



The World's Fair at **BRONYCAN** 2015

OFFICIAL CONVENTION GUIDEBOOK

**AUGUST 21-23 - RICHMOND, B.C.
EXECUTIVE AIRPORT PLAZA HOTEL**



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Bringing online communities
to life for Bronies, by Bronies



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A Message from the Chair



Hiya there!

I hear we have pony people from all over the globe and I'm glad to hear it! I like meeting new faces and hearing the stories they have. I love learning about new cultures, languages and cuisine! Which is why I am so excited that our theme this year is World's Fair, modeled after the '86 Expo here in Vancouver. The Expo is designed to inspire innovation and diversity. It is a celebration of that which makes us unique and how diversity helps us grow.

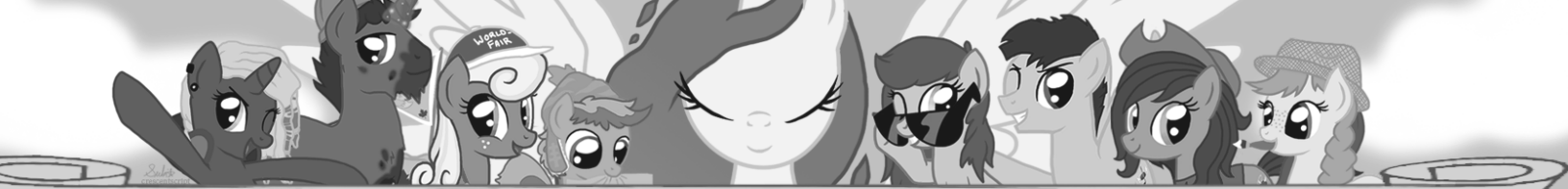
I found that volunteer positions, like the ones at BronyCAN, are the perfect place for people to discover what makes them unique and apply it to something that helps their community grow. Not everybody can do every job, but there is a job for everyone. We all bring something that completes the picture. Even you, the attendee, bring something to BronyCAN that makes it unique. I wanted this weekend to be an opportunity to find what they bring to BronyCAN and be proud of it. We all worked hard to get here today. Now, let's enjoy all of our efforts and have the best weekend ever!

Tabatha Hughes
BronyCAN 2015 Chair

Table of Contents

Code of Conduct	3	Community Guests	16
Rabbitasaur's Pony Puzzle			
Bonanza!	5	Musicians	17
Venue Map	7	Event Listings	18
Richmond City Centre	9	The Midnight Special	22
Critter Care Wildlife Society	11	Staff List	27
Charity Auction	12	Notes	29
Show Guests	13		





BronyCAN 2015 Code of Conduct

Introduction

Our foremost goal at BronyCAN is to ensure that all attendees have a pleasant and memorable time at our convention. The following policies are set in place by BronyCAN staff to ensure that every individual attendee will enjoy their time at our convention, so please keep these in mind for a fun and safe experience.

As a friendly reminder, please remember the 6-2-1 rule: 6 hours of sleep, 2 full meals, and 1 shower per day at an absolute minimum to ensure you and everyone else have a great time!

General Rating

BronyCAN is, for all intents and purposes, intended for attendees of all ages and has adopted a 'PG' rating as such. This means that attendees should refrain from strong language, displays of violence, inappropriate dress, and depictions of illegal or age-inappropriate behaviors, both real and fictional in all public areas of the convention. We want the youngsters and their guardians attending BronyCAN to enjoy their experience at our convention without the worry of running into something inappropriate.

Lost and Found

All abandoned items should be brought to the nearest convention volunteer, which will then be stored in the convention operations room during the weekend. BronyCAN will store and safeguard all lost items until August 24th, after which these items will be disposed of in a manner that BronyCAN deems acceptable.

Alcohol and Prohibited Substances

All alcoholic beverages are prohibited in convention spaces, and anyone who appears intoxicated or under the influence of any substance will not be allowed into convention areas. Please be aware that the drinking age in British Columbia is 19, and that minors that illegally consume or come into possession of alcohol may receive criminal charges, in addition to the party that provided the alcohol.

There is a strict zero-tolerance policy on serving alcohol to minors in violation of the law, and any violations of this will result in BronyCAN staff immediately removing involved individuals from convention space and revoking their pass. No refunds will be issued for attendees removed from the convention for violating BronyCAN policies, hotel policies, or laws. BronyCAN staff will also file a report to the proper authorities for any violations of this law.

Any narcotic or hallucinogenic substances and paraphernalia are also strictly prohibited for any reason in convention space, and their possession or use will result in similar action.

Smoking

Please follow all hotel policies and local laws regarding smoking in the convention space and your hotel room. Within the City of Vancouver, smoking is not permitted by law in all indoor public spaces, including public transit, shopping malls, restaurants, pubs, nightclubs and casinos. Smoking is not permitted within six metres of an entryway, openable window or air intake of a building. Signage will be posted to indicate the applicable smoking restrictions. Please smoke in designated areas only.

Hotel Policies

As good guests, all attendees to BronyCAN should follow hotel policies in public spaces and hotel rooms alike. Even if you are staying at a different hotel, please follow the same rules as a paying guest if you are in a hotel space that belongs to the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel. Noise policies are also in place, so if a hotel staffer or BronyCAN volunteer asks you to lower the volume or close the door to your room, please do so or you may be asked to surrender your badge. No refunds will be issued for attendees removed from the convention for violating BronyCAN policies, hotel policies, or laws.

Media Coverage and Press

BronyCAN welcomes all members of the press that wish to attend and cover our convention. All members of the press who wish to cover BronyCAN must check in with Registration, with credentials to verify your status, in order to receive a press pass.

BronyCAN reserves the right to grant or deny approval to for all photography and video/audio recording requests, and permissions may be retracted at any time. For more information, please contact our Media head at media@bronycan.ca.

Minors

BronyCAN is intended for attendees of all ages, but we require that all children under the age of 13 be accompanied by a parent or designated guardian over the age of 18. All designated guardians over the age of 18 must have purchased a badge for BronyCAN, and as children under the age of 12 receive the Youth pass for free, children between the age of 12-17 must buy a standard pass.

Please be aware that BronyCAN and associated parties are not responsible for supervision of minors, and that by registering to attend this convention, all parties understand and agree to this limitation.



Pets and Service Animals

In following with the hotel policy, service animals are allowed for attendees that require them. BronyCAN asks that you leave your pets at home or in the care of someone that you can trust while you are enjoying the convention.

Photography and Video Recording

Cameras and video recording are welcome at BronyCAN and are allowed at most panels and spaces through the convention. There are several points of common courtesy to be aware of when taking pictures however. When taking pictures in the public convention spaces, such as hallways and lobby, please make sure you are not blocking other attendee's movement or impeding crowd traffic if there happens to be many attendees in one space.

While in the vendor's hall, please do not take pictures or record any of the vendor's items unless you have their express permission. Finally, be respectful of anyone in the convention who does not wish to be photographed or recorded on video. Most guests, whether they are attendees in cosplay or guests of honor, would prefer to be asked if photos or video recordings are taken.

BronyCAN staff reserve the right to prohibit photography, recording, and other forms of capture during certain events and in certain spaces. No refunds will be issued for attendees removed from the convention for violating BronyCAN policies, hotel policies, or laws.

Public Behavior

Please be aware of your behavior in any of the convention spaces. BronyCAN expressly prohibits disruptive and unsafe behavior, including, but not limited to: verbal and physical harassment towards others, acts that could be dangerous to others or property, sexual misconduct, engaging in illegal activities, and possession of any item that is defined as a weapon.

Violations will be handled on a case by case basis, and a BronyCAN volunteer will often ask attendees exhibiting any such behavior to refrain. Other violations by their very nature will result in immediate and permanent expulsion from BronyCAN, and BronyCAN volunteers will contact the appropriate authorities if necessary. No refunds will be issued for attendees removed from the convention for violating BronyCAN policies, hotel policies, or laws.

Please do not sleep in the convention spaces. All attendees should return to their rooms or accommodations to sleep, as convention and public hotel spaces are not authorized for overnight sleeping.

Weapons and Props

Cosplayers at conventions often have a number of accessories and props that go with their chosen costume. Some of these items may resemble a weapon however, and for the safety and comfort of all attendees, BronyCAN has strict guidelines on weapons and costume props.

Possession of any weapon in violation of applicable law is expressly prohibited. Functional projectile weapons (firearms), will not be allowed, even if the owner has a weapon permit or concealed carry permit. Any attendee found in possession of a weapon will be subject to action including and up to immediate expulsion from the convention and alerting the appropriate authorities.

All items that resemble weapons must be peace-bonded, which means that a very visible lock has been placed on the weapon to make it clear it will not be used for violent means. A piece of cloth, a brightly colored zip tie, or something similarly visible over the trigger of gun-like prop, or holding a blade in its sheath would be an example of peace-bonding.

Please peace-bond any items that may resemble weapons before arriving at BronyCAN, or contact a BronyCAN volunteer to have your props peace-bonded. BronyCAN reserves the right to have convention volunteers require peace-bonding or the removal of a weapon at their discretion.

No functioning or previously functioning project weapons are allowed, including but not limited to water guns, silly string guns, air soft or pellet guns. Nerf guns are only acceptable in the official Nerf War, pending inspection. Gun replicas and projectile weapon replicas should never be pointed at anyone at any time. Replica pistols must remain holstered, and replica rifles should be slung in a manner that leaves them immobile at all times in the convention space.

All laser pointers are prohibited.

All bladed weapons must remain sheathed or cased at all times in the convention space. Play-acting with props and weapons is prohibited, as props should never be waved around. No live steel props are allowed, which includes anything that resembles a sword, knife, or other bladed weapon that can take a sharp edge.

Policy Revision

BronyCAN policies are subject to change at any time the convention requires.

