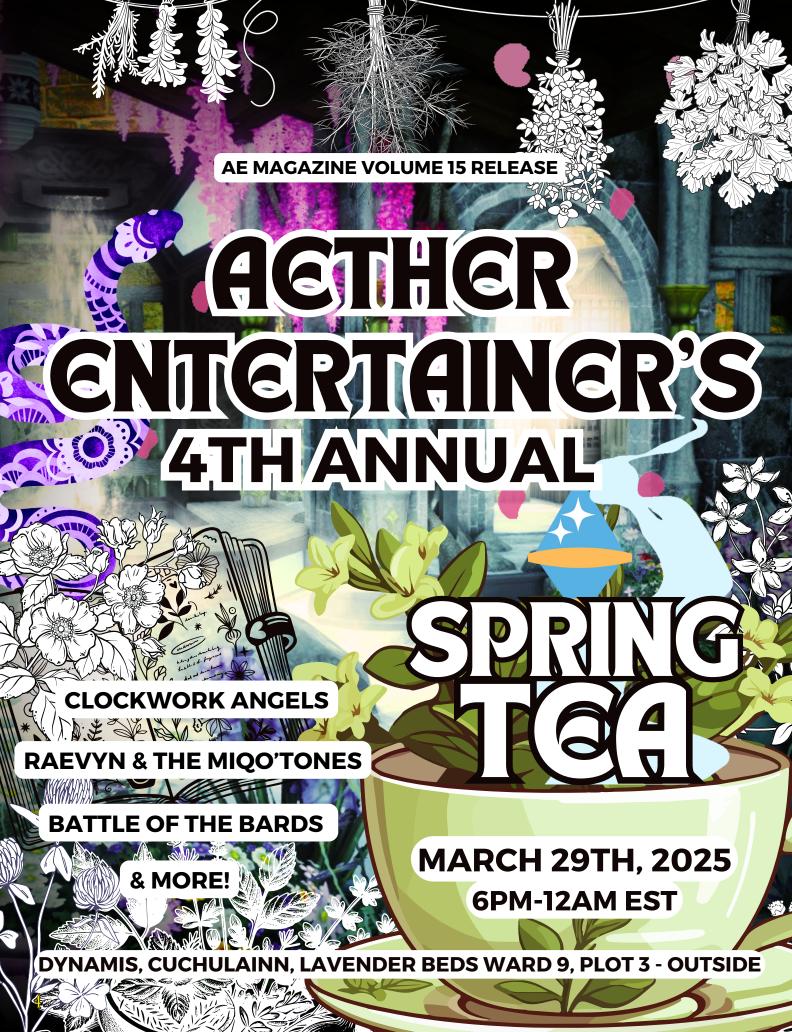




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# POWER OF POSITIVITY New Year Bash

### By: Scarletta Vendetta

On New Year's Eve, DJay Yams hosted the Power of Positivity event, an incredible celebration held at the lively Beehive in Eulmore as well as on his Twitch stream. The event was a night filled with music, community, joy, and overwhelming positive vibes, leaving players and viewers revelling for the following days to come.

DJay Yams, who has made incredible strides as a full-time Twitch streamer over the past year, brought his signature charm and energy to the event, dressed to the nines in a smart hat, bowtie, slacks, and suspenders. His polished look matched the upscale vibe of the Beehive. The in-game venue was packed like never before, with players filling the zone to its absolute capacity. Meanwhile, the Twitch stream thrived, maintaining viewership between 400 and 700 throughout the night.

The party began with lively opening performances by multi-person bard bands Kar-Go-Space and Midnyght Morning. Their music energized the crowd, filling Eulmore's Beehive with a symphony of sound that had players dancing, cheering, and

showcasing their artistry was evident, as these bands delivered an memorable performance that set the tone for the rest of the evening. One of the main aspects of the Power of Positivity

bash is rolling in the celebration across every North American time zone. DJay Yams made sure each region got its moment to shine as midnight struck, keeping the energy high and ensuring no one felt left out. (Not even mountain time!) This thoughtful approach made the event feel inclusive and exciting for players across the continent.

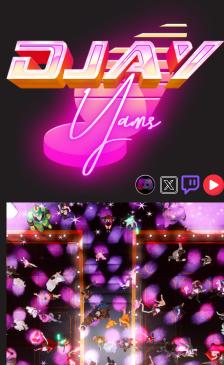
This year DJay Yams had an even more unique way of celebrating the event's 30+ sponsors and collaborators. Throughout the night, Yams played voice clip submissions from the participating venues and sponsors, along with a special song chosen for each entity. Every 10 minutes or so, he would pause the music to give a heartfelt shoutout to one of the collaborators, play their chosen song, and air their voice clip. These clips varied from warm holiday greetings to uplifting messages of hope and encouragement for the community. Each one added a personal, human touch to the celebration.

The success of an event this large doesn't happen without careful planning, however, and much of the credit goes to Onuka, Yams' dedicated moderator and the master organizer. Coordinating a massive amount of venues and sponsors, Onuka ensured every detail ran smoothly. From scheduling performances to managing logistics, her hard work paid off, resulting in a seamless evening with no major issues.

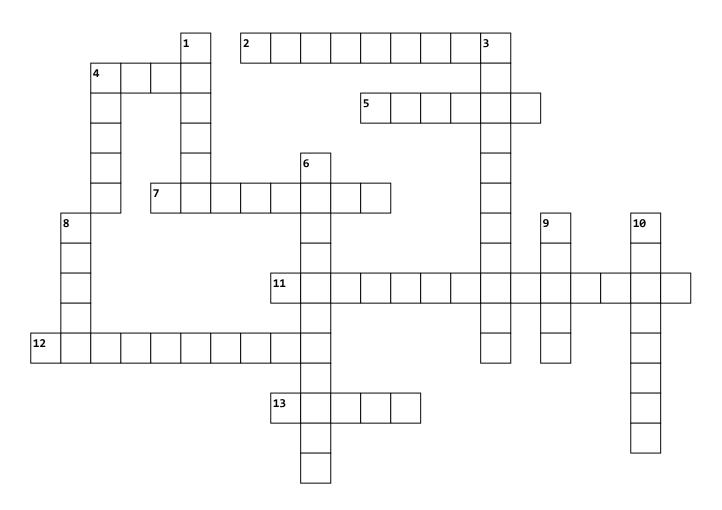
At its heart, the Power of Positivity is about more than just welcoming a new year -it's about celebrating progress, connection, and optimism. Yams created an atmosphere where players could let go of the past year's challenges and embrace a hopeful future. Thanks to DJay Yams, Onuka, and the many contributors, the event was a beautiful example of how gaming can bring people together to celebrate and uplift one another. Here's to another year of music, growth, and positivity in Final Fantasy XIV!











