

The page features a decorative design with three overlapping blue circles of varying sizes, each composed of concentric circles in different shades of blue. These circles are arranged along a diagonal line that runs from the top-left towards the bottom-right. The largest circle is at the top-right, a medium-sized one is in the center, and a smaller one is at the bottom-right. The text is positioned to the left of the circles.

Zenkaikon 2009

Press Kit

Last Updated: March 14, 2009

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General Information

Event Description

Zenkaikon, a local convention celebrating Japanese culture, animation (anime), comics, and video gaming is returning to Valley Forge for its fourth year on November 7th through 8th, 2009. It promises a variety of programming including panels, video screenings, costume contests, gaming tournaments, concerts, dances, and more.

Zenkaikon is primarily staffed by members of the *Delaware Anime Society* – a local anime club with branches in Delaware and Willow Grove, Pennsylvania – with assistance from *The Lost Otakus* anime club in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Event Location

[Radisson Hotel Valley Forge](#)

1160 First Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Event Date and Time

Saturday, November 7, 2009, 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. (end-time approximate)

Sunday, November 8, 2009, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (end-time approximate)

Contact List

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History

Background

Zenkaikon was founded by the merger of two local events, Kosaikon – an anime convention held at Villanova University – and Zentrancon – an anime and science fiction convention held on the University of Pennsylvania campus. Kosaikon held its first event in 2003, where 75 individuals came together to celebrate their interest in Japanese animation. Zentrancon's debut convention took place in October 2005, when 350 people came to Philadelphia to watch anime and science fiction screenings, meet celebrity guests, and participate in video gaming.

The decision to merge was originally proposed as both conventions wanted to expand, and realized that, together, they could create an even more fun and exciting event for anime fans in the Philadelphia area. Thus, in 2006, Zentrancon became **Zenkaikon**, and moved to the larger venue of the Valley Forge Scanticon Hotel and Conference Center in King of Prussia, PA. Their 2007 convention had 570 attendees, over a 50% increase since 2005. By 2008, that number had more than doubled, as they welcomed over 1300 attendees to the convention. Having outgrown their previous venue, the staff decided to expand into the Radisson Hotel Valley Forge for their 2009 convention. This year will make the convention's fourth at the Valley Forge Convention Center Complex.

Zenkaikon is staffed completely by volunteers, many of whom are young (under the age of 40), and all of whom want to share their appreciation for Japanese popular culture with the Philadelphia region. Japanese animation (anime) is a genre that attracts people of all ages and backgrounds. International sales of anime in 2007 reached US\$2.26 billion¹. In addition, the ten largest anime conventions in the U.S. attracted well over 150 thousand fans last year. While **Zenkaikon** is still small compared to the largest conventions, its staff hopes that by growing slowly each year, they can build an event that will continue to be an integral part of culture in the Philadelphia region for many years to come.

¹ <http://www.animecons.com/news/article.shtml/594>

Timeline

- **February 28, 2006** – Zentrancon and Kosaikon announce plans to merge to form **Zenkaikon**.
- **October 28, 2006** – **Zenkaikon** holds its first event at the Valley Forge Scanticon Hotel and Conference Center. There are 450 paid attendees. Guests include Alex Strang, Corinne Orr, Peter Fernandez, and Prism.
- **October 13, 2007** – **Zenkaikon** returns to the Scanticon for its second year. There are 570 paid attendees. Guests include D-Chan, Hsu-Nami, and Uncle Yo.
- **October 25, 2007** – **Zenkaikon** announces it will become a two-day convention, and sets its dates as October 17 to October 18, 2008.
- **October 17, 2008** – **Zenkaikon** holds its third event at the Scanticon. There are 1,352 paid attendees. Guests include Bill Rogers, Michelle Knotz, Uncle Yo, The Slants, Ultraball, C.J. Henderson, Raqs Otaku, Ikuzo! Studios, *Geeks Next Door*, *Subpar Comic*, and *Friday Knights*.
- **November 17, 2008** – **Zenkaikon** announces it will be moving to larger venue of the Valley Forge Radisson Hotel, and sets its dates as November 7 to November 8, 2009.