Additional Information

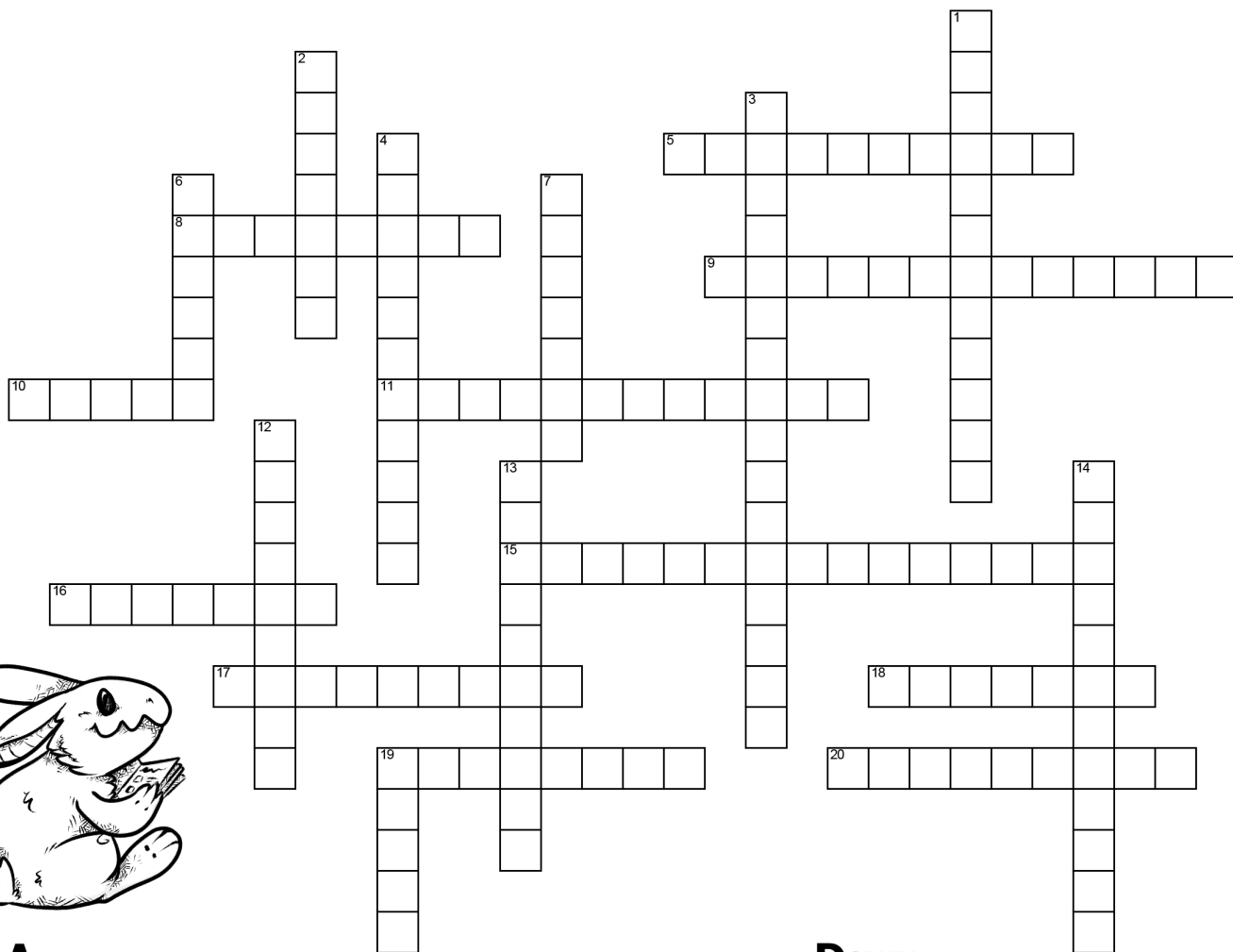
If there is a question that you have that our policies didn't cover, please ask a BronyCAN volunteer for additional information or clarification. Our volunteers and staff will strive to ensure that all attendees have a pleasant and safe convention, so please inform any volunteers if you feel that you or others are having a less-than-safe experience.





How much do you know about the pony show?

RABBITASUR'S PONY PUZZLE BONANZA!



ACROSS

5. When possessed, this pony's thirst for apples outdoes Applejack.
8. The Name of BronyCAN's Alicorn Princess.
9. A simple mare living her simple dream of owning a carrot farm.
10. Owlicious is to Twilight, as ____ is to Pinkie Pie.
11. Which episode contains a song with the same name as the episode?
15. The only pony known to create love through magic.
16. I'm howling at the moon, and sleeping in the middle of a summer afternoon.
17. ____ Island, where the G3 pegasi live.
18. The Great Gravy Horse!
19. The dignitary for the Caneighdian diamond dogs.
20. Who is the only main character to remain mostly the same to the character she was based on?

DOWN

1. The name of a bay found in both BC and eastern Equestria.
2. Hasbro's official name for everyone's favorite cross-eyed pony.
3. In "Griffon the Brush Off" what was the name of the group Rainbow Dash and Gilda were in?
4. The fastest flier in all of Equestria.
6. Who was the first pony to gain wings in G4?
7. The name of Maud Pie's pet rock.
12. Applejack's nickname for everyone.
13. Troubleshoes was ____'s most wanted.
14. Rarity sacrificed her mane for this fabulous sea dragon.
19. This ditsy G3 pony undertook a journey to save Christmasand socks!

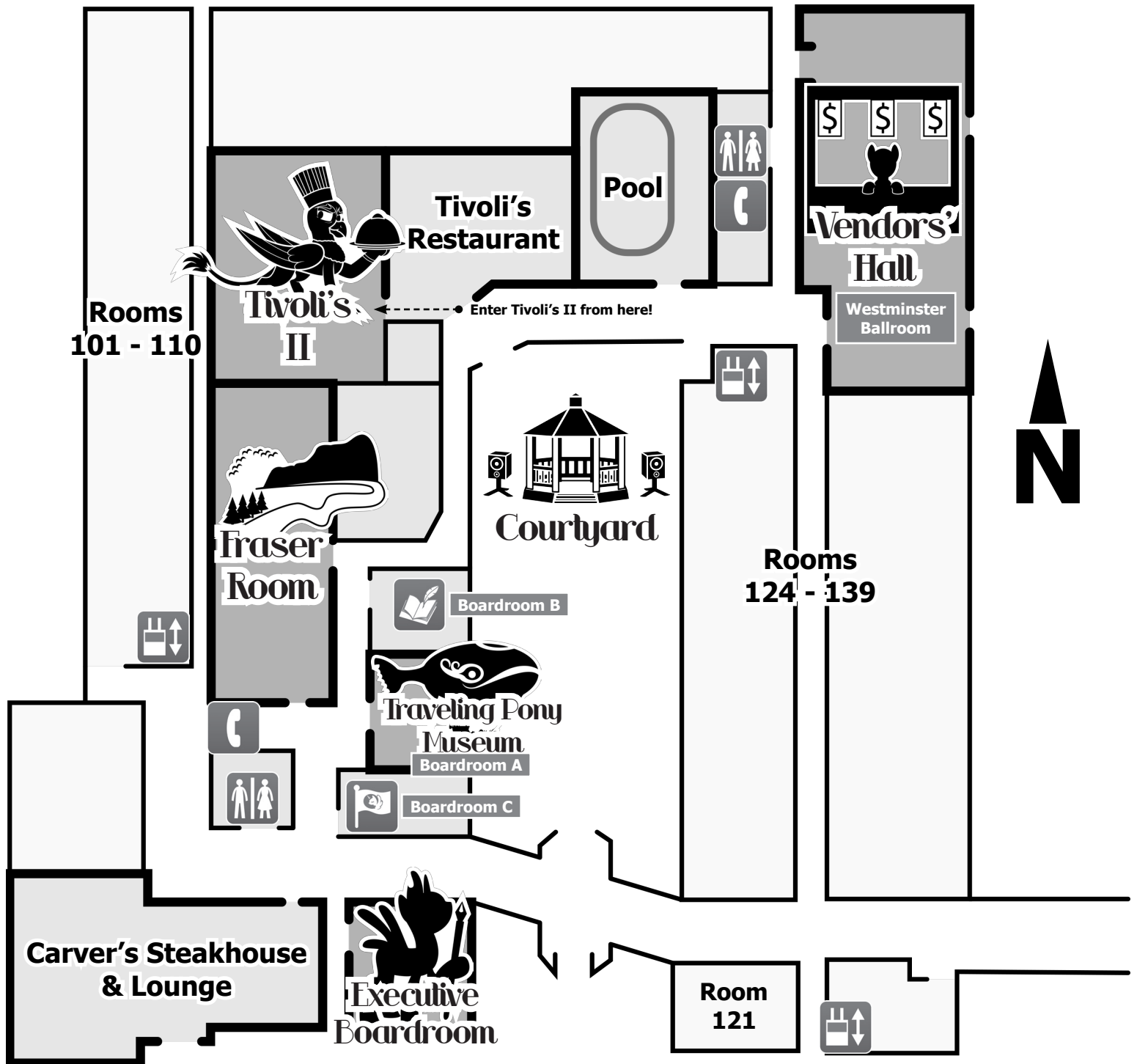


Signatures make the best souvenirs, don't you think?



By the by, you can get your hands on these lovely souvenirs at our con store!
Proceeds go to this year's charity (see page 12)



