

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 9, 2009**

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## **“The Mad Masker” Wins First Place in Regional Costume Contest**

Laguna College of Art & Design senior Aubriana Zurilgen received First Place with a grand prize cash award of \$2,500 in The Muckenthaler Cultural Center’s Annual Moonlight Masquerade Gala on October 25. Aubriana and friend Paul Howell created the costume duo *Shard the Shattered One and the Shaman*, and were dubbed *The Wolf Couple* by judges and fans at the event. Aubriana and Paul received the prestigious accolade of First Place among a pool of 300 contestants that had been narrowed down to 25 finalists. The contest was judged by a panel that included fashion and design instructors and industry professionals who carefully evaluated the caliber of each entrant’s skill and design.

Describing the inspiration behind the costumes, Aubriana said, “I’ve always been interested in mysticism and all types of religions. I love learning about them and was recently inspired by Native American beliefs and aesthetic. I made the skull mask for *Shaman* first and then created the costume around it. Paul’s costume, *Shard*, is a character within the book series he created. When I made that mask, we looked at lot at jackals, antelopes and different types of robes.” The production of the costumes took over a month and combined Howell’s animatronic talent with Zurilgen’s creative vision. The two have collaborated on a variety of projects and costumes with animated components; his specialty being wearable special effect pieces that incorporate mechanical motion systems, lighting arrays and full audio-visual and environmental systems.

Aubriana is pursuing her Bachelor’s degree in Illustration and Animation at Laguna College. Her love of art and creative works grew throughout the course of her education, fueled by influence from the dedicated and talented faculty. While at LCAD, Aubriana decided to take her love of costuming to the next level and after several successful costuming and mask making projects, *The Mad Masker* was born. She subsequently joined with local engineering and effects designer Chimerical Creations and has several upcoming projects to showcase her creative skills, including a full body creature costume. With more than six years experience as a free lance artist, Aubriana has honed her skills on a wide variety of projects including creature concepts for Mythbinder, stop motion animation and full body costuming

and mask making. All of this leading to her goal of becoming a cinema and theatrical costumer, prop maker and creature artist.

“Costuming is my love and my passion. It’s my goal to work in the movie industry as an effects artist or concept artist. I strive to show others another world, to take them there and make them believe in the creatures that I have created,” she continued. “I plan to use my portion of the prize money to fund my senior project in order to create a proper portfolio to apply for movie industry effects and prosthetic jobs.” Aubriana’s work can be seen at <http://themadmasker.com>

**Images:**

Shard the Shattered One and the Shaman

Contestants in the competition

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Laguna College of Art & Design is a private, not-for-profit college where outstanding artist-educators, visual arts programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and year-round exhibitions give fresh vision to Laguna’s extraordinary legacy in the visual arts. Founded in 1961, the college educates artists at all stages of their creative careers, offering Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Drawing and Painting, Graphic Design, Illustration, Game Art and Animation, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting.

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