

WALTZ

The Official FC Newsletter

Interview with:
Laureall Morgan
&
Kouya Kaji

Inside:
Fun games
Fashion Section
Lore
Housing
Screenshots
Art
and more!



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Calendar of Events

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- Birthdays/Anniversary
- FC Events

Birthdays:

- 2: Callie's cat's birthday
- 3: Kit's birthday
- 5: Aerdrie's Anniversary
- 15: Mufi's cat's birthday

Events:

- All month:
Member Origins Writing Event
- 6: Crystal Tower Climb
- 11: Waltz Coloring Book
- 16: Brock's Smash Tournie
- 26: Waltz Trivia Night

Interview with . . .

Kouya Kaji



How did you bump into the Black Waltz?

Oof, it was a long, long time ago on Midgardsormr. I joined an FC with one of Istari's friends (Archer Mcelf). Then they moved servers to Gilgamesh to be with Istari, and Kellin and I followed a bit after... Basically, I made a friend and followed them through server switches, and now I'd follow Istari wherever he wants to go!

What do you do for fun in this game?

I used to be hardcore into dailies and leveling, but lately it's been more social. I still only have a few jobs at 80 and don't even have Expert unlocked, which is kind of crazy for me! I just like to meet people, and I like healing because I really love helping out new players (and keeping them alive when they do things they probably shouldn't, like pull the whole room in Aurum Vale because they don't know any better).

Do you have one fond memory in-game?

...going right into the Weeping City of Mhach 24-man raid right as it came out with Istari, and constant deaths trying to figure out mechanics. Same with most of the other alliance raids. But Mhach was the most fun, because I was healing with Istari and once we hit Ozma, it was just like "OMG WHAT IS HAPPENING, WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?! Must heal, must heal!"

What is your favorite job in-game and why?

Up until Shadowbringers, I was Scholar all the way. I might still be, but I've been trying to level other things, so I have to say my favorite job right now is Astrologian, tied closely with Monk of all things. (I like positionals, don't hate me!) I really enjoyed Goldsmith when I was leveling DoH, but I am ashamed to say I've let it slip and now I have no idea how to play it, so I've kind of just given up for the time being. I just liked the idea of making pretty things.

Do you have a favorite mount or minion?

My favorite mount is probably the Fat Chocobo, because it's so dorky and I love how it waddles! I'm a sucker for fat animals...My favorite minion though is a toss up between the Fat Cat and the festival Namazu, Attendee #777 (the one with the kimono coat)! [It] reminds me of every old man who helps run every festival in Japan and is drunk before it even starts, dancing and all.

Is there one thing you want to accomplish in-game?

I want to be able to clear an EX Trial while it's still relevant at some point! I never have, and I think it would be fun! Closest I got was doing Tsukuyomi EX early on, but I want to do something like the Eden raids while they're still fresh and people are learning them. Goals for one day!

Many of us know that you live in Japan, what is that like for you?

It's nice. Everyone assumes it's like, exotic and weird, but honestly it's just like anywhere else you live long enough to call home. What isn't cool is the summers. I originally come from Wisconsin, so snow and cold, but summers in Japan are terrible--2/10, do not recommend.

Have you visited the JP data centers?

I've thought about it a lot, to try to practice my Japanese, but I don't want to have to subject someone to my terrible kanji skills! However, if I can find Japanese friends who play, I would definitely make an alt there, to experience the story again too. I guess if I lived somewhere like Tokyo...I'd find people who played, but we are really, really, really rural, so it's unlikely I'd find even one person who played FFXIV.

What made you want to start the FC Shop?

A while ago Istari and I were talking, and he had this dream to try to build a brand of us, since we're all like a big family...I've been doing some print-on-demand type things once I started getting back into art, and I realized he does all of this stuff for the FC...I thought that there had to be a way we could all do a bit to help him out with the costs [of running the FC]...so I kind of built it in secret [for three months] and then showed it to him when it was getting close to done, and he approved it whole-heartedly!

