

**Could you introduce yourself and your background regarding cosplay?**

I'm Nadine, also known as Nissa Cosplay on social media. I mainly make cosplays from the trading card game Magic: the Gathering and take them to an ever growing number of MTG events like Magic Fests and other MTG related conventions all over the globe.

**I checked a bit your previous works and was quite impressed with the designs and work you do with animatronics or LEDs. Could you share a bit how did you get to learn these skills?**

You probably mean my animatronics wings? I got into that via an American cosplayer called 'The Crooked Feather'. She makes wings like that and similar stuff for a living. Over the years, she figured out this crazy wing mechanic and also keeps on improving it. She has a Patreon where you get access to the techniques and tutorials if you pledge for 10\$ or more/month. I used that information to build my own set of wings. I ordered the backplate off her, because it's a piece that is really important to have well-made and comfortable and also require tools that I don't have. I purchased some more mechanical stuff from her to spare time looking for the exact materials in a different country and assembled it all myself. The wing shape as well as all the feathery bits I made myself, which still ended up being a ton of work since they're HUGE :) The internet is really a mine for information on cosplay tutorials where you can find most of the information you need to get going (e.g. LEDs). My best friend also helped me a bit with the math and physics behind the LEDs, which is not complex to grasp but I was glad to have someone show me how to not burn down my house while soldering!

**Since you create all your costumes yourself and that big projects can be quite expensive. I was wondering if you get any sponsorships to craft them?**

I barely cosplay casually at conventions anymore. There's maybe just one back home in Switzerland where I would casually cosplay. I now usually cosplay at magic events where I get compensation for. At some point I started doing it so often that it was getting very exhausting and expensive as I try to get as close as possible to the character, which makes me use more expensive materials to build crazier stuff. I usually do not get compensation for creating the costumes, but I sometimes do (like for this one which was commissioned by Red Bull). Things also break and get damaged and no one will compensate for that, and in the end both crafting/acquiring technical know-how and wearing cosplays at events is a lot of exhausting work which should be paid for accordingly.

**Thanks to the collaboration you have now with Magic, did you have the opportunity to travel a lot worldwide for events?**

The most events I attend are in Europe but I also went to the US and Japan for some GPs/MFs. For example: In the timeframe of a month after building one of my cosplays, I did a whole lap around the world attending events! It was fun but after that I was really exhausted.

**How did it work for you to be noticed and start this sponsorship? Can you say you made the jump to become a pro cosplayer?**

I got started like 3-4 years ago and had 2 magic cosplays at the time. I saw Christine Sprinkle cosplaying magic at magic events in the US (she was the first cosplayer going to MTG events and had been doing it for years at that time), she inspired me in such a way that I reached out to channel fireball and asked if there would be similar opportunities for me in the EU. I got invited to my first GPs and attended in cosplay, then was asked to do more and more since my skills increased over time and people started to know about me. Still, it's not my job and I cannot live off it. I'm working towards a world where that is possible, not necessarily for me, but I want to make the industry recognize our value and treat us accordingly.

**Is it your intention to focus on magic related themes or are you open to other ones?**

This is what I'm known for now, but if I have other opportunities, I'm definitely open to them as well.

**Besides magic events and commissions, do you also attend cosplay contests?**

I used to, but not that much anymore as with magic costumes it is very difficult to create a stage presentation/ performance that will be talking to the judges and more importantly they have to judge you on a single small picture, which makes it harder to compete against other characters where more references exist. It's hard to present something based on characters that not a lot of people know.

**Do you still find the time to play MTG and did you compete in any of today's side events?**

Yes, I used to play more before at MFs and GPs but because I spend more and more time and energy working on cosplay projects as I get better, it is difficult to play as much as before. I had to slow down a bit. I took part in one of the side events here today and played the qualifier in Florence yesterday. Unfortunately, I lost my last round today to end at 2-1 in the draft, but my deck was great and I had a lot of fun :)

**Are you also interested in video games in general?**

Yes, I play games across a variety of consoles and on PC, I love it :) I actually started playing in the GameCube era with Mario Kart Double Dash, Tales of Symphonia and Pokémon games (also on Gameboys). I used to play on XBOX360 and Wii too, but those are mostly retired now. Now I am mainly playing on PC, my Switch and the PS4. Recent games I played and liked a lot are Breath of the Wild, Devil May Cry games, Horizon Zero Dawn, Nier Automata, many 'Tales of...' and Final Fantasy games, Guild wars (1+2) with my brother, Persona 5, Darksiders 3 and last but far from least Overwatch. To be honest I don't always finish them because of several reasons: I hate stories ending and sometimes it's hard to come back to a game after leaving one for some time because it's hard to get back into it again and I travel a lot. Games I have an easier time getting back into are the ones on the Switch (since I can bring that on trips easily) and Overwatch, since it allows for short sessions in between without being super disoriented.

**Any upcoming games you are excited about?**

I am pretty much looking forward to the remake of FF VII. I haven't played the old one yet because I didn't have a PS back then, and now I'm too much of a sucker for good graphics and pretty things and can't bring myself to play the remaster heh. As it goes with remakes, I'm a bit scared that it'll be bad, but the fact that they make multiple parts has me more optimistic than if they tried to squeeze this much story into one game of current standards, so there's that! :)

**Last one, I am a magical fairy that can grant 3 wishes. What do you choose?**

I don't know, I would wish for a million more wishes (editor's note: why is everyone doing this to the fairies T\_T) -> BECAUSE THAT'S THE OBVIOUS AND SMART THING TO DO hahaha (sorry fairies, you asked for it) Ok, additionally grant me infinite funds, materials and space for my cosplay projects and please make FF VII not suck