

OCTOBER 01 2025

VOL. 01

COSPLAY OF
THE MONTH

@Itsdefinitelytee

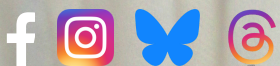
STORIES OF THE
NERDY WORLD
MAGAZINE

THE POD

BIPOC
Vamp Day

The Baddies of
Spooky Szn

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GAME CHANGERS SPOTLIGHT: BIPOC VAMP DAY

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Please about your tell us about your (Group, Business or Organization)

#BIPOCVampDay is a 3-day-long online event celebrating Black, Indigenous, and POC vampires in media as we fundraise for the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America. That's right, the vampires are giving back to our community with a virtual blood-drive.

What inspired you to create this or Join?

#BIPOCVampDay began in September 2021, when I was inspired by the success of Black Fae Day (created by Jasmine La Fleur) earlier that year. Much like Black Fae Day, BIPOC Vampire Day is an event focused on representation. Despite vampiric folklore existing in every culture around the world, the media showcasing vampires is often incredibly Euro-centric or pale. I was determined to prove that vampires can be more diverse, so we invited our fellow BIPOC vampires (and all vampire fans) to come out to play.

What was the biggest challenge you faced while doing this, and how did you overcome it?

We're an online event, which means we have to navigate social media to get the word out - something that has become more difficult with the changes on popular platforms and current algorithms. We're also run completely by a small team of volunteers and folks who love the event. Our strength is word of mouth and having a lot of people passionate to share their love of BIPOC vampires has helped us overcome some of our pitfalls.

What first motivated you to get involved?

Aside from wanting to see more diversity in horror/fantasy, I really wanted an opportunity to give back to my community. I've always wanted BIPOCVampDay to be a charitable event from the beginning. When I learned that September was Sickle Cell Disease Awareness month, it was a perfect fit - because so few people know about SCD and it was something that greatly impacts OUR community.

Who or what has influenced your journey the most?

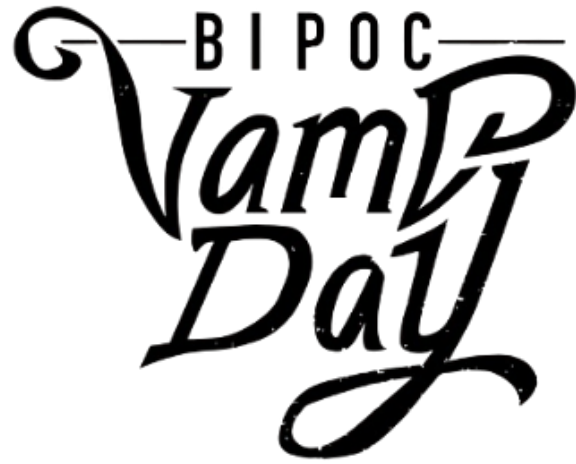
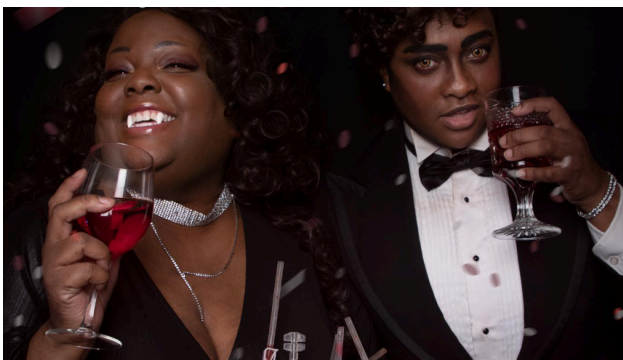
So many of the amazing folks who came before me - in my community, in my personal life - who wanted to do good things and make others feel welcome. As I mentioned before - Jasmine La Fleur with Black Fae Day because she's the reason our event even happened! But also childhood heroes like Mr. Rodgers who preached acceptance and generosity.

How do you stay motivated when the work becomes overwhelming?

I remember that at the end of the day, this is about community - no matter how much we raise. Just spreading awareness makes a difference. I've gotten some wonderful notes back from participants and supporters with Sickle Cell Disease - some I personally knew but wasn't aware of - who appreciated a light finally being shined on this illness. That made it worth while. As well as seeing everyone have a good time feeling represented and sharing their cultural take on vampires or original ideas. It makes all the work rewarding.