Event List

Below is a list of events expected to take place at **Zenkaikon 2009**. Note that this list is meant as a preview only, and that events may be added, removed, or altered before the convention. This list will be updated as more event details are announced.

Cosplay (Costumes)

- Cosplay Masquerade (skit contest)
- Hallway Costume Contest
- Photo Suite

Dances

- Cosplay Ball (formal dance)
- Rave (informal dance)

Game Shows

- Anime Name That Tune
- The Cosplay Dating Game
- Anime Jeopardy
- “Whose Line Is It Anime?”

Merchandise

- Artists Alley
- Dealers Room

Music & Performances

- Concerts
- Karaoke

Panels

- Voice Actor Panels
- Musical Guest Meet and Greet

- Other Guest Panels
- Webcomic Panels
- Workshop Panels
- Fan Panels

Videos

- Live Action Video Room
- Anime Video Room
- Anime Music Video (AMV) Contest

Video Gaming

- Video Game Room
- Video Game Tournaments
- Video Game Triathlon

Guest Biographies

Below are biographies for announced guests at **Zenkaikon 2009**. This section will be updated as more guests are announced.

Musical Guests

Eden Star (Band)

Eden Star's music is chiefly inspired by the hedonism of the 80s hard rock scene and the burgeoning Japanese rock sound. The group plays energetic tunes that combine various forms of Rock and Roll. Hailing from New Jersey, their sound can be described as an amalgamation of Punk Grit and Metal Grind, mixed with Hard Blues, Pop Sensibility and even a dash of Rockabilly. Combined with a manic stage show, the end result is a crazy ride packed with blistering energy.

Official Website: <http://edenstarmusic.com/>

MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/edenstar/>

Production Companies

Stephanie Chateau (Concept Galaxy)

Stephanie Chateau is an unusual convention guest. In an interview with Dave Durico on Sci-Fi Overdrive, she was asked *"You make your own comic, you're an internationally known costume designer, an actress, an intern to Working Actor Productions, and now you're trying your hand at being a show director as well. What DON'T you do?"* As a show director, Stephanie is known for creating unique and entertaining shows that turn into interactive games. While she directs these games, she can also double as one of the characters, displaying her talent as an improv entertainer. Stephanie has created interactive events for conventions across the United States.

Official Website: <http://www.conceptgalaxy.com/>

C. J. Collins (Concept Galaxy)

C.J. Collins has made a name for himself in both the cosplay community and the convention circuit. He is not only known for his remarkable acting skills but also his "laugh out loud funny" film work. Videos he directed and uploaded to his "lolfilmworks" YouTube account were so well received that he now oversees all of Concept Galaxy's film work. C.J.'s experience in acting and film comes from eight years of classes as well as an extensive amount of participation in community theater.

Official Website: <http://www.conceptgalaxy.com/>

YouTube Account: <http://www.youtube.com/lolfilmworks/>

Kevin McKeever (Robotech/Harmony Gold)

Kevin McKeever handles marketing of **Robotech** for Harmony Gold, and is responsible for their **Robotech Convention Tour**. Kevin's first official assignment in the **Robotech** universe was an audit of Robotech's television ratings and viewer demographics during its original run in the 1980s. Kevin's analysis of the ratings in a cost-effective manner, along with his years of production experience, made him a natural candidate for the **Robotech** team. A graduate of the lighting design program at Emerson College, Kevin has been working in the entertainment industry for nearly fifteen years. He has worked in theater production at world-class venues such as the Goodspeed Opera House, the Emerson Majestic Theater, Foxwoods Casino, and the Mohegan Sun Resort that he helped open in 1996. His television production credits include **Jackass**, "**Kids Say the Darnedest Things**", **Guinness Book of World Records**, **Krypton Factor**, **Farmclub.com**, **The 60's**, as well as various television commercials. His film credits include **Mystery Men**, **For Love of the Game**, and **Billy Frankenstein**. Kevin has also served as Assistant VP of Production for feature film producer and New York Times best-selling author Lynda Obst. He will be attending **Zenkaikon 2009** as part of the **2009 Robotech Convention Tour**.