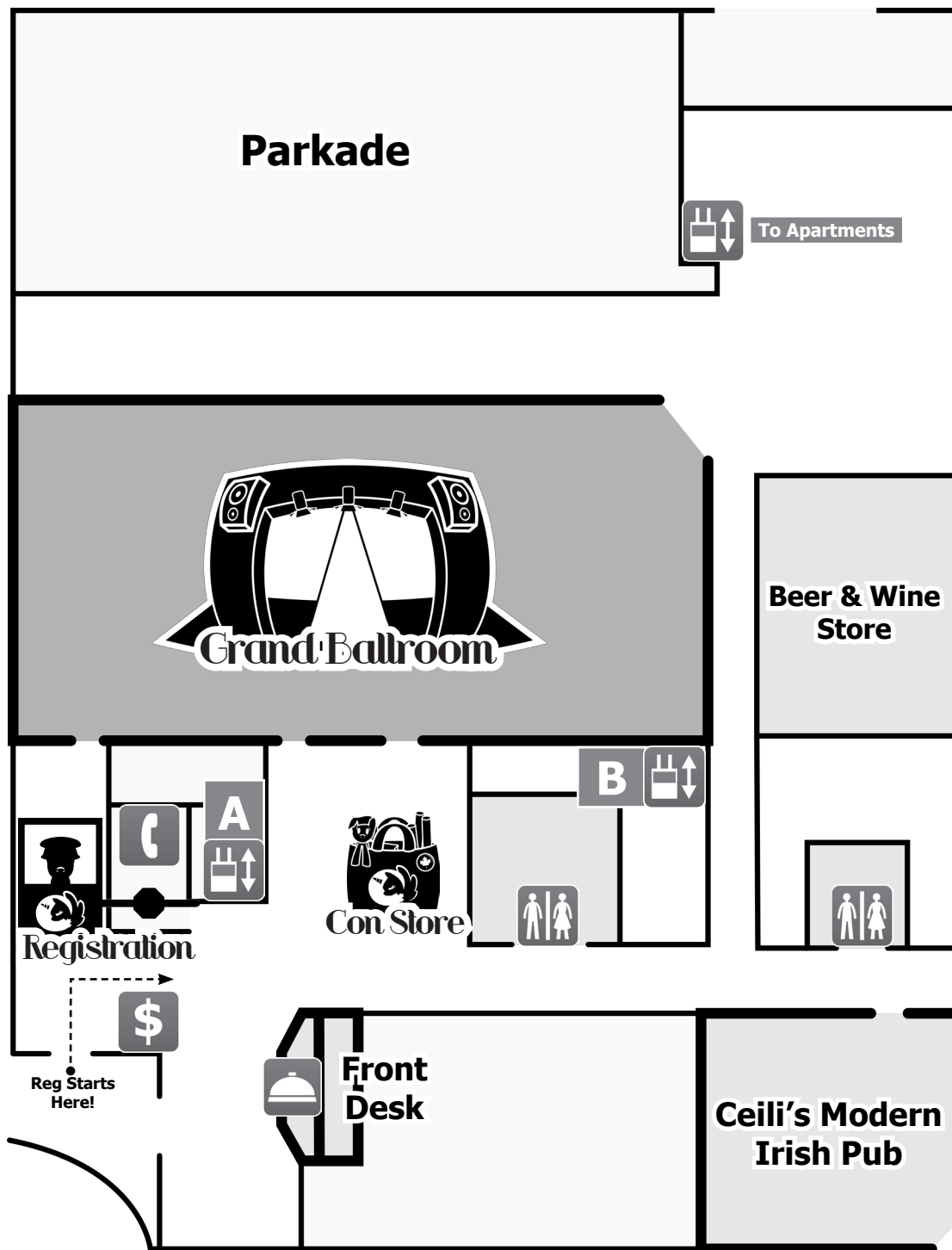


VENDOR LISTING

Waffles
Crescent Script
Niegelvonwolf
Dream Weaver
Ilicia Wild
Core Games
The Littlest Gift Boutique
DragonPawLady
Cat Downward
Raikissu

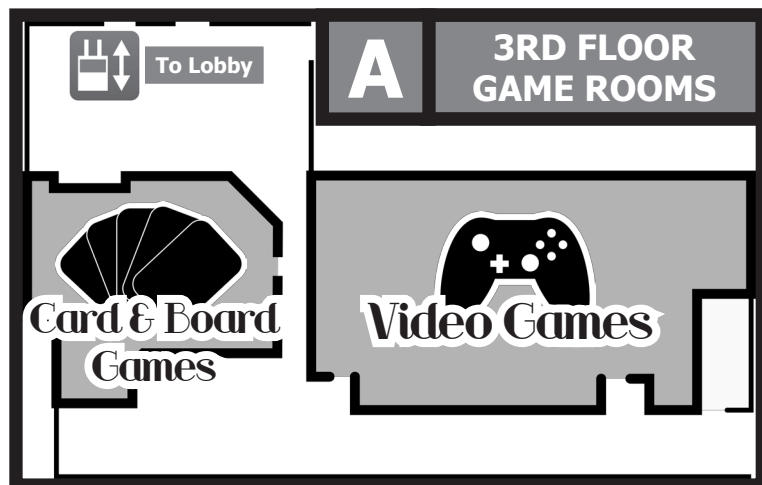
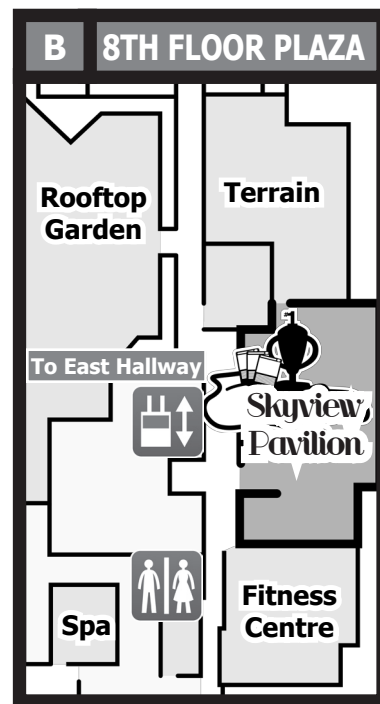
Sen
Mastertortilla27
TGDHamster
Onnanoko
Drawponies
MittyMandi
Sugar Clay Cafe
Soulscapes
Alienkitty Designs
Mike Furry

Christadesigns
LeekFish
My Little Cozy Knitwear
Blue Pixie
Traveling Pony Museum
Paradigm Pizza
ImpyDoo
Ashley Nichols



HOTEL SERVICES

- Elevators**
- Washrooms**
- Pay Phones**
- ATM**
- Operations**
- Event Sign-ups**



BUY MLP:CCG CARDS AND ACCESSORIES

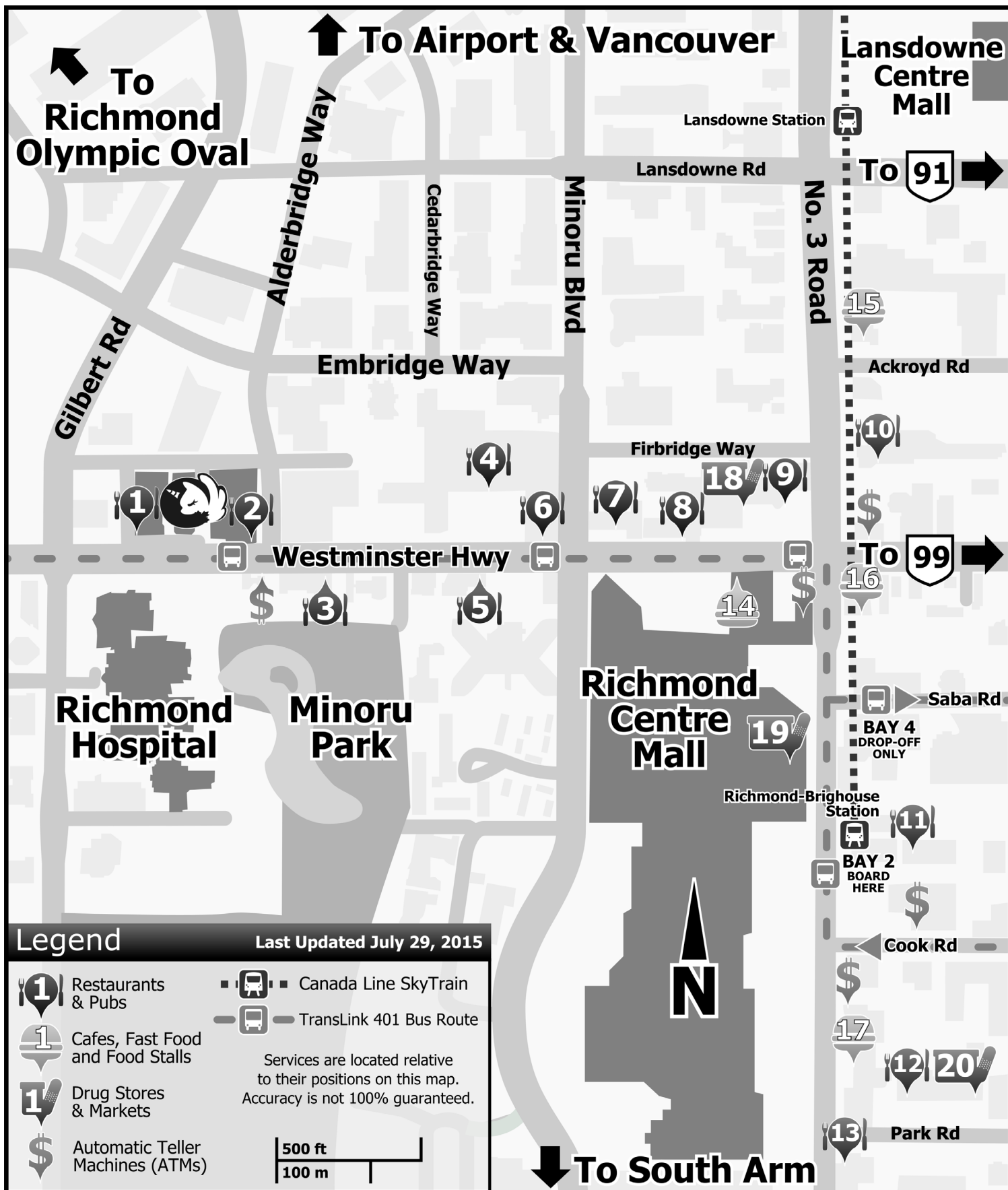
The ... CONNECTION ...

... GAMES & COMICS ...

OPEN IN SKYVIEW PAVILION



Richmond City Centre



Located ~10 km south of Vancouver, our venue is surrounded by a vast landscape of hotels, shopping centres, Restaurants, and more. There are a multitude of options available for dining and relaxing after a long day at BronyCAN.

The Excutive Airport Plaza Hotel is located a short distance from the Canada Line SkyTrain, and is connected to the station by the Route 401 bus. If you are returning home via transit, please be aware that regular service ends around 12:45 AM. We suggest that you leave the venue at least one hour before then, or make other arrangements.

Restaurants & Pubs

1. Carver's Steakhouse & Lounge
2. Ceili's Modern Irish Pub
3. Mad Greek Restaurant
4. Harold's Bistro & Bar
5. Wayfaring Tree
6. American Grille
7. Mui Garden, 4 Stones Vegetarian Cuisine
8. Flo Tea Room, Shanghai River
9. Charcoal Sushi & BBQ Restaurant, Empire Seafood Restaraunt
10. Boston Pizza, Grand Palace Seafood, Top Shanghai Chinese Restaraunt
11. Excelsior, Yoa Sun Loong Kong Chicken, Shanghai House, New Town Bakery and Restaurant
12. Eastern Fortune Chinese Seafood, Chen's Shanghai Kitchen
13. IHOP, Pho An Nam, SnW Pepper House

Cafes & Fast Food

14. Subway
15. Dinesty Dumpling House
16. Alleluia Cafe, Enjoy Cafe
17. Sakura Sushi, Jumbo Sushi

Drug Stores & Markets

18. London Drugs
19. Shopper's Drug Mart
20. Great One Supermarket

Richmond Centre Mall - www.richmondcentre.com

Restaurants/Specialty Foods: McDonald's, Pearl Castle, Shi-Art Chinese Cuisine, Tim Hortons, White Spot, Big Orange, Blenz Coffee, COBS Bread, DAVIDsTEA, Godiva Chocolatier, Kernels, Kin's Farm Market, Maxim's Bakery, Orange Julius, Purdy's Chocolates, Qoola Plus Fresh Gourmet Bistro, Starbucks, Take Five Cafe, Teavana, Togo Sushi, Yuen Shing

