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PRESS RELEASE

Zenkaikon Convention to Bring Anime and Science Fiction Fans to Lancaster in March

Hatboro, PA – January 21, 2013: On March 22-24, 2013, Zenkaikon will hold its seventh annual convention in a new location at the Lancaster County Convention Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The convention expects to welcome over two thousand fans of Japanese animation (anime), comics (manga), gaming, and science fiction to downtown Lancaster for the weekend-long event.

Zenkaikon had typically been held in the Valley Forge area of Pennsylvania. However, with the conversion of the Valley Forge Convention Center to a casino and the continued growth of the event, Zenkaikon moved its convention to Lancaster.

Many convention attendees don costumes of their favorite characters to attend the annual convention. Planned convention events include a variety of educational panels and workshops hosted by volunteers and guests; anime and live action screenings; a costume and skit competition (the "Masquerade"); a hall costume contest; performances by musical guests; a live action role play ("LARP") event; video game tournaments and tabletop gaming; a formal ball and informal dances; and an exhibit hall of anime-themed merchandise and handmade creations from artists.

A number of Guests of Honor have already been announced for Zenkaikon 2013. John de Lancie, best known for his roles on Star Trek and Stargate SG-1, and more recently known for his role as Discord on My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic, will be hosting panels and meeting attendees. Prolific voice and live action actor Richard Epcar (Ghost in the Shell, The Legend of Korra, Kingdom Hearts) and actress Ellyn Stern (Robotech, Gundam Unicorn, Bleach) will also be participating in a variety of programming. Asian synth-pop band The Slants from Portland, Oregon will be performing two concerts, and relating their experiences about being Asian in America. The full list of guests is available at the convention's website.

Zenkaikon memberships are \$50 through February 18, 2013, and include entrance to the convention on all three days. More information regarding registration, guests, programming, and events is available at www.zenkaikon.com.

ABOUT ZENKAIKON ENTERTAINMENT, INC: Zenkaikon (www.zenkaikon.com) is run by Zenkaikon Entertainment Inc. Zenkaikon Entertainment Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting knowledge and enjoyment of Japanese art, animation, and culture as well as science fiction and fantasy literature and films of all origins. The organization is run completely by volunteers, and the Zenkaikon convention is the organization's primary annual event.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZENKAIKON 2013 ANNOUNCED GUESTS

John de Lancie [Actor]



Originally from Philadelphia, Mr. de Lancie is best known to science fiction fans as Q on the various *Star Trek* series, and Frank Simmons on *Stargate SG-1*. He is best known to animation and gaming fans as Discord on *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic*, and William Miles in *Assassin's Creed: Revelations*. He voiced Dark Agent Booty on *Invader Zim*, Trias in *PlaneScape: Torment*, Dr. Death in *Outlaws*, and Professor Quadwrangle in *Quantum Conundrum*. He is currently producing a documentary on the wonderful phenomenon of Bronies.

Mr. de Lancie has appeared in numerous television shows including *Torchwood*, *Breaking Bad*, *The Unit*, *Hill Street Blues*, *West Wing*, *Shark*, *Without a Trace*, *Sports Night*, *Judging Amy*, *The Closer*, *Star Trek*, *Legend*, *LA Law*, *Picket Fences*, *Civil Wars*, *The Practice*, and *Touched by an Angel*.

His film credits include *The Hand that Rocks the Cradle*, *The Fisher King*, *Bad Influence*, *The Onion Field*, *Taking Care of Business*, *Fearless*, *Multiplicity*, *Women on Top*, *Nicholas*, *Good Advice*, *Patient 14*, *The Big Time*, *Reign on Me*, *Pathology*, *Games*, *Teenius*, *Crank2* and *The Marriage Counselor*.

Mr. de Lancie was co-owner, with Leonard Nimoy, of Alien Voices: a production company devoted to the dramatization of classic science fiction. Mr. de Lancie produced, co-wrote and directed dramatizations of *The Time Machine*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *The Lost World*, *The Invisible Man*, and *First Men in the Moon*; as well as three television specials for the Sci-Fi Channel.

