

COMICS & CHARACTERS

Fans dress up as favorite heroes, and villains, for some fun at ABQ Con

If you go

WHAT: Albuquerque Comic Con

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today

WHERE: Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Albuquerque, 11000 Broadway SE

HOW MUCH: \$5 to \$100, packages available at www.albuquerquecomiccon.com or at the door

BY ADRIAN GOMEZ
Journal Staff Writer

They showed up and patiently waited in line in the walkways at Hard Rock Casino and Hotel Albuquerque.

When 10 a.m. struck on Saturday, the fun began for thousands attending the second day of Albuquerque Comic Con.

Some were dressed up in full costume, while other fanboys were there to meet their heroes.

For Albuquerque resident

Juan Cervantes, it was a time to be with his family.

"This event is something that all of us can come to and have fun," he says. "We all have a love of comics and its characters and it's great to share."

Cervantes' 11-year-old son, Andres, admits that he enjoys looking at all the antique memorabilia, but he also wanted to meet Madison Lintz of AMC's "The Walking Dead."

Lintz plays Sophia Peletier on the highly rated show.

"I was expecting to see her as a zombie," Andres says. "But it was still cool that she came here to meet all of the fans."

Cervantes' 17-year-old daughter, Brianna, says coming to the comic convention is just pure fun for her and the family.

Brianna was dressed up as the "companion" to the British TV character in "Dr. Who." The series is a British science fiction program

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MARLA BROSE/JOURNAL

Jimmy Letterhos, center, dressed as The Joker, and his girlfriend, Ellie March, dressed as Harley Quinn, share a laugh while socializing during Albuquerque Comic Con on Saturday. The two planned on competing in the costume contest. "I love the energy," March said about the event at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Albuquerque.



MARLA BROSE/JOURNAL

Fifteen-year-old Vincent Bauer, a Tusken Raider, middle, is joined by his Jawa-dressed brother, Jason Bauer, 11, left, and father, Eric Bauer, 37, right. They're talking with James C. Burns, who plays the character Sgt. Frank Woods in *Call of Duty*, at Albuquerque Comic Con, which continues today.

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produced by the BBC.

"I am completely in nerd heaven," she says. "There are so many things to see and learn about. It's just fun. Now I just have to find the Doctor."

The Cervantes family attended the event on Friday, as well. "We bought passes for the entire three days," Juan says. "It's just been so much fun and we look forward to this event for years to come."

Albuquerque Comic Con is in its second year. The inaugural event sold-out and organizers moved the event to the Hard Rock to accommodate more people and vendors.

This year's convention is celebrating 70 years of Wonder Woman, and Comic Con is presenting some of the greatest creators of women in comics.

For 9-year-old Sophia Yang, who was dressed up as Wonder Woman, superheroes hold a special place in her heart.

"They have so many powers and use them for being good," she says. "If I were a superhero, I would like to be invincible."

Sophia tagged along with her father, Michael, and 12-year-old brother, Dante.

Michael created his own character — Spam Man — and donned a T-shirt with "Spam" across it and wore a utility belt with empty Spam cans attached to it.

"I even have my sidekick Spammy on my shoulder," he quipped. "My whole family loves the idea of comics and superheroes and villains. It's just a fun way for us to spend time together and meet new people."

Jim Burleson, promoter of the event, says the show has been a success and he's happy to bring in the talent to meet New Mexicans.

Burleson says having guests like Lou Ferrigno, who played the Hulk on TV and voiced the character in



Brianna Cervantes, 17, right, dressed as Amy Pond from the "Dr. Who" TV series, spends time with her family, including Andres Cervantes, 11, center, dressed as a Clone Trooper, and Angelica Cervantes, left, at Albuquerque Comic Con on Saturday. Brianna said she was looking forward to meeting Lou Ferrigno, of Hulk fame.

movies, is a special thing for the convention.

"He amazed fans in his panel last year talking about overcoming obstacles to become the man we all know as the Hulk, and this year he returns to talk

about his exploits in recent films," he says. "Lou (who is hard of hearing) is a great role model for those with disabilities and will gladly answer questions on overcoming them."

The convention continues

today, and Burleson says he has begun working on next year's convention.

"This keeps me busy, but I'm glad to be a part of this," he explains. "It's a fun for me to bring entertainment for the entire family."