE DAILY EUROFURENCE



Eurofurence 21

Estrel Berlin • Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 • Issue 28



1800 furs cheer, as the Guests of Honor take a selfie after an impressive laser show greeting.

photos: web, ang



## Happy-Pocalypse!

Walking into the new main stage area for the opening ceremony already revealed a much changed landscape in comparison to last year.



Now located in the convention area of Estrel, the new main stage seats 1800 attendees, when last year there were places only for 800. After a short introductory video and impres-

sive laser effects, the chairman, Cheetah, arrived onto stage riding an electric scooter.

After a slight delay, our guests of honour Rhubarb and Cosmik were introduced and performed a short, well-received comedy act, Rhubarb failing to be quite sure which song was by One Direction and Cosmik providing a highly freeform German translation of Rhubarb's introductory speech. They also followed the spirit of the times by remembering to take a selfie.

charity fursuiters and charity auction are in place also this year.

Dhary, chief of security, reminded that while drinks of any kind not purchased from the hotel are disallowed inside, they can be consumed during the campfire in the beer garden across the road from the main entrance. In the rotunda area between the hotel and the convention center there is an improved locker service for storing items while visiting the art show.

From the fursuiter support, Mystifur told about the new 1100 square meter fursuit lounge in the convention center, open until half an hour after the last dance each night. Music for the fursuit parade will be transmitted on FM radio, thus all participants are encouraged to bring along their own receivers. (hhp)

### Eurofurence Statistics

For the first time there were more than 2000 paying attendees (2170 to be precise) and more than 1000 fursuiters (1007), making up 46 percent of the total. These record numbers are mainly due to a growth in the local communities, with German, Austrian and Swiss furs accounting for 57 percent of the attendees; meanwhile, the number of US furs that visit Eurofurence is stable at 53, about the same as it was at EF15. The convention is still very international with visitors from 43 countries, including Japan, New Zealand and the Philippines. 28 percent of the attendees are sponsors or supersponsors. About 15 percent of the attendees are female. (lux)

## GETTING AROUND

GOOD IDEA



TAKE THE STAIRS

BAD IDEA



TAKE FURRIES ON THE STAIRS

## TIMETABLE

### 10:00

*Dutch Angel Dragon meeting*.....  
Panel Room 4: Lyon

*International Snack Exchange*.....  
Panel Room 5: Straßburg

*Dog Photography – for Beginners*  
Panel Room 7: Nizza

### 12:00

*The Fox Panel*.....  
Panel Room 1: ECC Room 3

*Your First Furry Convention*.....  
Panel Room 2: Estrel Hall A

*Furry Artist Experiences*.....  
Panel Room 3: Paris

*Voice Acting Workshop*.....  
Panel Room 7: Nizza

### 13:30

*Fursuit Gameshow Preliminaries*  
Rotunda

# Hotel Evolution

We did a short interview with Linda Blumel, the Hotel Event Manager for Eurofurence. As last year was a success, there are only minor changes this year.

Now that we are in the Estrel for the second time, we took the opportunity to talk to Linda Blumel, our liaison to the Hotel manager. We were especially interested in what the hotel learned from last year and how they prepared for the onslaught.

The most astonishing thing is that it seems to be a lot less work this year, because all departments understand how the con works now and are now improving their work on their own in-



Everything is bigger this year, including the decoration. photo: web

itiative. Some of these improvements are the big trashbins near the elevators on each floor, the new burger bar in the lobby (operating open ended, until there is no interest anymore) and the brand-new bar in the foyer of the main

stage hall, where beer and sandwiches will be provided for all dancers and attendees.

Also, rest assured that there is an ample supply of Kalte Muschi - the bar staff now knows how much we love that stuff! (aki)

# It's that 80s feeling...



Crossing the Rubik-on... it's all about that 80s cheese! photo: aev

An old truth has always been, if there is demand, there will sooner or later be supply. There is a lot of demand on the con for dances. Various events are all it, and the first this year was the 80s Dance.

It was a bit of a time slip, back into the age of weird, puffed up hair, shoulder padding and the time of Dance, Wave and Italo Disco. The dance was organised by MafunDi, with a well-stacked cadre of DJs, doing

their spin on true vinyl (as well as computer).

### A Mainstage-Event now

The idea for a motto dance like that was born about two years ago. "Many Furs approached me, telling me that they would love to have a dance again like in the early days of Eurofurence, with all the 80s cheese included" MafunDi said and thus, the 80s Dance was born in the sweet summer of 2014 and it was a roaring success. People were waiting in line to get a chance to shake it to Phil Collins and company back then.

In fact, the event was such a success that it became a "Main Stage Event" this year. Nostalgia is always

a big draw and a lot of people associate fond memories of their youth with that time period, while to a lot of younger Furs the 80s are what the 60s or roaring 20s are to us of the older guard. Crazy, fun times with a certain "Zeitgeist", completely different from nowadays. In fact, next Eurofurence will be dedicated to the 80s...