Official Website: <http://www.robotech.com/>

Voice Actors

Robert Axelrod

Robert Axelrod has appeared in over thirty feature films including the sci-fi hit remake **The Blob**, and **The Last Shot** with Alec Baldwin and Matthew Broderick. Television appearances include guest star roles on **Amazing Stories**, **Star Trek Voyager**, and **The Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers**. He also starred in the Michael Jackson music video **Stranger in Moscow**.

As a voice actor, Mr. Axelrod has been busy. His most recognizable roles are as the voice of Lord Zedd and Finster on **The Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers**. As Lord Zedd, he starred in the first Power Rangers feature film, as well as the wildly popular live show that toured the country. He was also a regular character on Saban Entertainment's **Wowser** series (Ratso Catso), **Journey to**

the Heart of the World (Scarface), and **Hallo Spencer** (Elmer). In addition, he voiced Armadillomon and Wizardmon on **Digimon** and Microchip, the Punisher's sidekick on **Spiderman**.

Mr. Axelrod has performed voices in countless anime features including **Akira**, **The Big O**, **Ghost in the Shell**, **Cowboy Bebop**, and **Brain Scratch**. He has just finished narrating the mockumentary **Safety First: The Rise of Women**, as well as providing voices in two anime series – **Gaiking** and **Danguard Ace**.

Writers

C.J. Henderson

C.J. Henderson is the Origins Award-winning creator of the **Teddy London** supernatural detective series, as well as the author of over 50 books and novels, including such diverse titles as **The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction Films**, **The Field Guide to Monsters**, and **Baby's First Mythos**. Over the past 30 years he has also written hundreds of short stories and comics, as well as thousands of non-fiction articles.

Official Website: <http://www.cjhenderson.com/>

Convention Policies

All attendees of **Zenkaikon 2009** are expected to abide by the following rules and guidelines.

Rowdy or Disruptive Behavior

The staff of Zenkaikon strives to create a safe and family friendly environment for the convention. In order to do this, we need the participation of our members in stopping rowdy or disruptive behavior.

- No running in the hallways.
- No loitering in the center of the hallways. Please sit on the couches and chairs at the sides of the hallways to cut down on hallway congestion.
- No yelling or screaming in the hallways, panel rooms, video rooms, etc.
- Limit the amount of public affection (e.g. French kissing).
- No “Truth or Dare,” “Spin the Bottle,” or other inappropriate games inside the convention area.
- No smoking or consuming alcohol inside the convention (defined as our official areas in the downstairs of the Scanticon). Smoking may be done outside of the Scanticon in the designated areas.
- No roughhousing or wrestling.
- Please wait patiently in line. If someone is caught cutting in line, they will be sent to the back of the line. Please do not block entrances or exits with the line; leave a gap there.
- No nudity or profanity. The dress code for this convention is PG-13. Zenkaikon is a family-friendly event and attendees are asked to dress accordingly. Zenkaikon staff reserves the right to ask an attendee to change clothes if their clothing is deemed inappropriate.
- No panhandling or selling (except for the dealers and artists).

- No entering any area that is specifically labeled “Staff Only.” This also includes sitting in chairs at doors that are reserved for Zenkaikon staff and gophers to check badges, or sitting at any other staff-only post.
- No glomping, hugging, or touching other attendees without their permission.
- No entrance to the convention before the posted hours of operation. If you arrive early, please wait in the lobby of the Scanticon until the registration desk is open.
- We also prohibit any other behavior that we may have neglected to mention in the list, but that involves violating someone’s personal space or doing things that common sense dictates you should not do.

