

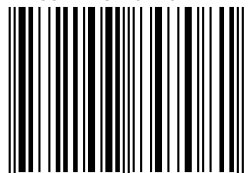
The Costume Fanzine of Record

# Witch!

Volume 4 Issue 10

Reanimated: Cocktails vs Zombies

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**YIPE!**

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# Letter from the Evil Editor

Kudos and Brickbats to [Kevin@yipezine.com](mailto:Kevin@yipezine.com)

Yes, *Yipe!* is finally back!

You no doubt wonder why what was going to be the November 2011 “Cocktail Chic” issue somehow reemerged 11 months later as this oddly stitched-together assortment of articles. And therein lies a tale...

Actually, it’s pretty simple. Jason Schachat and I started *Yipe!* after the Montreal Worldcon, and we were soon joined by regular contributors Mette Hedin and España Sheriff. After a bit of chaos out the four of us became the editorial team, planning and organizing our issues. That worked great for a couple of years. Then Life intervened, wearing the multiple masks of school, romance and work. Jason and España felt it was time for them to move on to other projects. Mette told me she’d be willing to lend a hand occasionally, if I wanted to keep *Yipe!* going. So -- now it really is All My Fault. I’ve always intended to publish more issues, but *my* life and work seemed to keep getting in the way.

After the Chicon 7 Hugo Awards, when the nominations results were published, I discovered that even in spite of the hiatus, you, Gentle Readers, liked *Yipe!*

A lot.

That was great motivation to restart, but I



still didn’t have quite enough for **Cocktail Chic**. Then Jerry offered me an amazing story about her second career as a zombie in Thrill The World. That was the inspiration to stitch together the Frankenstein’s Monster that is this first issue of the resurrected *Yipe!*

I’m tremendously grateful to Jason and España for all their contributions to the magazine (and I’m going to keep using the great look that Jason established for us).

I’ll be publishing on a less-frequent schedule than monthly\*, but rumors of *Yipe!*s demise are definitely premature.

Enjoy!

\*How frequently, of course, depends on how many stories and pictures I get from you, O Gentle Readers!

# The Drinking Costumer

--by Debbie Bretschneider, with side commentary by Linda Wenzelburger.



I consider myself a costumer. I know the new term is Cosplayer, but I prefer the old fashioned term of Costumer. I make clothes to wear at Science Fiction conventions and to wear at Historical events put on by the Greater Bay Area Costumer's Guild (GBACG). I am particularly having fun with the newest rage in costuming – Steampunk.

*LW: While I, too, would classify myself as a costumer, I had been in a bit of a sewing slump as far as making new things for myself, but that all changed when I was introduced to some pink camo cloth ...*

But, I can hear you say, “What does that have to with drinking?” Oh, rather a lot. You see, it is a very patient person who can sew without having to drink. And I am not a patient person. After sewing for the better part of a Sunday, and then realizing

you have sewn a yoke to a skirt –but upside down—and you have to painstakingly take out all the tiny stitches you put in ---well, I tell you, what can you do, but have a drink! How much you drink is dependent on whether you plan on trying to keep sewing, but a nice glass of wine while taking out all those stitches makes it a much easier pill to swallow.

*LW: Ah yes, self medicating with a refreshing adult beverage can be very calming. Preferably with a drink that won't stain whatever project may be spread around my work area!*

Fellow costumers Trystan Laura Bass, Kendra Van Cleave, and Sarah Lorraine Goodman created a group called The Pink Drink Commandos, inspired by Kevin and Andy's Tactical Alcohol Consumption Squad. The mission of the Pink Drink Commandos is to drink Cosmopolitans while wearing a comfortable costume!



(although I have expanded that to include pink champagne!)

*LW: Hm. I seem to recall pink champagne at earlier PDC gatherings, but then my memory is a little fuzzy on that point. Pretty much any pink drink will do, though Cosmos are traditional.. But heck - almost any gin/vodka bever-*



## Cosmopolitan

In a shaker filled with cracked ice, combine

- 1 measure Citron Vodka
- 1 measure Cointreau
- The juice of half a fresh lime
- 1 dash Cranberry Juice

Shake, strain, and serve up with a citrus wheel or twist

*age can be turned pink with very little effort.*

Any gal who enjoys a pink drink can join –just use the Decades of Style 1944 house dress as your pattern and use pink camo fabric. It is an extremely comfortable way to be in costume and to drink. Linda and I made dresses out of the same pink camo fabric and wore them to the Reno Worldcon –2 nights before Chris and James won their Hugo's! We had pink champagne and then found the Christmas in 2020 party, where they had a pink drink! Score!

*LW: One of the reasons this project helped get me kickstarted is that the whole point is to make it as quickly as possible and it's not supposed to be the prettiest thing on the block. Camouflage can cover up a lot of sewing sins, especially when it's pink! Though I think the biggest sell for me was 'no hand sewing allowed'.*

Lest you think that the PDC is all about the ladies, we enthusiastically accept applications for the Cabana Boys Auxiliary League to help prepare, serve and drink the aforementioned pink bevvies. Tuxedos are highly encouraged, as well as smoking jackets and fezzes.. Oh, and French, cause chicks dig that.

In addition to the dresses themselves, if you want to go all the way with the theme, there are demerit badges, which of course need a sash for them to be pinned/glued/affixed to. Any excuse for more accessories, especially glaring pink ones, is a good thing.