In theater, he has been a member of The American Shakespeare Festival, The Seattle Repertory Company, The South Coast Repertory, The Mark Taper Forum and the Old Globe where he recently performed Arthur Miller's *Resurrection Blues*. His favorite performances include *Man and Superman*, *The Common Pursuit*, *Childe Byron*, *Art*, the world premiere of Richard Greenburg's *The Naked Lady on the Appian Way*, and the world premiere of Alan Alda's *Radiance*.

In the world of music, Mr. de Lancie has performed with Kurt Masur, Sir Colin Davis and the New York Philharmonic; Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Cleveland Orchestra and National Orchestra; Esa Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic; Charles Dutoit and the Philadelphia Orchestra and The Montreal Symphony. His repertoire includes *Peer Gynt*, *King David*, *The Bourgeois Gentleman*, *The Lincoln Portrait*, *St. Joan*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Young People's Guide to the Orchestra*, *The Nightingale*,

Egmont and, of course, *Peter and the Wolf*. Currently, he narrated the world premier of Dr. Seuss', *The Sneetches*.

Mr. de Lancie was the host of the L.A. Philharmonic Symphonies for Youth for four years. In addition, he's written and directed ten Symphonic Plays. These ninety-minute programs are fully staged productions with orchestra. Titles include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Korngold score), *Bourgeois Gentleman*, *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, and a vaudeville production – *Carnival of the Animals*. They were produced with the Milwaukee, St. Paul Chamber, Ravinia, LA, and Pasadena Orchestras.

Mr. de Lancie was also the writer, director, and host of *First Nights*, an adult concert series at Disney Hall with the LA Philharmonic that explored the life and music of Stravinsky, Beethoven, Mahler, Schumann, and Prokofiev. These were fully integrated, fully staged productions with orchestra.

For Star Trek fans, Mr. de Lancie and Robert Picardo have created a Trek Concert Experience that has been performed with the Dallas, Toronto, Cincinnati, Denver and Calgary orchestras.

Mr. de Lancie has performed or directed numerous plays for L.A. Theater Works, the producing arm of KCRW, KPCC and National Public Radio where the series, *The Plays the Thing* originates. He recently returned from a national tour of the *Scopes Monkey Trial* with Ed Asner where he played Clarence Darrow. He also wrote and directed an adaption of *The Lost World*, which toured the country.

Mr. de Lancie has directed *Tosca* and *Cold Sassy Tree* in Atlanta and *Madame Butterfly* in San Antonio.

Mr. de Lancie is a graduate of Kent State University and The Juilliard School.

Website: <http://www.delancie.com/>

Richard Epcar [Actor]



Richard Epcar is known as one of the hardest working men in show business, having voiced over 300 characters. He is well known to animation, game, and anime fans beginning with *Robotech*, where he voiced Ben Dixon, Lunk, Grel, and Captain Grant. He is Batou in *Ghost in the Shell* and Captain Saikhan in the new series from Nickelodeon *Avatar: The Legend of Korra*. Some of you know him from *Bleach* (Zangetsu), *Bobobo-bo Bo-bobo* (Bobobo-bo Bo-bobo), *Lupin the Third* (Daisuke Jigen), *Fushigi Yuugi* (Mistukake), *Noein* (Kyouji Kooriyama, Noein), *X-Men* (Gladiator), *Naruto* (Manda, Hanzo), *Lucky Star* (Tadao Hiiragi), *Monster*, *Outlaw Star*, *Macross Plus*, *Rurouni Kenshin*, *Samurai Champloo*, *Digimon*, *Great Teacher Onizuka*, *Cyber Soldier 009*,

and *Ninja Scroll* to name a few. He also performed numerous voices in the *Power Rangers*.

Just some of the games you've heard him in include *Kingdom Hearts* (Ansem/Terra-Xehanort), *Transformers* (Skywarp), *Skyrim: Elder Scrolls V*, *Star Wars*, *Mortal Kombat* (Raiden-Fighting), *Catherine*, *Modnation Racers*, *Mortal Kombat vs. D.C. Universe* (Raiden, The Joker), *Call of Duty-Black Ops*, *Dead Space 2*, *Star Craft 2*, *Red Faction Guerilla*, *Command & Conquer 4*, *Xenosaga* (Ziggy), *Guilty Gears 2*, *Ghost Recon 3*, *.Hack*, *Dynasty Warriors* (Dong Zhuo), and *World of Warcraft*.