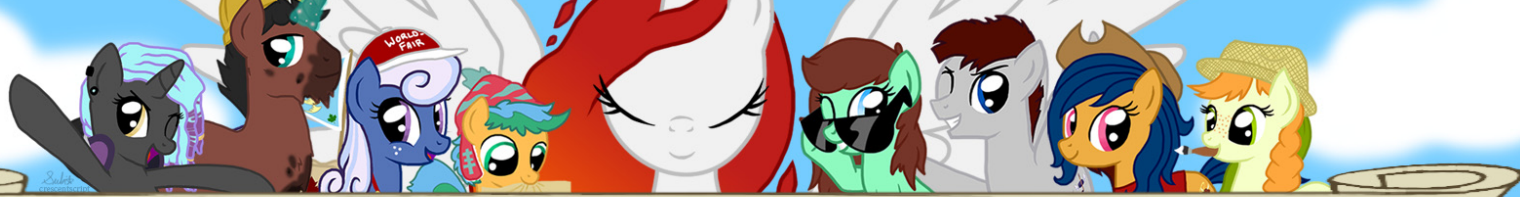
Food Court: A&W, Bourbon Street Grill, Crepe Delicious/Froshberg Gelato, Curry Express, Edo Japan, GoodAh, Jugo Juice, KFC, Koryo Korean BBQ, Kung Pao Wok, New York Fries, Opa! of Greece, Pinkberry, Quizno's, Thai Express, U-Grill, Umi, Vina

Lansdowne Centre Mall - lansdowne-centre.com

Restaurants/Specialty Foods: #9 Restaurant, Earls Restaurant, Gingeri Chinese Cuisine, Kyung Bok Palace BBQ, Mongolian Hot Pot, Toku Japanese Restaurant, Tropika Malaysian & Thai Cuisine, Anna's Cake House, Beverage Station, Divas Coffee, Fair Bee Coffee & Tea, Langley Farm Market, Mr. Ginger, Nam Bak Hong, Purdy's Chocolates, Van Cheong Tea House

Food Court: A&W, Bubble Waffle Cafe, Curry Express, Freshslice Piiza, Grill King, Jimmy the Greek, KFC, My Coffee, Orange Julius, R&H Chinese Food, Shogun, Subway, Taco Luis, Thai Way Express, Villa Vietnamese





Critter Care Wildlife Society



This year, BronyCAN will be donating to the **Critter Care Wildlife Society**, a BC Wildlife mammal rescue centre. They rehabilitate local injured and young animals and reintroduce them into their natural habitats. We wish to help them in their endeavor, and a few of the things they need are substitute mothers' milk and expanded enclosures. They are both costly needs, but with our help they can be closer to those goals! Come by our auction and help them out!

Visit <http://crittercarewildlife.org/> for more information about this group and on how you can help!



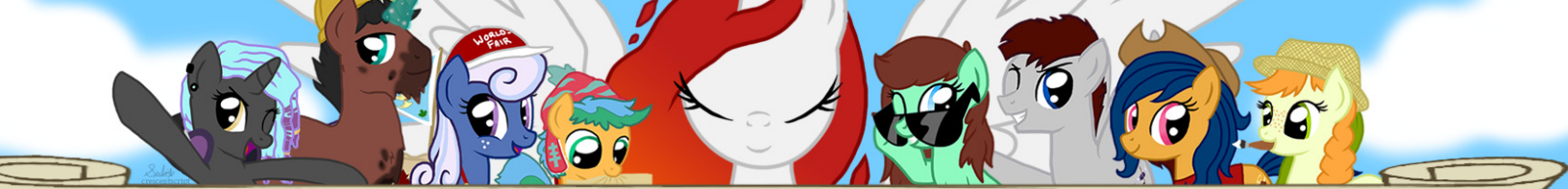


Charity Auction

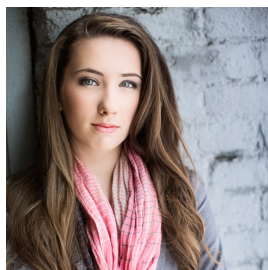
We'll be putting these and other fine Pony items for sale at our auction!

Visit the Grand Ballroom on Saturday, August 22nd to place your bids and support our local wildlife!





Our Honourable Show Guests



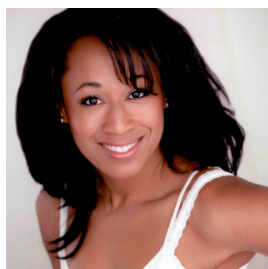
Michelle Creber *Voice of Applebloom, singing voice of Sweetie Belle*

Michelle is a 15-year-old Canadian performing artist who has a busy career on screen, on stage and in the studio as an actor, singer, dancer, musician and song-writer. She is the youngest regular MLP cast member and was only 10 during season one, when her epic gospel vocals were featured on "Hush Now Quiet Now". After a successful cover of Michael Jackson's Beat It with Gabriel Brown (Black Gryph0n), Michelle and Gabe have continued to work together, recording, performing, touring, creating comedy sketches and releasing original co-written songs.



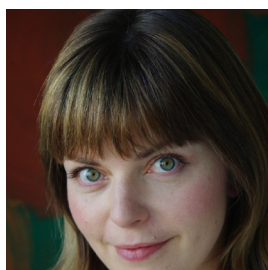
Peter New *Voice of Big McIntosh, Goldie Delicious, and many more!*

Peter New is an actor, voice actor and writer. He has voiced many cartoon characters, from Evan in *Barbie Thumbelina*, to Ian Vashti in *Gundam00*, and Lunk in *Powerpuff GirlsZ*, but is most well known as Sunil in *Littlest Pet Shop*, and of course, Big Mac. He has broad interests, from astronomy to photography, architecture to environment. He plays a little piano, a bit of guitar, some ukulele, and a passel of drums. One day he wants to cut a record. He enjoys cooking, but more than that, eating. Yummy.



Brenda Crichlow *Voice of Zecora and Matilda*

Brenda is one of the busiest, dynamic, and most versatile women in Vancouver's film industry. As Artistic Director of Crichlow Actors' Studio Inc. (CAST), she brings more than 24 years of experience both in front of the camera and behind the scenes in film, television, and radio as a professional actor and instructor. Her passion and skill has led to work with children to adults as an on set acting coach for shows such as: *Spooky House* starring Ben Kingsley and Mercedes Ruehl, *Just Deal*, and *Elf* (James Caan, Mary Steenburgen, and Will Ferrell).



Rebecca Shoichet *Singing voice of Twilight Sparkle, Voice of Sunset Shimmer, Sugar Belle, and Night Glider*

Every time you watch an episode of My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic, you hear the voice of Rebecca Shoichet singing the show's opening theme song. Some other fave credits of Rebecca's are Willi in *Maya the Bee*, Lorne in *Kid vs. Kat*, Agent Abigail Brand in *Astonishing X-Men*, Nana Osaka in the English dubbing of *Nana* and a few other super-sweet, up-coming roles that she's not allowed to talk about yet!



Ellen Kennedy *Voice of Mane-iac, Chimera*

Ellen has been a voice performer since the early 1990's. Her voice can be heard in hundreds of episodes of pre-lay series, and dubbing for anime. Some favorite characters along the way have been Mrs. Pteranodon in *Dinosaur Train*, Brainy Barker in *Krypto The Superdog*, Kyoko Otonashi in *Maison Ikkoku*, Cappy in *Hamtaro*, and, of course, her guest characters in My Little Pony. Keep your ears open for her voice in Season 5! In addition to voice work, Ellen also performs regularly doing live improv, singing at special events as well as some theatre, film and TV work.



Kelly Sheridan *Voice of Starlight Glimmer*

With more than 20 years of voice over experience, Kelly has appeared in numerous animated series and features including Ukyou in *Ranma 1/2*, The Scarlet Witch in *X-Men Evolution*, Diana in *Martin Mystery*, Sango in *Inuyasha*, Theresa in *Class of the Titans*, and numerous roles in *My Little Pony Tales* and *MLP G3*. Most notably, she has worked for Mattel since 2001, playing the voice of Barbie in the majority of their feature length films. Recently she can be heard as Hisako in Joss Whedon's *Astonishing X-men*, Sersi in *Neil Gaiman's Eternals*, and Starlight Glimmer.



Maryke Hendrikse *Voice of Gilda the Griffon and Sonata Dusk*

Maryke's acting career spans over two decades; she has performed in film, television, radio, industrial videos, commercials, video games, and animation. She has lent her voice to many hundreds of episodes of animated series, radio plays, and tv and radio commercials, and considers voiceover her specialty. Favourite voiceover credits include *Moville Mysteries*, *Freaky Stories*, *Blaster's Universe*, *Braceface*, *Beo's Bedroom*, *Bratz*, *A Mermaid's Tale 1 & 2*, *The Girl Who Leapt Through Time*, *Dinosaur Train*, *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic*, and more.



Vincent Tong *Voice of Flash Sentry, Donut Joe, and Prince Blueblood*

Vincent has lent his voice to numerous projects spanning both the advertising and animation industry. Credits include: *Ninjago*, *Slugterra*, *Packages From Planet X*, *My Little Pony*, *Iron Man Armoured Adventures*, *Barbie*, *Voltron Force*, *Kid vs Kat*, and *Death Note*. He also voice directed for Klei Entertainment's award-winning games *Mark of the Ninja* and *Shank 2*. You can catch him on screen in *Arrow*, *The Transporter Series*, *Fringe*, *Mr. Young*, *Flashpoint*, and *Continuum*. Vincent has earned a Leo Nomination for his work on *Yogatown* and *Nerds and Monsters*.



Laura Bifano *DHX Artist*

Laura Bifano grew up in the rainy pacific northwest of Canada where she spent her days running around in the forest and drawing pictures. Since graduating from the Alberta College of Art and Design in 2008, she's split her time between taking on the odd freelance contract, doing lots of fine arty things for galleries, and working on animated shows and feature films.



Fernanda Ribeiro *Colour Artist*

Fe Ribeiro is a Brazilian graduated in graphic design with a passion for children's entertainment. After some years of school and working experiences in Brazil, she moved to Vancouver to study classical animation at the Vancouver Film School. While there, she created two shorts: "Tim and Ted" and "Cup of Tea". After graduating from VFS, she decided to stay in Canada and now works as a colour artist at DHX Media Vancouver, and also does freelance illustration and visual development.



Kora Kosicka *Character Designer*

Kora Kosicka is a children's media illustrator who primarily works in character and toy design; her background includes design work for Disney Canada, DHX Media, and Hasbro Studios. Kora's MLP credits include character design for seasons 3, 5 and 6, as well as *Equestria Girls*. Her goals in life are coffee, rabbits, and sunshine.



