



Convergence 2011 ♦ Photo by Bryan Humphrey

GAMERA, GODZILLA, AND PREDATOR

Disclaimer

- I acknowledge inspiration and instruction from various companies, Web sites, forums, and individuals
- **BUT:** I want to make it clear that I am not representing any of those forums, companies, Web sites, or individuals
- Furthermore: None of these organizations have reviewed or approved of the content of this presentation, nor have they reviewed or approved of the costumes I am presenting, or the techniques and materials I will be demonstrating

Disclaimer (part 2)

- The construction techniques and finished products have not been reviewed for quality, integrity, or suitability by any of the organizations named

Disclaimed Parties

- The Hunter's Lair
- The Monster Makers
- SparkFun Electronics
- Smooth-On Inc.
- Plastics International
- Toho Company Ltd.
- Daiei Film
- 20th Century Fox
- Stan Winston Studios
- MarsCon
- The D.O.O.M. Squad
- CONvergence Events Inc.
- Dragon*Con
- Carl and Diana Reis Daniels
- Tandy Leather Factory

Why I need a disclaimer

- “Stevie Wonder going passed on horseback, should be able to see that someone wearing a forums apparel looks like they are a official representative of that forum. Which to be honest is alittle daft/cheaky unless asked to do so. “

Gamera (CONvergence 2007)



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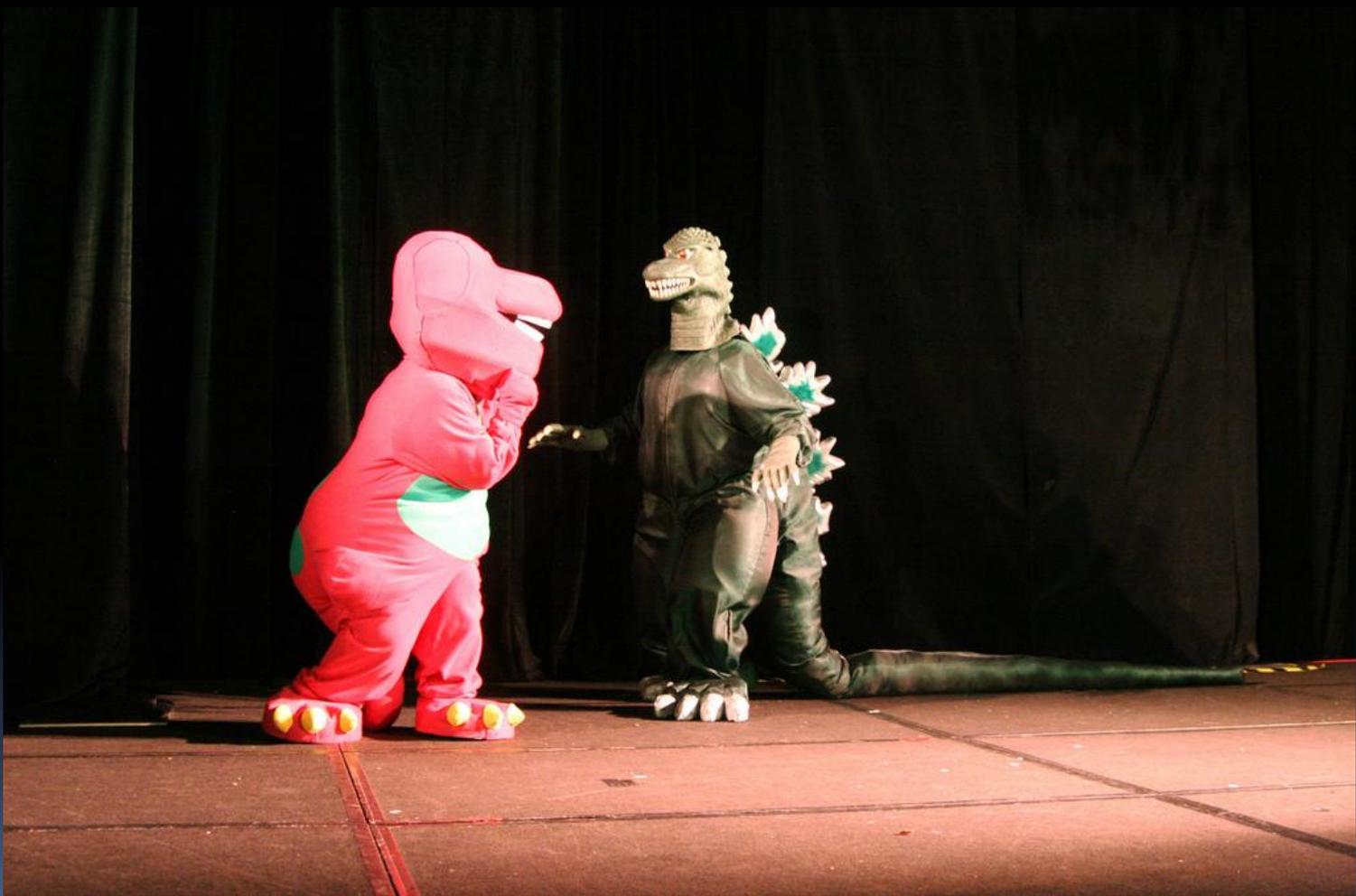
Gamera

