

Johnny Yong Bosch, who donned the black armor in 1995's "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: The Movie" before turning to voice work, will also be on deck.

And if you've never been to a Comic Con before, you're not alone. This will also be Oscar-nominated screenwriter Tab Murphy's first go. "I've been invited to San Diego Comic Con in the past, but for whatever reason was always unable to attend. So I'm stoked to finally have a Comic Con experience."

Hailing from Olympia, Wash., Murphy was nominated for his work on 1988's "Gorillas in the Mist" and also penned Disney classics like 1996's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and 1999's "Tarzan."

"I've traveled throughout Oregon but never made it to Seaside or Cannon Beach!" Murphy said. "So that makes this Comic Con extra special. Plus I'll have family and friends dropping by, just to add to the fun."

Ask him about "The Haunted Swordsman" during his Saturday Q-and-A. Murphy describes his new project as a samurai epic done with puppets.

"I'm not sure if people will be excited to meet a screenwriter," Murphy mused. "But I guess we'll find out!"

Universes collide

Cosplay, slang for "costume play," is one of the main draws for fans. Unleash your inner geek and witness a crossover universe that movie studios could never put on the screen. Is that Wonder Woman talking to Thor while Boba Fett looks on?

The Portland Superheroes Coalition will be on hand, as will the Concordia Clan, a Northwest chapter of the Mandalorian Mercs (an international club that builds Star Wars bounty hunter armor), so there's bound to be more character integration than the last Avengers

movie.

Pete Rivera, an engineering tech for Intel in Hillsboro, of the Concordia Clan, is excited to interact with a new group of fellow fans in Seaside.

"I have been to some of the larger ones — San Diego Comic Con, Emerald City and Wizard World to name a few. I would have to say I love the smaller conventions because being able to interact with people and sit and chat makes the event that much more special."

Rivera, who traces his interest in cosplay back to running around in his Spider-Man pajamas as a child, added, "If you have never cosplayed and you're thinking of doing it, just do it. If you are debating about going to a Comic-Con, just do it. You might realize there's a little geek living in you waiting to jump out and hop in a Millennium Falcon and punch it!"

Sucked in

Kate Taylor and Megan Hecht, two-thirds of cosplay/belly dancing trio Fantasm, who go by the stage names Kamika and Mishti respectively, know that feeling.

The two first bonded over video games and Japanese anime soon after starting college. "At the time, I was fervently practicing belly dance, so I dragged (Hecht) into a class on campus and she took to it with determination," Taylor said. "Within a year, we considered performing on stage at a convention. We made up some original character costumes — pretty broken doll girls — and went for it."

Fantasm has since performed at numerous Japanese media and cultural conventions around the Northwest, but the Seaside event will be their first Comic Con.

Cosplay can even turn lucrative. Following a lifelong love of video games, Hannah Kraus, of Bellingham, Wash., did her first cosplay in 2013. As it goes, Kraus said, "once

"ONCE YOU'VE BEEN SUCKED INTO THE BLACK HOLE OF NERDOM, THERE IS NO ESCAPING."

— Hannah Kraus, of Bellingham, Wash., a cosplay designer and model



LUMONIC PHOTO

First-place Steampunk Powerpuff Girls at Wizard World Portland: (from left) Buttercup (Heather Kraus, aka HKHugs Cosplay), Blossom (Hogokyu Cosplay) and Bubbles (Nerdy Neko Cosplay).



COURTESY COSPLAYPNW
Ita-Dere in Raven Branwen cosplay from the animated show 'RWBY'



ADAM KUPKA PHOTO
'Siegmeier,' of Pretzelbot Props.



COSPLAYPNW PHOTO
Cosplayer Véraquin Art with dog at Sakura-Con in Seattle, Wash.



ALEXANDER DRASKILL/OFF DUTY COSTOGRAPHY PHOTO

Fantasm performs their belly-dancing act. The group will perform on the VSCC's main stage at 4:30 pm Sunday, July 22.