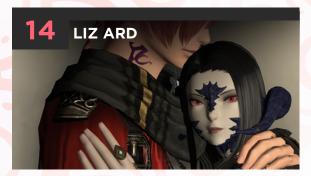


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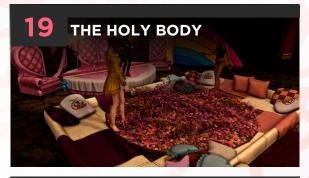
























YADDY'S PUB

By: Odsar Tuva

An old friend to The Aether Entertainer, Djay Yams is back at it again spreading his vibe of positivity within everything he does, now leading to his current venture: Yaddy's Pub. Yaddy's Pub is a simple outside, yet exciting inside Dungeons & Dragons inspired venue where every Monday, Yams takes a new cast of adventurers into his own creations as a Dungeon Master himself. Bards big and small waltz onto the venue's stage to perform every Monday night at 7 CST/8 EST live on his Twitch for all to see and hear. However, it is best to know more about it through Yams's mouth himself as we sit down for a one-on-one interview about its adventures so far.

Q1: What motivated you to start Yaddy's Pub? Are you proud of what you've created so far?

A1: Well it all started one day when Onuka Gang (my moderator, editor, and brain behind the scenes) and I were talking about how we love RP focused establishments in Eorzea. Not necessarily nightclubs, more so the RP taverns, cafes, and even libraries that are player owned and operated. She then said "Yams, you should open up a pub and bartend it!" And I loved the idea, but then a lightbulb appeared above my head. Instead of bartending a pub, what if we ran D&D sessions out of the pub instead? I've been a huge fan of Dungeons & Dragons for several years now, and prior to FFXIV and streaming, I not only played in quite a few campaigns, but also DMed as well! So I saw the pub as an opportunity to get back in D&D and bring a new type of content not only to my channel, but to FFXIV as well! I'm absolutely in love with what we have created so far. With the help of Onuka, Kazuto, and Willow Riversong, we've built something that will last a long time. I also love that these D&D sessions give me a chance to actually sit down in voice chat with people from my community and also allow me to share my love for TTRPGs with them!

Q2: What are the plans with Yaddy's Pub going forward? How long do you think you can go for?

A2: My plans so far are to run weekly one-shots every Monday until April, then I would like to actually dive into a mini campaign with a set group of players, something small, maybe eight sessions worth. And then, towards the end of the year, I would love to run a massive campaign, either Curse of Strahd or something within the Feywild of the Wizards of the Coast Universe. It's funny, D&D is like rock 'n' roll, it NEVER dies! So I'll be going as long as I'm having fun with it!

Q3: I know you haven't been around for long, but what is one of your favorite moments, either in the Pub itself or in the one-shots, that you can share?

A3: I feel like every week, the one-shots get better and better! But I will say that one of my absolute favorite moments is when a new player sits at the table, they've never played D&D before, it's their first time and they absolutely CRUSH it! The RP, the improv, that's what I love most. For example, this past Monday's session was a bit of a homebrew in which I basically combined elements of Guardians of the Galaxy and Mad Max together

and just created the wackiest space story I could think of. And the players that night, one of them was a first-timer, went and helped make that session one of the funniest experiences ever! There was a motorcycle gang who rode astral sharks, a mind flayer that ended up romancing one of the players, and a beholder that worked a toll booth who only accepted embarrassing secrets as payment. I love D&D so much!

Q4: What should folks expect when joining one of your campaigns? Joy? Tension? Chaos?

Depending on the setting, I try to match the mood with the atmosphere of where the characters will be that night. We've had sessions that were filled with gut-wrenching laughter that took place in a seedy mafiaowned casino, more serious sessions that dabbled with hard choices and sacrifice, and even chaotic sessions that involved serving demons after the party had gotten wiped. I just kind of go with the flow and steer the ship in whatever direction the vibe is from the players that night. It's very fun how dynamically it can change

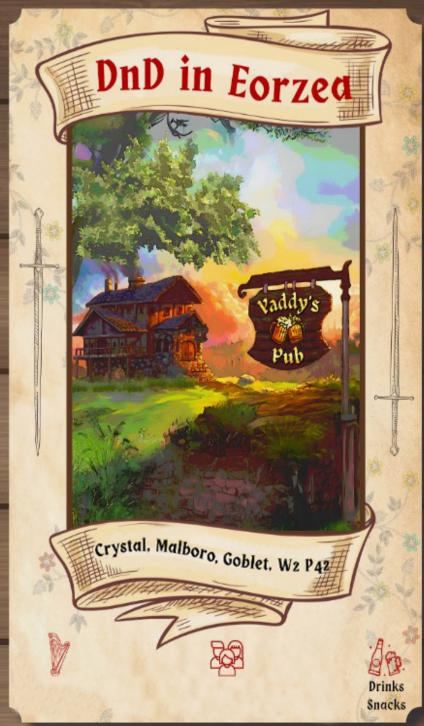
Q5: What were the biggest challenges you faced when starting out, if any?

Honestly, it's been a bit of a breeze getting back into D&D after taking a pretty long break from it. It's like riding a bike, you never really forget it. I would say that some challenges mainly involve the DM prep that I've gotta do every week. My mind is always ticking like a clock, the gears are always spinning and so I'll be DJing a set and think about D&D in the back of my mind and if I get some wild idea, I'll make note of it, maybe jot it down somewhere and run with it in a future session. But like a muscle. the more you work at it, the easier it becomes, so I would say, my only challenge so far is trying to one-up every session from the last.

Interested in watching or knowing more? Perhaps you'd like to play a game or two or be a bard on the stage alone? All that's between you and adventure is a simple sign-up sheet or a small message to Onuka through Yams's own Discord and they could get you ready and set. Prefer to hang out in-game as well? RP services and others alike are always waiting for someone new to come and join them.

Visit them at: Crystal/Malboro/ Goblet/Ward 2/Plot 42.