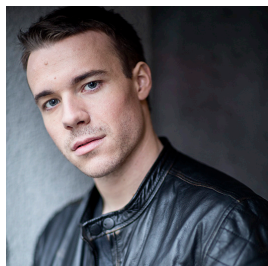
Charmaine Verhagen *Designer*

Charmaine doodles a lot and draws the odd comic here and there. She gets paid to draw little ponies and little pony accessories, and adventures of a boy and his magical dog bro. Y'know, stuff and junk. She is a designer on *MLP:FiM*, freelance storyboard revisionist on *Adventure Time*, and does background cleanup on *Nerds and Monsters*. She graduated from ACAD with a Bachelor of Design in Visual Communications, with a focus on Character Design. She now resides in Vancouver and probably should be drawing more.



Rebecca Dart *Art Director & Character Designer*

Rebecca Dart is a Vancouver artist that has been working in the local animation industry for 17 years. In the past she's worked on such shows as *Ned's Newt* and *Mission Hill*. She has worked on *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic* since season 2 and is the designer of such characters as Queen Chrysalis and her changelings, Princess Cadence, Shining Armor, Ahuizotl, the Power Ponies, Sunset Shimmer and many others. She also did character design for the first *Equestria Girls* movie. Rebecca is currently the art director on MLP:FiM season 5.



Black Gryph0n *Guest Voice Actor, Musician*

Gabriel Brown (aka Black Gryph0n) is a 25-year-old American singer, actor, voice actor, songwriter and animator who is one of the MLP fandom's most popular and versatile artists. Musically, Gabe first became known for such songs as "Proud To Be A Brony" and "Paper Sky." An experienced session singer, Gabe's voice is on season five of MLP and other shows including lead vocals on the theme song for Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures. He & Michelle Creber have been working together recording, performing, and touring new collaborative projects.



Ralph Streich *Voice Talent Agent*

RED Talent Management represents those performers having extensive experience in television commercial, radio, narration, live announcing, promo and animation. Managed by industry veteran and Partner, Ralph Streich, with over 24 years in the business his clients enjoy the highest of professional service. As an agent he is focused on maintaining a clear perspective on the ever changing voice over landscape. Understanding current trends and instinctively recognizing the cultural shifts on the horizon have become regarded elements of his service.



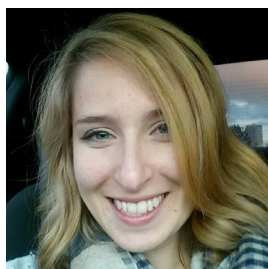
Rexis Liwanag *Animation Director*

Rexis Liwanag is an animation director at DHX Media, where he started as an animation revisionist on seasons 2 to 4 of *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic* before becoming one of the animation directors for season 5. Originally from Winnipeg, he studied classical animation at Sheridan College, and gained experience using Flash while working in London, UK as an animator on various projects. Other shows he has worked on include *Ugly Americans* and *Packages from Planet X*, but *MLP* has so far been the most enjoyable project for him to be a part of.



Christopher Leinonen *Layout/Posing Supervisor*

Christopher has been making animation professionally since 2007, but started making animation with a very short stop-motion film made at an art camp the late 80s. He's worked on every season of *MLP* except for season 3. A coworker recently described him as a "lifer." He's worked on a few other shows, including *Kid vs. Kat* and *Packages from Planet X*. He also participated in the *Moon Animate, Make Up!* collaboration. You can also see his work with the Cloudscape Comics Society, a group of independent Vancouver comic artists.



Stephanie Mahoney *Layout/Posing Supervisor*

Steph has been in the animation industry for 10 years. She's had the privilege to work on shows such as *Ruby Gloom*, *Kid vs Kat*, *Pound Puppies* and of course *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic*. She has been at DHX media since 2008. Throughout her time on the past 5 seasons of *MLP* she has been an animator, poser, key poser and a layout/posing supervisor. She has also worked as a layout/posing supervisor on *Equestria Girls: Rainbow Rocks*.



Katrina Hadley *Storyboard Artist/Storyboard Supervisor*

Katrina Hadley has been working in the animation industry in Vancouver since 2005, primarily as a storyboard artist. In the past she's worked on shows like *Edgar and Ellen* and the *Monster High* DVD movies. She first joined the MLP team as a board artist for *Equestria Girls: Rainbow Rocks*, and was lucky enough to be asked to draw the illustrations for the end title credits. She's also done storyboard work for MLP season 5 and the *Rainbow Rocks* Encore web shorts. Katrina is currently storyboard supervisor for the upcoming *Equestria Girls: Friendship Games*.





Guests from the MLP Community



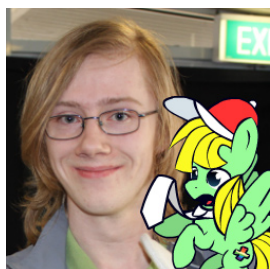
Bloo *Community Cosplayer*

The Queen of becoming your waifu IRL is going to be at BronyCAN! No, it isn't Queen Chrysalis (good guess though!) It's the always adorable and equally energetic Bloo! This year, Bloo will be visiting as many conventions as possible, where she plans to teach many curious ponies about the art of cosplay, acting, and bringing a character to life. She is also looking forward to meeting many new friends to make her trademark fish face with. After all, fish face is magic.



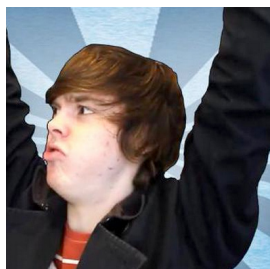
Chris Gann *Owner/Chief Executive Officer & Custom Toy Coordinator at Gann Memorials*

C. Allan Gann started his own family operated custom plush toy business in 1999. For the past 15 years, he has worked with actors/actresses, rock stars, motion pictures, artists, and businesses of all sizes, in order to help them bring their custom toy visions to life. In 2014, he developed the idea for "Midnight Mares" as a toy line and animated series. He has been traveling the USA anime/MLP show circuit to promote it, and BronyCAN marks his first visit to Canada!



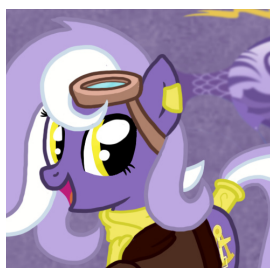
IMMATOONLINK *Community Animator*

Among the countless pieces of animation out there among the community, there are few quite so amusing as the ones created by Australian community animator who simply goes by IMMATOONLINK. Best known for animations such as "Princess Celestia Being Deep" and the collaborative "The Shipping Game", he will be attending to visit fans of his work and join in the discussion as a prolific community animator. Not only will he be visiting all the way from Australia, he is also crafting together an animation for our opening ceremonies!



Mathew "MetaHew" Mckenna *Comedian and Blogger*

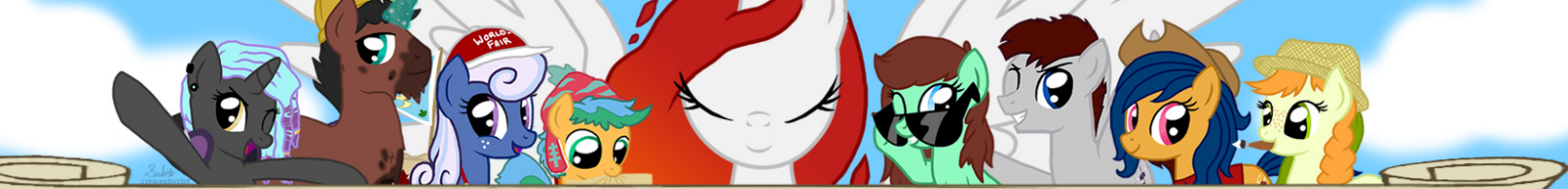
Mathew McKenna, also known as MetaHew, is a 20 year old comedian and YouTube video blogger from Sydney, Australia. He has a very long history with stage performances, ranging from hosting PonyCon in Australia to performing his own stand up comedy shows interstate in Australia. Now Mathew is stepping foot on a stage across the ocean for the very first time in his life! He often adopts an improvisational style which really involves the audience, allowing everyone to feel like they are getting to know one another and being a real part of it all!



Traveling Pony Museum *Community Art Collection*

The Traveling Pony Museum is a traveling collection of works by talented artists from the 'My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic' fan community. Growing out of a wish to cast a spotlight on underexposed artists, TPM quickly developed from a single planned exhibition at one event into an organization dedicated to appearances at conventions and events around the country. As diverse as the My Little Pony community itself, the museum's collection includes drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures, digital artwork, customized pony dolls, and custom stuffed toys.





BronyCAN 2015 Musicians Lineup



BronyMike
Pop/Folk



NekoWolf
Electro + Progressive House



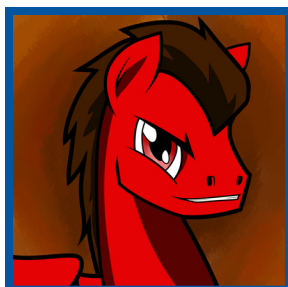
StrachAttack
Glitch Hop, EDM & Dubstep



Strumbeat Strings
Alternative Rock



DJ Recca
Electrohouse



PonyFireStone
EDM



FritzyBeat
EDM



Silver Hoof
Progressive House + Trance



Perfecta (Fen-Clavi)
Hip-hip/Rap



Caine
Alternative Rock/Metal



Luna Jax
Vocalist

Oh, and don't forget about these two!

AT HOME:
An unplugged performance

Black Gryph0n

Michelle Creber





Event Listing

Friday, August 21st

Alicorn Sneak Peak (Premium Event)

Hosted by Vendors

Are you a fierce competitor at getting the best deals and items in the vendor hall? Well, our Alicorns are! They will be getting a sneak peak into the vendor's hall before it opens to the public!

amiibo Tournament

Think your amiibo has what it takes to be called Brony-CAN's toughest amiibo in Super Smash Bros. 4? Bring it down and pit it against others in BronyCAN's first amiibo Tournament!

Bronies Against Bullying

Hosted by Aquaryan

Making a stronger stance against bullying in our schools, in our workplaces and online.

Brony Cooking!

Hosted by Love Strudel

Teaching you how to make simple brony inspired meals! No heat required!!

Cards Against BronyCAN

Hosted by Crusader, Skitters, and Salem the Sentry Gun

Are you are funny at making memes? Been at the past two BronyCANs? Weren't at the last two BronyCANs? We don't care! Come down to Cards Against BronyCAN, where we parody everyone and everything BronyCAN. Based on the popular card game Apples to Apples. If you are reading this, you probably already know what you're getting into. *16+ Panel. May trigger you. (~ 3 ㄹ)*

Concert

Hosted by Bloo

Come and see your musical icons! Dance away the night with our super line up of musical ponies!

Ice Cream Social (Premium Event)

Hosted by Aphinity

The chance to get some frozen treats and meet up with their fellow bronies!

Karaoke Tournament

Hosted by CascadeHope

Come join us as we sing Karaoke to popular canon and non-canon My Little Pony songs.

