

Jim Henson's **CREATURE SHOP**

JIM HENSON'S CREATURE SHOP CHALLENGE LIVE
DRAGON CON 2018

"CITIZENS OF THE UNCHARTED TERRITORIES"

*Show us your imagination and creativity by creating a species
from the world of Farscape*

JUDGES:

Brian Henson
Kirk Thatcher
Halle Stanford

HOST:

Gigi Edgely

CREATURE BRIEF:

Get building! Attendees at this year's Dragon Con are welcome to show their creativity, imagination and artistry by creating creatures or creature costumes. Competitors will create and perform a unique character, through costuming, mechanization, and sculpting & painting, that feels like it is from the world of the popular sci-fi series *Farscape*. Designs should reflect the character's personality, gender, age, health, intelligence, and backstory.

Contestants will have their creations pre-judged on Friday, August 31 at 2:30pm at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. At 4:00pm on 8/31, Jim Henson's Creature Shop Challenge Live will begin in the Marriott's Atrium Ballroom.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

- *Characters must reflect the world and canon of *Farscape*
- *Characters must incorporate at least one mechanical effect
- *Characters must incorporate some form of costuming
- *Characters will be judged on strength of design and concept, believability, and finishing
- *Team submissions are not permitted; there will be only one winner

Need ideas? Have questions? Want to join in the fun? Join us on social media for all your Creature Shop Challenge Live info!

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#CSCLIVE

CHALLENGE RULE SHEET

- You have approximately **26 DAYS** for this Challenge.
- You must build a creature or creature costume that can safely be performed for judging.
- Creatures do not need to walk, but creatures or creature costumes must be able to be moved into the judging space for review and into the display space in the Atrium Ballroom for the final presentation. (Judges will not travel to where a submission is displayed or “set up.”)
- You may work with assistants, but you must submit your creature individually. There will be only one named winner.
- You must create an original character.
- You must be done with your character before pre-judging on Friday, August 31 at 2:30PM.
- Your creature must be costumed.

Jim Henson's Creature Shop Challenge LIVE - Rules & Information

1. Online pre-registration closes Wednesday 5:00pm EST before the Con. We reserve the right to end pre-registration early, depending on the number of registrations. Onsite registration MAY be available, but we encourage you to pre-register to guarantee a chance to be pre-judged.
2. Pre-judging will take place on Friday, August 31st in Marriott A708 at 2:30 pm. Please check in no later than 2:45 pm. We cannot guarantee that anyone who checks in after 2:45 will be allowed to be pre-judged.
3. Pre-judging times will be assigned first-come, first-served at check-in on Friday at 2:30 pm. Onsite registration MAY be available, depending on the number of pre-registrants. Onsite registrants will not be pre-judged until all pre-registered contestants have been seen. We will pre-judge as many Creatures as we can in the time allotted for pre-judging.
4. During your pre-judging time, you will be invited to meet with the judges, who may or may not ask questions about your Creature's construction, theme, inspiration, etc. Please be cognizant that we want everyone to have their chance to be pre-judged so be thorough but brief.
5. No nudity allowed; this is a family contest. No costume is no Creature.
6. After pre-judging is completed, we will announce who is invited to present their Creatures during the public event on Friday at 4:00 pm in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom. If your Creature is selected, you will be given a presentation slot for the public event. Contestants who are invited to present their Creatures are required to be ready backstage in the Marriott Atrium Ballroom at 4:00pm.
7. Individual presentations will be limited to TWO minutes. The Technical Director reserves the right to remove contestants who violate these time limits. Bear in mind that the judges are judging your creature and not your presentation.
8. NO microphones may be used by the contestants. Except for the written emcee introduction, all audio material must be pre-recorded on your music track (see rule 9). Any contestant who attempts to address the audience will be removed from the stage immediately. Contestants need to be aware that anything spoken onstage, without amplification, cannot be heard in the hall or at the judges' table.
9. To have music or dialog accompany your presentation, you must pre-record it and attach it to your pre-registration form. Your track will be reviewed for approval - please remember

this is an all ages show. Your track will start as soon as you enter the stage, so please incorporate any silence or dialogue as needed. Untested, unapproved, new, or changed tracks will not be accepted after pre-judging. If your track exceeds the time limit of TWO minutes (see rule 7), it will be truncated (cut off at the time limit). If you need to add or change your track before the pre-registration deadline, please email it to puppetry@dragoncon.com with the subject "Creature Challenge - Name of entrant".