I just think it's a nice way for those of us who might not have the money to donate directly to help out--artists and the like, by sharing our art. And those who wanted something uniquely Black Waltz could buy it and support everything he's done for us. Plus, who doesn't like to represent when you're part of such an amazing group of people?

Are there things you do outside of FFXIV, or do you play any other games?

Mostly I just draw constantly. I like to cook, too, on occasion, and I'm slowly getting better. I used to be a costumer, so I still sew sometimes, but fabric is really expensive here (and my sewing room is filled with junk at the moment). For games, I just really play FFXIV, Animal Crossing, and Rimworld, my guilty pleasure.

Which expansion is your favorite and why?

I still really enjoy the story of Heavensward; I can't get over how epic it really felt for the Dragonsong War, but I think the best story has been Shadowbringers. I think that's why it took me so long (until like last month!) to finish the MSQ; I just didn't want the story to end. I really hope Natsuko Ishikawa continues to write more stories as we continue on our way in Eorzea and Norvrandt.

What is one thing you would like to see added to the game?

I WANT MORE HEALERS! No, seriously. I want a Chemist. I want to chuck potions at people to heal them. Get some of the, "fine, you get healed even if you stand in the red AoE!" aggression to come through with the idea of whipping glass bottles at people. I also would like it if it was a non-magical healer.

I also was really hoping that we could "invert" cards for Astrologian--back when they each did an effect, you could "invert" it like a tarot card and do say a damage down on an enemy instead of damage up on another player, but that's kinda not in the cards (see what I did there?) now.

Have you always been the race you picked, or were you a different race before?

I've race-changed a few times. I started as a super cute, angsty kitty girl, then an angry lizard, and now I'm the shortest FemRoe possible and I still dwarf people! I've considered going back to Miquote because I really liked how I looked, and I picked the name "Kouya Kaji" to fit with how she looked--a darker-skinned sun kitty. Monk was my first class, and the name is Japanese for Desert Wildfire (荒野 kouya - deserted land, 火事 kaji - wildfire). Or big fire/ conflagration.

When did you first get into FFXIV?

Literally the day A Realm Reborn was released. I had just gotten a new laptop and was hoping to get into the closed beta for the Elder Scrolls Online. When I didn't, I got super salty and decided to just give FFXIV a go, and I'm so glad I did!

Let's say that the game is shutting down, what would be the last thing you do in FFXIV?

I would definitely be crying my eyes out in Discord and figuring out what game we're all moving to next. And probably sit in Limsa Lominsa and just chat with people, waiting for them to vanish one by one into the aether (kind of like when you get booted for server maintenance, but so much more sad!). I'd also hope that damned cyclops in Coerthas Central Highlands would spawn so I can take my final revenge out on him for all the deaths he gave me.

Is there one tip or advice you would like to share with your fellow FC mates in-game?

If you need help, ask for it! Whether it be in the FC or the people you're in a dungeon with, just ask! What's the worst that can happen? They say something mean? Pffft, then just ignore them. But you might learn something you didn't know before, or even make new friends!

What is a quote you live by?

"You are free to sever the chains of fate that bind you." Still my favorite video game quote, you can choose to be better every single day. It's from Legend of Dragoon, a game they better remake one of these years.



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

View some of the stunning screenshots created by your FC mates!