*Walking thru the Worldcon Party floor with Debbie was one of the highlights of the convention for me. People were very interested in hearing what we were all about, and the Boston party did have lovely pink drinks. Uh, it was the Boston party, wasn't it... yes, Christmas, Santa Claus, reindeer... definitely Boston in 2020. They've got my vote if they promise to serve those tasty drinks again!*

And that reminds me of another place a costumer can drink. At the Science Fiction conventions I go to; Baycon, Westercon,

Worldcons close to San Francisco, Silicon, Convolution 2012; there is what is called a "Party Floor". People can request a room and a night and have a party that promotes something – another convention, a new book, BASFA, Klingons –you get the idea. It is extremely fun to get dressed in your new (or old) costume and walk through the different parties, having a drink and talking to your friends—both old and new.

*LW: Ah yes, the party floor. While I am normally not a huge staying out really late and partying kind of person, I do try to make it thru at least one pass of any party floor just to see who's around - and, obviously, if there are pink drinks being served. The PDC outfit is a great conversation starter, especially the demerit badges! Even the regular bar areas at hotels can be a fun place to hang out in costume.*

### **Pink Lady**

#### **Ingredients:**

1 1/2 oz gin  
3/4 oz applejack  
1/4 oz lemon juice  
1-2 dashes grenadine  
1 egg white  
maraschino cherry for garni.

#### **Preparation:**

Pour the ingredients into a cocktail glass with ice cubes.  
Shake vigorously.  
Strain into a chilled cocktail glass.  
Garnish with the cherry



In addition to conventions, branch out and dress up for an evening of cocktails at a local bar. There are tiki bars everywhere and you could get a group to do a castaway or island themed outing. There is a mermaid bar in Sacramento that is just begging for a pirate or Atlantian outing. Mad Men yourself out in 50's – 60's vintage and head to some sassy bar or restaurant. If you are going to go out for drinks, you may as well look great doing it!

### Disclaimer

Debbie does not recommend getting drunk and then attempting to use a sewing machine. As with any piece of equipment, this could be dangerous. But she does recommend being in costume and having a drink with friends!



### Cape Cod

#### Ingredients:

- 3 oz cranberry juice
- 2 oz vodka
- Lime wedge for garnish



#### Preparation:

- Pour the ingredients into a highball glass with ice cubes.
- Stir well.
- Squeeze the lime juice into the drink.
- Drop the lime wedge into the glass.

Linda, while making no specific recommendations one way or the other about imbibing and sewing, hopes that folks will be respectful of their own limitations and act accordingly.

Kendra's LJ post for details on the dresses, etc : <http://demode.livejournal.com/261476.html>





# Thrilling the World, Every Year

By Jerry Majors Patterson

## What is Thrill the World?

Thrill the World is an annual world-wide simultaneous Thriller Dance.

*Huh?*

**Annual**, yearly (yes, I got that). Every year in October, the weekend before Halloween, but never on Halloween.

**World-wide**. That means everyone is invited. Everyone in any location, of any age or fitness level. Everyone. Including you.

**Simultaneous**. All over the world, the needle drops at the exact same time. This might mean that local groups all assemble at noon in San Francisco, 8 PM in London and 3 AM the next day in Shanghai.

**Thriller Dance**. Using a choreographed script, we will all dance to Michael Jackson's 5:58 Radio Edit of Thriller. The whole thing is over in just six minutes.

All this in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for Simultaneous Thriller Dancing.

Oh, and we also dress up as zombies.

## Curious?

I hope so! Why not make 2013 the first year you Thrill the World?

## How did this all start?

I think lots of us remember that Thriller is Michael Jackson's ground-breaking music-video from 1983. It was directed by John Landis (who also directed Animal House and The Blues Brothers) and ground-breaking because it was 15 minutes long and produced as a mini movie. It even has Vincent Price saying "yall's".





Don't lose hope about the younger generation. Even young kids today know about Thriller and some are even learning this dance in their school gym class. If a little kid can learn this dance, what's stopping you?



Started by Ines Markeljevic, an alumni of the York University Dance Department, her official choreography

includes all the moves you're used to watching in the 15-minute video for Thriller. It fits the music for the Radio Edit, although what we're doing in our dance will not match the action on the screen at any given moment. Also, to pad the dance out to the full length of the song, lots of the moves are repeated (so, less to learn, huh?). She's posted all the info you'll need about meet-ups, Thrill Times and Instruction Videos on her website <http://thrilltheworld.com>.

### Is it hard to learn?

There are just eight easy lessons at <http://thrilltheworld.com/video-links/>



Each part is taught in four segments: Demo (Ines will show you what you're about to learn), Break It Down (Detailed Instruction), Remember (tips & finesse), and Dance With Me (a walk-through where you can follow Ines at slow speed).

And after the eight lessons, you're finally ready to put it all together! There are audio tracks on the website with cueing at slow speed until you work up to dancing the full dance at full speed with no cueing.

You can also order a DVD with all the clips instead of watching several short YouTube videos. The videos allow you to pause and rewind as frequently as you need. On <http://thrilltheworld.com>, you can search for a local group participating in your area; look for workshops beginning in September for the October performance! Live training with a group is a great way to learn the dance!



Ines claims you can probably learn the entire dance in a couple of hours (crash course), but I had a good experience learning a little bit each day building up to the performance.