But not only was the event a delight for those with a nostalgic ear and mind set. It was also by its nature a very Fursuit friendly dance. Soft rhythms of the 80s and evergreens did invite for a cuddly time and the absence of hard rhythms made sure that no engines were overheating, even when underneath tons of fake fur. (cur)

# Serious about Bringing Joy

In Austria, the fursuiter charity "Furries For Kids" visits care centers to bring a smile to the faces of the children that need it the most.

Laughter is therapeutic," says Andreas Bartl. "It encourages the processing of emotional wounds through positive energy." In his day job, Andreas runs an IT company, but scores of kids in the East of Austria know him as Tanhi, the big, green, cuddly wolf. In his costume he and the volunteers of his non-profit organisation Furries For Kids visit children's homes to bring joy to the girls and boys there. "These kids are only four to ten years old, but they have already experienced a lot of suffering and pain", says Andreas.

### Already 40 volunteers

Tanhi is not the only fuzzy friend these kids have gained in the past two years. By now, more than 40 volunteers have joined Furries For Kids (15 fursuiters, the rest as spotters, photographers, medics or office staff). And in these days, the organisation is starting to become active in Germany too.

"The idea for Furries For Kids came to me two years ago on my commute to work," says Andreas. "Seeing all these grumpy faces, nobody smiling, I thought there must be a way to bring some positive energy to those people." He remembered having read about fursuits and decided to get in touch with the furry community. He bought his own costume, Tanhi, and was quickly able to gather a small group of furs around him who were interested in



"Laughter is therapeutic," says Tanhi, founder of Furries For Kids.

starting up a charity project.

While there have been similar initiatives in other parts of the fandom, the Austrian-based charity Furries For Kids is remarkable in two respects: Firstly, it was founded outside the fandom, secondly, the degree of professionalism is extraordinary. "We all work very hard to make Furries For Kids a reputable non-profit organization like, for example, Clown Care", says Andreas. He is an enterprising spirit who started his first company at the age of 16. Right now, he says that he spends an average of 25 hours of unpaid work on Furries for Kids.

Part of this professionalism is not to promise more than you can keep. "If there is no regularity in the visits, there can be no therapeutic effect," Andreas explains. "In 2015, our goal was to have four homes that we visit twice a year. That's not a lot, but it's what we can guarantee for." All volunteers get

the chance to attend training courses like acting, first-aid or crisis intervention to prepare them for their visits. In order to pay for training and travel expenses and to raise the charity's visibility, various public events have been organised in and around Vienna.

### "Costumes", not "fursuits"

Andreas consciously avoids using the term "fursuit", as his mission is to appeal to a broader public than just the fandom. While he says that he enjoys furry artwork and that he has made many friends inside the fandom, he does not consider himself an active part of it. A number of Furries For Kids most beloved ambassadors may be spotted at Eurofurence, but you will not find Tanhi here. To his owner, Andreas Bartl, fursuits don't just belong to one sub-culture but they are a universal way to bring joy to those who need it most.

(lux)

## TIMETABLE

### 14:00

*DancerFurs Meet*.....  
Panel Room 1: ECC Room 3

*Basics of 3D Modeling (1 of 3)*.....  
Panel Room 3: Paris

*Understand Furry: Defining a Fandom*.....  
Panel Room 4: Lyon

*Plushie Collectors Panel*.....  
Panel Room 5: Straßburg

*The Basics of Piano Improvisation*  
Panel Room 7: Nizza

### 15:00

*Stand Up Comedy Performances*  
ECC Foyer 1: Open Stage

### 16:00

*The Rhubarb & Cosmik Show*.....  
Main Stage

*The Furry Music Café*.....  
Panel Room 1: ECC Room 3

*Furry-Art 101*.....  
Panel Room 3: Paris

*Online Privacy in the Age of Mass Surveillance*.....  
Panel Room 4: Lyon

*How to build cheap fursuits*.....  
Panel Room 7: Nizza

### 18:00

*Breathing Life into Fursuiting*.....  
Panel Room 2: Estrel Hall A

*How to Kick Your Lazy Butt*.....  
Panel Room 3: Paris

*Photography fundamentals*.....  
Panel Room 7: Nizza

### 19:00

*Onkel Kage's Story Hour*.....  
Main Stage

### 20:00

*Charity Poker Tournament*.....  
*Qualification Round 1*.....  
ECC Room 4

*The E-cigarette Etiquette and Tips*  
Smokers' Lounge

*Games Corner – Lets Play!*.....  
Panel Rooms 4 and 5: Lyon and  
Straßburg

### 21:00

*Fursuit Group Photo*.....  
Main Stage

### 23:00

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

**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), Marc-Oliver "Kerocat" Krug (ker), Danny "Pegla" Palic (peg), Jürgen "webby" Härig (web)