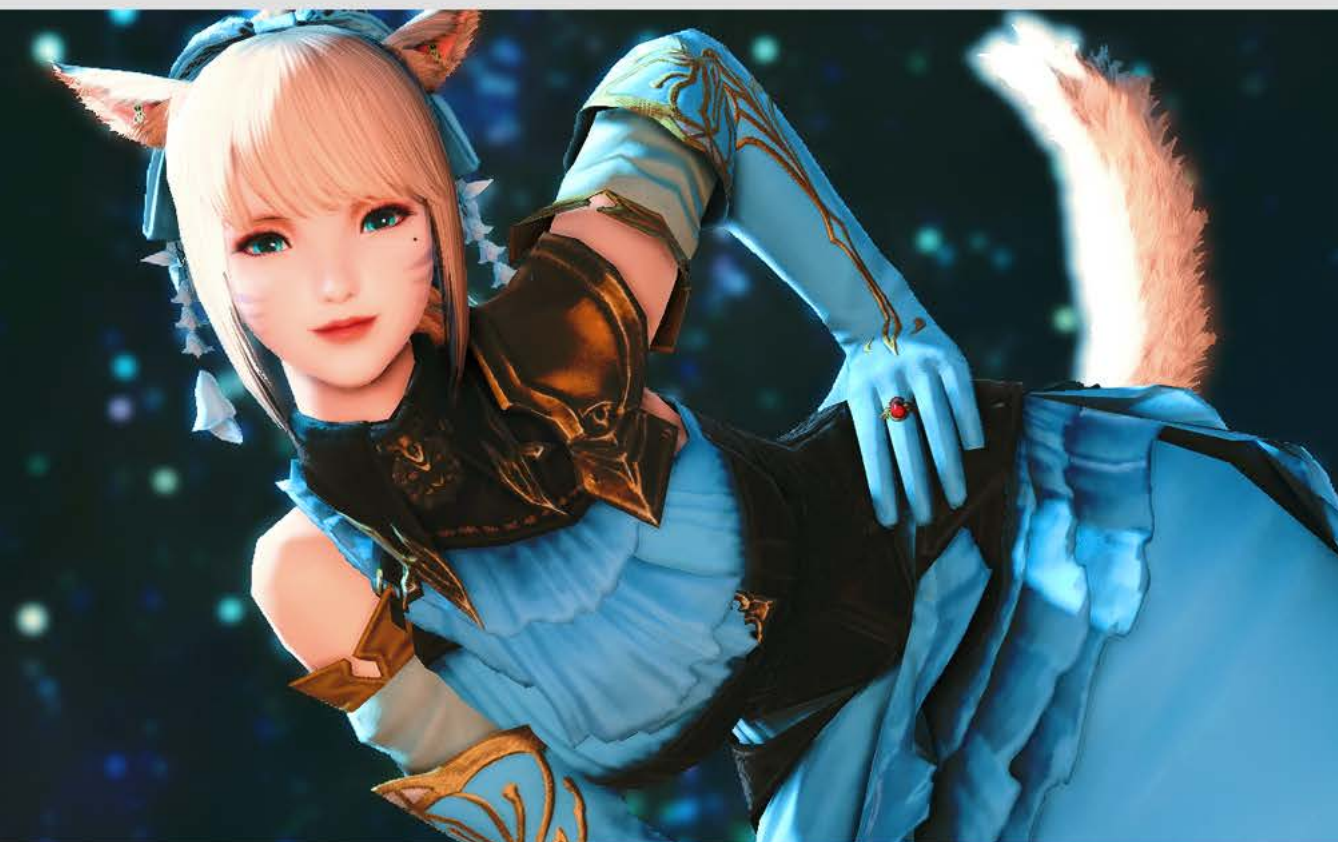
Gothica

Brock



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

Magnus



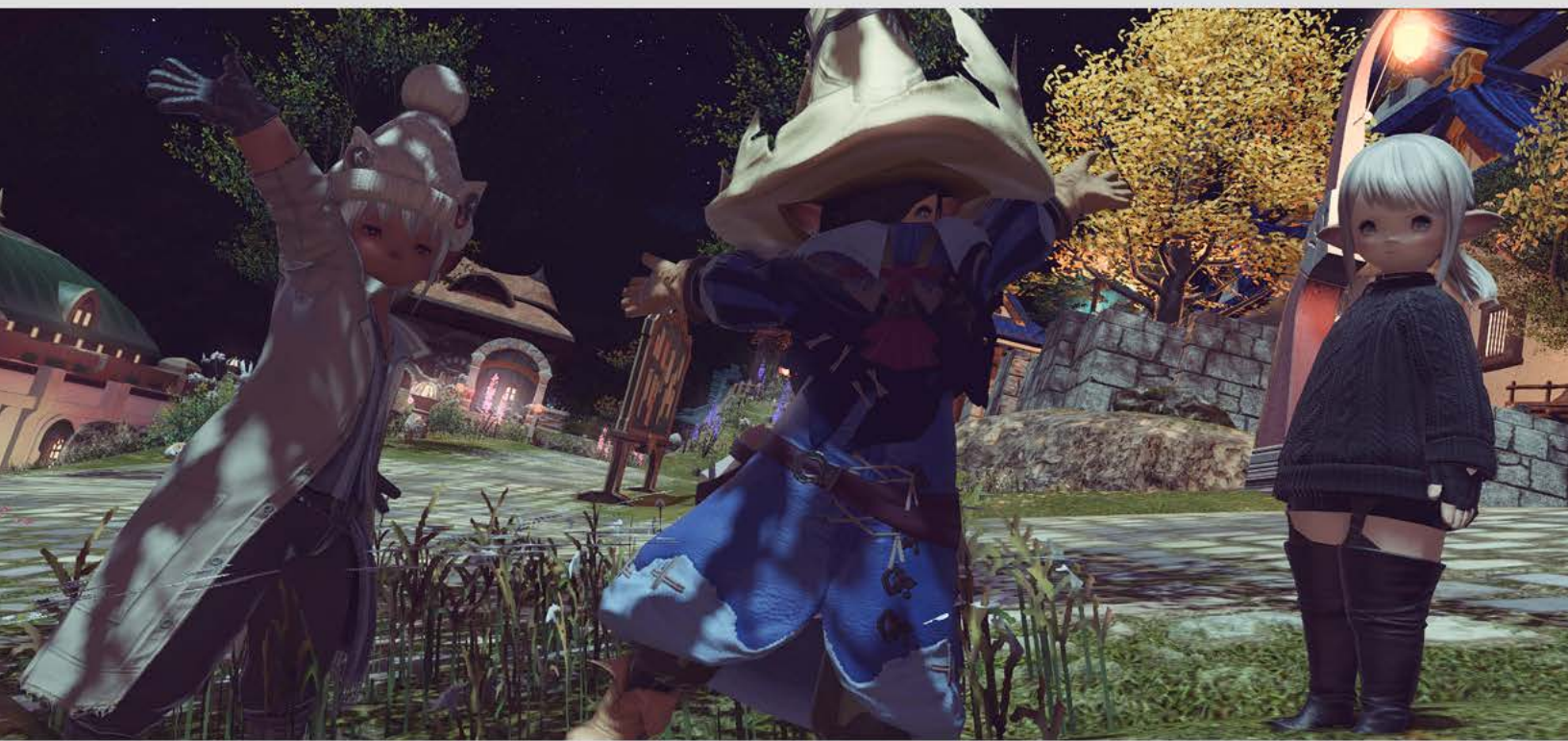
Lucida