# Across

- 2. What's needed before going on an adventure.
- 4. The name of Bartz's chocobo buddy.
- **5.** The name of Cloud's motorcycle in Advent Children.
- **7.** The item given to you by Luca to get into the Sealed Cave.
- 11. Where does Sora, RIku and Kairi hail from?
- 12. Cecil's initial class in FFIV.
- **13.** Frog's true name.

# **Down**

- 1. Yuna's Mascot costume in X-2.
- **3.** A card game both popular in FFVIII and FFXIV.
- 4. Color of magic that causes damage.
- 6. Upcoming farming sim game.
- **8.** An elite military force of androids charged by the Council of Humanity with fighting the invading aliens and their machine lifeforms.
- **9.** Those that are from outside of Cocoon are from \_\_\_\_\_.
- **10.** 2B and 9s are \_\_\_\_\_.

# AE Relaunched 2024: Year In Review Sena Bryer, Voice Actor of Wuk Lamat VOLTA SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2024

VOLTINGER 2017, 2027

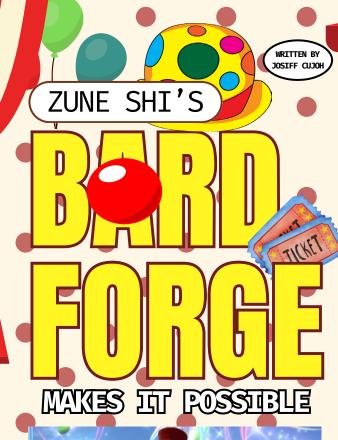
A FIRST PRINTER 2017

A FIRST PRINTE

Join Malcolm as he reviews what The Aether Entertainer Team have covered in 2024!

> MEET THE QUEENS OF METAL

Aether Entertainer FFXIV.com





Whether you're a seasoned aetheryte bard playing premade tunes for passersby and looking to edit your own songs, or you're just getting started in your barding journey and wondering about next steps, it can be daunting to begin learning the midi editing process. There's a wealth of knowledge, principles, and tools available that could make your head spin, but there is one tool in particular that has steadily been increasing in its utilization: Bard Forge.

Programmed by veteran bard Zune Shi of the realm-renowned Zune Tunes bard band, Bard Forge offers a straightforward and fairly simple platform to help bards turn a raw midi file pulled from the internet into a Final Fantasy-friendly song. Bard Forge houses a number of tools to tweak any song to your heart's content, opening the door for aspiring bards to start building their own library of music.

Aether Entertainer was fortunate enough to catch up with Zune to chat about the art of barding, and to get some perspective on the mind behind this powerful bard editing toolbox

# THELL US ABOUT YOUR BAND, ZUNE TUNES. HOW AND WHEN DID YOU GET STARTED? WHAT KINDS OF PLACES/EVENTS DO YOU PERFORM AT?

My journey as a bard started solo at the end of 2021. I discovered the BMP (Bard Music Player), downloaded songs from Discord, and started playing in Limsa, like most bards do. Eventually, I reached a point where I wanted to play certain songs, but they weren't available for download. That's when I decided to learn how to edit songs to make them work in the game.

While figuring out how to edit music on my own, I came across other bands like Highlander Misfits and Wok This Way, and I was captivated by how people enjoyed listening to their performances. We became friends, exchanged tips on barding

and banding, and that's when I discovered the midi bard and the Bards & Bands Discord. Their help really boosted my progress. Around this time, I started experimenting with simple octet versions of songs and asked them to play them, but my inner bard wanted to do more. I wanted to test my edits and play them with the public, so I decided to form the band and Zune Tunes was born in 2022. My main events are always focused on performing in cities to brighten people's days, especially in Limsa and Gridania. I play in different servers and regions every day, including NA, EU, JP, and OCE. Since I'm from Brazil, I also perform in venues, FC events, weddings, birthdays, and more, whenever my time zone allows.

# HOW MANY MIDIS/SONGS DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR LIBRARY, AND WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITIES? ARE THERE ANY MIDIS IN PARTICULAR THAT ARE POPULAR WITH GROWDS?

In the beginning, I was extremely passionate and edited a lot of songs each day. Now, my library is at around **4000 octet songs**, ranging from circus music to heavy metal. It's hard to list my favorite songs because there are so many, but I particularly enjoy tracks from the 80s, 90s, and 2000s that remind me of my childhood and teenage years. I also love old cartoon and movie songs. There are some tracks that I edited without knowing the band or lyrics, but when I hear them, they bring a great sense of joy.

The crowd loves songs that trigger core memories, like those from old cartoons and movies. Whenever I play tracks like Shrek, Rugrats, Teen Titans, SpongeBob, etc., many people stop to listen. I always try to play those unconventional songs.

# WHO ARE YOUR MUSICAL INFLUENCES, ENTHER OTHER BARD BANDS IN CAME OR REAL LIME MUSICIANS?

I've never had a preference for a specific band, but I do admire some composers like John Williams, Tee Lopes (Sonic), and Shoji Meguro (Persona).

Within Final Fantasy, I learned a lot by observing the EU region bands. When I first started, there were very few bands in NA, so I created one in EU and participated in a weekly Flash Mob event, where many bands gathered in Gridania to play. Sometimes, there were over 20 bands playing together, and it was amazing. In addition to Highlander and Wok, I also discovered Lala Metal (Fus), Bards of Light (Kalle), Atomic Kitten, and others who influenced my editing style.

THE MEMBERS OF YOUR BAND HAVE TONS OF CULTURE, INCLUDING
LOTS OF SEASONAL GLAN PHECES. DO YOU DO EVERY SEASONAL EVENT
ON EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR BAND? HOW DO YOU MAKE COING THROUGH
THE SAME QUESTS AND EVENTS MULTIPLE TIMES LESS PAINFUL?

I've always loved outfits, even when I was a solo bard. I used to create glamours to match the songs I played. When I formed the band, it became even more fun because I had more opportunities to create different glamours for each band member. It's a fun feature that the audience enjoys



Indeed I complete all the events that reward glamour or emotes on all my characters across all regions (Please, Yoshi P, let us have cross-region travel like we have in OCE and increase armoury slots!). Some events, like the Moogle Treasure, are a bit more complicated. For those, I had to level up Warrior class on all characters to do dungeons and farm tomestones, but the rewards are worth it, especially since they aren't available to free trials or are only accessible on level 70+ characters.

# HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE DIDEA FOR BARD FORGER HOW DITATIONET WAS IT TO CREATE, AND IS IT STRIPL DITATIONET TO MAINTAIN NOW?

Bard Forge came to me early on in the band's formation because, as I leveled up the band, I didn't have enough music to play, and I also wanted to redo all my solo tracks into octet versions. I thought to myself that I wouldn't waste time manually deleting notes in a midi editor for almost 1,000 solo songs I had already created.

Another motivation was the drums. I struggled to understand how to create ingame drums based on the original midi drum kit, so I spent a lot of time figuring out how they worked. Ori (Midi Bard Dev) and Kalle (Lightamp Dev) gave me helpful insights that helped me understand and create a method to map the drums and generate them automatically.

The biggest challenge in creating Bard Forge was understanding the midi file format. This format has existed since the 80s and hasn't been updated, so each manufacturer uses it differently. I spent a lot of time researching how music information is saved in the file format. After that, it was just about coding the ideas I had for automating specific edits for FFXIV, like chord splitting, auto-naming tracks, and indicators for adjustments.

Many features were added based on suggestions from users, like importing from Musescore, guitar tab conversion, pitch bend generation, etc. I'm still adding new options when I feel a particular feature would help speed up the editing process.

Tracks (03:59)

| Time | Track | Track

I'm also developing another version with a visual note editor, similar to a midi editor, and a preview of the game's soundfont. I'm also developing another version with a visual note editor, similar to a midi editor, and a preview of the game's soundfont. although I don't think it's worth disclosing yet You can check it out here: <a href="Bard-Forge Editor">Bard-Forge Editor</a>, though it's not fully usable at the moment, it gives you an idea of what I'm working

DID YOU EVER FORESEE EARD FORGE
BECOMING A MORE WIDESPREAD TOOL, OR
DID YOU IMAGINE JUST USING IT FOR
YOUR OWN MIDE EDITINGS DOES YOUR
HOSTEING PLAIFFORM TELL YOU ANYTHING
ABOUT HOW MANY PROPLE USE THE STIES

In the beginning, I only thought of using Bard Forge for myself. But once I realized how much time it saved me once I understood the process, I decided to share it. I didn't really advertise Bard Forge much. I posted about it in a Discord thread and shared it through word-of-mouth among the bands I knew in my servers travels. However, I'm happy to see it being useful for other bards, especially those who don't have a musical background and want to play.

I created an auto-edit option so that even those without editing knowledge can turn a song into something playable with just a few clicks. Currently, around 30-50 people use it daily, mostly from the USA, Germany, France, Canada, and Japan.

DID YOUR WORK IN REAL LIFE GIVE YOU
THE SKILLS TO GREATE BARD FORGE, OR
WERE YOU MORE SELF-VAUGHT? HOW DID
YOU GET THE SKILLS NEGESSARY TO
GREATE THR

In real life, I'm a programmer. I've been interested in programming since I was young and learned most of it on my own, even after graduating from college.

I try to automate almost everything in my life, haha, so I already had the skills to develop Bard Forge. I generally work behind the scenes in programming, focusing on backend, so the visual design of Bard Forge isn't perfect, but it's functional.





Editing music is like baking a cake. When you don't know the recipe, it seems hard, but once you learn it, you can bake as many cakes as you want. Once you understand the "recipe" and the rules that need to be followed for the music to work in the game, you can apply the same process to any music edit. This will give you 85% of the music sounding good, the rest is your creativity to add frosting, sprinkles, or a cherry on top for each editor's personal touch.

There are many tutorials and band groups that teach editing. For me, the best way to learn is to watch bands you enjoy and ask experienced editors questions while practicing.

My biggest advice is: less is more. When you start editing, there's a tendency to think that adding as many simultaneous notes as possible will make the music better, but it's the opposite. Keep things as simple as possible. One note per bard will create a much more pleasant sound.

Again, our thanks to Zune for taking time out of their busy schedule to enlighten us about both their own bard band, and these tools they've gifted to the barding community. If you're ready to take the plunge into midi editing, or you're just mildly curious what barding looks like behind the scenes, you can access Bard Forge completely free of charge at bardforge.vercel.app.





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- Gposing
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- DJs
- Bards

# VENUE BRANDING

- · Logo design
- Carrd design
- Custom mods
- · Discord building
- · Housing design

# ON-DEMAND STAFFING

# CONTACT US

https://discord.gg/9kdUgy26BP

https://silverpaw-management.crd.co ActherEntertainerFFXIV.com

As glasses were raised and another year was toasted, many may have found themselves pondering the future. What does it hold? A fortune? A new adventure? Perhaps even a budding romance? The possibilities can feel both thrilling and daunting. For those brave enough to step into the unknown, the new year holds endless possibilities. To truly embrace the transformative potential of a new year, one must begin with renewal—of the body, mind, and spirit.



Begin your journey of self-care at Elysian Springs Spa, where rejuvenation is more than a promise; it's a way of life. Here, self-care reigns supreme, offering guests a chance to refresh and reset. Best of all, access to this haven relaxation is entirely free.

The spa's centerpiece is its natural-style eight baths. brimming with mineral-rich soaking solutions designed to melt away the weariness of the soul. The warm waters cradle and comfort, their aromatic infusions transporting your mind to a place of serenity, or a deeper cleanse, step into the sauna where a curtain of soothing steam envelops you, melting away stress and reinvigorating your senses.

Complement your visit with refreshments crafted on-site to match your mood. Quiet social spaces and intimate seating parlors offer opportunities to unwind further, with the melodic serenade of the house bard providing a tranquil soundtrack to your relaxation. Don't miss the chance to rejuvenate your spirit: Visit Elysian Springs Spa.



IGNITE YOUR STRENGTH

The Churn Trading Company

Looking to channel your inner strength and invigorate your body? Dive into a thrilling new hobby: hand-to-hand combat! At first glance, The Churn Trading Company appears to be a bustling warehouse for trade, but beneath its industrious façade lies an adrenaline-charged arena for combat enthusiasts.

Spectators are treated to exhilarating matches where creativity and strategy take center stage. For the bold, signups are open to any who dare cross the chain-linked threshold of the ring. Matches vary in format-some pit two opponents in a straightforward duel, while others are "King of the Ring" showdowns where the goal is to emerge victorious over a series of challengers. The ring features unconventional props which are fair game to use, such as the infamous fish placard, encouraging fighters to think on their feet and entertain the crowd.