Kids Cupcake Walk

Hosted by Rabbitasaur and Bloo

Come try your luck in winning a cupcake through this exciting game of chance. There will be music, fun, and cake!

Kids Sing-along

Hosted by Spike Lestus and guests

This panel is for under 12, all adults must accompany a child under 12. Join in on your favourite songs sung by some of your favourite musical ponies!

Kids Trivia

This panel is for under 12, all adults must accompany a child under 12. Think you can beat a certain purple pony at brain buster? Well here is your chance! Test your knowledge with this trivia round.

LGBTQ In the Cartoon Horse Fandom

Hosted by ChillyWing

A panel for discussion and stories from those that are LGBTQ in the fandom!

Meet and Greet Mixer

Hosted by Aphinity

First time at the convention? Want to make new friends? Come down to Meet and Greet and get to know your fellow con goers.

Midnight Mares

Hosted by Chris Gann

Chris Gann will be discussing his animation Midnight Mares at BronyCAN!

My Little Pony Collectible Card Game Sealed Tournament (Premium Event)

Hosted by Connection Games

Join in for a special sealed tournament! Make sure to register beforehand.

Salem's Summer Soiree!

Hosted by Salem the Sentry Gun

Come and hang out with some ponyfolk! Drinks, Food, Music, and possibly new friends!



Tagging of Tales: Genre Writing in Fanfiction

Hosted by GaryOak, Soundlikeponies, and Vren55

When the time comes to post your latest masterpiece to Fimfiction, you will need to assign one or more story tags to it. These not only define the "genre" of your work, but will determine your potential readers and give them expectations. GaryOak, Soundlikeponies, and Vren55 will delve into their meaning, how to use them, how they differ from traditional genre writing—and most importantly—share tips on how to write for them.

Welcoming Ceremonies

Hosted by Tabatha Hughes

Join us in our welcoming our guests and attendees to BronyCAN 2015!

What is a Furry and Why you are one

Hosted by Aphinity and Trapa

Learn about a unique and open fandom where the only limit is your own imagination! The only requirement is an interest in cartoon animals. Sound like something else you might be here for? Find out about an entirely new way to express your pony interests, and learn about the fun crossover possibilities, including people you already know who are active in the Brony fandom!

What is a Weaboo and Why you are one

Hosted by Crusader and CanErick

Has the otaku lifestyle always eluded you? Still searching for your senpai? Just curious why there's an anime panel at our MLP convention? Come on down, as we take you on a magical adventure into the weaboo lifestyle and the anime fandom in general, and find out how it's not too far from being a brony.

Saturday, August 22nd

Ask the Dignitaries

Hosted by Apricity and Poutine

The World's Fair has brought dignitaries in from across the known world, from many different cultures. Want to find out more about Dragon or Zebra culture? How about challenging Major Tom to a howl-off? Maybe see if your Gryphonese is up to snuff. You can do all this and more at this panel, where Apricity, Poutine, and the dignitaries from each of the four visiting nations will sit down and take any questions you may have!

Brony Feud

Hosted by David Kronstein and Aphinity

Watch as the Apple Family competes against the Orange Family in this Brony take on the classic TV game show Family Feud. Each family consists of 5 audience volunteers (you don't actually have to be related).

BronyCAN Artist Jam!

Hosted by Mitti Mandy, and Rabbitasaur

Complete shenanigans while drawing things!

Building an OC: The How to

Hosted by Salem the Sentry Gun

Last year we covered likable OCs, this year we're going a little more in depth and building a character as a guide. Get some art and writing tips, and watch the creation of an OC.

Charity Auction

Hosted by Requiem Flicker and guests

This year we are raising money for Critter Care Wildlife Rescue. Come find some rare items not found in the vendor hall and donate to a great cause!

Cosplay Contest Signup

Hosted by Jonathan Sokol

Take a moment to drop by and sign up for Sunday's Cosplay Contest!

Cosplay Photo Shoot

Hosted by Bloo

Anyone with a costume and/or a camera should come to help showcase the most fashionable aspects of the convention this year. Group up as friends or face off as rivals in lively depictions of talented creatives!

Dance

Hosted by Bloo

Come and see your musical icons! Dance away the night with our super line up of musical ponies!

DHX-Paloosa!

Hosted by DeeJay Barens and guests

Ever wonder how your favorite ponies go from script to screen? Well, some of the senior DHX staff from the directing, layout/posing, animation and storyboard departments are here to answer just that. Join them as they take you behind the scenes to show you just how the magic of animation, becomes the Magic of Friendship!

Equestria Post - Introduction to in character pen pals, and letter writing

Hosted by Seraphine Shine

Grab your OC and come join Seraphine Shine as she goes over the basics of letter writing, including cursive writing, topics points, and fun ways to make your letter stand out in character. Leave the workshop with a new pony pen pal, and everything you need for your first letter, as well as the confidence to send that letter knowing it will reach your new friend and make their day! Spaces are limited due to limited writer gift bags so get there early!!

Fallout Equestria

Hosted by Langdon Carifelle

Fallout Equestria is a large fan-made universe within the MLP fandom, based on the video game series Fallout by Bethesda. This panel is dedicated to both newcomers with no previous knowledge on the subject who wish to seek information before diving in headfirst, and to those who already know about the universe who would like to glee and reminisce over the adventure and fun the stories have brought them.



FimFic Madlibs

Hosted by SilverHoof

Do you enjoy the good old classic game of replacing words in stories just to make them funny? Well come along as we do the exact same thing Brony Style with classic popular pony fiction from some of the well known writers in the fandom. Come laugh and giggle at the new versions made by all of you as we take a whole new look at what the characters embark on this time.

Horse Play

Hosted by Valiant Heart

MLP improv session! The audience will help influence the situations participants get into.

Hot Pepper Panel 2: The Return of Nightmare Habanero

Hosted by Crusader, BronyMike, Saxy Pone, and CanErick

Are you a sadist who likes watching people hurt themselves for your entertainment? Come watch some friends discuss one of their favourite shows while enduring the agonising pain of hot peppers.

IMMATOONLINK... Let's fly to the castle!

Hosted by IMMATOONLINK

We welcome our friend from down under as he talks about making pony fan videos!

Kids Learn to Draw

This panel is for under 12, all adults must accompany a child under 12. Are you an aspiring artist? Come on down to learn how to draw and colour ponies!

Kids Let's draw a story!

This panel is for under 12, all adults must accompany a child under 12. Help the panelists come up with story ideas which will then be turned into a series of drawings. Catch a glimpse of storyboarding in action!

Kids Meet the Dignitaries

Hosted by Apricity and Poutine

This panel is for under 12, all adults must accompany a child under 12. Hang out with the Princesses for a hour with the world leaders at BronyCAN's World Fair.

Kids VIP Meet and Greet

This panel is for under 12, all adults must accompany a child under 12. Meet some of the special guests that help make the show awesome!

Late Night Reviews

Hosted by Salem the Sentry Gun and Skitters

Come and watch our cider happy friends talk about their "favourite episode", Episode 100! Gather as they share glasses of Apple Farm Applejuice and tell tales and escapades about episode 100 and anything else that comes to mind. *16 + Panel (͡° ͜ʖ ͡°)*

My Little Jeopardy: Trivia Is Magic

Hosted by Showtime

A Jeopardy-style trivia game with all the questions centered around MLP:FiM and the Brony fandom. Come test your knowledge for a chance to win some prizes!

My Little Pony Collectible Card Game Main Tournament (Premium Event)

Hosted by Connection Games

Join in for the main convention tournament! Make sure to register beforehand.

My Little Pony Collectible Card Game Pre-Release (Premium Event)

Hosted by Connection Games

Come join us for the pre-release of Equestrian Odysseys!

Nerf War Signup

Hosted by Crusader

Sign up for Nerf events on Sunday.

The Great Caneighdian Cider Pong Challenge

Hosted by Salem the Sentry Gun and Skitters

Come join us as we celebrate the ancient Caneighdian art of Cider Pong! A doubles game or two for ridiculous fun times! *16 + panel only (͡° ͜ʖ ͡°)*

VIP Dinner (Premium Event)

Hosted by Tabatha Hughes

Meet your favorite guests and enjoy a lovely buffet in the courtyard.

Voice Actor Q&A Spectacular!

Hosted by Jonathan Sokol and guests

This year's round of voice actors cover an astounding range of roles. Everything from friends and villains to singers and teenagers. Such a diverse and talented group is rarely assembled, so be sure to join in on what will certainly be an entertaining panel!

Sunday, August 23rd, 2015

AT HOME with Michelle Creber, Gabriel Brown, Monique & Michael Creber (Premium Event)

An unplugged performance of originals and covers in an intimate house-party setting with great singing, beautiful harmonies, outstanding piano playing, plenty of audience interaction and guaranteed laughs.

Cartoons and Cereal

Hosted by Aphinity

Come with us down a trip through memory lane as we serve up some awesome fanmade cartoons while you chow down on some breakfast favourites. Cereal is on a first come, first serve basis, and is free!

Closing Ceremonies

Hosted by Tabatha Hughes

Say goodbye to a wonderful weekend with the staff and guest of BronyCAN.



Cosplay Contest

Hosted by Jonathan Sokol and guests

Be sure to join in for this year's event as even the lit-tlest ones compete for glory (and prizes) in the pursuit of grace, style, and originality. Work hard to bring your boldest outfit to the stage and wow our honorary guests, who will be judging you very professionally. Photos are welcome and a shoot will take place as time permits.

Cosplay Contest Q&A

Hosted by Jonathan Sokol

Please drop by if you have any questions regarding the Cosplay Contest taking place later this day or if you wish to make any changes to your registration.

Designing Equestria with DHX

Hosted by Rebecca Dart, Charmaine Verhagan, Laura Bifano, Fernanda Ribero, and Kora Kosicka

Have you ever wondered why a character's mane looks a certain way or how Rarity's hat became that fabu-lous colour or the thought process behind that cool new location? Now is your chance to find out with this panel discussion of animation designers and colourists. It's the most MLP:FiM artists on one panel in brony convention history!

Feedback Panel

Hosted by BronyCAN staff

If you have any concerns, complaints or questions, or even just to give us a pat on the back, this is the panel to be at.

Musicians Panel

Hosted by Musicians of BronyCAN 2015

Wanna learn to hit those wubs? Here's all of the masters of their arts! Musicians that is!

My Little Pony Collectible Card Game Top 8 (Premium Event)

Hosted by Connection Games

Watch the Top 8 CCG players battle it out to be crowned BronyCAN's 2015 CCG Champion!

Nerf War

Hosted by Crusader and CanErick

It's back again! Fight for the honor of Mother Lamya and Dragonkind, or if you're feeling like giving that ol' scaleface what for, side with Major Tom and his pack of Diamond Dogs! See the BronyCAN website under Events to learn more.