He is also a sought-after game, animation, and ADR director, and has directed such games as *Star Ocean*, *Blue Dragon*, *Unreal Tournament*, *Smackdown vs. Raw*, and *Jackass*. He's directed such live action films as *Oldboy*, *Azumi*, *Fearless*, and *Iron Monkey*. Some animations he's directed include *Lupin the Third*, *Ghost in the Shell 2*, *Noein*, *Fighting Spirit*, and *Robotech: Shadow Chronicles*.

On camera, Richard has appeared in many films and television shows including John Carpenter's *Memoirs of an Invisible Man*, *Columbo*, *Diagnosis Murder*, *Guns of Paradise*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, *Matlock*, *Cheers*, *Days of our Lives*, and *General Hospital*. You will soon see him as the lead in the feature film *Broken Spirits*, and you can hear him as Buck the big gorilla in *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*.

He's very excited about his new audio book – *White Eyes – a Doc Savage Novel* – in which he plays 40 characters and is the narrator for this fantastic pulp fiction book.

Website: <http://www.richardepcar.com/>

Ellyn Stern [Actress]



Ellyn began acting at the age of 12, and is a classically trained actress known for both her dramatic and comedic roles. Her career spans from film to television to stage, with her voice acting career beginning 30 years ago. She is also a director.

Her career in anime began with the original *Robotech* series, in which she played several characters. Most recently she can be heard in *True Crimes: Hong Kong*, *Gundam Unicorn* (Martha), *Noein* (Miyuki Goto), *Mar* (Jack's Mom), and *Bleach* (Masaki Kurosaki). She voiced Haraway in *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence*, Rosalind in *Armitage III*, Himeno in *Fight: Spirit of the Sword*, Sayaka in *Mental Fighter Miku*, Moru in *Vampire Princess Miyu*, Parome in *Genma Wars*, Hiroshi's Mom in *Zenki*, all the female characters in *The Little Punk*, Aunt Polly in *Tom Sawyer*,

and the cunning frog in *Captain Schnauzer*. She has also done voices in *Zentrix*, *Mini Pato*, *Digimon*, *Bobobo-bo Bo-bobo*, *Samurai X*, *Mobile Suit Gundam: The Movie Trilogy*, *Bushido Blade 2*, *Lupin the Third*,

Patlabor 3, Fighting Spirit, Abby, Macross I/II/III, Honey Bee Hutch, Wisdom of Gnomes, Gigi, Wings of Honneamise, and Inherit the Wind, to name just a few. You've also heard her as Veronica Vera in *Shadow Hearts II*.

Animated projects she has directed include *Samurai X, Jade Cocoon, Super Magnetic Neo, Aerowings 1&2, and Galerians*.

She has voiced lead characters in many live action feature films that have been adapted into English including Academy Award winners *Cinema Paradiso, Belle Epoque, Eat Drink Man Woman, Kika, Mostly Martha, Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, Fencing Master, Widow of St. Pierre, Amores Perros, Mission Kashmir, Iron Monkey, The Emperor and the Assassin, Onmyoji-Ying-Yang Masters, Le Femme Nikita, Tae Guk Gi, Babette's Feast, and Shiri*, to name a few. Other past films include *Jessie's Girls* (co-starred), *Duchess and the Dirtwater Fox* (co-starred), *Fatal Charm* (co-starred), and *Prisoner in the Middle* aka *Warhead* (co-starred). A few of her television shows include *American Carrot, Charlie's Angels*, and recurring characters on *General Hospital, Santa Barbara, and Days of our Lives*.

Currently on camera, she is a series regular with Debbie Allen and Idris Elba on *Milk and Honey*. She is a lead in *Blood on Canvas* coming out later this year, and the lead in a Disney pilot and feature that is soon to be shot.

Ellyn recently starred in the award-winning play *Apple* at Theatre 40 in Beverly Hills, where she received rave reviews. Immediately following *Apple*, Ellyn starred in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, playing the role of Mrs. Warren at the famed Bistro Gardens to much acclaim.

