

The Zootopia experience

The hype for *Zootopia* has been enormous. Disney's latest animated movie seems like it might have been tailored for the furry community, and has even been marketed directly at fursuiters through a campaign on Twitter encouraging fursuiters to post selfies using the hashtag #ZooU.

With all this commotion, could the movie live up to our expectations? The fearless cat known as Trax took the chance of renting a movie theater for this year's convention to find out. Was it a success? What the Fuzz was there to find out!

200 furies, including several fursuiters, set off into the dark and chilly Swedish evening to see what Disney really was offering us. A lengthy walk through dark streets (almost void of other people) led us to Folkets Hus, a cinema and culture complex located at the heart of Nynäshamn.

Security effectively divided the unruly mob of fuzz into lines and soon we found ourselves in a cozy theater.



Photo by Atkelar

After some quick information, a surprise video starring Mausie was shown to lots of cheers and laughter. Then the feature presentation began, the enthusiastic audience at the end of their seats, the Disney castle appearing on-screen to invite us into a world like nothing we've seen *be-fur*.

The movie opened with a straight-forward and rather generic background story for our main character, Judy Hopps. But once the movie is done establishing its premise, the sound of Shakira's brilliant pop song "Try Everything" transported us to an equally brilliant adventure.

The world of *Zootopia* is clearly crafted with love and enthusiasm, but admittedly feels a little unfulfilled at times. While there are plenty of good ideas, the movie isn't too diverse when it comes to its animal population; elephants, giraffes, sheep and rodents seem to dominate. The lead cast might be diverse and varied, but the background characters get a tad repetitive.

The story is a predictable crime story about two unlikely persons having to work together and offers few surprises for anyone who has seen similar movies before. However, the story isn't the most important part about this movie, but it's

rather the ride it takes us on, and it's a very entertaining ride filled with meta-humor and funny references. There are also several jokes around animal stereotypes that are destined to get any furry laughing, perhaps best illustrated by the wolves of the movie (who can never resist a howl).

All in all, *Zootopia* offers a somewhat generic story, but it's filled with good writing, humor, imagination, and a good moral that comes through strong and clear without ever feeling forced.

After a good time at the movies it was back out into the dark and moist Swedish night. The otherwise quiet streets of Nynäshamn were disturbed by howls and shout as 200 furies made their way back to the hotel, or as two of our What the Fuzz staff members did, go to find food. In a small town like this, it seems everything closes at 22:00, but luckily Nynäs Pizza were kind enough to extend their opening hours for nearly 45 minutes to serve take-away to several hungry furies, the perfect end to a fun evening at the movies.

The Door Sign Award

As it does every year, the hotel corridors filled up with artwork. The Photo & Video department was tasked with photographing every single door sign and returned with over 80 photos. Our jury then proceeded to look them all through to choose our favorite. It was a close contest with a handful of signs emerging at the top, but eventually the jury managed to settle on one.

The winners of NordicFuzzCon's very first door sign award are **Lune and Rabby**, with their *Zelda* inspired design. The jury liked how the picture combines this year's theme with the water temple from the *Zelda* games in a fitting (and unexpected) crossover. Maybe the water temple was the real Atlantis all along? The picture is nicely drawn and the writing is done in the style of the games, even with the hearts, making this a very well thought-out design with a nice attention to detail.

The jury would also like to give honorable mentions to the following: **Flacko Weasel** for doodling possibilities and innovative use of paper, creating an impressive 3D effect; to **Surface and Sugar** for a funny and energetic picture that's sure to both entertain and confuse; to our charity **Kottecentralen** for jumping on the bandwagon with an adorable little door sign of their own; and to **Tamari and Zen**, for fittingly utilizing *Zootopia* and our trip to the theater.

Be sure to be at the closing ceremony to witness the award ceremony, where Mausie will be handing out diplomas!



From left to right: Surface and Sugar, Tamari and Zen, Flacko Weasel and Kottecentralen



Credits

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Photo by Emphy

Canada invades Sweden

Saturday evening a livestream with VancouFur went live in the lobby, allowing attendees at both conventions to interact. Though it was at times laggy and grainy, it still sparked a lot of interest and brought two very distant conventions close together.

Apart from taking place on the same weekend, both conventions also share the same theme: Atlantis.

Also, another good tip, especially if you're a shy, reserved person who has trouble striking up a conversation: choose events to attend that you think you'll like.