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Valentione: For lovers, for fight Venues to ignite the heart! By Lily Lilari

Paper hearts line the windows and archways. Candles seem to decorate every window, with their wicks dancing ablaze. The air is thick with the lovely, or overwhelmingly strong, scent of perfume. Gents and ladies alike have flocked to the tailors to have their finest attire ready for admiration. Flower vendors are finding it difficult to keep up with the demand for bouquets. For many, Valentione is a celebration of love and marks a time when their adoration for another can spill out in a display of poetry, gifts, or special dates. For others, the red and pink infested holiday symbolizes heartbreak and perhaps a bit of loathing. But featured here, both the love struck and the "love is muck!" crowd will find exceptional advice on places to go, things to do, and fascinating sites to see. Since the lovers are featured during this time, let us give a special nod first to the loners. Do not give into despair, solitary hearts; there are many venues that hold great promises for those looking for fun.



First, start your night off in tropical paradise! The Tucana Tiki bar features an impressive setup with its in-pool bars, invigorating jungle décor, and tempting drinks such as the Pineapple Punch. The excitement does not stop there. Hidden within its themed rooms are interactive escape challenges that test agility and wit. Guests must leap and navigate seemingly invisible barriers to unravel the mysteries of the Tiki. Whether you conquer the challenges solo or cheer on fellow adventurers, the experience is bound to leave you with lasting memories.

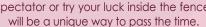


If the jungle scene becomes too wild, the gang at The Wondrous Tales will carry you off into a world of imagination. The Wondrous Tales is a unique venue where storytelling becomes a shared art. Do not mistaken this as a story time hour where the audience sits idly by as the speaker drones on about the shimmering waves of grass on a hill. Rather, it is the audience who provides the plotline.



Prior to starting the story, the lead speaker collects ideas from willing audience members. Then they create a story right there on the spot, curating a wildly imaginative tale that has never been told before! The speaker spills the dramatics of the tale as if it were unfolding in true form, in front of the very eyes of the spectators. While onlookers may wander into the venue initially as strangers, after being entangled by the thrills of the plot, they often leave as friends. At The Wondrous Tales, you can be certain of a warm and welcoming environment, a place where solace is found through the appreciation of the art form that is spoken word.

After falling into a story of excitement and thrill, you may feel inclined to let loose some energy. What better way to test your endurance than to step into the ring against a skillful opponent? It's easy to forget the pain of love and heartache when you're too busy dodging kicks and punches. At The Churn, combatants of all skill levels are welcome to test their stamina. Located in what appears to be a somewhat gritty warehouse, is a fighting ring constructed of chain-linked fences. During non-fight hours, the place is bustling with the business of a trading company but when the bell rings, the only things being traded are fists! Patrons can enjoy a cold brew while watching opponents face off against one another. To add a little flair to the ring, combatants are permitted to use anything they find inside the ring against their opponent. This can range from chairs and ladders to tables and seasonal goods. Perhaps this Valentione will see a fighter smacking down the other with a box of chocolate hearts! Whether you plan to visit as a spectator or try your luck inside the fence, it





Lastly, wind down your day at La Vipére, an exquisite venue that effortlessly captures the essence of relaxation and sophistication. As one of the few establishments offering a dedicated hookah lounge, La Vipére has cultivated a space where quests can step away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. The ambiance envelops you as soon as you enter: dim, warm lighting casts a soft glow across the room, while intricately patterned cushions and low tables create an invitingly intimate setting. The faint hum of ambient music, paired with the gentle murmur of conversation, enhances the sense of tranquility. The star of the lounge, the hookah itself, is no ordinary centerpiece it is a work of art. Handcrafted with ornate designs, its polished metals and jewel-toned glass bases glimmer softly under the light. Guests are presented with an extensive menu of premium shisha blends, each offering a unique sensory journey. From the sweet and fruity allure of tropical mango and berry medleys to the bold, earthy tones of spiced chai or classic mint, every puff feels like an indulgent escape. For those seeking a truly elevated experience, La Vipére offers exclusive VIP memberships that grant access to monthly themed events, private seating areas, personalized service, and access to rare, limited-edition shisha flavors not available to regular patrons. La Vipére also offers an enticing selection of culinary delights and drinks to complement the experience. Guests can savor small plates featuring an artful fusion of global cuisines, from delicate mezze platters to decadent desserts that melt in your mouth. The drink menu is equally impressive, boasting signature cocktails, fine wines, and non-alcoholic mocktails crafted to pair harmoniously with the shisha flavors.

hters, and all those in between

To unravel what other enjoyable experiences may be found as a solo adventurer, I took to the busy streets of Ul'dah to ask around. One interesting fellow by the name of Bobble, revealed that "the best way to spend romantic holidays when your lil black book has failed, is to grab a fishing pole and sulk at the docks until something bites the hook. It's always satisfying when at least one of your lines works, even if it's just the fishing line." On the other hand, a lively group of friends relished themselves in the state of singlehood and suggested hitting up the Gold Saucer for sport and bets. Spending the romantic holiday with a friend can be a jovial occasion. If alone, do not fret. Many of the venues listed are filled with those who are the independent ladies and gents who thrive at their table of one. If you do not have a date to pamper then dote yourself with all the attention. Double up on that chocolate and remember, you are worth loving. Until someone else realizes that, you must look at yourself in the mirror and say it loudly until your very soul resonates with this truth.



Now for those who are in the throes of a whirlwind romance, a budding infatuation, or a deep-rooted love, there are many venues and events that bring a couple closer together. Let's start with the simple pleasures. Even the finest, ritziest establishments around cannot compete with the natural beauty that can be found by a simple stroll through the woods. If Gil is a limiting factor, why not sweep away your beloved on a romantic picnic? For a quiet picnic in the woods, away from the bickering streets and rowdy taverns, try wandering through the East Shroud. Set your compass markers to 22,24 for a particularly cozy little nook that is surrounded by babbling brooks, rich greenery, and the soft whispers of the forest. For the more adventurous couple, pack up your cold weather gear and enjoy an igloo for two! While chilly, this will be the perfect chance to snuggle up close together for warmth! The best location for a snow snuggle can be found in the Coerthas Central Highlands with your map markers set to 26,27. Lastly, for those who would prefer an expansive view of the sea, travel with your beloved to the Eastern La Noscea Bloodshore, 32,32. Here, you and your sweetheart can enjoy wine, treats, and a breathtaking view high upon a cliff that overlooks a whole blanket of ocean. If the great outdoors doesn't truly strike a note with you or your love muffin then there are a plethora of venues that offer an enjoyable experience.



