



Cal, Florence and Ortha (played by five puppeteers) confronting Queen Irdis in the ballroom to prevent Astar from waging war on her people.

photo: ang

## The Sky is the Limit

**“The Skies of Astar” was the title of the pawpet show. This year, we decided to give you two views of the show instead of one.**

### Luxen writes:

For a moment, it looked like this year’s pawpet show would follow the beaten path. A strong-minded heroine (Florence Harrington, daughter of a flight pioneer) would struggle against, but eventually fall for her hapless young male counterpart (in this case Cal Davis, former employee of the unscrupulous industrial magnate Sarkan T. Welsh).

What happened instead was both more weird and more wonderful: Cal did end up in love with a female, but with the sapient dragon-like creature Ortha, a beast

much bigger than himself with whom he did not even share a language. Ortha’s home and civilisation was threatened to be wiped out by Mr. Welsh’s imperialistic “Transoceanic Expedition”. Florence on the other hand, the more practical minded one of the pair, turned to her other true love, engineering, carrying on the torch of her genius father.

The setting, a kingdom with roughly pre-World-War-I technology, was embraced with obvious gusto by both the scriptwriters and the builders of props and backdrops. Rich details and fun vehicles (planes, airships, trucks!) allowed the audience to immerse themselves in the spirit of the age. There was also a fair share of comic relief and slapstick. Getting an extra

editor for the script seems to have worked well, as dialogues sounded more natural and less wordy than in previous years.

Overall, this was a pleasing mix, much like Florence’s mother’s famous cake recipes: Rich, colourful and sweet, with only a hint of bitterness. While “Keepers of the Light” and “Dreamcatchers” are still my favourite, “The Skies of Astar” ranks high on my list.

### Akeela writes:

This year’s Pawpet Show was set in the turn-of-the-century scenery of the kingdom of Astar, and traditionally, the team delivered a top-class production. The props and backdrops were especially well-made and beautiful this year, and the ingenuity of the made-for-the-purpose pawpets and marionettes was outstanding.

Using a plethora of visual and special effects, the show was extremely joyful to watch. The whole beauty of the art-déco inspired visuals was only amplified by the incredible art used for the scene change screens.

The story itself was something of a mixed bag. Enjoyably more complex than last year’s, there still was the traditional pattern of a strong female character paired with a less-than-brilliant male sidekick. This year, however, a second female main character and a different pairing operating in the background and cutscenes was widening the scope considerably, and made the storytelling more three-dimensional.

Sadly, the show was plagued with sound problems. Especially during the first act, the speakers voices were often either too loud or too quiet, and partly unintelligible. (aki lux)

# Photographers' Choice

Every Eurofurence, our team of four Daily photographers take many more great shots than we can usually fit into our paper. Here, they present you a choice of their favourite Eurofurence motives that are simply too good to just go to our archive unpublished.



**Impressum:** Michael "Luxen" Graf (lux), "Aeverus" (aev), Peter "Akeela" Plickert (aki), Matthias "Angus" Bauer (ang), Bart "Carbine" Moonen (car), Andreas "Chitatz" Semmelmann (chi), Andreas "Curry" Wieland (cur), Till "Draugvorn" Baar (dgv), Andrea "Fenzytea" Schaefer (fen), Hannu-Heikki "hHP" Puupponen (hhp), Marc-Oliver "Kerocat" Krug (ker), Danny "Pegla" Palic (peg), "Sambers" (sam), "Sithy" (sty), Jürgen "webby" Härig (web)

## HOLY CRITTERS

# Set

Set (or Seth, as the ancient Greeks called him) can be summed up as the god of chaos. His name in hieroglyphs can be spelled in three markedly different ways (from 'sootah' to 'setekch') and only one of those ways uses the glyph for 'god'.

This is very much in line with Set's story which reflects the many aspects of this deity. Set is the killer of the god Osiris. Osiris' son Horus, the deity of Lower Egypt, would be fighting bitter battles with Set for many years to the chagrin of the other gods. Eventually Horus defeats Set in a boat race, and becomes the ruler of

all of Egypt (not after Set seduces him, however, a love story is of all ages!).

Both Horus and Set are often shown together as a balancing force that brought Lower and Upper Egypt together, their differences put aside for the greater good. This is the positive Set.

It was the conquering of Egypt by foreigners (Persians) that demonized Set. Set had always been a deity of foreigners and the Egyptians felt oppressed by the Persians, leading to a negative relationship with Set. At this time in the Kingdom, Set became a demon, a trickster and a god of disorder. And what a disorder it was, for the Arabs took over Egypt and their language was lost for many years...

