



The Curse of the Fursuit Parade

On August 14, barely two weeks before Eurofurence, a note by Mystifur on the internal forum caused quite a stir. The Kaiser Otto Fest, a medieval reenactment fair, is taking place on the same weekend as Eurofurence, fencing in much of the historical cathedral district. They even have their parade on the very same date, time and on a similar route as Eurofurence's fursuit parade!

More than five hundred fursuiters – and no parade? Impossible! But moving the parade to a different time slot was dangerous business too. After all, many press appointments had been made and changing them on short notice would throw a bad light on the convention. Therefore, after recovering from the shock, Mystifur, as the leader of fursuit support, took it upon himself to save one of Eurofurence's most popular events. The leader of the fursuit track travelled to Magdeburg and engaged on what may well be called a diplomatic mission.

The Quest for a Compromise

"I met with members of city administration and the festival organisers and tried to negotiate a compromise", Mystifur explains. "Joining the two parades was discussed, but quickly dismissed. The medieval fair organisers were



"No! Even if we DO put on suits of armour, we're not going to blend in!" photo: ang think they have no idea what they signed up for!"

worried about the styles of the two parades clashing. They are very serious when it comes to the authenticity of their costumes and props."

Fortunately, a compromise could be found. The furs can cross the critical road just before the medieval parade arrives. If they are late, they can stand by and wave as it passes. The new route has the additional quirk of leading right through a busy shopping mall. "The management accepted us willingly", says Mystifur. And with a very wide grin he adds: "I

It's not the first time a fursuit parade clashed with another parade in Magdeburg. Last year, the parade coincided with the Christopher Street Day parade. It had to be moved from Saturday to Friday. Then too, the mistake was only noticed a few weeks before the event. "We will definitely keep in closer contact with the city office", says Mystifur. Let's hope that will be enough to break the curse of the fursuit parade. (lux)

"It's Just Who I Am... Inside."



"Boxed wine? Kage, you're mad!" photo: mow

Two-year absence from Eurofurence gave the Ranting Gryphon time to recharge his batteries and come up with new jokes and episodes. He returned a Hollywood star of sorts, after gigs in comedy clubs around Sunset Strip. He and his sweetheart share a house with a vegan transgender otherkin - let's call her Susan.

They get along fine. After all "I might be a loud-mouthed, narcissistic, judgemental shallow-minded bastard, but that doesn't mean I'm a bad guy."

2 certainly stayed true to his tough and delightfully vulgar stage persona. He was never stuck for an answer, for example to the perennial question: "How do I tell my homicidal parents that I'm a furry?" ("Don't!") He also gave an elaborate account on what his vivid imagination brought up from Uncle Kage's seemingly innocent keyword "pancakes". The same Uncle Kage eventually crashed his show and chimed in, before moving on to his own show slot. He then entertained the audience with some of his classic stories. The encounters included evicting a phlegmatic bat from his apartment, making a hapless skunk feel good (involuntary), and how he learned an important lesson in courtesy from none other than Isaac Asimov. Yet some encounters turned awkward, resulting in hilarity and a new-found appreciation for the Baker Act, which allows police to arrest people being suspected of mental illness. (lux/cur)

A Different Perspective

Conventions like to thank the staff for helping make it run smoothly, but what about the Hotel staff? Hotel Manager, Andrea Imwalle, gives us a peek into their world.



photo: tek

Blaster: How different, for you, is something like EF compared to other events?

Andrea: It's special, but normal. A lot more work is needed by housekeeping, since we have about 500 rooms, and they are all occupied.

B: How much planning goes into preparing the Hotel for events of this size?

A: We're used to huge things like this. I think the con staff have it harder than we do, as we do this every day.

B: Are any of the staff new to this kind of event, and if so, how have they reacted to it?

A: We had 27 new apprenticeships, and this was one of their first events. We said "We have a very special convention, it's very cute", and they like it.

B: Thank you very much for your time.

Music to our Ears!



Garra, Taibu and other members of the band tuning up in the practice room. photo: pd

Five years after the Fauna Project, rock returns to Eurofurence's main stage. "It was high time we brought the music back," Cheetah says. Again, the chairman has acted as the creator, manager and sound engineer of the newly formed band named Savannah Revolution.

The first step was to find talented and willing musicians. Everybody could apply. Among the criteria were not only musical skills, but also dedication and availability: "We needed our band members to come to seven rehearsal weekends."