How has giving back changed you personally?

It's definitely made these harder times just a little bit easier. BIPOCVampDay is always a weekend full of wonder, style, joy, and a bit of healing. Being able to bring folks together - even virtually - for a good cause and see how much everyone wants to support in their own way. It makes getting through the worst day a little easier.



Can you share a story of a moment that reminded you why this work matters?

During our third year we had a teacher at a school reach out to us about how she helped her kiddos celebrate BIPOC VampDay at their school. The first year was a bit impromptu, but the second year she told us how excited the kids were to donate and dress up - even sent some photos. It was such a joyful thing - kids that looked like me getting to feel represented, be generous and a part of something - something I definitely didn't have when I was young.

What misconceptions do people often have about what you do?

They may not know what goes on behind the scenes - and it can be ALOT. For our little event, there is a lot of planning and work with a very small team. We're always looking for more help - but since it's all volunteer work - it's often hard to ask for more assistance.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to get involved but doesn't know where to start?

Start small. Work within your limitations and then grow from there. And tell folks when you need help so they can lend a hand - you'll be amazed how many folks want to help be apart of a community service project.

Game Changers spotlight:

MidnightPursona

<https://linktr.ee/midnightpursona>



Please tell us about your (Group, Business, or Organization)

I'm a cosplayer, have been for a VERY long time! I like to share my cosplays and content to make people smile and spread joy in a world that really needs it. I'm a cozy content creator who loves to make friends and give advice when I can! I also hold a space safe for people while I stream!

What inspired you to create this or join?

Well I felt there wasn't a lot of representation for people like me, so I decided I would be that representation. Plus-size, Black, Queer, Disabled, etc., aren't groups that are appreciated enough. I really wanted to make sure that we can get noticed more in our own communities!



How has giving back changed you personally?

I've actually become a lot more confident. I used to be really hidden and shy, I didn't want to be in the spotlight or take away from others' sparkle, but I had to teach myself that dimming my light doesn't make other people shine brighter. It's my own light that helps all of us burn as bright as we possibly can.

Can you share a story of a moment that reminded you why this work matters?

Honestly, any moment I have another cosplayer or creator come up to me and tell me that I've inspired them. Even if it's so simple as to say they decided they needed to do a project they've been putting off. Or even the moment someone tells me they look forward to my content because it helps them smile at the end of the day. It reminds me that what I do is worth it.

What misconceptions do people often have about what you do?

That it's easy work, it's not. Just because I'm a full-time content creator doesn't mean I have it easy. I like to remind people, I'm the photographer, model, makeup artist, costume designer, seamstress, lighting, director, social media manager, agent, etc. I do EVERYTHING on my own (with help from my husband from time to time). Even when it comes to guesting at conventions, I'm sending out emails to see if conventions are open to having me. I don't get emails flooding in begging for my work, I have to go to companies and conventions. It can be SO SO draining.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to get involved but doesn't know where to start?

Research and take breaks. Make sure you ask other content creators about their work and what they enjoy. Make community and network. Even though I do most of my work on my own, I would be nowhere without my community that I created.

What was the biggest challenge you faced while doing this, and how did you overcome it?

Honestly, most things are rigged against people like me. I'm still overcoming a lot of challenges, but the best thing I can do is to keep fighting. Keep talking and never be silenced over issues in the community. Things like racism and bigotry can't stop me from living my dreams.