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Nyanta

Kitika



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



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Erma

Meruane



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Rattleballs

Tanix



THE BLACK WALTZ ART GALLERY

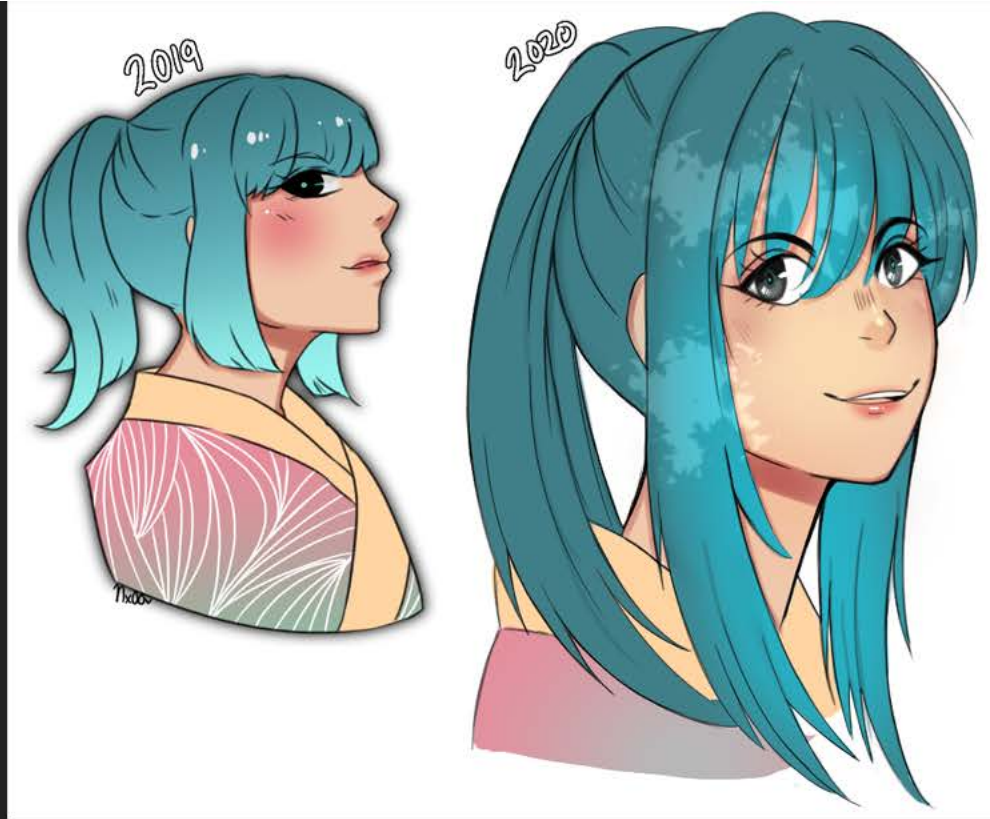
Take a moment to gaze upon art made by your fellow FC mates.