Ellyn is married to Richard Epcar, and they have two children who are also performers. Jon Epcar is a drummer. His band Carney is with Interscope Records. They are currently on Broadway doing *Spiderman, Turn Off The Dark*. Jacqueline Epcar is a jazz/blues singer who recently opened at The House Of Blues.

Website: <http://www.ellynstern.com/>

The Slants [Musical Guest]



What originated as a side project for Simon Young (of The Stivs) in 2007 proved to be one of the most energetic and contagious movements of music in our time. In case you haven't heard, The Slants are the first and only all Asian synth-pop band in the North America and they have been melting faces off all over the globe.

Kicking off the band's career at a tiny dive bar in

Portland, OR, The Slants soon found themselves on tour and in demand worldwide performing at music halls, colleges, and anime conventions. Within months, they released their debut album "Slanted Eyes, Slanted Hearts" winning multiple awards from the likes of Willamette Week, Rockwired, AsiaXpress, and the Portland Music Awards. Since that first iconic show in 2007, The Slants have been cited as the "Hardest Working Asian American Band" (slanteyefortheroundeye.com), toured North America ten times, rejected a million dollar recording contract, were the first and only Asian band to be a Fender Music artist, and according to U.S Congress, the first rock band to play inside a state library.

The Willamette Week, summarizes The Slants' history perfectly: "It's a great story: All-Asian synthcore troupe lands anime festival, achieves instantaneous notoriety from overpacked fireball-laden maelstrom, inspires John Woo and Dragon Ball Z fans toward aggro electro and—just months after its first practice—books gigs across the globe. As shadow-warrior as the Slants' rise has been, it's still all about the tunes, and the band's debut—floor-filling synth pop bristling with all the menace and grandeur of its oft name-checked cultural icons—is propulsive, cinematic and impossible to ignore."

By the end of 2008, the band had been featured in over 1,200 magazines, radio stations, websites, and television shows for their self-proclaimed "Chinatown Dance Rock," including a feature on NPR's "All Things Considered" that blasted across 700 FM stations across the country for months.

The following year, The Slants headlined a SXSW showcase (other acts at the festival included Katy Perry, Metallica, and Devo), launched several more tours spanning North America, and released a dance remix album entitled "Slants! Slants! Revolution," while donating 100% of the proceeds to benefit cancer research affecting Asian American women.

2010 saw the release of The Slants' third album, "Pageantry." Pageantry featured a number of local icons including Cory Gray (The Decemberists), Krista Herring, Mic Crenshaw, and Gabe Kniffin (Silversafe). The harder hitting, guitar driven songs still featured The Slants' signature dance rock flavor and again, massive touring throughout the country continued.

The Slants have shared the stage with acts such as Apl.de.Ap (Black Eyed Peas), Vampire Weekend, Girl Talk, Girugamesh, M.O.V.E and Boom Boom Satellites.

Website: <http://www.theslants.com/>

Eien Strife [Musical Guest]



Eien Strife is a cosplay "adventure-rock" concert that brings to life the story of Terina, a dense forest world that is unknowingly facing its extinction. The four characters of the party – Cheydra, Raien, Lyren and Kale will join together and perform an intense high energy concert that is a truly unique experience both musically and visually. They have been traveling from convention to convention, setting out on new adventures and making new friends, while putting on a show that is full of excitement and surprises. The members of Eien Strife have traveled all over North America and parts of Japan, and now are planning to share their story while delivering a performance that the audience at Zenkaikon will never forget.

You can learn more about Eien Strife's quest from their website and hear their music from their album "Full Speed Ahead" which is available on iTunes as well as the group's online Item Shop.

Website: <http://www.eien-strife.com/>

Karl "Uncle Yo" Custer [Comedian]



Fewer man-children have their feet so firmly planted in the anime convention scene as geek-specific comedian, Karl "Uncle Yo" Custer. The Pennsylvania-born New Yorker has performed for anime clubs, conventions and Japanese cultural events all over the country. Yo's current roster of projects includes the weekly released podcast, "We are the Geek," the sole voice cast for Google Play's video game "Top Dog: Lucky's Charm," and his newest album, "Ecto-Kitt-Lorean" released on iTunes and Amazon this past February. Zenkaikon is Yo's first con, his home con,

and his private playground. Whether hosting a panel, a Masquerade, or subjecting innocent civilians to his rants, he celebrates that, just as foretold, the Geek have inherited the Earth.