10. All contestants under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times per convention policy; if not, they will be turned over to hotel security.
 11. This is a family friendly, all ages presentation. No profanity, no sexual content, no nudity, or anything else R rated. If you have any questions about the acceptability of your Creature or presentation, please contact us at puppetry@dragoncon.com to discuss.
 12. No flash pots or explosive devices. The Atlanta Fire Department will shut us down.
 13. If you plan to carry a weapon, you must conform to the following: No illegal or loaded weapons. No whips may be used onstage. Please make sure that any weapons are a necessary and incorporated part of your Creature - remember, you are being judged on your Creature and not your presentation.
 14. You must demonstrate that you can carry the weapon without injury to yourself or others. Transportation of weapons to and from the Challenge must follow the convention's weapon policy.
 15. Creature elements and props will have to be carried on and off the stage by the contestant. If your items require more people to move them, you will have to provide the manpower. When you pre-register for the contest, you must tell us why you need helpers and how many helpers you will have, and get backstage authorization for each of them. Each entrant may have up to 2 helpers.
 16. After your public presentation, you will return to the backstage area to await the judge's results.
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FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much does it cost to enter the Challenge?

A: ZERO, but you must have a Dragon Con membership badge valid for Friday and show it to the Challenge volunteer who checks you in during pre-judging.

Q: How do I enter the Challenge?

A: Use the pre-registration form prior to 5:00PM EST Wednesday Aug 29 before the Con on this site by following the link. Come to Marriott A708 and check in for pre-judging Friday at 2:30pm. If you have not pre-registered online you will be asked to do so in person and will be moved to the end of the pre-judging list. Entrants will be judged on a first come first served basis time in the time allotted. You and your creature must be available for BOTH pre-judging at 2:30PM and the public presentation at 4:00PM.

The volunteers at the table will check you in as an entrant, read your form, and give you a pre-judging order number. The volunteer will also check whether you have planned to use a digital track for audio music or dialogue. If you have not submitted your track previously, please bring a digital copy - it will need to be approved before it can be used for your presentation. You must remain at the registration table to learn if your track will be able to be played during the show. Your entry form will be kept by the volunteers, and we will enter all the forms into a computer and print them so that the emcee will be able to read your announcement. We need your real name on the entry form, not your con nickname.

Q: How is the order of contestants determined for the public presentation?

A: Due to time considerations, only approved pre-judged contestants will be invited to display their creatures during the presentation. We will schedule Creatures that involve children to go onstage at the beginning. Anyone with a pressing legitimate need will be scheduled early in the presentation schedule. A legitimate need is defined as a physical limitation or a creature that is too hot or uncomfortable to be in for more than 2 hours or so. All other contestants will be assigned sequence numbers for going onstage at the discretion of the Technical Director.

Q: Why can't I use a microphone?

A: No microphones will be given to contestants due to problems in past contests. BE AWARE: Do not try to project your normal voice into the audience - it is too large a room and will have too many bodies. We have found that contestants who try to address the audience directly cannot be heard, not even by the judges at their table in front of the stage. If you attempt to address the audience directly, you will be escorted off of the stage.

Q: How do the judges score the contestants?

A: The winner will be chosen by the sole discretion of the judges during the pre-judging process

Q: What does the winner win?

A: The winner will be invited to tour Jim Henson's Creature Shop in New York City or Los Angeles and will receive a travel stipend of \$700, courtesy of Dragon Con and The Jim Henson Company.

Q: Can I use pyrotechnics, flash paper, smudge pots, or smoke machines?

A: NO - we cannot risk the Atlanta Fire Department shutting us down.

Q: How big will the stage be?

A: We can't say for sure at this time - but we will get back to contestants who have a specific concern.

Q: Can I have friends backstage with me?

A: No - we do not have adequate room backstage for anyone who is not directly involved with the show. If you have a large Creature, you can have up to two helpers - but they will have to be approved by the Technical Director prior to the presentation on Friday and they have to have the Challenge authorization to be backstage.

Q: What happens to contestants who break the rules?

A: They will be escorted from the stage and disqualified. BE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE RULES LISTED ABOVE.

We hope this answers your questions - if not, please email puppetry@dragoncon.org.