Whether you're there to watch or participate, The Churn promises excitement and camaraderie. Step into the action and make this year one of strength and determination: Visit The Churn **Trading Company.** 

### **EXPRESS YOURSELF**

The Wandering Regule

For those seeking a more laidback environment to explore new skills, The Wanderer's Respite Tavern and Inn offers an inviting retreat. This charming venue encourages creativity and connection through its open stage nights. Bards, poets, dancers, and performers of all kinds are welcome to showcase their talents in a safe, supportive

No matter your skill level, the stage is yours to claim. And if nerves strike, the tavern's selection of handcrafted beverages is sure to calm them. With its cozy atmosphere and welcoming community, The Wanderer's Respite is the perfect place to try something new and make lasting memories. Plan your visit today: Visit The Wanderer's Respite Tavern and Inn.



Begin the year by nourishing your intellect at A Novel Place, a charming library that beckons with its warm ambiance and expansive collection. Whether you're a voracious reader or simply curious, this cozy haven offers something for everyone. From textbooks to thrilling mysteries, saucy romances to children's tales, the shelves are brimming with possibilities.

Patrons are encouraged to sign up for a personalized library card, unlocking access to a wealth of resources. Not sure what to read next? The recommendation desk is a treasure trove of suggestions. Beyond books, the library hosts a book club, a delightful café, and a reference desk to assist with your inquiries.

A Novel Place is more than a library; it's a sanctuary for the curious mind. Begin your literary adventure: Visit A Novel Place.

### MATTERS OF THE HEART

The House of Paissa

What about the heart? Will the New Year bring romance? On Sunday, February 16th, The House of Paissa invites you to a one-of-a-kind talk show: "The Art of Love in Eorzea." This engaging event, titled "Wing It," features three bachelors or bachelorettes who will share their adventures in love with captivating honesty and charm.

From heartfelt musings to scandalous tales, the discussion promises to cover the joys and challenges of romance. Following the talk, a Q&A session offers audience members a chance to interact with the panel. Who knows? You might even find your own romantic spark during this enchanting evening.

Celebrate love in all its forms by attending this unique event: **Visit The House of Paissa.** 

### **ADVENTURE AWAITS**

Crimson Ravens Hunting Guild

For thrill-seekers, the **Crimson Ravens Hunting Guild** in Ishgard offers year-round excitement. Within its halls, adventurers will find a bustling community and a plethora of hunting opportunities, from taming elemental snails to confronting fearsome aquatic spirits.

Collaboration is encouraged, with groups often forming to tackle hunts together. After a successful outing, return to the guildhall to enjoy a hearty meal and specialty cocktails at the bar and dining area. The Crimson Ravens provide not just adventure, but also fellowship and celebration.

Embark on a journey of camaraderie and courage: <u>Visit</u>
<u>the Crimson Ravens Hunting</u>
<u>Guild.</u>



For those undeterred by the eerie, **Nightraid Bounty Call** offers a unique blend of mystery and danger. Specializing in paranormal investigations, this guild tackles challenges like banishing spirits, handling haunted artifacts, and taming unruly poltergeists.

Not all tasks are spine-chilling; the job board also features crafting, delivery, and escort requests. Between missions, adventurers can unwind in the Dojo, study room, Zen garden, or café. If exhaustion sets in, the fully stocked guest rooms offer a haven of comfort.

Face the unknown and claim your rewards: <u>Visit Nightraid</u> <u>Bounty Call</u>.



THE MARKET OF CURIOSITIES

The Vespertine

Before taking on such hunting challenges, supply gathering is a must. This year, rather than drudge through the same humdrum markets as before, try expanding your collection of intriguing and interesting goods by exploring **The Vespertine.** 

This market is shrouded in mystery, its location is on a ship which by all accounts is heavily haunted. With its sails as black as ink and the wooden boards equally as grim, it whispers of the secrets long lost at sea. Despite the sense of dread that washes over onlookers, it beckons with the promise of rare treasures.

Amongst the shelves here, an adventurer is certain to find a trinket to ensure the New Year will be a beneficial one. Step aboard: **The Vespertine** 

# EMBRACE THE NEW YEAR

The new year has much in store, if one contains the courage to expand their mind, push their body, and pamper their soul. While every new year is riddled with challenges and woe, it also shines with the promise of hope. The optimism that all adventurers can grow in patience, understanding, knowledge, love of others, and the embracing of our own heart.

**ELYSIAN SPRINGS SPA** 

THE HOUSE OF PAISSA

THE CHURN TRADING COMPANY

CRIMSON RAVENS HUNTING GUILD

THE WANDERER'S RESPITE TAVERN AND INN

NIGHTRAID BOUNTY CALL

A NOVEL PLACE

THE VESPERTINE



Senpan Tea House By: Quelenna Aeir

As soon as you enter, a calm and serene ambiance surrounds you. It's perfect to enjoy a cup of tea or simply absorb the beautiful nature around you in this Japanese style venue.

I was able to participate in the Winter Glam contest at Senpan's Toji Matsuri event, and it was truly a day to remember. Get to know Senpan Tea House's owner, Yao Shi, and how this venue came to life.

# Can you introduce yourself?

Hello! I'm Yao Shi, owner of Senpan Tea House and a big appreciator and lover of traditional Eastern aesthetics and historical media. When I'm not running the tea house, I'm either raiding or working on my Atelier YAO comms. I currently offer services for carrds, gposes, and character ref sheets. I also have a set of studio apartments for gposing right next to Senpan.

# How did the idea of an eastern style tea house come about?

I've always been a tea person, but on a more personal level, I'm Asian and ever since I was young I've loved and appreciated traditional Eastern aesthetics. Any game I've played that has housing or building modes, I always end up making something Eastern. I decided to mix these two things that I love, and that's how Senpan's theme/aesthetic was born!

I was originally playing FFXIV for the MMO aspect and the content, and didn't even know housing and venues existed until my in-game spouse, an IRL friend, brought it up to me, and it snowballed from there! It snowballed so hard I stopped doing content after reaching Endwalker's endgame to focus on making money for the house, starting the venue, and running it. I think after the first year of Senpan's operation, I finally got back into content and went straight into savage raiding.

# What steps were taken to make Senpan a reality? Did you have an initial team helping you out or did you begin to organize everything by yourself?

When I first said I wanted to make a tea house, my in-game spouse became my moral support and helped with crafting to make money for the house. After we got the house, I mainly did everything by myself, from the venue design to the Carrd, how I'd want to run Senpan, what I'd offer to people, etc. Even now, I do a lot of the planning and organization myself. Over the years, our most frequent and loyal regulars became friends, and those friends became staff. So now I have a team that supports me as well!

Senpan Tea House has a beautifully designed website that fits the aesthetic of the venue. I love to see the Japanese expressions sprinkled in as well! Was making the website one of your first projects?