Anyone of any age or activity level should be able to Thrill the World. But you know your fitness level better than anybody else. Does something hurt? Well, don't bend over so far. Don't try to do the dance with any jumping if that hurts you. If your group starts the dance down on the ground, you do not have to get down on the ground if you do not want to. Adjust the dance to fit your level. Remember, you're a zombie. Does the dancing have to look perfect? Of course not! How can you look perfect when you arm's about to fall off? We're just here to entertain and have fun. It doesn't matter if you mess up; stay in your zombie character and just go on to the next move.



After I was pretty comfortable with all the lessons, I was ready to put it all together. And that means "Memorizing The Poem". Ines doesn't teach with counts, but with words. The most memorable part of the dance for spectators is what we call "walk, walk, roar turn, roar turn, roar turn, walk, walk, roar turn, roar turn."

◀**Here's a picture of that famous pose**

The poem will always keep you on track because it tells you what to do next with the exact right rhythm. That's what the track with cueing is - Michael's audio track plus Ines reading The Poem.

I put the track with cueing on my iPod and played it in the car until I knew it by heart. I still rehearse the dance monthly to keep my skills up so I don't forget it. It takes me all of six minutes.

Did I mention that every run-through burns up 45 calories?





## When and Where is it?

We all have to step off exactly at the same time in order to be considered a



Simultaneous  
dance so, that's  
where the Thrill

Time comes in. The Thrill Time (that's the moment we drop the needle) changes every year so that no location gets an inconvenient Thrill Time too frequently. So whether it's close to midnight where you are, or if you wonder if you'll ever see the sun, next year's Thrill Time will always be different.

This year's Thrill Time was Saturday, 27th October @ 7:00 PM GMT so that'd mean that dancing kicks off at 3 PM on Saturday in New York, 2 PM in Dallas and Noon in



San Francisco. Local times for all areas can be found on <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/fixedtime.html?iso=20121027T1900>

You can use [thrilltheworld.com](http://thrilltheworld.com) to meet up with a local group in your area, or to start up your own Thrill Team where you live!

*"Great, so now that I know about the dance and know where to go, how do I prepare for the Zombie Apocalypse?"*

Costumes are admired, but never required for Thrill the World. But of course they greatly enhance the fun of the event! Three things are great for zombies to have: *clothes, face and attitude.*







## CLOTHES

Every year, I see a sight that almost stops my heart. I am shocked (well, Thrilled!) by the creativity of the members of my group. Their awesome, detailed and varied costumes have me thinking “Ooh, I wish I’d thought of that”. I guess that’s why I got into costuming in the first place; as a way to express my creativity. If that’s the same for you, read on and consider your zombie career!

So, zombies come from all walks of life just like us, only they’re “living-impaired”. I contend that since many zombie attacks take place as a workplace injury, “a zombie needs a career.”

Uniforms, any kind of uniform, make for a swell zombie costume. Whether it’s old clothes, a real uniform or just a cheap Halloween costume, you have to be kind of willing to part with it. These clothes are going to get torn, dirty and maybe sticky with fake blood.

I’ve seen cheerleaders, law enforcement, medical professions, prom queens, and religious figures. Sports uniforms, dead rock stars and celebrities are all terrific. Now is the time for you to express your creativity with a career of your choice. Maybe it fits your

personality or is a complete departure for you.

In the Thriller video, the zombies really rose out of their graves and started dancing. That’s why I consider formal wear to be a solid traditional choice, true to the original source material.



Once you’ve selected what you’re going to wear, whether that means a trip to the thrift store, costume shop or the back of your closet, you’ll probably want to distress your costume a little. You could put it on and roll around in dirt and gravel (Ouch). Or distress if yourself with a sharp knife (while you’re not wearing it). Sleeves can be torn off (either entirely or left hanging) and pocket flaps can be half cut off as well. Pant legs just scream out to be torn and left ragged and dangling.

Though we strive for costume authenticity, it's probably worth dancing in comfortable shoes. So choose something you can dance in that

will work well for you. There will probably be a couple of warm-up run-throughs before the witching hour.

## FACE

### Building Your ZOMBIE KIT

#### My zombie kit contains:

- face paint in several different colors: Black, White (or glow-in-the-dark), purple, yellow, green, red, and brown. Pot style or cream style in the tube, either is fine.
- sponges, both natural and makeup
- small disposable lip brushes
- q-tips (to strategically swab up any errors)
- paper plate (for mixing the colors)
- coffee stirrers (for mixing the colors)
- cotton balls
- tissues
- water (for wetting the natural sponge)
- Black Eyeliner Pencil
- Red Lip Pencil
- fake blood in a spray bottle
- eyedropper (for dripping fake blood)
- dixie cups
- a big mirror (one you can see your whole face in)
- Flesh-colored Liquid Latex

#### My Fake Blood Recipe:

There are lots of variations on the internet but I use Corn Syrup, Red Food Coloring and Hershey's Chocolate Syrup. When it looks like blood, you're done. Smells great, tastes great but is super sticky!

There are lots of great YouTube videos with master makeup artists displaying their craft. Zombie faces with blacked-out eyes, pieces of the nose torn off, even teeth showing. There is some really great work out there and with practice, you can make a very scary and disgusting zombie face, too. Of course, your results will be better if you practice a few times before performance day and take your time applying the makeup.