Website: <http://www.uncleyo.com/>

Kuniko Kanawa [Cultural Presenter]



Kuniko Kanawa is a certified Kimono consultant, Kimono model, Edo Tsumami Kanzashi artisan, and a founder of the Washington D.C. Kimono Club.

In 2007, Kuniko officially became a certified Kimono consultant of the All Japan Kimono Consultant Association after graduating from Sodo Reihou Kimono College. Since attaining her certification, she has been offering her Kimono dressing service, teaching Kimono classes and workshops, and producing informative and entertaining Kimono Shows which feature Kimono dressing demonstrations. She also works as a Kimono model, utilizing the six treasured years of classical Japanese dance training in Hanayagi style under the

exceptional tutelage of Hanayagi Wakana sensei.

In the same year, through intensive training by Kazuyo Hozumi, one of the few Edo Tsumami designated masters in Japan, she became a professional Edo Tsumami Kanzashi artisan. As a classically trained successor of this disappearing traditional handicraft, she creates both traditional and modern designed Tsumami Kanzashi, including custom orders. Her beautiful creations can be purchased on her website. Kuniko occasionally participates in craft shows and currently offers beginner's workshops at the Japan-America Society of Washington D.C.

In early 2013, she founded the Washington D.C. Kimono Club. The Club welcomes anyone who loves Kimono and Japanese seasonal cultural events. Members can participate in Japanese seasonal cultural events in Kimono, attend Washington D.C. Kimono Club workshops at a discounted price, participate in Kimono shows and dressing demonstrations as a model, and participate in the Ms./Mrs./Mr. Kimono of the year contest. For more information about the club, please visit her website.

Website: <http://www.atelierkanawa.com/>

CJ Henderson [Author]



CJ Henderson is the creator of the *Piers Knight* supernatural investigator series, the *Teddy London* supernatural detective series, and many more. He has written some 70 books and/or novels, hundreds of short stories and comics, and thousands of non-fiction pieces. He is beloved around the world for his intriguing prose, his precocious wit, and his ability to go to YouTube every single day to watch Batman Dog and laugh just as hard as he did the first time he saw it. CJ will have a number of new things to show of this year (as always), but the one he is most proud of is the book created with his daughter, Erica, *The World Bestiary*. Hardback, in color, it lists 100 of the world's most intriguing monsters. He tells us he cannot wait to show it off to everyone. He is very excited and eager to meet the attendees of Zenkaikon 2013, both old and new.

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

T Campbell [Comics Writer]



An ex-stage actor and failed Internet shut-in, T Campbell has written eighteen gazillion pages of comics, including *Gilded Age*, *Penny and Aggie*, *Fans!*, *Cool Cat Studio*, *Search Engine Funnies*, *Rip and Teri*, *Divalicious!* (from Tokyopop) and just a little *Avengers*. He's a winner of the Web Cartoonist Choice Awards and the author of *The History of Webcomics*. He spends his "spare time" designing crosswords, drafting health care bills and seeking the Anti-Life Equation.

T Campbell will be at Zenkaikon representing [Gilded Age](#).

Website: <http://tcampbell.net/>

Phil Kahn [Comics Writer]



A Temple University graduate and longtime Professional Neckbeard, Phil Kahn has spent a few years writing for various webcomic, webcomic criticism, and webcomic enthusiast sites, and is now trying to take his accumulated knowledge and put it all to good use on *Gilded Age*. While building a daytime career as an IT Support Specialist and Pokémon Trainer, he also spends a great deal of time practicing silly voices/faces in front of a mirror for the inevitable day where the only thing that can save the whole of humanity from

certain doom is his impression of Henchman #24. Out of the three creators, he is also totally that Gnome Warlock who "just won't DIE ALREADY." He was nominated for Comic Book Writer of the Year in the 2012 Philly Geek Awards.