Start the evening off right at The Wandering Willow, where the serenity of nature is brought indoors where it seamlessly embraces a quaint little retreat. Here, the café offers a variety of teas, brews, and alcoholic delights along with morsels that will soothe away hunger. The staff is exceptionally friendly and the environment is perfect for a romantic rendezvous. The scene is complete with musical accompaniment of a house bard, whose notes are plucked by harp. Guests can choose to sit at the bar, where the friendly tavern keeper will greet them with warm conversation. Alternatively, there are several booths that are nicely decorated with roses. However, my suggestion would be to wander into the garden sitting area where a bench waits for you and your darling, nestled up right against a majestic waterfall and field of flowers. Here, at The Wandering Willow, the beauty of *nature is married with the convenience of a nearby ale spout.

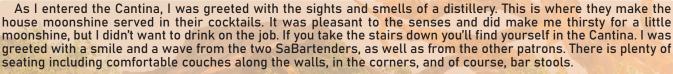


For the lovers who love the arts, the Lux Theatre company is truly a phenomenal experience, with a finely decorated interior that is laden with the soft flicker of candleliaht and velvet curtains, the scene is perfect for an intimate pre-show drink. After the guests are ushered to the main theater, they are greeted by an exceptionally crafted stage and luxury seating. The plays that can be expected span from classical presentations to more modern works, presented by a talented crew of actors who carry the audience through the story with sensational delivery. In addition to plays, the theatre also offers creative classes. For example, if you wish to impress your dear one by painting them like an Ishgardian muse but lack the ability to do so, then their painting class which uses live models will be the perfect instructional aide. There are also storytelling workshops that can help guests bring more gusto to their orations.

As there were many opinions on what to do when single during the celebration, there were those who also were eager to share relationship advice. The lovely Sabik Ananami stated "In my relationships, I love—above all—the bond that two people can have. It takes conversation, a little adventure and, of course, love that comes little by little, to open the door to a more serious relationship." As it happens, many opportunities for romance crop up when least expected. Watch for those chances and take a risk. If your attentions are declined, brush yourself off and remember, your heart will fly again. Just not with that particular bird. Find another. When asked about a favorite activity to take a newly blossoming relationship, Halci Grimmbell suggested the following, "I love listening to all the different bards! That's how I met Sabik here actually." Proof that friendship or perhaps love can bloom in many places, but especially when music guides it. While the romantic holiday brings both gloom as well as joy, there is no doubt that there are many ways to spend it. Whether alone, with friends, or alongside a sweetheart. Do not be afraid to try out a new place, it might just ignite romance or at least leave you with a good story to share with friends.







Being Lalafellin owned, Ruckus Fiddlesticks explained that they had just acquired the medium sized building, and that being able to reach things easily and see their customers was top priority. One look around would confirm that. The furniture and racks were all Lalafell height and the area behind the bar was lifted for Ruckus and his partner in culinary crimes, Pakeke Pake.

The three of us sat down in a cozy corner next to a small stage. After a little chit chat and introductions we began the interview.

Duo:

So I believe you two opened the Cantina together? How long ago was that?

Two turns ago, just 'fore Starlight season. We'd been in the Goblet, but recent after Heavensturn this year we moved out here to Drybone. Moonshine label's existed for a little longer, but we opened doors the 9th of Althyk's Moon.

Uuo:

What inspired you to open this place?

Pakeke and I became friends earlier that year, regulars of each other's establishments. Opening up a spot together just felt natural, since we were already sending folks to each other's places.

Our venues opened right after each other, too - Cantina's somewhat of a combination between the two. The other, more practical reason, is the Lichyard label was taking off, and needed a place to properly expand its distillery and meet demand.

My father kept a taco stand, when I was a kid - And the moonshining is another whole story alongside. But me and Pakeke figured we'd be a dynamic duo- er combo wombo

⁶Duo:

You two do seem to have a close friendship, and that's a great thing to have. Are you two... just friends?

story alongside. But me and Pakeke figured we'd be a dynamic duo- er... combo wombo behind the bar.

[Snorts loudly.] And 'business partners,' the most intimate of Ul'dahn relationships. [Light-hearted wink.] We're not dating, if that's what you mean. He's not my type. Been a while since we've gotten that assumption.

Aye, we're close friends. When you share bar stools and fight over the tab as frequently as we do, it's an easy assumption to make.

Duo:

Do you have regulars that visit your Cantina?

Think I might forget to list names if I listed them one by one.

PAKEKE

Oh, yes! I'd say the foundations of our business are very dedicated regulars. This place is theirs as much as it is ours. Wouldn't be the same without 'em. But we've welcomed many the wandering one-off stranger, too. Many travellers wind up becoming returning friends. That's really our aim, here.

可110:

So I take it then that business is going well?

Aye, we're often kept fairly busy. Good amount of it, I think - lot of conversations going on at once. PAKEKE

Taco <mark>market's taken off hot ticket si</mark>nce Turali travel's become trendy. But we've been cookin' 'em longer than most adventurers have been crossing the salt.

Ruckus longer than me - his father was in the trade, too. PAKEKE RUCKUS

Lichyard Libations (that's our house moonshine label) has been making rounds in plenty other Eorzean establishments too, which keeps our lights on in the dry seasons, so to speak. But fair often our stools're all filled up - why we needed bigger space for folks. We serve more traditional Thanalan fare too, though - Pretzels, Shakshouka, Kibbeh, Imam Bayildi. My mum's basbousa recipe, and so on.

RUCKUS

110:

And you own the distillery makes Lichvard Libations, correct?

Ave, feature that in most of our cocktails here. It's a corn and nopales mash spirit with a... storied history. We aim at heart to be a down to earth respite from the daily pains of latestage monetarism. That's Pakeke's side of things, really - She's a real firestarter.