Here's how I start making my Zombie Face. You can use as many or as few steps as you like. Remember, taking your time will help get a good look. I mean, a bad, gross, disgusting look.

A beginner will color his whole face with white makeup. And if you're in a hurry, there's nothing wrong with that. If you want a better look, blend white makeup with green, white with yellow and white with purple to make a three-color "pallor palette" on your paper plate. Now you have gruesome green, jaundice yellow and pallid purple to blend with. And all those together will blend together in the middle of the plate to make some nasty-looking tan. Hah, four colors! Use a wet natural sponge to pat the colors in a patchy random





way on your face, and NECK and EXPOSED ARMS and EXPOSED LEGS. Full-body makeup is the difference between the amateur and the pro. Zombification doesn't just happen on the face so, now that you've made the colors, use 'em up on all exposed areas.

A beginner will black out his eyes and be done. Again, there's nothing wrong with this level of effort.

If you want something more, unblended dark purple is the real color for a black eye or a bruise. You can do one or both eyes. Get the entire eyelid and the area underneath. You're probably starting to look pretty sick by now.

Now that the basic face is on, it's time to consider further adornment. Have you considered what kinds of scabs you want? Here are some additions I make to the basic face (again, use as many or as few as you like): Use black or brown makeup and the wet natural sponge to smear some random dirt splotches on your face and body. The same method

with red makeup can look like a road rash. Use black makeup and a small disposable lip brush (or a Black Eyeliner Pencil, your choice) to cut out a random section of your nose, as if that flap of skin has been ripped off. Or black out the entire triangle of your nose as if it's been entirely ripped off. Ewww!

Can you use the small disposable lip brush to draw teeth and red gums on your cheeks as if this skin has been ripped off as well? Yeah! If I don't want to draw the teeth, sometimes I draw stitches over my mouth in an "X" pattern. Like someone has attempted to close my gnashing mouth. Super scary and gross. Scabs, anyone? Use red makeup or lip pencil to draw scabs anywhere.

Stitches are easy to draw with the black eye pencil. For a more realistic, 3D look, use a white pencil to make the line of stitches. Then, go over the same lines (just a little offset from the white) with the black pencil. Bam, black stitches with white highlighting.

The fake blood in a squirt bottle makes terrific splatter patterns on clothes or skin (do this outside, kids!). Or, you can opt not to use the spray part and instead drip blood on your





face, clothes and skin. Drip from the mouth (because zombies feed), from the eyes and from any cuts or stitches you've designed in your skin. And the hardest part is to not touch



your face after this point. You are now pretty sticky.

For another great blood look (and this is really gross), pour some of that fake blood in a little dixie cup. Swig it and then let it dribble out your mouth and onto your chin and shirt. It looks like you've just had a fresh feed and is super disgusting. Awesome! Again, the hard



part now is not to touch or wipe something that feels wet on your face and chin. But effective? Oh yeah.

Don't like that idea? Here's a different great blood look. Handprints. You can do this

yourself or have someone you like soak their hands in the fake blood. Then, they wipe their hands on your sleeve or (if you like them very much) perhaps your chest. Wow, two people get decorated at once! One has bloody hand prints, the other has bloody hands!



Extra Credit:

Are you into liquid latex? The pros know that liquid latex can make a terrific-looking 3D fake scab. If you already know about this material and have used it before, you may have great success by attaching items onto your face to simulate a traumatic cause of death. This is how people look like they have (rubber) nails or pencils coming out of their cheeks, forehead, neck, etc. The guy who got the most attention in our group one year had a broken CD sticking out of his forehead resembling a mohawk. You really want to avoid getting this stuff in your hair, or else cleanup could be painful and messy.

## Thrill Checklist:

- **Have I learned the dance? Even just well enough to feel comfortable dancing in the back row? Great!**
- **Do I have a zombie outfit? A career? Or just some old clothes? How about a quick trip to the thrift store?**
- **Makeup? Even just the basic effort is fine.**
- **Do I know my local Thriller Time and the meet-up place for my group? Awesome!**
- **I'm ready to thrill!**

## ATTITUDE

We've already discussed that your dance doesn't have to be a display of perfection. Zombies do not run or walk normally, they shamble. So, hunch over, dangle those arms, throw your head to one side and stagger to all destinations.

There are some sensible house rules for our events. We're here to have fun but it's also important that we be on good behavior (so that our hosts decide to repeat the event next year, right?). One rule we observe is called "no gore in the store." If you enter a store, it's important that you don't leave any fake blood on the merchandise. In fact, don't even go into any stores and plan a shopping trip on some other day. Same goes if you decide to go to a restaurant afterwards. Don't smear any blood on the fixtures, seats or tables.

And there's not just one opportunity a year to perform the Thriller dance. I've used this valuable skill this at weddings, Haunted Houses, and at many a local Zombie Crawl. Like most other events in





life, the objective is not perfection but just to participate and have fun.

Still not quite sure?



Find your local group and Thrill Time on <http://thrilltheworld.com> and attend this year's performance as a spectator. Bring some family and friends along. The performances are free and we do like an audience!



If you like what you see, then you can make a promise to yourself to learn the dance in time for Thrill the World 2013!