The Senpan Carrd went through like three evolutions to get to where it is now. I'm super happy with it, and I'm always glad to hear everyone's kind words about it. In terms of experience, I'm actually a UI Artist for a gaming studio IRL, so design is something that I do. I breathe it online and offline, all around the clock.



# What do you personally like most about Senpan Tea House?

I like the tranquility. Aside from my love for tea and traditional aesthetics, I also started Senpan Tea House with the intent of having a quiet place to relax for myself after work, while offering the same peace and quiet to other people as well.

# Do you have any advice for people looking to create their own venue?

My personal advice is to make the venue for yourself first and foremost. Ask yourself, "What am I generally looking for in a venue? Peace and quiet? Do I want to mingle, meet new people, and hold light conversations? Do I want to comfortably RP in my own home, or do I want it to be open to everyone?" What you look for in a venue is generally what you would want to offer to/share with others, because it's something that you enjoy.

I know some people want to create venues with the intent to make a lot of gil, but what they don't realize is that a lot of the time it ends up being a money sink. It takes a lot of commitment, time, effort, and gil to run a venue. Expenses could start at 2 mil or as high as 50 mil, depending on venue, staff size and events (if any). Traffic won't always be busy as well, and sometimes it can be quiet for a week or even a month, and that can be demotivating.

As long as you make the venue around your needs and have fun with it, like-minded people will always come to keep you company and slow days won't be as stressful/demotivating.

# Are there any events we can look forward to in January and February?

We have several! For February, I typically host a small event for Valentione's, where my private tea rooms are 50% off for a few days.

We also host monthly events, namely our Namazu Day (first Saturday) and Bingo Night (third Saturday). For 2025, there will be some adjustments and new surprises, so do keep an eye out on our Event page on the **Senpan Carrd** and/or watch out for announcements in our Discord.

Senpan Tea House's 3 year anniversary is coming up in a few months, and it's been a wonderful journey. I'd like to send my thanks and love to my staff for their hard work and always being down for my grand plans. The same can also be said for all of our patrons - whether you're a regular or casual visitor, thank you for visiting us! To new potential patrons, feel free to stop by if you need a quiet place to relax while enjoying tea and Eastern music. We hope you enjoy your stay if you do come!

Thank you for a wonderful 2024! Please treat us well for 2025 as well.









For Sarah Jane, content creation started as a way to fuel her love for art, but it quickly grew into something much larger. What began as a personal escape through Final Fantasy XIV soon transformed into a thriving community and a full-time career. In this interview, Sarah shares how *FFXIV* became her passion, the challenges of making it a central part of her streaming journey, and how her community has grown alongside her in Eorzea. We explore how Sarah found her path as a content creator, the lessons she's learned along the way, and how she continues to navigate the challenges of building a career in gaming and streaming.

Vendetta: Itd like to begin by asking you how you came to play Final Fantasy XXV? Did you always have the idea to stream in mind, or was there a defining moment that reinforced your decision to pursue content creation?

Sarah: Funny enough, I started playing FFXIV back in 2015 after seeing promotions for Heavensward! I fell in love with how the **NEW** Au Ra race looked and did some research on the game's character creation because I **LOVE** character creation! So when I saw how gorgeous we could make our characters look, and how aesthetically pleasing Final Fantasy XIV looked compared to other MMOs, I instantly fell in love with the game. I remember making many alts when I was new and just playing through the MSQ over and over with different characters!

I began my content creation journey back in 2018. Back then, I was mainly focusing on creating art, as I wanted to pursue a career as an artist and I used streaming as a way to get myself to draw more. I then started exploring Twitch and watching more gaming streams. I thought to myself that 'I want to become a full-time streamer, that's the new goal.' I started out as a Blizzard/Overwatch content creator until September 2021, so I had already formed a community and reached Partner in 2019 [before streaming FFXIV]. Moving games was one of the scariest things I did, but I had to do it for myself and so I could continue to enjoy content creation. I always saw FFXIV as a game that I enjoyed by myself. I would get lost in it to detach from reality, so I never really thought of it as a stream game... But then I thought 'I'll just give it a go'. It is my favourite game of all time and I missed playing it.

# Vendetta: What was your first impression of FEXIV, and how has your perspective on the game evolved over time?

Sarah: As I mentioned, I fell in love with the FFXIV visuals and character creation at first sight, but after playing the game for nearly 10 years now, I've found that there's still so much more to love. My perspective of the game has changed from thinking that it was a game I would always enjoy solo, to now playing with so many people from within my community. The social aspect of the game has brought me so much more fun and joy than I first expected.

"Ratherthan FFXIV being an escape for me, it's now become a place of belonging."



Handling burnout is **ROUGH** for any creator/artist. I find I get burnt out when I'm solely focusing on creating content and really pushing myself to do so, because of this underlying feeling of "never doing enough", and then mental health comes into play and you get completely stuck..

Best thing I've learned to do is have 2 complete days off per week where I focus on doing other things that I love and getting away from the computer. I allow those 2 days to refill my cup so I can be a better creator. Those are the days I may get inspired because I'm not forcing my creativity.

# Vendetta: Who are your biggest inspirations, both within the FAXV community and beyond?

Sarah: Great question, I get my inspiration from so many different types of creators. Being a creator means we have to see what other popular creators are doing and see what works for them, it's how we all learn! I would like to shout out Mizzteq (MTQCapture), she inspired me with her old guides as they used to help me when I was a little sprout! She's been in the FFXIV space for such a long time and I still think she's a top creator in the community.

# Vendetta: How do you define success as a content creator?

**Sarah:** Please let me know when you have the answer to this one! Haha!

I have learned over the years success is no end goal. Success is being able to do what you love everyday and feel fulfilled because of it. I find it very hard to give myself praise or feel like I've succeeded after streams or videos I've created because a lot of the time there's a good streak, but then a bad streak is just around the corner. You have to just enjoy the journey and not focus on analytics or anything like that, or you will never feel content.





# EPMHACK LBOURNE

HACK

Vendettas Do you have a favorite dungeon, raid, or trial that you always look forward to revisiting? What is your least favorite?

Sarah: Oh gosh, everyone that's in my stream often knows this one... Storms Crown. Extreme or Normal version I don't mind!! I'm a FIEND for that fight, I will jump in everytime I see it in Party Finder. Least favourite is... Bismarck. I can't stand it, it's sooo SLOW.