We have yet to figure out the species of this critter, if he is really a species and not the world's first 'closed furry species'! The hieroglyphs used for the animal are unlike any animal the Egyptians noted down for us. They also only show up in texts concerning Set. As a result, his species is simply known as 'the Set-animal'. The discussion on whether or not this was an animal the Egyptians made up entirely, or if he is the result of various species mixed together, is ongoing today. (We welcome suggestions!)

Set, always the plotting trickster, would of course be proud of this confusion. (sty)

## TIMETABLE

10:30

Feedback Gathering.....  
PARIS

19:30

Dead Dog Party.....  
DEALERS' DEN

# Tea and a Flight



Uncle Kage auctioning off one of the stage banners. photo: ang

# The Finishing Touch

A department with only three members made a big difference for the con's atmosphere: Decoration.

Once again, the Decoration department did a great job at preparing the

Estrel for This year's theme, Ancient Egypt. At the head of decorations we find Jason Blake. He explains: "We do not rent any of our decorations. All you see here are custom prints or self-built." Almost all banners

and standees are sold at the charity auction at the end of the convention, some items remain in storage or are recycled.

Jason: "For budgetary reason we try to reuse as much of the electronics as possible. For example the hieroglyph wall in the foyer will be stripped after the convention." Designing and building is done throughout the year, then the set-up takes about two days.

### Volunteers Welcome

"We could do it faster if we had more qualified volunteers, for now it is just Dhary and me who are able to do this. We could always use more volunteers on our team, so don't hesitate if you would like to help out." (car)

The art auction taking place early in the Saturday morning, again hosted by Uncle Kage. Unlike last year, when he imbibed a whole bottle of wine, Kage only brought a mug of "tea". Preceded by his usual amusing instructions and warnings to only bid in reasonable increments, the art auction progressed with good, brisk bidding, few pieces going to the bidsheet. The highest bid went to the fennec fursuit partial by Zephyr Frost at €1.000. The charity part of the auction witnessed an excellent volume of bids, almost no items going under a hundred euro. The highest-selling charity item was a voucher to go flying, with TaniDaReal piloting a Cessna 152. Despite the small size of the aircraft not allowing for fursuits, the final bid was €600. (hhp)



Jason, head of the Decoration Department.

photo: chi

# Odds and Ends

Each year the Daily Eurofurence tries to cover the most interesting stories. But in every issue some interesting facts don't seem to fit or are just too short for a proper article.

» The charity fursuit calendar was sold out after only 3 hours and 45 minutes.

» The severe thunderstorms on Friday evening flooded parts of Con Ops and the Pawpet Show prop storage. Luckily, all equipment could be removed in time so nothing was damaged. The storm also caused a power outage in the ECC.

» There were exactly 111 cars and motorbikes at the Motorfurs Meet on Saturday and many more furies came to admire them.

» Most of the hieroglyphs used in this year's decoration were provided by Sithy. They are actually written in Middle Egyptian. The obe-

lisk near the Charity Booth for example encourages you to donate, or rather to make an offering, as the Egyptians didn't have a word for "to donate" that we know of. Please refrain from making any actual sacrifices though.

» The taste of the attendees seems to have improved in comparison to last year, as not all Kalte Muschi bottles were sold out by Saturday evening. It could also be that the Estrel simply ordered more.

» Cabs and Braxton won the Fursuit Gameshow.

» The hieroglyphs on the Estrel room keycards spell "Anpu", the original name for Anubis. Maybe Wepwawet (you know ... *white Anubis*) would have been a better choice, as one of his epithets is "the Opener of Ways". Wepwawet is actually a wolf-headed war deity riding a solar boat, how cool is that? (dgv)

# A Feline Fortune



Shay announcing the preliminary charity result.

photo: web

The closing ceremony this year was a refreshingly short and simple affair. It consisted mostly of the announcement of the charity preliminary result of €20329.70, and Cheetah's declaration that we had 200 more attendees than yesterday, coming to a total number of 2798 checked-

in guests. Next year's theme is: "Aviators - Conquer the Sky!"

The ladies from "Sieben-Katzenleben" were understandably enthused with the result of your generosity, and we would like to thank you all for it - and remind you that there is still time to donate a little more. (aki)

## FURSUIT LOUNGE

### GOOD IDEA

TRY TO HELP OTHERS.  
DON'T WALK IN THE WAY.  
DON'T HOG THE FANS

### BAD IDEA

HOG ALL THE FANS AND TABLES ALL DAY. STAY TALKING FOREVER. LITTER THE FLOOR WITH FOOD!