RUCKUS

①110:

So Pakeke takes care of the gil and you take care of the patrons?

Wouldn't say that. Think we share our duties more or less equally.

PAKEKE

Pakeke makes sure I don't get myself drowned in the quicksands of upstart businessmen. Keeps our hearts set firm in the right place. RUCKUS

Aye, make sure we stay honest. Can't be a safe place for commonfolk if we're catering to rich- uh, rich Monetarists who don't have the interests of smallfolk in mind. PAKEKE

Muo:

Did vou have any resistance from Ul'dah's wealthier class when you first opened the Cantina or the distillery?

Think we just had that one instance, aye? And that was... more Fincent's fault than anything.

Aye, back in the Goblet our resident Namazu (no longer with us) raised a bit of hells that got us fingerwaggled at by the Brass Blades. We... have had support from a prominent banker, and a few sources of investment from the unlikely echelons of Ul'dahn society. But we don't particularly care to be beholden to the Syndicate. We cater to everybody. RUCKUS

Duo:

Have you seen any budding romances begin here at the Cantina?

Sure. We see romances and friendships bloom all the time. Making space for folks to get to know each other, talk to each other... It's natural folk get close that way. We're happy to help people make genuine connections. If they're tallfolk, smallfolk, ladies, gents - whoever

Duo:

Well I think I have enough here for my article. Thank you two so much for your time.

Course! Thank you, too. Appreciate you making time for us. PAKEKE

Aye, always a pleasure to get a bit of good press. Come back again soon for tuco-tuco tacos!

> Aether | Faerie | Goblet Ward 28 | Plot 4 Open Saturdays, 4:00-7:00pm EST

Pictured: Ruckus Fiddlesticks & Pakeke Pake, Partners in Culinary Crimes



By Quelenna Aeir



G'raha Tia: the character from A Realm Reborn that everyone hoped to see again, only to appear as a main character from Shadowbringers onwards. For LizArd, what started off as just a favorite character became something more. Read on to find out how *LizArd* started off her animation journey on YouTube with thousands of views on her cute and fun videos with G'raha Tia.

Warning: Spoilers for content beyond Free Trial access

Can you give me a short introduction about yourself?

Hello! I'm **Liz**, a Brazilian FFXIV player, G'raha Tia fan and animator. I make animations with my Warrior of Light and G'raha Tia to post on YouTube for fun and self-indulgence.

How did you stumble into the FFXIV world? What aspects of FFXIV did you enjoy enough to keep playing it?

I started playing during Stormblood, by recommendation of my boyfriend at the time! I used to always like the idea of having an MMO to play and call home, but everything I had tried to that point didn't last long or wasn't my style. He started playing during HW and thought I'd enjoy it, and I did. A LOT! It took me a long time to get involved with the fandom, because I didn't want to look anything up until reaching the endgame.

As for content, it varies depending on how I'm feeling, but I'm mostly interested in achievement hunting, crafting, gathering, hunts, and housing. MSQ is also very important, especially because of Shadowbringers, but if I'm being honest, I used to skip a lot during ARR! It was only from the first "several cutscenes will play in Sequence" that I started really paying attention.

What is your favorite role and job in FFXIV?

When I first started playing up to 6.0 I only ever played DRG! Best aesthetics and I loved the job. For the longest time I wanted to play as WAR because big axes are even cooler, but it took a while for my tankxiety to go away. In the end I learned that tanking is even easier than DPS...

Right now, I'm trying to get better at healing jobs and focusing on WHM and AST!



Was it love at first sight when G'raha Tia entered the picture?

He took my heart and didn't let go since Shadowbringers, which I was lucky to play during release!! But to be honest, I can't say it was love at first sight, because when he first entered the picture I...skipped. OOPS. (I did go back and play it in NG+ later though!). I still called him by his name during "that" scene, but I can't say I knew who he was...

The scene in Kholusia where we talk before entering Mt. Gulg...THAT was the moment. It's so good. IT'S SO GOOD!! He is such a well written and developed character, and all of the dialogue leading to that point, the little hints on how he acts towards us... I could go on about it for days. And now I obsessively read and rewatch every scene and content with him in it, so I don't miss any detail ever again!





I see you have been uploading videos to YouTube since a year ago. Did you always envision yourself animating videos of G'raha Tia and your Warrior of Light?

It wasn't something I actively knew I was going to do, but when I found out it was possible, it gave me so many ideas! I really enjoy spending time seeing wolgraha fanart, fanfics, and gposes, and I wanted to do something of my own too. I tried gposing for a while but it isn't something that I got much into. I can't draw and I'm not confident in my writing.

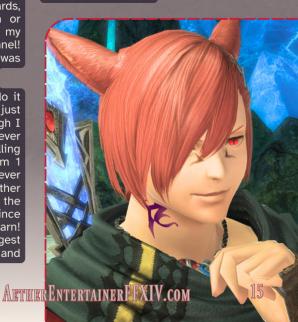
I was already working as a freelance animator, and something that always frustrated me about it is that I knew how to move the characters, but I didn't know anything else. To animate, I needed someone to provide me the models, and then someone else to light and render the scene afterwards, and I had absolutely no reason or motivation to learn any of that on my own. Until I watched BeneG's channel! I enjoy his videos a lot, and it was clear that it wasn't done in-game.

When I finally found out how to do it and the possibilities behind it, I just had to, no matter what. Even though I knew how to animate in Maya, I never opened Blender before. I was willing to learn it all, and that video from 1 year ago is my first experience ever using Blender and learning the other aspects that are not just moving the characters. I've learned a lot since then, and I still have a lot to learn! These videos are my biggest motivation to keep animating and learning new things.

Did you ever think your videos would get so much attention?

Not at all!! I really just wanted to be part of the wolgraha fandom on Twitter/Bluesky and share my love for my favorite character, and I didn't think many people would enjoy them outside of that! My first video I didn't even intend to post to YouTube, I made it for a wolgraha week event going on Twitter. I'm really happy and grateful that more people are interested in watching them, and I have a lot of fun seeing the reactions to every new video. I was really surprised when I started getting comments from people that said "I'm not a G'raha fan, but..."!