Phil Kahn will be at Zenkaikon representing [Guided Age](#).

Website: <http://philkahn.com/>

Saber Guild – Keystone Temple [Performing Arts]



After the fall of the Jedi Order a small band of Jedi are sent on a special mission by Master Yoda. They must rebuild the Jedi Order and find new padawans. The Jedi are chased and hunted by Darth Sidious and his followers to earth. Will the Jedi rebuild the Jedi Order or will Darth Sidious finally control the universe and oppression of the Sith continue?

The Saber Guild - Keystone Temple is the Pennsylvania chapter of a nation-wide, Lucas Film approved, non-profit organization, which shares its

passion for Star Wars through a variety of performances at different events. Their costumed, choreographed lightsaber performances are appealing to fans of all ages. In addition to performances, the Saber Guild is proud to put its resources to good use through fundraising, charity work, and volunteerism.

Website: <http://www.saberguild.com/>

Cosplay Burlesque [Performing Arts]



Cosplay Burlesque is a performing arts group of burlesque performers and cosplayers dedicated to combining the two for your entertainment. Their mission is to take the characters fans already enjoy and make them naughty through a humorous and provocative stage show. They have performed as Nurse Joy (Pokemon), Tuxedo Mask (Sailor Moon), Harley Quinn (Batman), Ash (Evil Dead), Ichigo and Rukia (Bleach) - which is just the tip of the iceberg. There is no fandom that they leave

untouched in their quest for great source material. They are fan fiction come to life!

Website: <http://www.cosplayburlesque.com/>

Greg "Greggo" Wicker [Game Show Host]



Greggo's coming back for his second Zenkaikon! Greg Wicker (or "Greggo" as he's fondly known) has been producing and hosting game shows at anime conventions since 1999, when he premiered Anime Match Game at Project A-Kon in Dallas. Since then, Greggo has done anime-themed versions of several classic game shows, created a few games of his own, and even had an original project that very nearly turned into an actual television show on Anime Network. These days Greggo is concentrating on perfecting his craft and making game shows available for conventions everywhere, bringing his rapier wit and friendly personality with him wherever he goes. You can see some of Greggo's past game show efforts on his YouTube page at <http://www.youtube.com/gregdasgo>.

Website: <http://www.facebook.com/greggosgameshows>

ZENKAIKON PRESS PHOTOS

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Filename: zenkaikon1.jpg

Description: Costumed attendees at Zenkaikon 2011 at the Valley Forge Convention Center. Photo by Steven Schultz for Zenkaikon.

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Filename: zenkaikon2.jpg

Description: Costumed attendees at Zenkaikon 2011 at the Valley Forge Convention Center. Photo by Steven Schultz for Zenkaikon.

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Filename: zenkaikon3.jpg

Description: Artists showing their wares at Zenkaikon 2011 at the Valley Forge Convention Center. Photo by Steven Schultz for Zenkaikon.

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Filename: delancie.jpg

Description: Zenkaikon 2013 announced guest, John de Lancie. Photo provided by guest.

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Filename: epcar.jpg

Description: Zenkaikon 2013 announced guest, Richard Epcar. Photo provided by guest.

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Filename: stern.jpg

Description: Zenkaikon 2013 announced guest, Elyn Stern. Photo provided by guest.

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Filename: theslants.jpg

Description: Zenkaikon 2013 announced guest, The Slants. Photo provided by guest.

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Zenkaikon Press Policies

- Press are expected to follow all Zenkaikon Convention Policies.
- A Press Badge does not grant access to Convention Areas before they are open, or to Convention Staff Only areas. If you wish to access these areas, please contact us so we can attempt to arrange.
- As a reminder, guests are unable to offer autographs during Press Sessions. They are available at regularly-scheduled Autograph Sessions during the Convention.
- Press photographers may not solicit payment for their services from attendees during the convention.
- Press are requested to send a copy of any coverage of the Convention to press@zenkaikon.com by a month after the Convention. This will assist us in evaluating Press Requests for future years. We will also list your coverage on the Press page of our website.
- If any Press photographers would like to share their photos and videos with us for archival purposes, it is always greatly appreciated! If they are used later in any publication, the creator will be properly credited.