Outdoor Acoustic Show

Hosted by Bloo

Relax to the calming tunes emanating from the gazebo in the Executive Courtyard.

Plushie Making

Hosted by Chris Gann

The development and creation of the BronyCAN OCs into plushies!

Revenge of the VA Q&A Spectacular!

Hosted by Final Draft and guests

Didn't get a chance at that burning question at Saturday's panel? Thought of a killer follow up? Well here's your opportunity to ask the voice actors!

So you want to start a convention?

Hosted by Silvershock Nicktail

Since the creation of the brony fandom, a huge number of events have been set up for fans. Unfortunately, not all of them have survived. If you're considering starting an event, or just want an insight into how a convention comes together, join last year's BronyCAN chairman for all the enthusiastic encouragement, dire warnings and tales from the trenches you'll need to help make it through your first run. Bring a shovel!

VIPs Play Mario Kart 8

Watch our guests toss some blue shells and let's see how powerful the magic of friendship really is!

Voice Acting 101

Hosted by Ralph Streich

If you have ever considered becoming a professional voice actor, or interested in the process, this one hour will provide you with some information to get you started, or the answers to some of your questions. With 24 years of experience (and currently representing 15 MLP:FiM actors and staff), Voice Talent agent Ralph Streich will cover the ins and outs of being a professional voice actor, including what should be on your demo reel, what to do once you have a demo, the process from auditioning to booking a job and marketing oneself. He will present examples of auditions and demo reels for you to watch and listen to, and then take questions from the audience.





The Midnight Special by Rod Matthews

The little bison stood on the train station platform. She looked at the tracks leading from the mountains, as the big bison sat beside her and viewed the great prairie.

"Oh, Auntie, I'm so nervous. What if I make a mistake?"

"If you do not make mistakes you will not learn, you will not grow."

"I need to grow because I'm small for my age. But I'm big and unsightly next to a pony and I don't even know what size these creatures will be. I wish I had clothes like ponies to hide in."

"You have your ball dress, you'll be just fine."

"But it's burlap and canvas. Ponies have the best dresses and the people on the train are royalty."

"Not all of them are royals. They are potential, young junior ambassadors just like you."

"Father said that the Zebras were already on the train. I think I'm scared of Zebras. What if I don't understand what they're saying and then cause a fight or some sort of incident between our tribes?"

"They will speak Equestrian just as we do."

"Oh, I see the train. What now? Do I bow at the Zebra?"

"You will be yourself and you will be fine, dear."

The train whistle blew a long sharp note just before chugging up to the platform. One Guard Pony in light armour stepped off and moved baggage onto the carriage. The conductor put a step for the little Buffalo then called "All aboard!" as the Guard Pony, conductor and the station attendant pushed the large Buffalo through the door.

"Oh, Auntie, please don't be so big this weekend."

"It takes a lifetime to become this size eating nothing but prairie grasses. I'm proud of my life."

They walked down the aisle of the carriage. Train crews had removed a seat for the large bison and put down a rug. On the back seat were two Zebras. Their manes were long and straight like striped crests. Their eyes observed all motion.

The slightly larger one stated:

"My ward does not speak to common folk. She is noble and will not converse with a cowpoke."

Auntie settled down on the rug and the little bison sat on the bench seat, quiet and wide eyed.

The old train switched tracks and headed off to another

series of mountains. The griffons arrived.

"Auntie, why didn't they fly?"

"The train being the collector of ambassadors from this territory, we all arrive together."

The two griffons strutted to their seats. As they plonked themselves down, they put their feet up on the seat in front of them.

A tall, thin green dragon danced down the aisle.

"I'm here, I'm here! Let the bells ring out and the banners fly! Feast your eyes on me! It's too good to be true, but I'm here! I'm here!"

He flopped into a seat and put his feet on the seat in front, trying to be more nonchalant than the griffons. The carriage rocked from side to side and the dragon quickly sat up straight.

"Auntie, are we moving?"

She raised her eyes up from her crocheting. "No dear. Look out the window."

A long, green dragon's tail with scales like mossy shakes hung from the roof to the ground. It lifted up and disappeared as the very large dragon settled on the carriage.

Near a growth of long, tall grass that is located beside a forest, the train pulls to a stop. Two thin tan coloured deer with small delicate antlers walked slowly and gracefully to their seats.

"Auntie, are they enchanted or spirit deer?"

"No dear, they are white-faced deer. Beautiful aren't they?"

They moved with fluid grace and joy. They sat in their seats as thick cold liquid settles in a glass.

The guard pony stood at the head of the train car. "Welcome to the Midnight Special. The overnight train to Richmane. The worst kept secret in Equestria, you're all going to the World's Fair!" He waited for applause that didn't come. "Anyway, my name is Coachmen. If you have any questions, I'll be in the caboose. Now, why don't all you junior ambassador candidates and guardians introduce yourselves."

The Griffons didn't wait to be asked. The larger one spoke. "I am Grit and this is my student, Grind. We are of the house of Granite Mountain. We are traveling to the Young Ambassadors conference." Grind added, "We're going for free! Even better, we're going on the princess's bit." They talon fist-bumped each other.

The tall lanky dragon stood. "Dextrose is in the house. I must give you fair warning, I am an agent of chaos, on



my way to being famous. Hey, I rhymed like a zebra." He looked up as the train car rocked a little. "Oh yah, that's Dentus, my entourage." The dragon on the roof snorted loud enough for all to hear.

The elder of the two white faced deer stood. "I am Salia, guardian of Anya. She is of the title La Dauphine. Royal birth. Do not speak to her unless she speaks to you."

All heads turned to the back row.

"I am Zed and she, Zee
to attend the sparing competition,
She is my trainee."

The little Bison stood. "Um, I'm Bridgett, it means resolute or strength. Please call me, Lil Bridge and this is my auntie. My father is Chief Big Smoke. And were going to the Young Ambassador thing too." Lil Bridge sat down then stood quickly to say 'thank you'.

Zed addressed the group with a little more friendliness and civility.

"It seems we are all,
brought together on a journey
noble on this long haul.
This train this moment,
one place, one life experience
in time together, enjoyment."

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Lil Bridge watched the sun set and yawned. She stood and walked in a tight circle on the rug and nestled in next to Auntie.

Salia rose up. "It seems it's getting late. We shall retire to the sleeping carriage. Is anyone coming with us?"

The Griffons were already asleep, leaning on each other and whistling through their beaks.

Dextrose lay on his side, pulling his wing over himself like a blanket. "I don't feel like getting up. I'm staying here."

Zed sighed.

"Zebra cannot sleep alone,
like death, it is something
we wish to postpone.
If we could stay together,
this carriage our funny little Hurd,
we would be birds of a feather."

Locking the doors, a shaggy stuffed bear drew the blinds around the sleeping compartment. She hissed, "It's safe to talk now but I recommend we remain discreet. The walls and ceiling have ears. Tell me, what have you observed about these creatures?"

Salia sat upright on the bed. "They're all so different from us. They are as the scrolls described physically, but they are living breathing creatures, like us. And they have feelings and worries as I do. The buffalo form may have been a bet-

ter choice. She is so plain, she's almost invisible."

"You show proper reasoning child. But as a beautiful creature, in their eyes, they are more likely to accept you and believe what you say. If they ask something you can't answer, smile joyfully at the silly ponies. They will think that they are at fault because they will see you as spiritually enlightened."

"I think I'm too inexperienced to engage in this charade."

"Shush! This is your life now. You will be made a young ambassador then a full ambassador. You will have an embassy office in their city and it will be your home and our base of operation. Is this not better than exile or death? Is our sovereign not generous with someone who was born flawed? You will do your duty as will I. Can you sleep?"

"Yes, I think so. The rocking movement and a soft bed are very comforting compared to the frozen rocks. How can I be an ambassador if I don't know anything about my people?"

"They don't know anything about this species of deer, and because it is in your blood to mislead. Remember, there is always danger from one who is not your kind."

"It was my kind that wanted to kill me."

"I raised you, I protected you from the others and I intend to deliver you."

"It still feels like exile to me."

"Salia, please, I know it's difficult for you. But you must do what you are directed to do."

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The old steam locomotive pulled into the station in Richmane. Black smoke from the stack spread across the station ceiling. The cars banged into each other as the train slowed. Dextrose woke with a start. "That wasn't me!"

Grind glanced out the window. "Look. The Royal Canterlot Express!"

The five young ones peered out the windows on the left side of the carriage. A very colourful and large, ornate train was docked at its special platform. The engine was large and sleek without a smoke stack. The cars had two floors and skylight domes.

"I hear it runs on crystals and magic." Said Dextrose.

The group became very aware of the lack of paint and insulation on the walls of their car.

Dentus uncoiled herself from the top of the carriage and took flight.

Grind added. "Kinda glad we don't have a glass roof."

The conductor and Coachmen loaded the dignitaries and baggage into an open air stagecoach. They rode through downtown Richmane.

"Ohhh Auntie, look at all the colourful ponies. They're so beautiful. Most of them have fancy clothes and everyone



else is so well dressed."

Auntie spoke from the back of the coach, "Critters can't take dust baths with clothing on."

Lil Bridge gasped and blushed when she realized that the others on the wagon overheard her.

Grit mentioned, "Griffons take dust bathes all the time. They are best for feathered creatures. I doubt if a snooty Pegasus ever tried it."

"Hot fresh volcanic ash is the best dust bath for scales."

Dextrose stretched his arms and wings. "Now that's luxury, baby!"

Zee added:

"To do our bidding,
We train fire ants to remove parasites,
To any other creature,
it would be most forbidding."

All of them gawked at the hotel. A rectangle block of glass reaching for the sky. Lil Bridge asked no one in particular, "Is that for us?"

Bell hops rushed to collect the meagre baggage.

Lil Bridge, Grind, Zee Salia and Dextrose entered the elevator with the Unicorn bellhop who wore a red felt uniform. The young ambassadors gripped the floor with their hooves when the elevator moved. Dextrose grinned at them hiding the death grip on the brass banister with his tail. The other chaperones arrived on the next elevator. Auntie was placed in the service lift with the luggage. Dentus was nowhere to be seen.

The hotel suite had five bedrooms with a central living area.

The bellhop spoke as if he had just woke up. "Reception wine and cheese in one hour in the hotel tea room. Then your first trip to the Fair Grounds."

The two greyhens rolled their eyes at each other, "Here it comes, the tip, the want for monies." Grit remarked.

With half-open eyes the bellhop muttered "I trust everything is to your liking." He cleared his throat and stood still with his hoof upturned.

"You want a tip?" Grind slid a blade from between her flight feathers. "If you make it to the lift before the door closes, you can keep your life."