What first motivated you to get involved

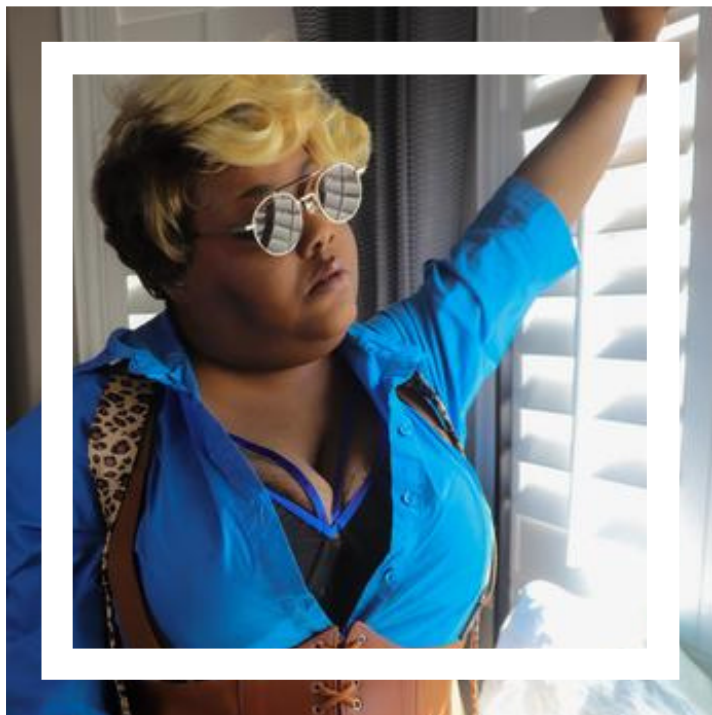
Seeing the smiles of others and seeing people get inspired to do more for themselves.

Who or what has influenced your journey the most?

Oh, so many people... but honestly, my mother. My mom has always been my BIGGEST supporter and has taught me my resilient spirit. Without her, I wouldn't be as stubborn and strong as I am today.

How do you stay motivated when the work becomes overwhelming?

Being burnt out is something I still struggle with, but I try to keep telling myself that it will all be worth it in the end. Even though all the mean comments and low resources, it will be worth seeing the product to the end.





@Itsdefinitelytee

Cosplay Of The Month

The infamous Lady Dimitrescu from the hit survival horror Video game Resident Evil Village is this month's Cosplay of the Month, portrayed by cosplayer Itsdendfinitelytee.

Tee has so many talents, and storytelling with cosplays is one. Their cosplays always leave us in shock with amazing transformations. They have no problem tapping into the "hit you in the feels" with their storytelling. Make sure to follow them on Instagram and TikTok and see what we're talking about.

- JaystotheTiger

Content Creator Spotlight: VLN Beats

vlnsbeatsstore.com | TikTok: @thevlnsnetwork | Instagram: @thevlnsnetwork

Can you introduce yourself and the type of content you create?

Sup... my name is VLNS Beats and I'm a beatmaker/producer out of Ohio. I make beats for everybody to create with, be it songs, videos, podcasts, albums, or other projects. What inspired you to start creating content? I just enjoy music in general. I've been writing songs since middle school, recording music since college, and making beats since I graduated from college. Not to mention I enjoy acting, photography, cosplay, writing, I just love to create for the sake of creating.

How did you come up with your creator name/brand identity?

I've always enjoyed villains. I believe that they aren't always inherently "evil" but they've always disturbed the status quo or been made to bring awareness to bigger issues. Unfortunately, when you do things like that, even when you don't necessarily go out of your way to cause harm, you're labeled that. And that's the mindset I carry often. Sometimes you gotta be called evil to show the world that there's good within your message or mission. So with that said VLNS stands for Virtue Lives Near Sin. You can't have one without the other because they can't function by themselves



What's your favorite part of the content creation process?

The completion. If I can't vibe to the end result, it's not done yet.

Do you ever get creator's block? If so, how do you push through it?

Often. I always say my creativity be coming in seasons. Sometimes the beats ain't coming so I got into writing, or photography. Then I just push through until I say "hey lemme go back and see if I'm ready to tackle this" What's been your biggest challenge as a content creator so far? GETTING PAID REGULARLY! Sorry for yelling but yeah. I want to get to a point where I'm at least getting one beat sale a week... at least

What's the most valuable lesson you've learned since starting?

Don't stop creating. Put something out there even if you don't feel like it.

How has your community or fanbase shaped your content?

Man, the support I get from my friends, family, and followers is everything. I think by now we all are on the same wavelength when it comes to my content. They know what to expect and they evolve with me.

What advice would you give to someone just starting out?

Don't listen to someone who thinks your dreams aren't realistic. Instead, listen to those who want to see them come into fruition

What's next for you? Any projects, collabs, or big plans you can share?