## The original ZOmble Recipe

### INGREDIENTS

- 3/4 cup crushed ice
- 1 1/2 ounces aged Jamaican rum, such as Appleton Estate V/X or Extra
- 1 1/2 ounces gold Puerto Rican rum
- 1 ounce 151-proof Lemon Hart Demerara rum
- 3/4 ounce freshly squeezed lime juice
- 2 teaspoons white grapefruit juice
- 1 teaspoon Cinnamon Syrup
- 1 teaspoon Grenadine
- 1/2 ounce falernum
- 1/8 teaspoon Pernod
- 1 dash aromatic bitters, such as angostura
- Ice cubes
- 1 mint sprig, for garnish

### INSTRUCTIONS

Place all ingredients except ice cubes and mint sprig in a blender. Blend on high until frothy but not slushy, no more than 5 seconds.

Pour into a tall, narrow glass and add ice cubes to fill the glass. Garnish with a mint sprig.



IT'S NO SURPRISE  
THAT WITH AN 11-  
PLUS MONTH HIATUS,  
WE'RE A BIT SHORT  
ON LETTERS OF  
COMMENT. HAVE A  
FEW OF MY FAVORITE  
COCKTAIL ABCS  
INSTEAD!

# Letters of Cocktail

## Absinthe

- Add some to champagne for Papa Hemingway's favorite, *Death in the Afternoon*
  - or enjoy it in the classic mode, diluted 4 or 5 to one with a slow stream of ice water.



## Mai Tai

(Vic Bergeron's Original Recipe)

### Ingredients:

- 1 oz light rum
- 1 oz dark rum
- 1/2 oz lime juice
- 1/2 oz orange curacao
- 1/2 oz orgeat syrup
- Maraschino cherry and mint sprig for garnish

### Preparation:

- Pour all the ingredients except the dark rum into a shaker with ice cubes.
- Shake well.
- Strain into an old-



- fashioned glass half filled with ice.
- Top with the dark rum.
- Garnish with cherry and mint.



## Old Fashioned

### Ingredients

- 2 oz. bourbon or rye whiskey
- 2 dashes Angostura bitters
- one sugar cube
- orange peel
- Ice cubes

Tools: muddler, barspoon

### Preparation

- Muddle sugar and orange peel in an old-fashioned glass.
- Add bitters and whiskey and stir.
- Add ice cubes and stir again.



## Gin Buck

### Ingredients

- 1 oz Dry Gin
- 3 oz

Ginger beer

- Ice cubes

### Preparation

- Combine ingredients in tall glass (with ice)
- Stir and enjoy

## French 75

### Ingredients

- 1.25 oz gin
- 2 tsp. superfine sugar
- 1/4 oz. lemon juice
- Brut Champagne

### Preparation

- Combine gin, sugar, and lemon juice in a cocktail shaker filled with ice.
  - Shake vigorously and strain into an iced champagne glass.
  - Fill with Champagne.
  - Garnish with a twist of lemon.

# My Perfect Cocktail Suit

by Christopher J Garcia

It was a time called the early 1990s. As I remember it, George Clinton was in the White House, funk in everbody up, The internet still made a grrr-ink-reeeeeezzz sound when you started it up, and Dan Cortese was some sort of star. It was a heady time for a California kid in his Junior year at Emerson College in Boston. It was a time of great music; Ska at TT The Bear's in Cambridge, goth stuff at Manray, and most importantly, there was what seemed like a weekly gig in Allston for a band called Combustible Edison. A twenty minute walk from my little dorm room over-looking the Boston Fens, I could be sitting in a bar, listening to the Drambuie-soaked tones of Miss Lily Banquette, The Millionaire and the rest of the band. It was a great thing, a club that I could hang out in, settle into a seat with a glass of scotch, a Hemingway Short Story cigar and the tones of the Cocktail Revolution.

It happened that the 1980s Punk scene had faded away to be replaced by another generation of angry young men and riot grrls, but that second generation that had grown up on The Mummies, the Sex Pistols, X and Television were now tired of railing against the generations that had preceded them. For some, like Love Jones and The Cocktails and the founding members of Combustible Edison, the route of new rebellion took them back to the 1950s and 60s, to a time when it was cool to wear sharp suits, two-toned wingtips, and drink cocktails that weren't named with the names of the components. The release of Martin Denny, Henry Mancini, and especially Esquivel, Music on CD led to the discovery by that new generation. The new wave of bands led to a new generation of fans.

Now, I was a kid who wasn't known for his fancy dress. I had a skinny tie and a white button-up shirt that I wore with a pork pie hat to every ska show in Massachusetts, but I needed a suit, a REAL suit, to wear to what was then my Woodstock – CocktailFest: Combustible Edison, The Squirrel Nut Zippers, and The Cherry Poppin' Daddies. It was going to be a great night, and I had to look great.

Because there would be young ladies in immaculate cocktail dresses that I would want to woo, and no kid in a T-shirt would do the trick.

I had three requirements. First, it had to be vintage. There's nothing worse than trying to impress a woman who knows the times she wishes were here again while wearing a Sear herringbone jacket. Second, as I was a college student, it had to be cheap. I had chicken parm subs from the pizza place across from the dorm to pay for. Finally, I had to be able to get it from somewhere near the dorm as I had no car, and getting a ride from one of the locals meant owing favors, and that was not allowed. I started my trek up Beacon Street, and arrived at the first Salvation Army after an hour or so of walking.