(I'd be really happy if my videos motivated more people to become G'raha fans, though!)





Your videos have a lot of romance "otome" game/anime vibes. I would love to hear what your favorite "otome" game and/or anime is! Was there any specific game or show you gained inspiration from to animate your videos?

Ohh yes, definitely! I love otome games, shoujo anime and romance in general, so of course I'm very inspired by those things all the time, and I use many scenes as inspiration or even direct reference to animate from them. For example, there's a lot of little references and inspiration from Sailor Moon in many of my videos. I love it when people recognize them in the comments! Some references have yet to be pointed out...

For the otome game trailer, the idea came because not only do I love these games and think of how much fun it would be to have a romance game or options in FFXIV, but they usually have a big focus on the character's voices, and the (JP) cast for the XIV all seem to have voiced one at least once. I'm a huge fan of japanese VAs, so that's also a big reason for me to play them... and Uchida Yuma (G'raha's VA) is in some of my favorites!

I tried to directly take CG inspiration from some of the games I've played. Some of the ones I've used to animate scenes are Code: Realize, Cupid Parasite, Hamefura, Olympia Soirée, Angelique Luminarise, and CollarxMalice.

As for my all-time favorite otome game, that would be Jack Jeanne. Highly, highly recommend it! Great story-written and produced by Tokyo Ghoul's author Ishida Sui-lovable characters, amazing voice cast, and some light stat-raising and rhythm gameplay!

A lot of your viewers have expressed their wish that your "Eternal Bonds" video was a real Otome game! If it was, and you couldn't choose your favorite catboy, who would you romance?

If I COULDN'T choose G'raha?! That makes things... very difficult... nooo!!!!

Hmm...in that case I'd probably have to go through every single route and choose my favorite based on the story! It's often that my favorite at first glance when getting a new game doesn't end up being my favorite after playing their route, so...

I did imagine how their personal route would be when making the video, and based on my own ideas, probably Erenville. Although, if there was a fandisk with the Zenos yandere route...

I know the community has run wild with this topic, but how likely do you think it is that Square will ever make the Scions romanceable characters sometime in the future?

think it's very unlikely based on YoshiP's reaction, sadly. But I have SO MANY IDEAS on how that could work in the game! I personally think it's a missed opportunity to not do it. I would never expect it to be full romance like Baldur's Gate or even SWTOR, but we could have a bonding/friendship raising system with extra side quests to spend time with the characters in a light-hearted manner, where we learn more about their personal struggles and daily lives, and that could trigger a few new flavor text choices for them. They could make it not explicitly romantic, but add some subtext that could be read as romantic for shippers to run wild with, and make it so our WoL becomes better friends with them! Get

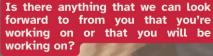
inspiration from the Persona/Metaphor bond and follower system, or Fire Emblem's support system!

In Endwalker we had the inn scene choice, and in Shadowbringers, they also had scenes that triggered based on the role quests we did, and you can choose who visits you at night based on that! So we know it's possible to do these things in game, and it's been done before. Just make it more personal to the Scions!

There are so many things that we could learn about the characters we love by spending some extra, private time with them that wouldn't necessarily fit in the MSQ, and could go beyond just silly fanservice. G'raha's feelings on identity and the things he said in Ultima Thule, talking with Thancred about Ryne and the First, things like that. It can be nonromantic, it feels more personal and rewarding to have them open up to us as even closer friends than what we see in the MSQ.

...but I'd be happy with just silly fanservice, too.





I just recently released the Mahjong video because of Dawntrail's 7.1 voice pack update! That took me 2 months of work...so I'm hoping to get something a little more simple done this month. I'm thinking of going back to Endwalker and one of the best photo ops with G'raha in the MSQ...

Anything else you'd like to add?

Thank you very much for watching my videos! I'm so happy and grateful that there's more people than I'd ever anticipated enjoying them, and I hope I could share my love for this game and for the best fictional character to ever exist in them.

And thank you for the opportunity to talk about it here!



Ohh, that's a hard one. I'm really proud of the "Late Night Visit", because I was able to see my progress from one year later and how much I've learned...and I really like how the kiss turned out, now that I can enjoy it!!

Everytime I release a new video, I actually can only see the mistakes and issues I didn't fix, so I have to give it a few months before I rewatch it and get to actually enjoy it again... but now I'm really glad that I took my time animating that kiss exactly how I wanted it!

I'm also really happy with the otome trailer, which was the second video that took me the longest to make, and "You're Not Alone"! I'm happy with how the hug animation turned out, and the little Hythlo joke at the end still makes me smile.



Is there any advice to someone who would also like to do their own animated FFXIV videos?

DO IT!!! It's a lot of fun, and feels really rewarding after the video is done and you get to see your idea come to life. I know the learning curve at the beginning can be difficult, and the hardest part is to get started, but just like learning anything else, it's all practice and the time spent on doing it. Find the way you like to learn best, and just keep at it little by little. You're guaranteed to improve as long as you keep at it!



YouTube

<u>Bluesky</u>

Twitter/X

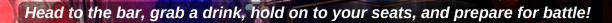
Patreon





MONDAYS | 9PM-2AM

CRYSTAL | COEURL | GOBLET | WARD 14 | PLOT 60



WELCOME TO THE UL'DAH FIGHT CLUB.

THE HOLY BODY (REBORN)

LAMIA, GOBLET, WI, PI9
THE BRIMMING HEART

WEDNESDAYS
6:30PM PST/9:30PM EST
LAST WEDS OF EACH MONTH OFF

BY: AURORE LAON

At the Brimming Heart of Ul'dah's Goblet lies a unique fighting ring, which some may be wary of but others might be excited to learn more about. This particular venue is called The Holy Body: Ul'dah Fight Club! Offering guests the use of Final Fantasy XIV's dice roll system, participants attack one another in an open ring for spectators to witness the battles live! While this is their main attraction, they also have an open bar to relax with one another in an environment of likeminded roleplayers! Whether you're visiting for the bustling energies of Ul'dah and its culture or simply coming to experience something new, this will be the place to learn how to do exactly that and more!