Vendetta What's the most creative or funny thing someone has done to grab your attention during a

**Sarah:** Uhhh, probably my friend doing squats behind me while I was live. Scared the heck out of me though!!



Sarah: Going to Media Tour was a dream come true!! I remember sitting in the front row, right in the middle, for Yoshi-P's presentation and just smiling at him the whole time...[He] Probably thought I was a complete psycho! But being able to play Dawntrail before the majority of the player base was such a cool experience. I was able to create so much content for my YouTube channel, which was such an amazing opportunity. I think my favourite part, though, was reconnecting with other creators I met at London Fan Fest the year before, and getting to meet some new friends too! I had such a pleasure having conversations with creators I've looked up to for years, such as Preach, AnnieFuchsia, Pint, and Shenpai to name a few... The SE staff were incredible too, they are also just huge FFXIV fans who love the game as much as we do. They also want to do whatever they can to support their dedicated creators. It was lovely



FIRE FATAST





Keeping up with fashion in Eorzea is no easy quest. Just ask those who have had the unfortunate experience of being harshly judged by the everscrutinizing Masked Rose during the Fashion Report. Swank and glamour are fickle sisters; what was the ultimate flair last week is today's old news. Staying on top of the trends requires not just effort, but finesse. One must not simply wear a style—they must become the style!

Last month, as the year drew to a close, fashion fans and aspiring models flocked to Vibe for a chance to claim the title of the next "Top Model." Vibe, a blooming hotspot nestled in the Lavender Beds, has become the go-to venue for themed dance nights on most weekends. Each event transforms the venue into a spectacle, packed to maximum capacity and often spilling over onto the front lawn. With vibrant dancing, live DJ performances, gamba tables, interactive competitions, and special guests like Santa himself, Vibe offers something for everyone—as long as they're of adult age. Its well-stocked bar ensures that no glass goes empty, while its festive atmosphere makes it an irresistible escape for partygoers across Eorzea.

The night kicked off with a bang. Powerful beats from the DJ set the stage as the first model strutted onto the runway. But this wasn't just a test of good looks or high-quality tailoring. Competitors had to showcase poise, creative style choices, and an air

of confidence that made them stand out under the lights. The challenge didn't end with their walk either. Each participant faced a quickfire questionand-answer session led by the ever-charismatic MJ Sunny Cuteheart, whose charm kept the audience roaring with laughter and applause.

As the night unfolded, model after model graced the stage, captivating the crowd with every step. The runway became a whirlwind of fashion, showcasing an eclectic mix of styles that celebrated both bold creativity and refined elegance. Some contestants pushed boundaries, donning daring ensembles of sheer lace that flirted with the edge of a wardrobe malfunction. Others turned to the tried-and-true, embracing timelessly elegant designs that exuded sophistication. It was a feast for the senses, blending daring risk-takers with those who preferred to let simplicity speak volumes.

While many competitors possessed qualities worthy of the "Top Model" title, two individuals stood out unmistakably. Dialandra, an enigmatic model with a commanding presence, left the audience spellbound as she shattered the runway in sky-high stiletto heels paired with a black lace dress. The dress featured a corset-style vest top that highlighted her silhouette beautifully. Her minimalist approach to accessories—a single bangle and an arm clasp—allowed the boldness of her ensemble to shine. Adding a personal touch, a ribbon laced around one of her horns added an air of playful sophistication. Her makeup, a smoky shadow in hues of violet complemented by a playful pink lip, tied the entire look together seamlessly. It was a vision of fashion—seductive yet elegant—and it struck a perfect balance without overwhelming the viewer.



"Sexy and elegant at the same time," Dialandra described her look in her own words. When asked about her pre-show nerves, she admitted, "I was pretty nervous, firstly because there were so many great competitors and secondly because there were technical problems beforehand." Though she didn't elaborate on what those issues were, from the audience's perspective, the event seemed to run without a hitch. Her transparency was a reminder of the unpredictable chaos that often unfolds behind the scenes. Despite these hurdles, Dialandra's radiant personality and impeccable style secured her the title of "Top Female Model." Reflecting on her decision to participate, she shared, "The allure of a model contest spoke to my personal interest in fashion and fun. Paired with the excitement Vibe already offers, it was an easy yes." To her fans, she had this advice: "Be and stay who you are. Wear what you like and what makes you feel comfortable and safe."

The "Top Male Model" award was equally wellearned by Symeon, whose "black-to-business" interpretation of a relaxed yet classy office look captivated the crowd. His ensemble featured form-fitting black pants paired with a chain belt, a loose open shirt, and suspenders—a classic nod to timeless fashion. Adding a contemporary twist, a pencil-thin red tie was casually draped around his neck, and his tousled bedhead hairstyle invited a sense of effortless charm. The audience's cheers grew louder with every step he took, affirming the universal appeal of his bold choices. When asked about his inspiration, Symeon credited his close friends for encouraging him to embrace this look. His personal style philosophy embodies a "masculine, dark, and extravagant" vibe.

Symeon's advice to fans navigating their own fashion dilemmas was both practical and encouraging: "Have the courage to try it out. If it doesn't work out the first time, don't hang your head. Pick yourself up and try again." His authenticity and charisma resonated deeply, solidifying his status as a fashion icon for the evening.

Off the runway, the audience brought their own flair to the event. Some embraced the holiday season with festive dresses and whimsical winter-themed outfits, while others took inspiration directly from the catwalk, donning sleek and elegant designs. The energy in the room was palpable as attendees mingled, cheered, and celebrated the evening's artistry.



As the contest concluded, the celebration was far from over. The crowd transitioned seamlessly into a passionate rave, complete with dazzling light shows, fog machines, and energetic dancers who kept the party alive well into the early hours. Vibe's staff photographers worked tirelessly to ensure every attendee felt like a star, capturing candid and posed shots alike. For those seeking a break from the dance floor, the venue offered alternative entertainment options, including gamba tables and a well-stocked bar.

Vibe, owned and operated by Seymour Cuteheart since its opening in October 2023, has quickly established itself as a premier nightlife destination. With a dedicated staff of over sixty employees, the venue caters to a diverse crowd, offering bar service, gamba tables, mog contests, and performances by a rotating roster of DJs. Seymour's vision for Vibe is clear: "We want patrons to switch off from their everyday lives and enjoy a fun, safe environment." This ethos was embodied in every aspect of the evening, from the electrifying runway competition to the vibrant after-party.

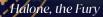
Although only two models were crowned as King and Queen of the catwalk, the spirit of the event ensured that everyone left feeling like a winner. The night was a celebration of individuality, creativity, and style, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended. From the striking runway performances to the lively festivities that followed, the event at Vibe was nothing short of spectacular. For one magical evening, the worlds of fashion, fun, and community came together in perfect harmony, reminding everyone of the beauty and power of self-expression.