Here, I Had three options in my price-range: a blue checked suit, which would have been nice if it hadn't smelled like it had been soaked in bong water for a week or so; lovely green jacket without pants; and a sharkskin number that was pretty damn impressive. In fact, I tried that suit on and while I looked like the guy who was about to make his bones for the Gambino Mob, it also cost a small fortune, sixty bucks, and that would not fly.

I headed to the next place, which had nothing.

And the next had even less.

I went to a total of ten or so second



hand stores, and there was nothing. It was as if a swarm of sixties-clothing-loving college kids had descended on these shops devouring all the good suits for a man of a certain thickness. That was sad. I was sad, and thus, I headed to Nuggets, my favorite record store on Beacon. As I walked there, I passed a set of stairs that said Retro Clothing. I had never seen this place, and as I looked at the narrow staircase covered in stickers for bands I'd never heard of, I figured it was worth the time. I climbed the stairs, noticing a smell half-way between record store and sweatshop, and arrived in a stifling hot second floor shop full, pillar to pillar, with pants suits, polyester dresses and shirts, amazing amounts of Members Only jackets and legwarmers. There were even several muskrat and raccoon fur coats! Most importantly, there was a section marked "Swinging Sixties."

I knew I was on to something.

I started going through the jackets, one in seven or so would have fit me, and I wasn't finding much that I liked. Most were grey or tight in the elbows, or itchy. I was starting to lose faith that I would find something, but then I found it: the jacket.

The jacket was a three button Beatles-type number. I tried it on and it fit nicely, perfectly, actually, and I was afraid that it would have a perfect price tag to go with it. As I took it off, I noticed that the lining was ripped, not terribly so, but there was a tear in it, and they had marked it down because of it. 25 bucks! I took it up, put down my

money, and put it on, wearing it back to the door.

Luckily, this was Boston in November, and it was the afternoon, so I was plenty warm wearing it back.

The show came up, and I wore it out there. It was an amazing show, Combustible Edison playing the best set I ever saw from them, and the Daddies being a ton of fun. Between sets, which seemed to last for two hours and the breaks even twice as long, I tried to chat women up, but none of them gave me the time of day. Save for one, who walked over, pinched the edge of my cuff and rubbed it between her fingers.

"Nice stuff. Vintage?" she asked.

"Indeed." I answered.

"Mark, it is vintage!" she said, returning to her boyfriend.

It's the perfect suit. I've had it ever since, wearing it to my first two Hugo pre-parties, on-stage when I presented the Hugo for Best Fan Artist to Brad Foster. I love that suit, and if it weren't for the Cocktail Revolution, I'd never have found it.



# All Dressed Up and No Place to

by Kevin Roche



It will come as no surprise to you, Gentle Reader, that I like to dress up; that is, after all, why *Yipe!* came to be in the first place. A regular visitor to these pages may also have gleaned the insight that I enjoy the consumption of adult beverages, including the simple pleasure of a good glass of wine, a refreshing summer afternoon cocktail or the more complex elegance of a classic up drink. Logically enough, then, it should come as no shock that I am always on the lookout for a venue where I may indulge both my

predilections at once and sip that elegant up drink while dressed to the nines.

SF conventions and their parties are certainly places to dress and drink, but the scope of this article is to look for places to do so that don't necessarily entail packing off to a hotel for a weekend with several hundred other fans.

Picture those classic supper clubs from the movies, where Fred and Ginger might indulge in feats of terpshichory

while beautifully dressed diners enjoy a bite and a bit at tables all around the dance floor (picture the South Seas Club in *The Rocketeer*, if the movie musicals are not your cup of tea). Or the elegant gentlemen's clubs of yesteryear. Not a crowded nightclub with loud music and strobes, not a dim and noisy bar, but a place with a generous contingent of swanky gents and lovely ladies (or perhaps lovely gents and swanky ladies) engaging in witty repartee while seeing and being seen with each other.

While such places still exist, I find my social circles tend not to frequent them due to incompatible geography or demography. There are, however, some effective and quite enjoyable alternatives.

The first (and most obvious, perhaps) is, of course, the private cocktail party. Tidy things up, lay in supplies, invite some friends and indulge in your own personal club of fashion and mixology. Events such as the Academy Awards or the Eurovision Song Contest can provide a focus for sparkling (or snarky) conversation and/or consternation for those unused to traditional small talk. Simple, no?





# o Drink

Sometimes, though, the point is to go *out*. Here are some suggestions, with some SF Bay Area specific examples:

**Brewery/Winery/Distillery events:** my husband Andy and I are notorious (among other things) for creating the *St. George Spirits Special Forces Tactical Alcohol Consumption Squad 21*, a group so serious about its drinking that they created uniforms for doing so. Those uniforms (complete with IDs, unit patches and rhinestone martini rank badges) were inspired by a t-shirt at a distillery event at [St George Spirits](#) in Alameda.

On another occasion, they featured an 80s prom theme, so our group came as the contrary Goth crowd requisite at such event, and most recently a *Bathtub Gin BBQ*, at which Andy and I appeared (by request of the distillery) in our T.A.C. Squad uniforms while our friend (and occasional *Yipe!* contributor) Lisa did her best contemporary impression of Prohibition-era fashion.



We ended up being the first attendees allowed through the door so the photojournalists would be sure to catch our entrance. You can look for themed release parties like this at wineries, breweries, or area-wide events like San Francisco Cocktail week.



