

# Erica Muse Cosplay

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STUDIO



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POKÉMON: GODDESS FLAREON



# -ABOUT ERICA MUSE -



*Hunger Games: Katniss Everdeen*

*Erica Muse* is best known for her acting and costuming. She began making costumes in 2005 and acting on stage in 2007. She feels these passions grew, in part, due to being bullied in school. "No one bullied me when I was out of school making costumes, modeling, acting, or performing, because we all had similar dreams!" Her first time on a production set was in 2008 as a tornado victim for F-5, followed by providing wardrobe for Wraith in 2012. After a realization in 2018, she turned her passions towards voice acting, landing her first voice acting role in 2019 as Evelyn in *The Lottery*. She can now be heard in anime, video games, podcasts, web series, and other projects, and be spotted in several films, shows, music videos, and commercials.

At just 8-years-old, she fell in love with costumes while watching her father make his own for Halloween. She began sewing with him at age 12, and begged her mother to let her go to AnimeFest simply because she knew her brother had worn a costume to it. In 2006, she attended her first anime convention as a Lisa Frank inspired neko. Not only was she allowed to wear just about anything, people even appreciated it. After having a school uniform her entire life, conventions quickly became her favorite place to be. Erica attended a private grade school where she had been in choir since age 5, but transferred to a public school and joined theatre in high school after seeing her first musical *West Side Story*. She found a new passion through acting, which led her to joining some groups online and doing background work on sets. Summer after graduation, she was awarded Best Supporting Actress by the Irving Community Theater for her performance as Bethany in *I Wished I Had Waited*. She then shifted her focus to college, waitressing her way through two semesters before taking a

bartending class. The instructor was a videographer looking for extras for music videos. Among them, she appeared in videos with Rhymin' N' Stealin' where she became friends with Josh Martin. She graduated in 2012 juggling jobs to make ends meet while pursuing modeling and acting. Two years later, her father was struck by a truck on his motorcycle. She accepted a full-time position with a company and took care of him until he recovered.

In 2017, Erica was asked to guest at a convention as a cosplayer for the first time. This was a path she had not previously considered, but happily pursued. While guesting at conventions, she crossed paths with Josh Martin again and discovered he was the voice of Majin Buu from the *Dragon Ball* franchise. She suddenly realized she could be a voice for anime, video games, and cartoons like the ones she grew up with. He referred her to Chris Rager's class, where she was advised to attend improvisation classes due to her time away from formal acting. She graduated from John Casablancas Center in 2018 and gained agency representation. While she enjoys every field in the entertainment industry, her dream is to voice characters in anime, video games, and cartoons. "I believe people rely on these mediums to make them laugh, learn, or cry, and share those times with friends and family. I want to be a part of that!" In pursuit, she has attended workshops at OkraTron 5000, StarMan Studios, Sonny Strait Studios, and countless convention panels by Funimation and Gearbox talent. She became a full-time talent working in commercials, voice-over, print, and film in February of 2020.



*Poison Ivy*

# - INTERVIEW -



*Halo: Cortana*

## How did you get into cosplay?

Halloween wasn't just my father and I's favorite holiday. It was my parents' anniversary and my brother's birthday. I have been making costumes since my father taught me in 2005, and cosplaying since going to my first convention with anime club in 2006 and falling in love with the idea of wearing a costume more than once a year. (Fun Fact: My very first convention in 2006 was Anime Fest and, after seeing a bunch of people outside my mom's attached office building dressed in awesome goth clothes, I just wore all of my goth clothes <that I usually got judged for wearing> with a guitar purse my mom got me. I was accidentally dressed just like Misa Amane from Death Note and people kept telling me, realizing I was not familiar with the show, to sign their Death Notes. I felt like a celebrity and have cosplayed ever since. I know now I was killing myself by signing them, which is pretty funny, but you can't make me stop dressing up!) In 2017 I was asked to guest at a convention as a creator for the first time and there was no looking back. I have since been hosted at over a dozen different conventions, run my own panels, and judged cosplay competitions as Scarlet Muse Cosplay. In 2018, I attended 34 conventions and began contributions to Heroic Inner Kids for charity. From running panels and judging competitions to communicating with guests, I am just happy to be involved with so many wonderful events. This has really helped me to progress in the industry and learn quickly. As a happy owner of over 300 costumes, I am always making and acquiring more. Some are bought and altered, some are handmade, and some I just made the accessories for. These decisions are made based on time, cost, and expectations. I aim to keep the cosplay industry positive and inviting to everyone because when I was young it was very much my escape. You can wear or be anyone you want for a couple of days without worrying about what anyone thinks. We are all looking for friends and have our own "interesting" going on. So, if anything, the more interesting, the better. Always

remember "Too many people have opinions on things they know nothing about. And the more ignorant they are, the more opinions they have." -Thomas Hildern

## Who is your favorite character to cosplay and why?

So far I think I had the most fun running around as a gender bent couple Prince Eric and Ariel. I had way too much fun pretending to be a guy all day and hearing my partners ridiculous responses pretending to be Ariel. Lately we've done a lot more cosplay for comedy's sake. Belle will always have a special place in my heart though since it was our first cosplay together and entire families get so excited and interact so well with her. I just love the spark in kids' eyes when we interact with them as Beast and Belle and I encourage them to read more.