# TEMPLE OF APHRODITE



# Divine Alignments



This month, your determination shines.
Challenges may arise, but Halone's strength is with you—face obstacles head-on and defend your beliefs. Avoid unnecessary conflict, but don't hesitate to stand firm when it matters. January is a good time to channel your energy into fitness or competitive endeavors.



### Menphina, the Lover

Romance and connection are central to your month. Under Menphina's loving gaze, relationships deepen, and new bonds may form. Take time to nurture those closest to you. Creative pursuits, especially those involving beauty or art, are favored now. Trust your intuition—it won't lead you astray.



# Thaliak, the Scholar

Knowledge flows like a river this month. Dive into books, studies, or projects that expand your mind. Thaliak encourages you to seek wisdom, whether through formal education or self-discovery. Avoid distractions, and focus on what inspires your curiosity. Networking with others may bring unexpected opportunities.



## Nymeia, the Spinner

The threads of fate weave in your favor this month. Be adaptable as changes arise—Nymeia reminds you that every twist in the pattern holds purpose. Trust the journey, even if the destination isn't clear. Meditative activities or stargazing can bring you peace and clarity.



### Rhalgr, the Destroyer

This is a month for bold, decisive action. Rhalgr reminds you that sometimes, breaking down barriers is necessary for growth. If something no longer serves you, don't be afraid to let it go. Transformation may feel chaotic, but it's paving the way for new opportunities.



# Oschon, the Wanderer

Restlessness may stir within you this month. Follow Oschon's example and seek freedom through exploration, whether it's a literal journey or a new path in life. Take risks, but don't rush decisions. Time spent in nature will reinvigorate you and offer perspective on where to head next.



# Llymlaen, the Navigator

Adventure calls! January is perfect for travel or exploring new hobbies and interests.
Llymlaen's guidance ensures safe passage, so trust your instincts as you chart your course. Don't fear the unknown—embrace it with optimism. Keep an eye out for helpful allies who may join your journey.



# Nophica, the Matron

Under Nophica's nurturing presence, focus on growth and abundance. Spend time tending to your home, relationships, or garden—literal or metaphorical. Gratitude will attract blessings, so celebrate small victories. Connect with nature or revisit family traditions to ground yourself.



# Byregot, the Builder

This is a time for creation and structure. Byregot urges you to build the foundation for long-term success, whether in career, relationships, or personal growth. Hard work will pay off, so stay consistent. Collaborations with others can lead to breakthroughs. Trust your craftsmanship.



# Azeyma, the Warden

Under Azeyma's watchful eye, focus on self-reflection. Seek truth and clarity in your life— this is a great month for setting goals and aligning your actions with your values. Let your inner light shine and guide others, but be mindful not to burn yourself out in the process.



# Althyk, the Keeper

Time is on your side this month. Althyk reminds you to pause, reflect, and plan before making significant changes. Revisit old projects or memories—they may hold keys to your future. Patience will lead to success, so trust in the cycles of time.



# Nald'thal, the Traders

Your finances and future plans take center stage.
Nald'thal's scales encourage balance—be generous but mindful of your resources.
This is a great time for budgeting or making strategic investments. Trust in the karmic flow good deeds now will bring rewards later.



# WELCOME, CLASS! LET'S TAKE OUR SEATS...

So, you want to learn how to roleplay? You have made your perfect character. You have gone through the beginning parts of the game. You have opened the world up to yourself, and now you are ready to take your character on the epic, individual adventure they deserve! The question then becomes: how? In a game as vast as Final Fantasy 14, where do you even begin to craft a story of your own? Well, pull up a chair and take a seat because Professor Kuro is here with some tips I have picked up over the years to help you on your way to roleplaying fun!

FIND YOUR PEOPLE

The first tip might also be the hardest tip of them all because it is just like real life. You have to find your people. You have to find those individuals who are like-minded and who you feel comfortable enough around to be yourself. There is nothing worse than walking into a roleplay encounter and finding out that the person playing the character is a massive jerk or a creeper or a hundred other horrible things. This is not meant to scare anybody. This is meant to say that finding people who are as cool IRL as they are in game is the most important part of a great roleplaying experience. It took me a long while to find those people, but when I found my friends in Cirque, I knew that I was home, and it was only then that I felt comfortable enough to start experimenting with Kuro in new and interesting ways until she became the character she is now.

# 2 EXPERIMENT!

Which leads me into tip number two: experiment. You may have a great concept for a character in your head right off the bat, and if you do, great! Or maybe you have no idea what kind of character you want to be. That is okay as well! The point of experimenting is to have fun, diving into all kinds of crazy characters until you find the one that sparks your passion. That makes you feel creatively alive! After all, part of the joy of roleplaying is the journey your character will go on to find the person they are meant to be. So, that great character concept you have, it can evolve and become something even better! I'll tell you from experience that it is a wonderfully exciting time! Take my girl Kuro here. When I first started playing, I had no idea how to roleplay her. So, I started small. She was a simple chef. Over the years though, that simple idea evolved into her being a healer, a knight, a world-class pit fighter, back to a healer, until her final form of a bard/theater performer that she is now. Follow the story, trust in the people you are roleplaying with, and don't be afraid to take your character in a new direction, and vou will have the best time ever!

# EXPLORE!

The next tip is to explore! It is time to take your character out into the larger world and see what new adventures they may have! They may even lead you to adding new concepts to your character! Again, take my girl. For the longest time, I had no idea that the barding community even existed in this game. I was content with my small group of friends and the stories we crafted together. Until, one day, I heard about Bards and Brews lounge and decided to stop in there for a bit. It was really just to get a sense of a tavern experience in the game, but then, I saw a soloist on the stage, and well, the rest is history. Don't be afraid to start wandering. Go to events, go to taverns, go to festivals. All of these experiences add to the roleplaying journey, and you will start to expand your circle of friends until you have a whole flock of cool people who will be there to help your character grow!

# IMPROV!

Roleplaying is, essentially, improv. It is you and one or more people crafting a story together. You react and build on what other people do, and one of the first rules of improv is: always say yes! No matter what outlandish thing the other person wants to do, (as long as it doesn't cross any of your personal, IRL boundaries) say yes! When you are first starting out, having goofy moments and moments where your character breaks out a bit and does something unexpected are some of the best ways to figure out what kind of character you want to have.