### PEERS and other costume group events:

the *Period Events and Entertainments Re-Creation Society* hosts a number of events each year that include adult refreshments, and they certainly offer an opportunity to strut one's stuff wardrobe-wise. (It's important to note that not all PEERS events include a bar).



The Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild (and other local groups) also occasionally put on events where adult beverages are available and/or allowed. And, remember, sometimes “drinks” means coffee!





**Cultural and Charity Events:** Far too few people dress for the Theater these days. Buck the trend; wear something nice.



## Vesper (James Bond Martini)



### Ingredients

- 3 measures dry gin
- 1 measure vodka
- 1/2 measure Kina Lillet\*
- Fresh lemon for garnish

### Preparation

- Combine all ingredients in shaker with ice
- Shake until very cold
- Strain and serve up
- garnish with lemon twist or thin slice of lemon

\* Kina Lillet is no longer made. You can substitute (in order of similarity) Cocchi Americano, Lillet Blanc, or Dry Vermouth



Ohana TyeDye  
Photography

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### Imperial Court Events:

The Imperial (drag) Court is all about overdressing for the fun of it while raising a bit of money for the community. Rhinestones and sequins are almost always in style (*do* check to make sure it's not a backwoods-themed event, though!). Find a local chapter of the ICS via their website at <http://www.impcourt.org>.



### Gay Rodeo (and other cultural festivals)

Don't overlook events like your local Highland Games, Obon Festival, and other cultural celebrations. Many of them offer unique opportunities to strut your stuff while quaffing your cocktail.





## Swanky Bars:

There are a few places one can go where an upscale wardrobe won't raise eyebrows. One of my favorites is the [View Lounge](#) at the top of the SF Marriott Marquis Hotel. The view of the city is spectacular (even more so at night) and the drinks are not too overwhelmingly priced.

## Tiki Bars:

Maybe you're not in the mood for formal. While not exactly swanky, there's no question that one can dress for the occasion at a Tiki Bar. [Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge](#) even features a cocktail inspired by (and strongly resembling) TDK, the Tiki Dalek!



**Speakeasies:** While the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment ended Prohibition on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1933, a number of bars have opened recently in the style of the clandestine watering holes preceding its repeal. Friends have told me of Bourbon and Branch in San Francisco, The Edison in Los Angeles, and my local favorite in San Jose is [SingleBarrel](#). You may have to wait in line outside for your chance to get to the bar (at the bottom of the stairs, through a maze of twisty little passages, all alike); then once you have your custom-crafted beverage (made by hand, all fruit juices freshly squeezed), find a seating area in which to perch (or stand) and chat. Manager Joe and Cache are always

happy to welcome well-dressed guests, including visitors from FanimeCon, Further Confusion, Westercon, or any other downtown SJ convention. They've also developed a period dress code for their staff that still leaves room for individuality: all staff wear suspenders and a hat of some sort (most a flat newsboy-style cap) with their dress shirt and slacks. Bartenders add a vest, and managers on duty sport a fedora in place of the cap. It sets a stylish tone, and certainly makes it easy to spot the management.

## Dinner:

Why not? Put on something swanky and go out for a meal at your favorite bistro. You might even get some extra service!

There's actually no shortage of places to overdress, as long as you do it with style and panache. Drop me a line and share your favorites with *Yipe!*

# From Bamboo to Barbots

by Kevin Roche

A Dalek rolls into a bar...

*Let's try that again, shall we?*

Did you hear the one about the Mythbuster, the sushi bar, and an alien wearing coconuts?...

*Not much better...*

No matter how I frame the beginning of this story, it's going to sound like the setup for a joke. The fact that it's true only makes it that much funnier.

Here's the real setup: in the spring of 2011, the *Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition* was sharing the Santa Clara Convention Center and the

attached Hyatt hotel with *Bricks By The Bay*, the Bay Area LEGO convention.

I brought the now-infamous Secret Project TDK (aka Tiki Dalek) to Nova Albion just for fun (See *Where's Tiki?* in *Riveting*, the April 2011 Steampunk issue of *Yipe!*)

During TDK's early-evening jaunt through the lobby bar at the Hyatt<sup>1</sup>, he was spotted by the judges for the

LEGO robotics contest at Bricks By the Bay,

who were eating at the sushi bar.

They later told me the

conversation went something like this:

"OMG  
-- It's a TIKI  
DALEK!"

"That is SOO

Cool!"

"WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THAT?"

As it happens, one of those judges was Grant Imiharo of Mythbusters fame, to whom I was introduced later in the evening<sup>2</sup>. More important to this tale, however, is that one of the other judges was David Calkins, who, with his wife Simone Davalos, owns and runs the Robogames, a robotics competition here in the Bay Area.

Dave and Simone also organize *BarBot*, a showcase event in San Francisco for drink-making robots, which raises money for the Robogames scholarship funds. As it happened, in 2011, Robogames coincided with WonderCon weekend, and Andy and I were considering attending.

Several tweets, emails, and phone calls later,

2 Again -- "the Mythbuster, the sushi bar and the alien wearing coconuts..." I couldn't *make* this stuff up!



1 See? "A Dalek rolls into a bar..."



and with the generous assistant of an intern and Dave & Simone's van, we found ourselves

at BarBot 2011, kitted out in our St. George Spirits Special Forces uniforms, showing off the Tiki Dalek and handing out our business cards from the **Drinks Advanced Research Project Agency**<sup>3</sup>.