Though, some may wonder: how do roll-based fighting and arenas even work? How do rolls determine what each individual will do? How do combatants even win? As a summary, roll-based fighting is determined by using the roll command (/random) and letting the wheel take its spin! The person with the highest number starts off the match with their own creative attack that best fits their character, to which the opponent responds with how they react to the assault inflicted on them, adding in their counter-attack.

This method goes on until someone is taken down for the round in-character. Each person's action is also based on what number they may roll, with the highest possibility being 999 and lowest being 0. Most fighting venues are similar in this context, yet some incorporate restrictions!

Struck by curiosity, I went to see for myself what draws people to the thrill and hype of this fight ring by speaking with the owner and mastermind behind the wonderful venue, Dubh Tine.



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THE SHORT VERSION OF A MUCH LONGER STORY IS THAT I CREATED THE HOLY BODY AS A FREE COMPANY DUE TO THE DEMAND FOR IT. DURING THAT TIME, I HAD RETURNED TO XIV AFTER A LONG BREAK AND CAME BACK WITH THE INTENT TO FIND FUN PEOPLE TO BE AROUND. IT JUST SO HAPPENED TO BE DURING THE MAKE IT RAIN EVENT AND I WAS RUNNING GATES AS EVERYONE DOES.



EVENTINE

DURING THE WAIT TIMES, I WOULD GET BORED AND START DOING DANCES. FROM THERE, I NOTICED A PATTERN SOME PEOPLE WOULD JOIN ME AND DANCE ALONG WHILE OTHERS WOULD JUST STAY AFK AND DO THEIR MINDLESS GRIND FOR MMO POINTS. AT THAT MOMENT, I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "IT SURE WOULD BE NICE TO GATHER ALL THESE FUN PEOPLE," AND SO I DID. WITHIN NO TIME AT ALL, WE HAD A MAIN LINKSHELL, CROSSWORLD / LINKSHELL, AND EVENTUALLY THE MULTIPLE FREE COMPANIES WERE MADE AS FAR AS OPENING UP FOR THE FIRST TIME GOES, WE HAD A LOVELY ELEZEN FRIEND CALLED CHERRY COKE WHO HAD INTRODUCED US TO THE NIGHTCLUB SCENE AND BASICALLY OPENED THE DOOR FOR COMMUNITY-DRIVEN VENUES FOR US! I'VE BEEN HOOKED EVER SINCE! THE HBA [HOLY BODY ARMY] STARTED OUR FIRST VENUE AS A NIGHTCLUB, HOSTING RUNE STREAM'S EVENTS IN HER EARLY DAYS. AFTER A WHILE, WE THEN SHIFTED GEARS AND CREATED THE UL'DAH FIGHT CLUB AND IT'S BEEN RUNNING EVER SINCE. WE'RE CURRENTLY GOING INTO OUR THIRD YEAR AND WE'VE HAD A MULTITUDE OF SIDE VENUES. FRIENDS OF OURS HAD RUN THESE VENUES ALONGSIDE US, AND WE'VE SPAWNED A FEW VENUES AS WELL OVERALL, IT'S BEEN A REALLY GREAT TIME!

THROUGHOUT THE VEARS OF
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ORE THE READ WENDER OF
MOMENUS THAT YOU WE HAD DURING
THAT THE WALLEN WOULD THAT THE WILLIAM
THE SIDE VENUES YOU WE GREATED
WITHER THE OR THROUGH YOUR
OWNEY ENERGIES.
WHAT WAS THAT LIKES

THERE ARE LITERALLY TOO MANY MOMENTS TO COUNT! IVE BEEN VERY BLESSED TO HAVE A WONDERFUL CAST OF CHARACTERS COME THROUGH THESE DOORS FOR ALL THESE YEARS.

PUENTIAL IN THE FIGHT IN M AND TO FE ROLE LORE THOSE FUN PUT IN THAT OR FIGHT DAUN DOES UFC. THER

WHEN WE FIRST OPENED OUR DOORS FOR UFC, WE HAD A RANDOM HROTHGAR COME IN WHO HAD NEVER BEEN TO A VENUE BEFORE AND WANTED TO SEE WHAT ROLEPLAY FIGHTING WAS LIKE OUR LIVING LEGEND, MATHRALDR STALGARR, WENT 13-0 IN THE OVERALL FIGHTS FOR THE ENTIRE NIGHT AND CLAIMED OUR FIRST TOURNAMENT TITLE WE'VE HAD PEOPLE WHO'VE SHOWN UP ONCE AND DOMINATED OUR NIGHT. WE'VE ALSO HAD PEOPLE COME IN AND CLAIM VICTORY AFTER VICTORY. OF COURSE, WE ALWAYS HAVE OUR LOVELY REGULARS WHO'VE ALL BECOME CHAMPIONS, WITH EVERY WEEK BEING A NIGHT THAT HAS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GREAT MEMORIES TO BE MADE I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER WITH HOW THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT FOR US HERE. I THINK IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, THE BEST THING TO DO IS JUST GO. DON'T BE AFRAID OF CHECKING OUT A VENUE! THE FIGHT CIRCUIT IS MUCH LARGER THAN PEOPLE THINK IT IS AND EVERY PLACE IS VERY UNIQUE IN ITS OWN UNIQUE COMMUNITIES AND STYLES.

WE ALLOW EVERYTHING FROM JUST BASICALLY DICE ROLLERS TO ELABORATE ROLEPLAY FIGHTERS. WE ALSO ALLOW ALL WEAPONS, MAGICS, FIGHT STYLES IF YOU CAN JUSTIFY IT IN A FIGHT, WE ALLOW IT. WE'VE HAD EPIC BATTLES, COOK-OFFS MINION BATTLES, DANCE-OFFS.THE LIST GOES ON AND ON! ONE OF OUR STRONGEST CONTENDERS HERE, WHO I'VE MADE FUN VIDEOS WITH, IS PUNCHLINE SHE'S A PRO WRESTLER CLOWN WHO USES FIREWORKS AND CLOWN CARS TO FIGHT SO REALLY, IF YOU'D LIKE TO EXPLORE THE SCENE, WE REALLY ARE A VERY RELAXED AND FUN VENUE TO START IN WE HOPE FOR PEOPLE TO ALWAYS FEEL WELCOMED INTO OUR ESTABLISHMENT.