I just dropped an album with my girl Crystal from Naughty Dreams called "Send Music, Not Nudes: The 6th Love Language. I got another project with a nerdcore rapper out of Mississippi named Geekster the Supernerd coming called "The Nemesis Project" that takes inspiration from Resident Evil and the pandemic From there I have some ideas in the mix for the next project. You'll just have to wait and see





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Cosplayer Spotlight: Thlyasaur

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Do you make your costumes, buy them, or a mix of both?

A mix of both! I tend to learn more towards completely making them myself, but I love getting to up cycle and style pre existing things.

How do you choose which characters you want to cosplay?

I have a lot of hyperfixations..... (It's not a lie ask any of my Cosfamily). I usually go for my favorite characters or a character who's prop / outfit I fell in love with. One thing about me is I usually wont touch a character until I've at least seen or researched the media they are from.

What's the most challenging cosplay you've ever worked on?

Killer from One Piece. I had motors and moving parts in that cosplay. I taught myself how to wire and connect circuits just for his gauntlets. Hands down..... The most challenging cosplay I've created to date.

How has the cosplay community influenced your journey?

The community is one of the things that has inspired me to keep going. I've met so many of my new Cosfamily through the community, and I will forever be grateful for that! However, there is also some bad with all the good. There are certain characters/cosplays I almost wont touch due to the community. I am actually working on a couple right now that fit that description.... One thing I think the community needs to remember is Cosplay is for everyone. It's a fun thing to do, and all levels of it should be loved and praised.

Can you introduce yourself and share how you first got into cosplay?

Hi! My name is Thlyasaur, Thyla for short (pronounced thigh-la). I am a Middle Tennessee based Cosplayer, Streamer, and competitive Cosplayer. I was first introduced to cosplay when through Musically/Tik Tok. I ended up trying a few closet cosplays with my best friend, and the chaos went from there!

What was your very first cosplay, and how do you feel about it now?

My very very first cosplay was a closet cosplay of Bakugou from MHA. Looking back now, the wig was horrible and I had no idea what I was doing. However, I wouldn't trade any of the memories or the joy of getting to be a character for the first time.

How long have you been cosplaying, and what keeps you motivated to continue?

I've been cosplaying since around late 2018. I've been making my own cosplays since early 2019 and competing since Summer of 2022. The love of the characters and the craft is what keeps me motivated. Cosplaying is my hobby, my home away from home in my heart. It's become a way I can express myself, and that in itself is my motivation.



Have you had any memorable fan interactions while cosplaying?

I have a couple actually. The first is from the first time I ever wore Kid (One Piece). I was walking through the dealer hall to find some friends, and a little kid stopped me because Kid was his favorite character. It was adorable and amazing getting to fan over my favorite character with someone who loved him just as much. The other is from this last December. I created a 'candy cane princess' Punisher for Yamacons competition. The 3 security door greeters were absolutely amazed and fan biting over the gatling gun I had made. A couple of them even took pictures for their friends.

What's the funniest or most unexpected thing that's happened to you while in cosplay?

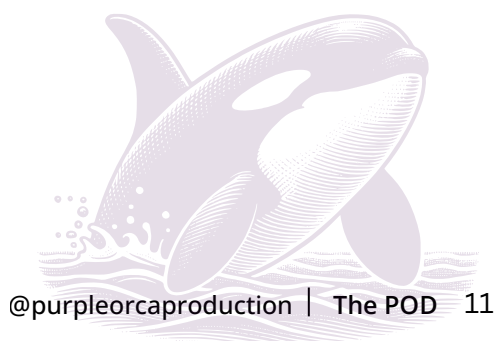
Funniest thing I can think of is the fact that I think I had a hand in almost all of AkaiCon starting to scream "Yippee!" as cheers. I created the loot bug from lethal company for the contest in 2024, and I handed out badge ribbons to anyone who knew me or asked. They had 'YIPPEE' across them with the little bug. By the end of the con, every time there were cheers you could hear a chorus of "yippee!" following it.

Do you think cosplay has helped you express yourself in new ways?

Absolutely. I have always been a really shy and out of the way person. Cosplay has helped me become more confident in myself and my abilities I've acquired.