Cameras and Photography

Most areas of Zenkaikon allow photography, unless otherwise specified. Additionally, there are some photo guidelines we request that attendees follow:

- No harassing guests or attendees for photos of or with them. It is proper procedure to first ask if you may take a photo. If they decline, please respect their request.
- No harassing minors or small children for photos or attention.
- Please be considerate when stopping to take photos in the hallway by making the photo stop short and not blocking the main flow of hallway traffic.

Signs Policy

- No solicitation signs (“Glomps for Free”, etc.).
- Other types of signs are only allowed if they are an integral part of a costume (such as the sign carried by Genma the Panda in *Ranma ½*).

Etiquette with Guests

- Autographs are limited to two items per person.
- Guests will not sign any bootleg or illegal item. Please bring licensed items only.

- If you are having a CD autographed, please remove the CD insert before you reach the front of the line to save time.
- Please have whatever item you want autographed ready to be signed by the time you reach the front of the line.
- Do not take up a lot of the guests' time when you reach the front of the line. To save time, think of what you want to say to the guest as having a 30 second limit, and try writing it down before you get there.
- **Special policy for press:** If you would like to interview one of our guests, please notify us at zenkaikon@gmail.com as soon as possible, so that we can arrange a time with the appropriate parties.

Weapons Policy

- **No guns** are allowed, whether they are **real** or **fake**. The Scanticon Hotel and Conference Center has asked that there be no toy or prop guns of any kind (including airsoft guns, flare guns, etc.).
- **No live steel** is allowed. We define "live steel" as any objects made of metal that is capable of taking an edge, whether or not the object is actually sharp, and whether or not the object is sheathed.
- Weapons purchased in the dealers room must remain boxed and **immediately** removed to your car, room or other private quarters.
- No nunchaku.
- No explosives or chemicals of any kind including, but not limited to, smoke powder, sparklers, and fireworks.
- **Types of fake weapons that are allowed:** Wooden swords including boken, bo sticks, and shinai are allowed. Anything made of paper mache or other material that is not dangerous to others (e.g. has no sharp edges, or parts sticking out that might trip people as they walk by) is allowed. Please use common sense. If you would not take your item on public transportation in plain sight, then you should not have it.
- Any metal chains are to be less than three feet (3'). This includes, but is not limited to, chain wallets or chains on non-costume clothing.
- All weapons and large props that are over three feet (3') in any direction **must be bonded**. In other words, they must be inspected by a member of Zenkaikon staff and then tied with a piece of colored string or tape at the registration desk. If you do not have your weapon or prop with you at registration, find a member of the convention staff when you

bring it in, and they will find someone who can bond it for you.

- **The maximum prop size is five feet (5').**
- Misuse of your prop such as swinging it or endangering others with it will result in Zenkaikon staff asking you to remove the prop from the Convention Center.

Children at Zenkaikon

- We recommend that all children under the age of 18 attend with a parent or guardian.
- Anyone under the age of 13 is required to have a parent or guardian with them at all times.
- We do not charge admission for children under the age of 6 to come to Zenkaikon.

Other References

- Zenkaikon Official Website
<http://www.zenkaikon.com>
- Zenkaikon on *AnimeCons.com*
<http://www.animecons.com/events/info.shtml/1720>
- Zenkaikon on *Geekadelphia*
<http://geekadelphia.com/?s=zenkaikon&x=0&y=0>
- Zenkaikon on *Campus Philly*
<http://www.campusphilly.org/articles.nsf/music/8E95CFoDD77E3E61852574F700631570?OpenDocument>
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<http://media.www.sjuhawknews.com/media/storage/paper763/news/2007/10/24/Entertainment/Sju-Otaku.Visits.Zenkaikon.Convention-3050646.shtml>
- Zenkaikon on *Wikipedia*
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zenkaikon>
- Zenkaikon on *FanHistory.com*
<http://fanhistory.com/wiki/Zenkaikon>