For me, Kuro had never even been near a fighting pit until, one day, one of her friends asked if she wanted to go. At that time, Kuro was a healer and not much of a fighter, but I said yes. When we got there, my friend asked me if I wanted to sign up to fight. Again, I said yes, as I was still experimenting with Kuro. Those two simple "yes" answers led to one of the foundational parts of Kuro's whole character now. The point is, by being flexible with the people you feel comfortable with, you can enhance your character in new,

exciting, and sometimes unexpected ways, which is what roleplaying is all about!

# RESOURCES

So, you have your friends, you have your improv skills, you even have a grasp on your character now. Where do you go next? How do you even begin to find events and places to go?

The best source of RP events is the FFXIV RP Event Calendar here: <a href="https://ffxiv-rp.org/">https://ffxiv-rp.org/</a>

This calendar is constantly updated with all kinds of places you may want to go. From taverns to teahouses, from baths to fight pits, if you have somewhere in mind, this calendar will most likely have it! In addition, joining an event Discord server such as The Aetheryte Plaza here: <a href="https://discord.gg/qgyz9k8PHn">https://discord.gg/qgyz9k8PHn</a> can also lend a helpful hand! This plaza breaks things down by data center and is always pinging people with new events to explore on a daily basis! With these two resources, you will never be at a loss for something to do, on any given day!

Roleplaying in Final Fantasy 14 can be one of the most fun times you will ever have. It has given me friends that I will keep for years to come, and I hope with these tips in mind, you too can have the roleplaying experience of your dreams!

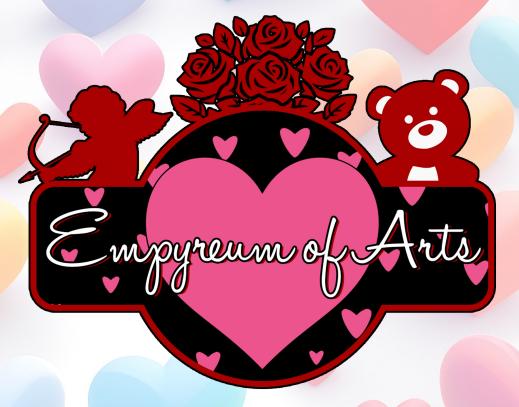
See you around Eorzea!

- KURO WHULL

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Dynamis, Halicarnassus, Lavender Beds, Ward 3, Plot 6



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# Jumping into Another Adventure

# **9**

# By Helona Tomo

Hello everyone! We are back to showcase another puzzle house that combines creativity and challenge: Galactic Circus. This is one remarkable venue, and is an excellent spot for fun and puzzles. I had the pleasure of interviewing. The Cutest Fox, one of the masterminds behind Galactic Circus, and even tried my hand at some of their jump puzzles (you can check out the video to see how that went!).

# The History of the Galactic Circus

The story of Galactic Circus begins with a little bit of luck. "The medium house actually belonged to a friend who was quifting and gave it up for safekeeping," The Cutest Fox explained. "It was pure luck that on that same server, I actually had other spare alts already made for housing! So they suddenly had another use and could buy rooms to build puzzles in."

The concept of turning the house into a jump puzzle paradise was inspired by "Space Camp," another puzzle venue.

"One step into those puzzle rooms is enough to get anyone excited about housing glitches," The Cutest Fox shared. "This new opportunity seemed like the perfect chance to join in and try something."

Even the name Galactic Circus carries a touch of nostalgia. "It actually comes from a real-life arcade here in Australia. Or well, it used to, until many years ago. The place was bought out by another business, so it kind of lives on here in memory with us."

Galactic Circus offers a variety of experiences for players. When asked how they decide what to add, The Cutest Fox said, "Anything and everything! Even though it's a jump puzzle house, we love adding memes and funny ideas. There's a break room to chill out in, a birthday party room for hosting events, a photo booth room, and even a board game and dart room coming up!"

The pride of the venue, however, lies in its logic puzzles. "An entirely new genre of puzzle in which you have to understand the intricate mechanics at play which allow you to literally rearrange and redesign the room, client-side, at your own leisure," The Cutest Fox explained. "If you haven't seen this before, please stop by to check it out!"

I took on one of the five-star puzzles as part of my visit. The experience was thrilling and humbling. "Currently, we are hosting five, 5-star puzzles," The Cutest Fox noted. "And even then, their difficulty is subjective. Some galaxy-brained gamers may find these easy, while others might struggle."











# The Community

Galactic Circus is more than just a venue; it's a community. "The jump puzzle community is actually all mostly just one small family," The Cutest Fox shared. "We create puzzles not only at our hub, but at other friendly puzzle hubs too. Those with a keen eye will recognize some familiar builder names throughout puzzle places across the game."

Collaboration is key. "It's a lot of fun building up these places and working with friends," The Cutest Fox said. "For some builders, it's even a necessity, given the limit on eight characters per world. A lot of us have had to spread our work elsewhere to be able to continue making stuff."

# Challenges and Achievements

Creating puzzles comes with its challenges. "Building can take a lot of time and effort, and without something to go on, it becomes very difficult," The Cutest Fox admitted. Yet their persistence has paid off. One of their most memorable achievements is the Hall of Fame on their website, which celebrates visitors who manage to clear "The Time Machine," a particularly challenging logic puzzle.

"Many great minds have gone up against this logic puzzle, and only a handful have managed to come out on top," The Cutest Fox revealed with pride, and yes, we did try this one, too.

# Looking to the Future

The future of Galactic Circus looks as bright as ever. "Whenever inspiration strikes, that's when we're back in the action," The Cutest Fox said. "There are a lot of new puzzle concepts and ideas with never-before-seen mechanics in the works at the moment. The more we learn and find out, the more crazy stuff we can do the next time we make something."

The Cutest Fox also teased some secret content. "We have been working on some hidden content on the side... There's a hidden spot far away from the arcade, and only those who can solve a certain puzzle can find the address."

# Advice...

The Cutest Fox's advice for those looking to create their own jump house: it's just simple. "Be inspired! If you have a funny idea you want to make a reality, just do it," they encouraged. "But never force yourself. You'll never be satisfied if you don't have something you're passionate about."

For those ready to take the plunge, The Cutest Fox offered practical tips. "Learn your furniture! Every housing item has its own set of weird glitches and unusual properties. Figuring out how to combine these items to create interesting pathing and jumps is crucial."



My time at Galactic Circus was nothing short of fun. This venue is a labor of love, built by a passionate community for the enjoyment of all. "Ultimately, the most interesting thing has been the people you meet," The Cutest Fox added.

"The motivation to work on Galactic Circus ... is just hanging out with friends. It doesn't feel like work when all you're doing is having fun and messing around together."

So, if you're looking for a place to challenge your skills and make memories, the Galactic Circus is a must-visit destination.







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