

HENRIK PILERUD

PILERUD'S COSPLAY

Cosplaying for me centers a lot around fulfilling childhood dreams. An opportunity to get as close as I can to being the characters I was fascinated by in my youth. It's also a hobby that produces very direct results. I can create a costume myself and meet people who like the character on the convention floor and immediately see their smiles. Or cries of fear when it is one of my scarier costumes. The reward is immediate in that way.

Either way, I get something back from all the hundreds of hours, and quite a lot of money, I have spent working on a costume. Something that has started as a dream of mine to fulfill, has then also benefited others who are fans of the same film, show, game or whichever origin the costume has and brought joy to their day.

My first costume as an adult was a stormtrooper from Star Wars. Bought as a kit in pieces, like a model airplane, glued together and made into a wearable costume that fit my body.



◀ Character **Benny (*The LEGO Movie*)**
Photographer **Anna Vikmanis/Henrik Pilerud**

▶ Character **Space Marine (*Warhammer 40,000*)**
Photographer **Anna Vikmanis/Henrik Pilerud**

▶ Character **Alien (*Alien*)**
Photographer **Anna Vikmanis/Henrik Pilerud**



CHRISTINA ERRING

CHRIX DESIGN

Most of my life I have been very creative, curious and crafty. This evolved me into being a science and video game nerd, as well as loving to sew my own Barbie clothes. I ended up getting a Master's degree in industrial design engineering in 2010. During my time at University I got to work a lot in the school workshop building mockups and prototypes and I very much loved that hands-on work.

After graduation I exploited every occasion to dress up and I loved making my original costumes and designs. I didn't know cosplay until 2011 and once I started, I met amazing new friends who also share the same love for comics, costumes, craft, and video games. One of the reasons I love cosplay so much is the community. Everyone shares their knowledge and is encouraging and genuinely lovely.

► Character **Bride Sombra** (*Overwatch*)
Photographer **Elisabeth Erring**





The Origin of COSPLAY

Writer **Kei Mak** Photo **Wikipedia** (unknown photographer) Scanned magazine **Takahashi Nobuyuki**



While no one is really sure where cosplay comes from, there is evidence that cosplay is a combined fandom from both the USA and Japan. Before the word cosplay was coined, people were already dressing up as characters at comics and sci-fi conventions, as early as the 1930s in the USA.

Forrest J. Ackerman was an author and science fiction enthusiast is commonly acknowledged as the first person who wore a homemade costume—inspired by the movie *Things To Come*—at World Science Fiction Convention (World Con 1) in 1939. His costume was made by his then girlfriend Myrtle R. Jones, who also wore a costume herself. Their costumes were a hit at the convention and inspired others to also wear costumes of their own the following year.

Science fiction conventions became hugely popular and spread across the USA, and so did costumed visitors. Soon it inspired people to dress up at comic conventions as well. When the convention organizers realised how many people showed up in costumes, they started to arrange masquerade competitions, a tradition that still lives on today.

Cosplay History in SCANDINAVIA



DENMARK

Writer **Lea Olsen**

Photo **J-Popcon & brian@rocatis.dk**

Cosplay in Denmark is connected to the oldest Danish convention that actively invited cosplayers inside; J-Popcon. It was held for the first time in 2000 and had around 150 participants at the time, so saying that cosplay made its entry in Denmark in the early 2000, is probably not far from the truth.

When I first attended in 2005, it wasn't the norm for attendees of the convention to wear cosplays. At that time, you still kind of stood out if you did, but in a good way. In 2008 the convention SVS-con opened up with sleeping halls. This made it possible for people to dress up on site and not have to deal with traveling in cosplay to the convention. This made a big impact on the growth of the cosplay community.

Cosplay Branching out to other events

The growth and popularity of the cosplay events have not gone unnoticed by some of the older Danish events, where cosplay hadn't been a priority before. Events that had mainly focused on comics or games started actively trying to get cosplayers to attend somewhere around 2010- 2012.

In the last couple of years, we've seen more and more events try to cater to the cosplayers in some of the same ways. Events that focus on role playing, fantasy, Harry Potter, or something similar but where cosplay fits in very easily.

Cosplay in Mainstream Denmark

Up until around 2013 it was still kind of weird and embarrassing to tell people that you were a cosplayer, because you also had to explain to them what cosplay was. The very limited presentation on radio and television gave the impression that it was something teenagers did to escape reality.



▲ Character **Tali Zorah** (*Mass Effect 2*)
 Cosplayer **Marugitto**
 Country **Sweden**
 Photographer **RobertJohannesson**

▼ Character **Moaning Myrtle** (*Harry Potter*)
 Cosplayer **Andrea Hvidtjørn**
 Country **Denmark**
 Photographer **Anna Lorenz Olsen**



▼ Character **Marisa Kirisame** (*Touhou Project*)
 Cosplayer **Troftcos**
 Country **Norway**
 Photographer **Katrix Media**



▲ Character **Usagi** (*Sailor Moon*)
 Cosplayer **Michikao Cosplay**
 Country **Norway**
 Photographer **Henrik Marthinsen**



◀ Character **Hua Cheng** (*Heavens Official Blessing*)
 Cosplayer **Tsuki Costume Creations**
 Country **Norway**
 Photographer **Ookami Photography**

▼ Character **Drauds Drekku** (*Original Character*)
 Cosplayer **Akira Hansson Brodd**
 Country **Sweden**
 Photographer **Katie Sandström**



▲ Character **Ark Desert Armor** (*Ark Survival Evolved*)
 Cosplayer **dreamieh**
 Country **Sweden**
 Photographer **troftcos**





▲ Character **Pearl** (*Steven Universe*)
 Cosplayer **Marilian Cosplay**
 Country **Norway**
 Photographer **Juju In The Box**

◀ Character **Mariachi Reaper** (*Overwatch*)
 Cosplayer **Tokah**
 Country **Sweden**
 Photographer **Jen Hell**





▲ Character **Yae Miko** (*Genshin Impact*)
 Cosplayer **Linn Eriksson**
 Country **Sweden**
 Photographer **Jacob Vincencio**



▲ Character **Gaia Everfree**
 (*My Little Pony: Equestria Girls - Legend of Everfree*)
 Cosplayer **Elin Jakobsson**
 Country **Sweden**
 Photographer **Stefan Janson**



▲ Character **Crystal Maiden** (*DOTA 2*)
 Cosplayer **Marugitto**
 Country **Sweden**
 Photographer **Robert Johannesson**



▲ Character **Greta** (*Gremlins*)
 Cosplayer **Cheka Diaz**
 Country **Sweden**
 Photographer **Samuel Oderhem**