It's fine to step out of your comfort zone and go wild and take on anything and everything – if you can do that, good for you! - but mainly that kind of "I'll try skydiving and then try drinking tequila shots off a lion's bellybutton because I'll magically become super-confident and wild!" attitude only works in a Jim Carrey movie. Mainly you'll end up bored stiff and still won't be able to find people you can open up to.

You're here to have fun, so cater to what you like. Connect with people you'll have something in common with.

Because I'm a history buff, naturally my first event was the trip to the Railway Museum – we set off a little late from the lobby, but the excellent Fredrix (and mini!Fredrix) shepherded us there in no time. As someone who's only ever learnt of the history of railways of Britain, it was fascinating to learn about the history of rail in another nation. After wandering about, taking photos of all the lovely locomotives and rolling stock, I gained enough relaxation and confidence to strike up a conversation with someone and I made a new friend!

Another event I want to talk about, because it's also a newbie is Strut Your Stuff.

Strut Your Stuff rolled right off the production line and right down the runway (swimway?) into a roaring success. It was a "fashion show" of sorts where costumers – not merely fursuiters, but any kind of costume at all – could parade down a catfishwalk and wow the audience with their bling. In conversation afterwards with the excellent hosts Verdonia and Pinky, I couldn't hold back my surprise that such a thing has never occurred in a furry con before. They assured me that this is a first.

As someone who's still a little "wowed" by fursuits wandering about the place, Strut Your Stuff gave me a pause of time in which to appreciate the actual making of the suits, the beauty and the quality. As someone who's in amateur theatre at home, I love a good costume and appreciating them. Being around something familiar-but-different helped me relax and get into the swing of being here.

I would like to mention Furrries Got Talent and Fursuit Charades as well, but in danger of repeating the last paragraph I'll simply add that they too were a great success and I enjoyed each and every performance.

The staffs of the convention have been terrific too – they've all been so kind and helpful; and I can imagine how stressful it must get at times to organise and run something like this. But whether you're a new bug or not, remember: always be nice to staff and they'll do their best for you!

Today it's the closing ceremony and whilst I'm very sad that the con is now over, I'd definitely like to return next year. I've survived in one piece, bought a few souvenirs from the Dealer's Den and may or may not have French-kissed a shark mannequin in the bar last night. There have been a few ups and downs, but for the most part I've had a fantastic time and I hope have, too!

At the Railway Museum

Just a 10-minute walk from Utsikten Meetings lies the Nynäshamn railway museum, a small museum run by volunteers who wish to preserve the legacy of the Nynäshamn railway.

First opened in 1901, the Nynäshamn railway has been an important transport route through the century, mainly for oil. Nynäs Petroleum was a major company in the 1930s and Nynäshamn a busy harbor. At the museum the dedicated railway enthusiasts have preserved several locomotives and carriages from the time, including two steam engines over 100 years old. Through text, pictures, and preserved materiel, these volunteers are taking care of the legacy of the trains and the history of Nynäshamn. If not for people like this, we would not be able to enjoy these magnificent trains today, as we ourselves did on Wednesday. A group of about 25 furrries joined Fredrix on a visit to the museum. Four enthusiastic guides showed us around and offered knowledge and information about both trains and the railway itself.



Photo by Atkelar

My first NordicFuzzCon

For many people new to them, conventions can be a little scary, exciting or just plain unusual. For me, it's been all these things and more. Whilst I've been in the fandom for 6-7 years, NordicFuzzCon has been my first ever furry convention. My name is Nostradamus I'd like to take you on my journey and share my experiences with you.

Like many newbies, I wasn't sure what to expect from a convention. What would I do? Where would I go? Who would I meet?

For starters, even if you're not a new bug, I'd definitely recommend grabbing a room in the main convention hotel whilst you can. I left it a little late (being unemployed while booking I wasn't sure if I could actually afford it. Then I got a job, so yay monies, and I could book a room after all) and so ended up in Nynasgarden.

The 15-minute walk to my hotel room isn't a bad thing exactly – the exercise is a good benefit, in my book – but if you have a cell phone that runs down in a day, you can't just pop upstairs to stick it on charge. You have to accommodate an unplanned 30-minute round trip out of your day – so it comes to a point of choosing whether to skip an event you wanted to see, or being unable to keep in touch with friends you've met or taking photos at said events.

This can become a little wearisome after a while. It became a catchphrase to say "Sorry, I can't add you on Telegram because my phone died". Don't be that guy.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT ABOUT OUR LITTLE NEWSPAPER, AND
SEE YOU AGAIN AT NORDICFUZZCON 2017!