- My first “real”, serious costume, even though I had made half costumes of various quality
- I made a latex mask by making a clay sculpture, then molding it in Ultracal 30 and slush-casting latex into the mold
- Outer shell is made from Sintra plastic, covered with vinyl scales
- Hands and feet are also latex, using the same techniques
- Arms, legs, and inner shell are made from vinyl (which really trapped the heat)

Gamera

- I had no idea I'd win Best In Show for it
- But, the audience loved the presentation – after all, I destroyed a replica of the host hotel
- You might even say I brought the house down

Godzilla (CONvergence 2009)



Godzilla

- I made a latex mask for this one, as well
 - But it's higher than my real head, to give it some height
- The back has 15 plastic spines that light up
 - Made with blue and white LEDs wired to a BASIC Stamp microcontroller
 - My first experience with plastic vacuforming

Vacuforming Rig



The Hibachi from Hell



The Suck Box

Bench Testing the Lighting



Mask sculpting



- I think it took me 2-3 weeks to sculpt this (evenings and weekends, of course)

Casting the mask



Painting the Mask



The Predator Costume: An Evolution



Predator Costume Construction

- Started off sculpting a latex mask, as before
- Main bodysuit is from a Mr. Incredible suit stretched out over a duct tape dummy, then layered with mask latex
- Left gauntlet (countdown timer) is powered by an Arduino microcontroller driving 36 LEDs
- Right gauntlet (retractable wristblades) was made from the eject mechanism of an old CD-RW drive

Predator Costume Construction

- Gauntlets and the biohelmet were sculpted in clay, molded with silicone, then cast in polyurethane plastic
- Flat armor pieces were made of Sintra plastic, heat-molded and shaped
- Hands, feet, backpack, and dreadlocks were purchased

Version 1.0



- Won Best In Show at CONvergence 2010
- I made plans to bring it down to Dragon*Con 2010
- But, there were some things I didn't like about my original design...

Why I upgraded before Dragon*Con 2010

- After comparing my mask to other builder's masks, I realized I didn't get the shape of the crown right at all
- Also, the other masks are somewhat larger than a human head; I was trying to make my mask the same size as my own head
- I made the difficult decision to buy a Pete Mander mask, then make my own new biohelmet

The New Mask



Painting the New Mask



Painting the New Mask



Other Upgrades

- I decided to buy flexible latex armor for the shins, the chest/backplate, and a couple other pieces
 - Mainly because large inflexible Sintra pieces wouldn't travel well on an airplane

Dragon*Con 2010