CAN VOULELABORATE ON THE CURRENT EVENT VOURE HOSING TO CONTRESTED IN COMING TO PARTICIPATES



F YOU EXCOUNTERED SOMEONE
WHO WAS INTERESTED IN FIGHT
GLUES AND WANTED TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT HOW TO DO ROLL FERSED
ROLLEPLAY SUCHAS FIGHTING AND
THE SORTE, HOW WOULD YOU
PERSONALLY RECOMMEND

IN ALL HONESTY, IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THE FEEL FOR THE FIRST TIME. UL'DAH FIGHT CLUB IS ONE OF THE BEST TO START IN MOST VENUES DO ENFORCE WEAPON AND MAGIC RESTRICTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING AS THEY MAY BE HEAVILY ROLEPLAY-BASED AND FOLLOW STRICT LORE-BASED GUIDELINES. NONETHELESS, THOSE ARE ALL LOVELY PLACES AND IT'S SO FUN TO SEE THE DETAILED WORK PEOPLE PUT INTO THEIR OWN ROLEPLAY, HOWEVER, THAT KIND OF SPACE FOR A FIRST-TIMER OR SOMEONE JUST EXPLORING THE FIGHTING SCENE MIGHT VIEW IT AS A BIT DAUNTING. ESPECIALLY FOR SOMEONE THAT DOESN'T ROLEPLAY VERY OFTEN HERE AT UFC, WE'RE THE OPPOSITE I DON'T THINK THERE'S A MORE RELAXED FIGHT VENUE

OF COURSE! WE RUN EVERY WEDNESDAY, EXCEPT FOR THE LAST OF THE MONTH, SO BEING OPEN THAT OFTEN IT'S NICE TO MIX THINGS UP! ESPECIALLY ON HOLIDAYS, WE TRY TO EMBRACE NEW STYLES AND THEMES TO GIVE PEOPLE A NEW LOOK ON AN OLD HAT: RENOVATING OUR VENUE SPACE TO MATCH THE CURRENT HOLIDAY THEME. WE'VE HAD BOSS FIGHT TOURNEYS WHERE PEOPLE HAVE HAD TO FIGHT MONSTERS CREATED BY PARACELSUS SUGARMOON, OUR MAIN ANNOUNCER; TIO EPOCAN, OUR LONG TIME MEMBER AND RESIDENT MASTER CHEF; AND EVEN BY YOURS TRULY! THIS WEEK IS VALENTINE'S. SO WE'RE SHIFTING GEARS WITH A TRADITION WE'VE STARTED WITH SINCE THE BEGINNING: THE PILLOW TOURNAMENT. ALL FIGHTS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO USE PILLOWS OR OTHER SOFT, FRIENDLY MEANS TO BATTLE! SINCE WE GET A WHOLE YEAR OF CARNAGE, ONE NIGHT OF FRIENDLY PILLOW FIGHTS ONLY SEEMS FAIREVEN IF PARACELSUS WILL STILL BE BEGGING FOR CARNAGE ALL NIGHT.





Throw on your best glams and dust off those selling chops as it's time for Afterglow's big event - the Spirit of Ghibli auction! Featuring 90 artists, roleplayers, and more for your bidding pleasure, 16 venues have come together to make this plethora of talent possible. Let's take a look inside where the magic happens...

The doors had just barely opened and the venue was already packed! Thankfully, there was still plenty of space in the venue's three-story void build, though it was certainly more concentrated on the upper levels where the main event was taking place. People lined the balconies overlooking the auction stage, eager to see who would be next up on the bidding block. One by one, people stepped up to auction their services (including yours truly, of course!), with some racking up astronomical numbers; stay tuned for an exclusive interview with the winner of the highest bid at a mind-boggling 777 million gil! The auctionees offered a broad variety of servic-

-es, from roleplay courtesans to pen-and-tablet artists, to graphic designers and housing aficionados, you'd be hard-pressed to find this array of talent all gathered in one place anywhere else. The bids soared as on-site bards and streaming DJs provided an energetic backdrop for the lively banter. There were droves of enthusiastic players engaging in fiery bidding wars. Some auctionees were so sought after that the auctioneer could barely get a word in between bids!





And yet, despite everything, it wasn't pure chaos. - We can thank the lovely hosts at Afterglow for that. With a solid system used for issuing bids, they made sure everyone had a fair chance at the auctionee(s) of their dreams. This was no small feat, considering the fact that the venue was capped on the number of people allowed inside and thus there was a line out the door for most of the night. A combination of on site and Discord channel bidding was necessary to ensure no one was missing out due to technical restrictions. All in all, this was an extremely successful night for Afterglow and all of the participants.

As the night's festivities began to wind down, we decided to ask the owners of a couple of the participating venues - Briar from Souls & Sundries and Noelle from Club Blink - for their thoughts on the event.



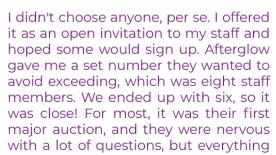
Thanks for sitting down with us, you two! It's been a crazy night so far, huh? How did you find out about the auction?

For us, it was an honor getting an invitation from Plushie herself to join Afterglow on this auction!

I stumbled across the auction posting in the FFXIV Venues Discord one day and thought it would be interesting to try out with my staff! After that, I shared it with venues I'm affiliated with, allowing everyone to get involved - and they did! I'm sure Afterglow mentioned it numerous times in their own Discord. but I was lucky to be looking in the right place at the right time because I wasn't aware of Afterglow before this.

> A first-timer - how exciting! How did you guys choose the staff members who would go up for auction?

