



Interview with Guest of Honor, Berneri

Please tell us a little bit about what you do?

A: I'm Bern and I draw and design animal-themed illustrations as well as my comic Koirakoira which I also publish online. I also design merchandise that I sell in an online store and different conventions.

Tell me a little about yourself... where are you from, where did you grow up?

A: I grew up in small town in Finland that has about 2000 residents. I have moved multiple times (and lived in Spain for a moment) but ended up in Turku. It's a very beautiful city in Finland and I can't see myself moving away soon! I live with my fiancé and we have three rescue cats, flower beetles and lots of other small critters along with many many plants.

Why did you decide to become an artist?

A: The tale as old as time, I picked up a pencil when I was a kid and never let it go! But more seriously I started to draw around 2006-2008 when I was active in RPG forums. Couple of years later I started to dream about career around art and design. I am also an "official" artsy person because I have a bachelor's degree in media content design, and I also went to comic "school" for a year. So it has been a long time in the making!

How did you here about the furry fandom?

I surrounded myself animal artists in social media and very quickly just found myself around furies! So I think the social media was the first place I heard about it and got familiar with the community.

When did you consider yourself a furry?

A: I think it was around 2010 that I started to use the word about myself. Can't remember the exact time but I got my first fursuit about 2 years after that. So I have been in the fandom for about 13 years!

What has been your most touching or amazing moment you've experienced as an artist?

A: To be honest, being a Guest of Honor for NFC has been one of the most awesome things I have experienced just by being an artist online. Other ones are commissions for big clients and sometimes I get to draw very special and personal pieces that make me feel very honored.

What other artists have been inspirational to you in your work?

A: Almost every artist around me has inspired me some way. Maybe not stylistically but with their energy and their overall vibe and how they see the world. My style itself is very inspired by medieval art from all over the world and old pattern work and illustrations. I have started to collect books containing pictures of old

manuscript illustrations and I find myself often going through them when I'm looking for inspiration and/or references.

What was the primary influence for your comic?

A: Most of the stories and ideas come straight from my own life and experiences. It's weird because I've never actually read lots of comics, I just make them! But the style and the stories have improved and changed over the years which has been an interesting thing to witness.

Do you have any new works coming soon that you're excited about?

A: I have couple of bigger personal illustrations I am excited to finish at some point when I have the time. A longer term goal or dream for me would be to find a publisher for Koirakoira and grow the franchise around it, publish more comic books and focus more of my time and energy on that

Where can people follow you and your work?

A: My art Twitter is @BerneriART and comic Twitter is @Koirakoira. You can also find me from FA under the name Berneri.

(Interview by Bakari)

Toy Block Tower Contest

Throughout the convention this year, the NFC attendees have really let loose their creativity with most peculiar toy-block constructions. The winning masterpiece of architecture of our Toy Block contest was this glorious fort by Smoki (#853), which only slightly inconvenienced other attendees by blocking off access to some of the pulic toilets. A small price to pay for art. (Rexam)



Door Sign Award

It has been three long years since the last convention, and how we have missed your door signs. They light up the hotel with color and creativity and make even going back to your room part of the con experience.

This year, after careful consideration, we at WtF have narrowed down three

favorites from the door signs submitted on Twitter. Our first honorable mention is a wonderful pixel art by sign by All Ears. It is followed by our other honorable mention Colin and Foxle, who brought their Lego to Toy Town. This year's winners are Hoovie and Ghosty, who have truly gone to Toy Town. (Leophan)

Daughters of Verona

What happens when you have to perform a romantic comedy in the tradition of Shakespeare, but none of the actors have rehearsed the script you didn't write in the first place? No problem, everyone knows how a romantic comedy goes, right? There are the lovers, the rivals, the parents, the scheming uncle, the bumbling but helpful aunt... or was that the scheming aunt and the helpful uncle? No matter! It will all get sorted out in the end somehow.

Props and costumes are of less consideration in the Shakespearean tradition, where the actors instead emote their actions and surroundings clearly enough that the third balcony audience can have an idea what is going on.

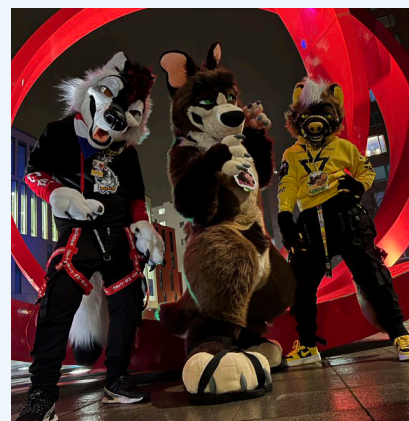
Provided the actors themselves have an idea what is going on, that is!

This humble correspondent held a bit part in this year's production, where the action was centred around a suspiciously familiar furry convention. During the events of the play the Party Boat somehow got sunk in one of the (many) nefarious plots of the villain of the play, masterfully performed by our very own Nostradamus, who carried the play to such a degree he could skip dinner thanks to all the scenery he ate. But of course with this being a romantic comedy, he was of course defeated in the end, and the lovers found each other - with some help from the director, Fredrix. (Dook)

DAILY TOY HIGHLIGHT



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, a beloved series reinvented for every generation. The toys started life with the advent of the cartoon, changing up the tone of the original comic to something more light hearted and adding elements like the iconic colours of the four turtles. The licensing deal went to Playmates, who were a little known company at the time as every other major toy manufacturer turned the co-creators down. During the pitch meeting they actually took a giant foam TMNT turtle they had to help sell the line to toy companies. The earliest run of toys was heavily based on the comic book incarnation of the hero's in a half shell, lacking pupils and being considerably more muscular than their cartoon counterparts. (Bakari)



KONA @ NFC
@Pyttinski

they're here to drop the sickest album of 2023 #NFC2023 (and late #FursuitFriday)
Suits @LomonosovFur
Photo @Daikonblue