## What tips do you have on making a costume?

That's a super loaded question, because it really just depends on what you're making. Your medium and plan of attack can change entirely from one build to the next. Pattern making for anything from foam to fabrics is generally the hardest part for me. Lots of trial and error for the base pattern. So, I highly recommend checking online (Etsy) for patterns to what you are making and walkthroughs (YouTube) for making them. If not Etsy and YouTube, then saran wrap and duct tape yourself, draw it on, then cut it off. Great walkthroughs for this on YouTube too.



### **What is your favorite memory of being a cosplayer?**

I was in line at Marvelous Nerd Year's Eve to get Jason Mewes autograph dress as Red Sonja and Kevin Zorbo tapped my shoulder and gave me an autographed picture of him as Kull the Conqueror, compliment my cosplay and clearly joking said to check out the codpiece. Meanwhile I felt someone touching my shoulder again. Turned and saw stickers of Mewes on my cape followed by Jason Mewes saying I got Mewes juiced! The entire chain of events was just epic. I was both star struck and laughing so hard I was crying. My cheeks were sore for hours!

### **What advice do you have for fans getting into cosplay?**

Cosplay characters because you want to, not just because of popularity. You never know which ones will catch on and be something people really wanted to see the way you did it. You don't have to make your cosplay. Yes you will feel accomplished and proud of making it, but if that isn't your thing, it's also about having fun with others who enjoy the same fandom. So wear whatever you decide to wear loud and proud! No I'm not saying you have to literally be loud, especially if you want to be in character and that just isn't, but be confident and own your decisions.

### **What is the best part of being a voice actor?**

For me, it's knowing the characters I helped bring to life will inspire people or help them through hard times! Big or small roles, they played a part!

### **Who has been your favorite to voice?**

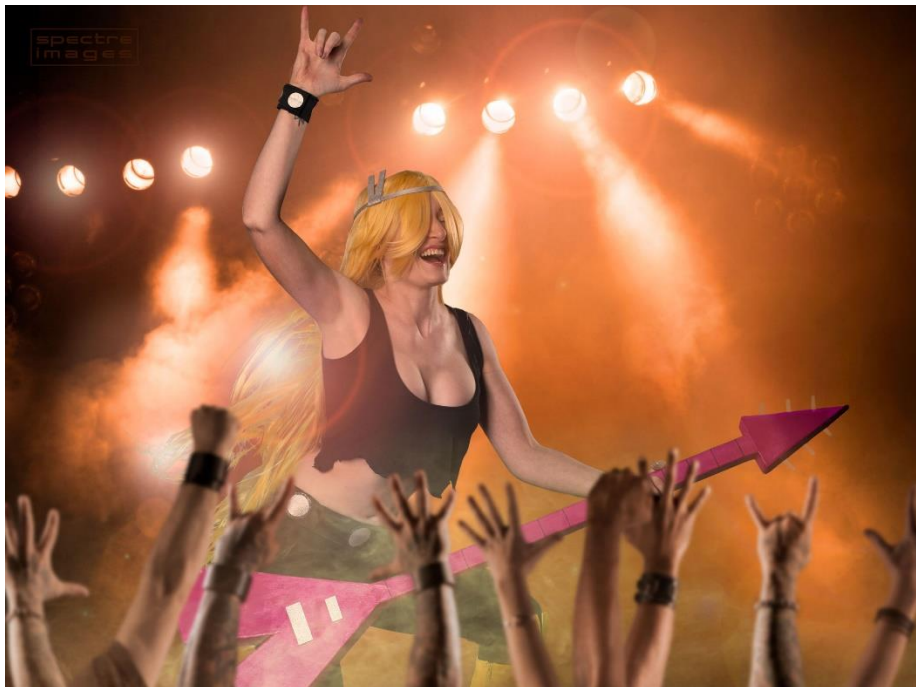
So far, Gwyn for Selaco. A new video game on the Doom engine set to release next year.

### **What advice do you have for someone getting into voice acting?**

Check this out and this will guide you in the right direction. <https://ericamuse.com/i-want-to-voice-act/>

### **If you could have a weapon or superpower to fight the forces of evil, what would you choose?**

Knowledge. Knowledge of how to make anything I may need, of what anyone is thinking, and of the future. This would create money, power, and a force to be reckoned with.



*Dexter's Laboratory: Justice Friends: Valhallen*

# Beauty and the Beast: Belle



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