The bellhop's eyes widened as he got the hint. After galloping to the elevator, he stomped the 'close' button repeatedly. As the door slid across, he sighed in relief before noticing the feather-shaped knife by his head. He fell to the floor in a faint.

"What was that about?" Lil Bridge said dismayed.

Grind answered, "They grossly hint that they want a gratuity for doing the job they are paid to do. We consider it foolish and rude to ask for money after the job is done. Payment up front or nothing. Guaranteed we get better service from now on."

Grit pointed out, "But you lost a dagger."

"That pretentious pony can keep it as a tip or it will still be in the lift next time we use it."

Salia looked around and asked, "Um, who brought extra clothes or any clothes for that matter?"

"I have a dress for the Ball."

Anya asked, "You, have a dress?"

Lil Bridge blushed, "My tribe made me a gift, nothing more."

Grit declared, "It is decided, we of the Midnight Special, shall be the same. Undressed together in front of the pony masses!"

Dextrose tented his claws and sneered. "The bellhop said 'wine and cheese', did he not? Excellent. I'm gonna steal some wine, get drunk and cause chaos. This is where I become famous."

Grind walked to the window, "Oh really? They put us on the top floor for a reason. She pulled back the curtain to reveal a very large, very angry dragon's eye peering through the glass."

Zee spoke up.

"You all missed something else important that was said, we get... our own bed!"

The young ones squealed and jumped on their beds.

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The gang was shown to a large round table covered with pastries and tea. Dentus lay on the lawn just past the French doors to the garden.

The ambassador candidates and chaperones ate and drank their fill with little thought of manners. Auntie sipped tea then crouched from her carpet bag, "I feel the need to walk the prairie alone."

Lil Bridge blushed. "No Auntie, not here."

Grind asked, "What does she mean?"

"She has to relieve herself."

Dextrose picked his teeth with a silver fork, "I know what the ponies do."

The girls spoke in unison, "You?"

"I was chatting with a cute little filly when she suddenly walked away to a room that does not allow males. Can you imagine? My massive intellect has deduced that it is a facility of some sort."

Auntie put her crocheting down and walked toward the room. The group walked backwards covering her exit. They smiled and nodded to any pony that noticed their casual retreat.

Lil Bridge whispered to them, "I can't believe you're all helping us."



Grind answered, "We're a gang or a herd or something. What happens to you reflects on all of us."

"And you, Dextrose?"

"I want to see what goes on in there."

"That's not gonna happen."

Lil Bridge and Dextrose leaned on a wall as they waited. She asked, "You seem very sober?"

"Unicorn Guard Ponies keep turning the wine I nick into warm apple juice. It's just the worst thing ever."

"Here she comes. Quick girls, get behind her. Dextrose, you pull."

/]*[\

A pony opened the gate to the Ferris wheel bench. Lil Bridge wove through the crowd so she and Salia would sit together.

"I can't believe I'm finally here. Are you scared of heights too, Salia?"

"No I'm fine."

"But we're both land creatures."

The carriage rocked. Lil Bridge gripped Salia's hoof. "We're moving!"

"Please don't touch that leg. It, um, disturbs my concentration. Here hold this one if you must. That was just one section moving up so they could fill the next seat."

"What's happening? I can't look back."

Salia looked over her shoulder, "Grind and Dextrose are getting in the carriage behind us. Dextrose is faking a yawn and putting his arm around Grit! And she let him!" Salia gripped Lil Bridge's shoulder. "She let him! Is this how you do a mating dance?"

"No! Let me see." Lil Bridge and Salia held hooves and squealed together. "She's going to kill him!"

The Ferris wheel rotated forward a couple of turns then it stopped and then moved in the opposite direction. The girls heard the sound of very large leathery wings. When their seat came over the top they saw that Dentus had Auntie in the gentle grip of her claws. Auntie raised a hoof to wave at the girls. They cheered and waved back. Dentus gave Auntie a flying tour of the fairgrounds.

/]*[\

Auntie slept on the floor between the five rooms. Every other creature was asleep in their bed. In the Deer's bedroom, a navy blue Breezie the size of a pony checked the drapes for openings.

"It is going well. They are all so friendly and gullible. They accept you because you are beautiful to them. We will return home after the Ball and wait for your summons as ambassador. You must concentrate on maintaining your

form as you sleep. You only have one form to learn. Soon it will be second nature to you in case you are disturbed at night as ambassador."

Salia asked, "What is expected of me once I return?"

The Breezie answered, "You will know."

"How?"

"You just will. Salia, you must arrive with an open mind, without preconceived ideas or their ideals and biases. Watch and learn, speak little, answer questions with questions or in the philosophic riddles as I taught you. Seek out non-ponies that are sympathetic to our Queen."

"It's very frustrating. I've never been alone. Even in the ice caves when you stood there between me and those that wanted to destroy me."

"You feel the weight of this lone assignment while the others have it easy remaining in the hive mindset. You're not sure you'll live up to Her Majesty's expectations."

"It's not only that. Nobody's even asked me if this is something I want."

"It is the consequence of your birth."

"And I have no choice."

"Hive-born have little choice in life. It won't be as bad as you think. In fact, it could be quite wonderful once you get used to the strangeness of this place and their silly superficial ways. You can never think of your old home. And why would you want to? You are deformed and outcast in our view. It is the only option for you. You will be our eyes and ears in this city. If nothing else, you will have a bed. Is that not something?"

Salia sighed, "I really hope that my intuition will be enough."

/]*[\

The five young ones met at a stand up table.

Lil Bridge asked, "Is this what it's like to be an ambassador? I thought it would be desks and debates but it's just people asking for favours and trading stuff. We haven't even been introduced to the princess yet."

Grind commented, "It's hard to promise goods and services for the future when we're used to dealing up front. Ours is the most honest and sensible means of doing business. Everything out in the open and paid for."

"Where's Auntie?" Salia looked around the ball room. "I'm surprised I can't see her."

Lil Bridge sighed, "It's like a family reunion for her. Auntie found some old friends from when she was a young ambassador. She's having fun. I'm not. I've had all the new Aunties and face-pinching I can take."

"You have that too?" Grind looked up. "We call it beak twerking. The old ones grab us by the tip of our beak and examine us."



"During the Great Migration, ancient ancestors we've never even heard of pick us up by the wing tip or tail and inspect us."

Salia asked, "Why do dragons migrate?"

"It's like a family reunion away from our territories and mountain homes. We can't just come together in one place. Relatives and in-laws might move in and never leave. They would eat us out of house and home in a few hours. There is no room for movement for the big ones. So we fly, travel and mingle. The ancient ones solve old disputes between clans."

Zee rested her head on her hoof.

"We have inspection,
scars and fight records must line up.
or there could be, rejection."

"We have that too. We are a very perfectionist species. If one is born with a flaw, life is very hard for them." Salia crossed her right foreleg over her left.

Lil Bridge stood up straight. "Let's make a pact that we will never to that to someone younger than us, ever."

"I know what will cheer up the posse of the Midnight Special! Dextrose must dance and since these ponies are afraid of the power of pure chaos, let's all of us cut a rug."

"Aren't you and Grind a couple?" Lil Bridge asked.

Dextrose cleared his throat, "She isn't speaking to me since she lost her sparring competition. I may have looked at a cute competitor at the wrong moment."

The music slowed. Lil Bridge and Salia stood close.

"I don't think I can. I must concentrate all the time."

"It's okay, we'll just hold each other and sway with the music. I promise it feels wonderful."

Salia whispered into her ear, "Please don't expose me."

A snow white flash washed up over Salia unbeknownst by Lil Bridge. She was so entranced by the music and the moment that it didn't register that her friend had changed. "Oh, look, your antlers are like a unicorn horn. You are so much more beautiful than a Unicorn."

"No. You're wrong. I'm malformed. I'm a freak even to my own people. I can't even hold form when you hold me like that."

Lil Bridge closed her eyes and tried to get Salia to move with her to the music. "You're so cold. Let me hold you. My bulky muscles will warm you."

Ponies and non-ponies alike on the dance floor were becoming aware that an Arctic Changeling with a white birch branch lashed to the stump of her undeveloped foreleg was with them. Salia was more ashamed of her birth defect than her Changeling self. She tried to cover the branch with her other leg.

The ponies on the dance floor gasped, then the audience. Everyone stood around glaring at Salia and Lil Bridge.

Lil Bridge felt something different in her friend as the music stopped. She saw the Arctic Changeling standing there with her foreleg covering her wooden leg. Then Lil Bridge spotted the princess approaching. A wave of bows from the crowd moved with her.

Lil Bridge stood between Salia and Princess Apricity. "No! Don't hurt her! Don't imprison her. She's one of us. A misfit. Let us leave and we won't ever bother you again. I know everypony is beautiful and I'm just a lumpy brown bison, but she's my friend and I love her. Please, let us go!"

The others took a stance circling and shielding the two.

Zee, nodded to Zed.

"Time for a real fight.
We may be on the wrong side,
I'm sick of being polite."

Grind added, "You said it sister."

Dextrose imitated the Griffons' fighting stances with his wings open and claws forward.

Oh, my little Bison." said Princess Apricity, "You are most incorrect. I would be happy to have an Arctic Changeling ambassador. I will send a letter to Queen Volucris, asking for her permission. I was going to announce at my closing speech that I have accepted all of you as my ambassadors if you will accept. Will you accept, Arctic Changeling?"

Salia continued to hug her prosthetic leg. "We don't have names like you. My guardian is simply Mentor. I failed on my mission. She's gone now. Disappeared into the crowd and escaped. I am known as Broken. I am Broken. I am a broken failure."

"I believe Mentor may encounter our Changeling protocol. Please, with your permission, may I address you as Ambassador Salia?" Let's all of us come together and have a heart-to-heart conversation."





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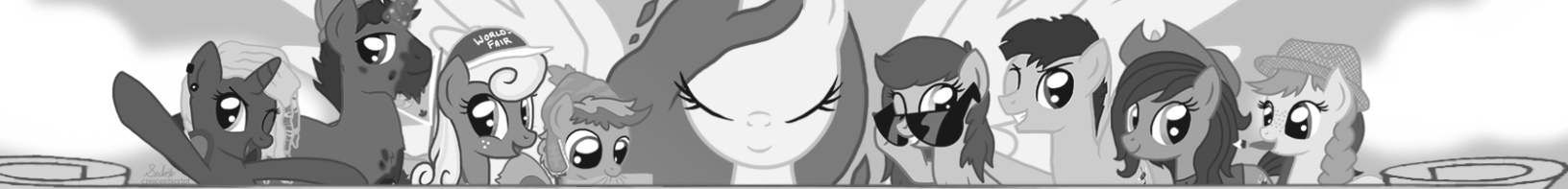


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