What do you hope readers take away from your cosplay story?

Do the thing! Have fun and express yourself in your cosplays. You don't have to be the same as everyone else. Don't be afraid to be you! Everyone deserves a spot in the cosplay world.



TOP
10

The Baddies of Spooky Szn

*This list is based on "Popularity".
Trust Me, some of these I don't agree with at all

Anime Men

Alucard (Hellsing)

The ultimate vampire daddy, terrifying yet magnetic.

Sebastian Michaelis (Black Butler)

Demonic butler perfection: smooth, elegant, dangerous.

Itachi Uchiha (Naruto)

Brooding, tragic, and darkly cool.

Hisoka (Hunter x Hunter)

Creepy clown magician, unsettling... but fans still swoon.

Kaname Kuran (Vampire Knight)

Aristocratic vampire heartthrob.

Ryuk (Death Note)

A literal death god... and somehow stylish in a creepy way.

Sesshōmaru (Inuyasha)

Cold, powerful demon lord with regal allure.

Tomura Shigaraki (My Hero Academia)

Disturbing but oddly charismatic villain.

Johan Liebert (Monster)

One of anime's scariest yet most hypnotic villains.

Dio Brando (JoJo's Bizarre Adventure)

Vampiric, flamboyant, and absolutely iconic.

Spooky Baddie Men

Gomez Addams (The Addams Family)

Smooth, romantic, and spooky suave.

Edward Scissorhands (Johnny Depp)

Dark, tragic, but oddly lovable.

Michael Myers (Halloween)

Terrifying masked slasher... but has a weird "bad boy" fanbase.

Dracula (various versions)

Timeless, seductive vampire energy.

Pennywise (Bill Skarsgård's version)

Creepy clown, but fans definitely find him attractive in a twisted way.

Timothée Chalamet

Brooding, pale aesthetic that screams spooky szn heartthrob.

Machine Gun Kelly

Rocks edgy, vampire/undead looks with Megan Fox at Halloween.

Lil Nas X

Known for his wild, spooky-season costumes.

The Weeknd

His darker music videos (After Hours, Too Late) give him eerie, horror vibes.

Jared Leto (as Joker or Vampire Lestat vibes)

Polarizing, but people can't deny he nails the creepy-pretty look.

Anime Women

Kuroneko (Ruri Gokou – Oreimo)

Goth lolita queen, mysterious and adorable.

Rei Ayanami (Neon Genesis Evangelion)

Pale, stoic, and unsettlingly beautiful.

Esdeath (Akame ga Kill!)

Cold, dangerous, yet fan-favorite femme fatale.

Shalltear Bloodfallen (Overlord)

Gothic vampire with seductive energy.

Himiko Toga (My Hero Academia)

Creepy, chaotic, and oddly charming yandere.

Yumeko Jabami (Kakegurui)

Thrill-obsessed gambler with a sinister smile.

Lust (Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood)

Deadly homunculus with femme fatale allure.

Misa Amane (Death Note)

Gothic idol, loyal to Light, Halloween fashion icon.

Albedo (Overlord)

Obsessive, demonic, and drop-dead gorgeous succubus.

Medusa Gorgon (Soul Eater)

Witch with serpent vibes and chilling beauty.

Spooky Baddie Women

Morticia Addams (The Addams Family)

The definition of gothic glamour.

Elvira, Mistress of the Dark

Campy, sultry, and Halloween royalty.

Wednesday Addams (Jenna Ortega)

Dark, witty, and Gen Z's spooky crush.

Jennifer Check (Jennifer's Body)

Megan Fox's cult-fave demonic cheerleader.

Nancy Downs (The Craft)

The ultimate '90s witch with dangerous energy.

Megan Thee Stallion

Known for going all-out with jaw-dropping spooky cosplay every Halloween.

Billie Eilish

Dark, moody aesthetic that perfectly fits spooky season.

Ariana Grande

She nails Halloween looks (like The Twilight Zone homage).

Doja Cat

Bold, eerie, and playful with spooky vibes in music videos and costumes.

Heidi Klum

The undisputed queen of Halloween costumes, from creepy to glamorous.

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