



# Cosplay queen

*by Meredith Fuller*


Artemisia Moltabocca likes to get it on. Her [Dalek](#) Queen Elizabeth costume, that is, which is the accountant-cum-cosplayer's current favorite design. The 48 year-old creates and wears historical and cosplay costumes for fun and amateur masquerade competitions around the country. And the distorted Queen E is the reigning queen bee of Artemisia's numerous whimsical creations.

A spirited dynamo, Artemisia has been careening around the cosplay community for almost ten years—though she feels like, in hindsight, it should have happened sooner. “Costuming was supposed to be in my life the entire time; now I’m just playing catch up.”

Her current passion is mash-up or crossover costuming. Envision Dr. Who tangling with a Victorian duchess, or the Avengers in fisticuffs with Buster Keaton. The resulting chaos is currently strewn across Artemisia's sewing room. And it makes her giddy with delight.

Cosplay isn't the cheapest hobby going: Authenticity matters, and authenticity costs. Hours of online research ensure the details of her costumes are historically accurate, from materials to sewing methods.

Although she's spent a career in bookkeeping, Artemisia admits it's difficult, at times, sticking to a budget. Reimagining an 18th century red-slipped Dorothy meant Artemisia paid handsomely for blue-checked silk, because polyester just wouldn't cut it. Even the Wicked Witch of the West would approve.



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Despite the chance to visit different centuries and lives through cosplay, Artemisia believes, like Dorothy, that there’s no place like home. “I love the time travel costuming allows, but still prefer the now—with running water, vaccines, and Netflix!”

For Artemisia, cosplay is as much about the community as it is about the costumes. She bubbles enthusiastically about the friends she’s made at the Pennsic War event, Wizard World, Costume Con, and various Renaissance fairs. Add to that the online community members with whom she swaps ideas, information, and advice. Camaraderie and support are stitched as deeply into the cosplayers’ designs as inspiration and imagination.

So will she ever retire from cosplay? Fat chance. “I’ll be the world’s best Dowager Countess ever!”

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