When we get invited to collab on events, I simply ask in our staff lounge to see who is available and wants to



turned out well in the end! That it did! Did you set any limitations or requirements for prospective auctionees, such as what they

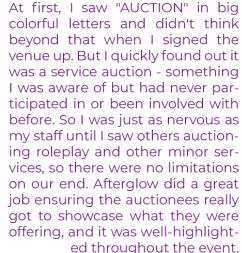
We don't have any limitations; we love to showcase any of our members who are willing to put themselves out there, whether they're gposers, artists, modders, content runners, or even just someone offering a girlfriend/boyfriend package!

were offering?











I totally agree! I wasn't offering anything incredibly special and even I felt seen. Thanks for your time, both of you!















And now, time for our spotlight VIP! We were able to get a few words from the one and only Melona Sawara, who garnered a massive end price of 777 million gil! I can't even imagine ever having that much money, let alone spending it! Here's her thoughts on tonight:



I loved the event; the build was really cute and exposed me to a lot of other creatives that I wouldn't have met otherwise.



For sure! Were you looking to bid on others as well or just there as an artist?

Definitely was looking to bid on other people as well. As a gposer, you rarely get pictures taken of yourself, and I need that.



As a fellow GPOSER, that is definitely felt. Was the outcome what you expected?

Not. At. All. I knew there were some people who really wanted to win because my commissions are not open, but I was not expecting that level of love.



Aww, but your work is gorgeous! Definitely deserving of that whopping 777 million gil. Folks, you can check out the rest of Melona's work on her Twitter or Carrd and see what I mean! Thanks for your time, Mel!







Now that the auction itself is over, Afterglow is still reeling with back-end logistics. Despite that, they graciously took the time to answer some questions for us:



Hehe, here they are: the real stars of tonight's show! Representing Afterglow, we have general manager Mia! Mia, what was the main purpose behind organizing this event?





artists, creators, and roleplayers alike. We wanted to craft a space where art could be appreciated not just as a product, but as an experience, steeped in nostalgia, wonder, and heartfelt connections. By bringing together nearly 100 participants across various creative fields, we aimed to foster connections, support independent artists, and offer something truly special for attendees to 9 cherish.



It really is different when client and clien- of for and so much more. tele actually meet in person, huh? Thanks to you guys for facilitating it all! What was the most difficult part in getting everything together?

Coordinating an event of this scale was no small feat. The biggest challenge lay in 🔇 orchestrating the many moving parts; or-



ganizing auction blocks, verifying participants, balancing performances, and promoting entertainers, all while showcasing our Artist Alley. Countless hours went into planning and fine-tuning every detail to create an experience that felt seamless for attendees. Despite the challenges, seeing the community come together to celebrate creativity made every effort worthwhile.



Spoken like a true host! It looks like everything turned out great though; was the outcome what you expected?

The turnout and enthusiasm from the community surpassed all expectations! We knew there was excitement



surrounding the event, but the overwhelming support, participation, and engagement from both bidders and those offering their craft truly made it magical. Seeing artists, entertainers, and creators of all kinds connect with patrons who appreciate their work, witnessing the joy of winning bids, and feeling the energy of a night filled with creativity and passion made every challenge along the way worthwhile. It was everything we hoped



Right on! Thanks for sitting with us, and best wishes to you guys; I'm sure you're busy so I'll let you go now!

And so the night ends for Afterglow's Spirit of Ghibli auction. As the final touches are being arranged, we're sure to see some amazing work rolling out soon!



This has been Safira, signing out!





TOGETHER WE COOK! DINING OUT AT NIKOMU | 煮込む

BY RUCKUS FIDDLESTICKS

As sun sets on the first evening of Menphina's Moon, the mood is abuzz and expectant, tummies already rumbling, as guests begin to gather at the gates of Nikomu, a new restaurant in Shirogane born of a Hingan culinary school. We finally meander through the open door through a dim lit entryway resembling quaint far eastern alleyways, and descend downward into a long and spacious dining hall, warm woods gleaming with gilded accents, open and yet intimately partitioned. A fleet of equally excited staff stands proud and ready to attend on this fine dining debut, the air already fragrant with bubbling broth and sizzling meats.



Talk has already swept the culinary scene about this trendy new hotspot for hot pot, so the tables fill up fast! Diners already dazzled by Creuset Restaurant Group's sister locations arrive expecting nothing less than a sumptuous night of celebratory culinary creations. I have never experienced 'hunger' like the heightened sense of anticipation throughout this opening-everyone seems entertained and effervescent, elated to be in the room where cooking happens. Nikomu is true 'event' dining at its best.

At the heart of this experience are the Hot Pot booths, perfect for parties of two or more who find joy in sharing a meal that everyone can participate in building. This style of at-the-table cooking provides diners with a selection of broth bases and a plethora of quality ingredients, and invites sensory attention to a communal and customizable, yet leisurely meal. Although each table huddles around the same style of



pot, with so many tempting offerings to choose from, every combination is sure to feel unique. Try enticing new flavors or familiar favorites, don't drip too much when you fish out the noodles, and keep a close eye on those fast cooking thinly sliced proteins and tender vegetables!

Seeking supper and a show? Book a seat up at the hibachi grill! This is where I found myself, enjoying our chef's showmanship of skilled coordination on the flat top as he cooks up each course with flair, finesse and plenty of delightfully dancing fire. The fast tempo of the spatula keeps the diner engaged, roaring waves of heat warming our faces, the food a true delight with every bite. You may select your proteins, which include high end cuts of marbled wagyu, fatty duck and premium shrimp pulled from the Ruby Sea. Be sure to get your reservations in for this dining experience early, as seating is very limited!



Dining alone? Cooking stations already filled up, and open to meeting some new friends? Try the venue's central sushi counter which runs the length of the room, where chefs display their artful knifework and careful rice prep right before your eyes. The house special rolls are themed around the legendary Four Lords, and if you're adventurous like me you'll want to try them all! With a prime view of all the action, you're sure to find plenty of mouthwatering incentive to come back next time.

nikomu.crd.co open the first saturday of every month 9 pm - 12 am est crystal • coeurl • shiro • w30 • p46

HOT POT MOUNT



