

Maid in Sweden - No Assembly Required

Ever since it was created, I have always loved the Maid Café. There's definitely something special about the general atmosphere, being surrounded by formally-besuited fursuiters.

Of course, the Maid Café is not a static exhibit, but one that changes with each year's theme. In 2023, they took us into the streetside Café de Toy Town, delightfully decorated with dinosaur tablecloths and guarded by a by a garrison of little toy soldiers for us to play with whilst we waited for our fare to be fluffily floated to our table.

We were served by an extremely pretty anime kitty, who was dressed in the classic French maid's outfit.

The cheesecake was light and fluffy (appropriately enough) with a dazzlingly delectable caramel coating, accompanied by a warm and milky cup of cocoa that definitely gave a feeling of childhood nostalgia.

One customer said that their cookie was "so good that it's already gone" when I asked them how it tasted. If that is not an endorsement, I don't know what is! Make sure to pop down to the Toybox Café whilst you still can! **(Nostradamus)**



Photo by Emphy

Soup for the SOUP

SOUP is short for Some Other Useful Personnel, attendees volunteering to help out NFC by doing odd jobs so the convention can run smoothly. On Friday these heroes were treated to a meal as a thank you from NFC for their hard work. And what meal could be more fitting for the SOUP than soup, made by NFC's own executive chef Stripe. We had a chat with Stripe and asked how SOUP had helped him out during the convention.

"They are just not SOUP, they are SOUP-erb (Pun intended.) Without SOUP at the barbecue event I ran, there'd been a whole lot more stress and probably a very stressed out tiger. Being a very scatterbrained cat, if it wasn't for their mental support and hard work, I don't think it could've been done, especially considering how I have a fair lot of self doubt. And I'd like to give a big shout out to Delph, Teddy Baarson and Flyingwilddog for being especially outstanding during the event."



Photo by Emphy

We also managed to convince the chef to share his recipe for the soup served to SOUP.

Chef Stripe's Chipotle Spiced Tomato Soup

Ingredients (2 servings):

1 half large onion (diced)
 2 cloves of garlic (crushed)
 3 tbsp chipotle powder or (1 crushed whole chipotle)
 2 tbsp chipotle paste
 300 g tomato passata (Basically pureed chopped tomatoes)
 250 ml cream (or vegan cream substitute)
 500 ml vegetable stock
 15 g freshly chopped parsley
 Salt + Pepper

How to:

1. Start by sweating off the onion and garlic in a touch of olive oil in a pot on medium high heat. Once they've gotten a bit of colour, add the chipotle powder and paste and let it fry with the onion and garlic.
2. Add in the vegetable stock and the tomato passata. And stir it in well. Turn the heat to low and let it simmer for 30-45 minutes. Stir it a bit every now and then. Remember to taste, and add salt and pepper as you see fit.
3. Once it's simmered enough for your taste, add in the cream and the chopped parsley, and it's ready to serve! **(Jacy)**

Fursuit Parade Cancelled!

A stroke of bad luck! The weather was not on our side this year, so the parade unfortunately had to be cancelled. Poor Shade was our fursuit guinea pig and can confirm that the conditions were not suitable for fursuiters. Let's hope for more favourable weather next year, and that Shade can get a new umbrella. (Miles)



Photo by Kamuniak



Photo by MakiboX

Blind Fur's Fluff

Everybody at some point needs to unwind and let their fur down. As Tom Baker says in Doctor Who: "There's no point in being grown up if you can't be childish sometimes" a quote which could accurately describe the furry's reason for existence. The Blind Cute Fursuit Drawing was a capital way to pass an evening, chuckling at the funny floofs flailing whilst admiring their anatomically inaccurate artwork.

It started out with our fursuiters drawing normally just to get a feel for drawing on the flip charts, and they were asked to draw simple things at first, such as a snake or a "moth with a cough" (cheekily suggested by yours truly).

Then things ramped up a notch when they were asked to create some bizarre chimeras out of assorted body parts: they would start by drawing a dragon body, then a bird's head, long ears and feline paws, for example.

After a couple of rounds of this hilarity, the real fun began. Our fluffy artists were blindfolded and guided back to their boards after bumping around dramatically, stumbling into the crowd.

Watching a blindfolded bat and a vision-restricted vulpine attempt to draw a chimera is nothing short of rib-tickling. I'd never pictured an unnaturally skinny cat with the head and arms of a dragon and ears of a rabbit before, but it's not a sight I shall forget in a hurry!

The event was hilariously hosted by the charming Thabo Meerkat, supported by his lovely assistant Trax, our Chaircat. Thabo is the brains behind website Furry Charity Index, an online list of furry charities that is updated yearly and hosts a series of YouTube videos called Digging Up Positivity where he highlights charities and other furry-related news. (Nostradamus)

DAILY TOY HIGHLIGHT



The *My Little Pony* toy line started in 1982, featuring colourful ponies with unique flank-symbols dubbed "cutie marks". Since their launch they have had several iterations, and the franchise created a whole new fandom with the debut of *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic* - a fandom hungry for more pony toys! (Miles)



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Furries break everything, but it's not the elevators this time! Unfortunately we've also overheated the beer taps in the hotel lobby bar, so beer from the taps may be unavailable for a few hours. Other drinks are still available, and don't forget to stay hydrated. #NFC2023

