



KUMORICON

AN ANIME, MANGA, AND JAPANESE CULTURE CONVENTION

曇りコン

アニメ、漫画、および日本文化のコンベンション

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Samantha Feldman
Director of Publicity
publicity@kumoricon.org

KUMORICON CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF ANIME IN PORTLAND

Bringing together new and old fans to the biggest celebration of anime and Japanese culture in Oregon!

PORTLAND, OR – (April 3, 2017) – Kumoricon 2016 was a landmark year with a move to the Oregon Convention Center, the convention's first Japanese animation guests, as well as growing to over 7,000 attendees. This year, Kumoricon is excited to celebrate its 15th year, to be hosted October 27 – 29, 2017. In anticipation of this anniversary, Kumoricon has invited guests that represent the best of the industry. This includes the Japanese visual kei band, Kra, in their first appearance in the US.

“Last year was an incredible achievement for Kumoricon,” says Phillip Koop, Chairman of Kumoricon 2017, “The move, and quality of our 2016 event was something that couldn't have been accomplished without the dedication and love from our staff. I'm looking forward to watching this convention continue to grow and bring in old and new fans of anime and Japanese culture.”

Kumoricon encourages and welcomes people of all ages and interest groups. While anime (Japanese animation), manga (Japanese comic books), and Japanese culture are the main focus of Kumoricon, there are plenty of activities and panels to attend. From cosplay and karaoke, to workshops, guest and industry panel presentations, to dances and open video and tabletop gaming, Kumoricon aims to present a wide variety of content for everyone to enjoy. Kumoricon is the oldest anime convention in Oregon and SW Washington. Kumoricon is an opportunity for people of all ages to explore and share their enthusiasm for Japanese media and Asian culture. Memberships range from \$50 to \$300 and are on sale now, [here](#). The convention will be host to a variety of Guests of Honor in 2017, with more to be announced at a later date. Confirmed Guests of Honor include:

KRA: Kra is a Japanese visual kei band with a mix of pop, rock, and jazz sounds. Debuting in 2001, Kra soon signed on with the popular label PS Company. Kra made their major artist debut with their third single "Heart Balance" on September 21, 2006. They are credited with the first opening theme song for **Yu-Gi-Oh! 5D's**, “BONDS -kizuna-”.

The band members are Keiyuu on vocals, piano, and guitar, Taizo on guitar, Yuhra on bass, and Yasuno on drums. Kra's newest EPs, *Uchuu Traveller CORE* and *Uchuu Traveller CELL* were released in September of 2016. 2016 also marked Kra's 15th anniversary. They released a new album in January 2017, *Kra no Susume*, featuring new recordings of some of their classic songs.

CHERAMI LEIGH: Cherami Leigh has been working in the industry for 20 years, with over 75 commercials and over 100 anime projects under her belt. Some of her most popular roles include Lucy in **Fairy Tail**, Asuna in **Sword Art Online**, Sailor Venus in **Sailor Moon**, Road in

D.Gray-man, Lizzie in **Black Butler**, Mai in **Ghost Hunt**, and Patty in **Soul Eater**. She has also worked on over 20 video games—including **Borderlands 2**—in which she plays Gaige in the popular DLC.

VIC MIGNOGNA: Vic has been acting for stage and screen since he was eight years old. But his anime career started about fifteen years ago as Vega in **Street Fighter II**. Since then, Vic has been in more than three hundred animated series and video games, known for such roles as Edward Elric in **Fullmetal Alchemist**, Tamaki Suoh in **Ouran High School Host Club**, Zero in **Vampire Knight**, Death Scythe in **Soul Eater**, Fai in **Tsubasa Chronicle**, Keldeo in **Pokémon**, Dark in **D.N.Angel**, Kurz in **Full Metal Panic!**, Broly in **Dragonball Z**, Ikkaku in **Bleach**, Obito/Nagato in **Naruto**, Yoshimori in **Kekkaishi**, Yukito in **Air**, Takanaga in **Wallflower**, Luciano in **Code Geass**, Virgil Walsh in **Trinity Blood**, Hikaru in **Macross**, **Space Dandy**, **Tiger & Bunny**, **Digimon Fusion**, **Sword Art Online**, **Nura**, **Lagrange** and many many more.

TODD HABERKORN: Todd Haberkorn has been on stage, on set, and behind a mic for many years. In the animated world, he went on to voice roles such as Sparrow Hood in **Ever After High**, Elfonso in **Sofia The First**, Natsu from **Fairy Tail**, Italy from **Hetalia**, Ling Yao from **Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood**, Tierno from **Pokémon**, Allen Walker from **D.Gray-man**, Hikaru Hitachin from **Ouran High School Host Club**, Death the Kid from **Soul Eater**, and many others.

For interview opportunities, please contact publicity@kumoricon.org.

STAY CONNECTED

<https://www.kumoricon.org>



facebook.com/kumoricon

twitter.com/kumoricon

Instagram.com/kumoricon

ABOUT KUMORICON

Founded in 2003 in Springfield, OR, Kumoricon is a 100% volunteer-run event, including its executive staff and board. Celebrating fifteen years of anime and Japanese culture, Kumoricon is back for its biggest year yet! Gaining its namesake (*kumori*) from the Japanese word "cloudy", we embody everything it means to live in the Pacific Northwest and love this fandom. Stretching across generations, anime fans have gathered together for an amazing annual event, rain or shine. Returning to Portland, Oregon, the staff are excited to bring you another wonderful anime convention designed and operated with the fans and their devotion in mind.

Potential sponsors should contact the Industry Manager at industry@kumoricon.org.

More information about staffing, buying a membership, programming and more can be found on Kumoricon's official website <https://www.kumoricon.org>.

###