Still, an undaunted crew of musicians and singers made it to the first meeting. And things

took off: "After the first day, we already had two new songs." People arrived on Friday night for set-up, started playing on Saturday at noon, and stopped fourteen hours later with bleeding fingers and hoarse voices. Most of the new songs are collaborations that developed out of jam sessions. "They are diverse in terms of genre, ranging from soft rock to ska and heavy metal, but all deal with furry topics", says Cheetah.

In today's show, our eight musicians and their sound engineer will play eight brand new songs and as many new takes on well-loved Fauna Project classics. Whether they will ever be available on CD is not clear yet – another reason not to miss the live concert. (lux)

"I've always felt a special connection to animals"

Peter S. Beagle takes some time out of his busy schedule to talk to Blaster Hedgie to give us an insight into his world of fantasy fiction.

Blaster: Peter, I'm sure you've been asked many times about how you became a writer, but why did you decide to focus mainly on fantasy novels?

Peter: I didn't really, I sort of fell into it. My first novel "A Fine and Private Place" and another, "The Last Unicorn" were simply labelled as fiction when they were released.

B: If I had never read any of your books, which would be the first one that you would recommend to me?

P: I would recommend my first book, "A Fine and Private Place". I wrote it when I was 19 years old, living in a college dorm room, trying to type quietly so as not to wake my room

mate. "The Innkeeper's Song" is also another that I would recommend, I'm very proud of that one.

B: If you had the opportunity to make another movie based on one of your books, which one would you choose?

P: Definitely, if I could, I would like to see "Tamsin" developed as a TV series, possibly by the BBC since it's set in Dorset. One of the characters is a cat called Mister Cat who meets the ghost of a Persian Cat. I've always felt a special connection to animals. Cats and Dogs would follow me home when I was younger, and I've been to Anthrocon previously to here. It's amazing seeing all these incredible costumes that people wear here.

B: Peter, thank you very much for your time here today.

'Fur'st Past the Post!

The fursuit gameshow preliminaries took place with a renewed format this year. The separate sub-contests of the previous years had been replaced with a single four-staged obstacle course for the teams to complete in minimum time to gain a spot in the main stage event.

The new format was intended to offer more action, and the obstacle course was placed in the lobby to give the audience a view of the proceedings. The course itself was fast-paced and short, including a fencing practice target one member of each team had to hit.

Further competitions along the course were collecting objects with a stick held by both contestants, and finally pulling a toy car which one of the contestants was riding on. Also the

possibility of doing the traditional charity collection run was offered to the teams as an additional activity. (hhp)



Real Life Jump'n'Run. photo: tek

Today's Timetable

Art Show (Otto von Guericke)

General Admission.....12:00 - 17:30
Art Show Closing.....17:30 - 19:00

Dealers Den (Berlin/Dresden)

General Admission.....12:00 - 18:00

Main Stage

Enter the Arena.....13:30 - 15:00
Rock'n'Rome Concert.....19:00 - 21:00
The Fursuit Gameshow.....22:30 - 0:00

Fursuit Photoshoot (Maritim II)

Registration.....11:00 - 12:00
Photoshoot.....12:00 - 16:00

Fursuit Parade.....16:00 - 17:30

Special Interest Groups

How to be a Demon (Stuttgart)
Great Furry Stories (München)
Pawpet Workshop (Halle)
Computer Graphics (Nürnberg)
International Snack Exchange (Magdeburg)
Animatronics for Fursuits (Bonn)
.....12:00 - 13:30

Voice Acting Workshop (Stuttgart)
Furry Writing for Beginners (München)
Furries Ruin Everything (Halle)
Planning Pictures (Nürnberg)
Second Life and You (Bonn)
.....14:00 - 15:30

2 "Thank You" (by Invitation, München)
20:30 - 21:30

Recurring:

Artist Lounge (Stuttgart)
19:00 - Open End

Game Corner (Halle & Overflow)
19:00 - Open End

Warhammer 40k Corner (Nürnberg)
19:00 - Open End

Dance Dance Revolution & Dance Central (Bonn)
19:00 - Open End

Fursuit Game Preliminaries Results

- 1.) #23.....Minstrel + Cake
- 2.) #24.....Aiwendil + Rougfox
- 3.) #15.....Trax + Noodles
- 4.) #20.....Jess + Makena
- 5.) #17.....Panthera + Glacier Husky
- 6.) #13.....Shadow + Greex
- 7.) #31.....Wettfox + Satimo
- 8.) #12.....Hiro Husky + Alexia
- 9.) #5.....Chibi Rangr + Shadow D. Lightwolf
- 10.) #25.....Furryfox + Leroy