So -- there we are, sipping concoctions from assorted gadgets, which are functioning with varying degrees of success, and about halfway through the evening, it strikes me:

*This is my DAY JOB.*

*I could do this. And mine wouldn't dribble or feed you the dregs of the last person's drink!*<sup>4</sup>

And so began our journey to BarBot 2012 and the Robogames.

My creation is a metal and crystal tower about 3 feet tall named ThinBot (in honor of the *Thin Man* movies, where Nick and Nora Charles imbibe their way up, down, and across town while solving mysteries) which mixes

an assortment of up drinks from 8 different ingredients, delivering them with a cheery bell, and waits patiently in between, glowing with changing colors and the soft splash

of a table fountain (ice water, which doubles as the cooling system for the liquor reservoirs). He's Arduino-based and uses precision peristaltic pumps to meter the cocktail ingredients. He also looks a lot like the TARDIS console central column. (If you want to know all the gory technical details, I kept a build diary in my LiveJournal -- <http://kproche.livejournal.com/tag/thinbot> )

3 Mine read *Brigadier Kevin Roche*, from the *Ministry of Gin*.

4 Minor issues with two of the best of the BarBots. Drink-Making Unit 2.0, a beautiful Rube-Goldbergesque affair with tilting graduated cylinders, dripped on itself. iLush only had a single delivery line for multiple ingredients, so if the person before you had a cocktail with orange juice, so did you.





BarBot is an interesting event; a mixture of makers, hipsters and cocktail aficionados turn out for the evening, in every kind of togs you can imagine. Apparel ranged from eveningwear to jeans and T-shirts, with more than a few labcoats, waistcoats and top hats.

To date, ThinBot's most popular recipes are for Vespers and gin gimlets. The latter was the surprise for me; I thought I was one of the only gimlet drinkers left around!



## Gimlet

### Ingredients

- 2 oz dry Gin
- 2 oz sweetend Lime Juice

### Preparation

- Combine ingredients and shake with ice until chilled.
- Strain and serve up.
- Garnish with a fresh lime wedge or wheel.





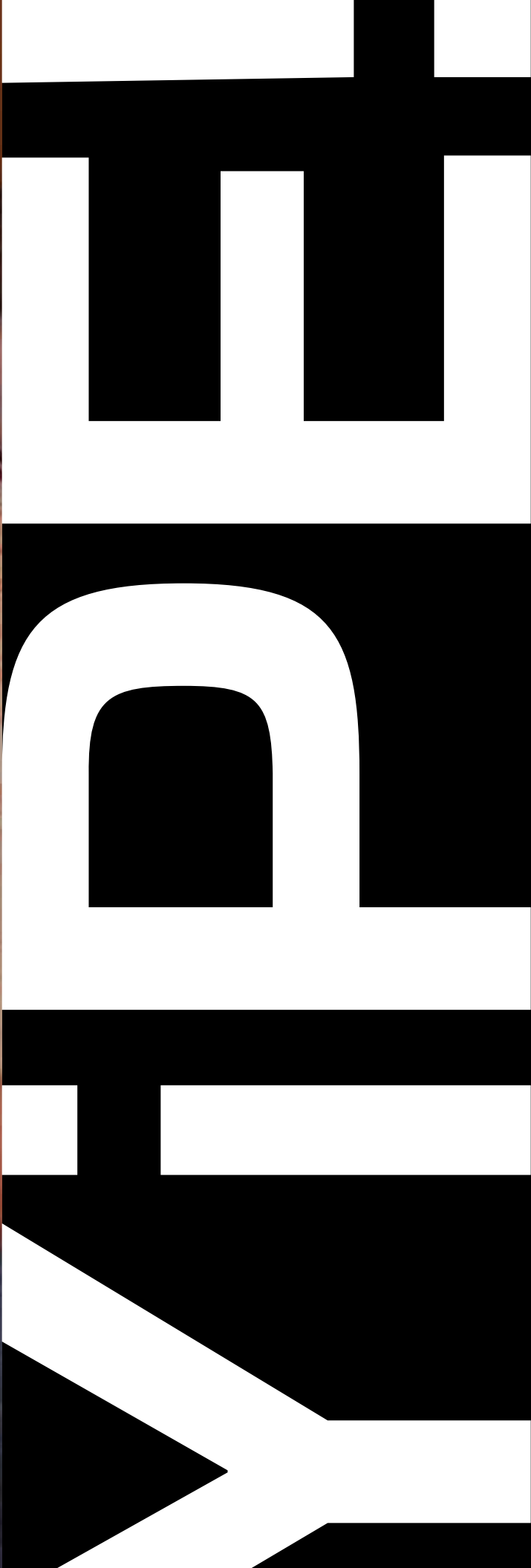


ThinBot was a huge hit at BarBot, and I was strongly encouraged to enter the bartending robot category at RoboGames in April. I made some minor upgrades (like the cheery bell) and entered the competition, ultimately taking the gold medal in the category!

I continue to tweak ThinBot's design, and have built a set of 3 custom padded footlockers to facilitate shipping him to distant places.

We're using ThinBot to bartend at the Westercon 66 promotion parties (as well as the occasional special appearance at other events), so if you are out and about at conventions you may have the chance to be served a refreshing adult beverage from my genuine robot bartender!





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