Kouya



Mufinella

Lucida



Kaja

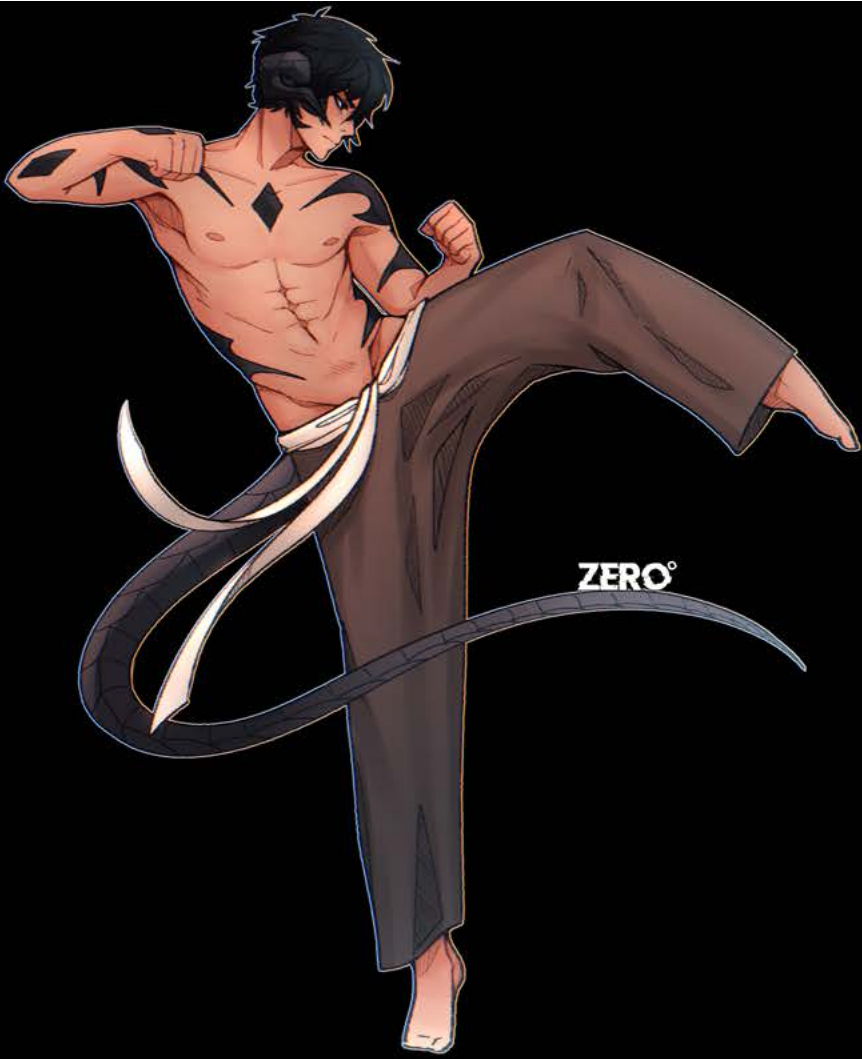




Amazein



Akura (face masks)



Zero

Gothica





Laureall

James



Tanix

Diana



Yuzuyu



THE OPEN HOUSE

Tour around in these fabulous housing designs!



Abelle Frostwyght



THE OPEN HOUSE



Abelle Frostywyght

Mufinella Pemstein



THE OPEN HOUSE



Mufinella Pemstein



Interview with . . .

Laureall Morgan



How did you get connected with The Black Waltz?

I learned about the Black Waltz from a Facebook post I had made a while back looking for an FC to join. Istari shared the FC information and I visited the website. Out of all the FCs, I really enjoyed what I read about Black Waltz.

What caught your attention to housing, and how did you get involved in decorating houses?

I first saw someone's house on Twitter and was just mind-blown that something like that could be done in-game. Then I started doing some research and learned little tips to making certain furniture pieces work in different ways. It was at that time I got obsessed with getting a house. I spent about five days hunting houses, but I really enjoyed it.

How did you get into Gposes?

I use to take normal screenshots and think, "man this looks good", but then my friend sent me a picture he took of me in-game and I was like, "what!?" I never knew of the filters and all--I was always wondering what people used to take such great snapshots. Now I can't play without them.

So how did you come across FFXIV?

I actually knew about FFXIV but never thought about playing till some of my coworkers convinced me to play with them. Sadly, none of them play anymore but I still love playing!

Are there any memorable experiences you have in the game?

I think the most memorable would be when me and my friends finally got Eden's Verse: Fulmination Savage (E5S) down because we wiped over twenty times!

What are your favorite jobs in the game, combat and DoH/DoL?

Bard! I have always loved archery and flutes, so Bard is just perfect. I have tried to play other classes but I always find myself enjoying bard more. I don't really have any DoH/L that I really enjoy but I like the stuff that Carpenters make.

So is there a glam that you truly love and if you do, why is that?

I have a lot of glams, but I think my fave is the Craftsman's Singlet, Strife Bags, Strife Boots, and Lucian's Prince's Fingerless Glove. I always find myself going back to that certain glam. I think I like it so much because it looks so good on my Hrothgar. Oh, and the classic glasses--I never take them off.

Is there a favorite mount and minion you have in the game?

My favorite mount is Ixion! I remember when I first saw that mount while leveling I made that my goal to get that mount no matter what. I think at the time I was just level 30 or so. I had fun farming for him and watching the call-outs for his event. My favorite minion is the White Whittret because I love ferrets! I can't have one at home so I'm glad I have one in-game.

Why did you pick the Hrothgar race that you are currently playing?

I'm a big fan of any beastly race! No matter what MMO I play, if it has a beast race I play it. When I first started FFXIV the closest thing was Miqo'te, but when they introduced Hrothgar I instantly fell in love. I'm so glad they brought this race into the game because it's perfect for me!

Which expansion is your favorite and why?

At first Heavensward was my favorite, I really enjoyed the storyline but then Shadowbringers came out and took the top of my list. I really enjoyed the story and found myself not wanting to stop playing till I finished. I really loved the new characters and development of the main group. Plus I love the development the Warrior of Light had to go through, but what took the cake was Emet-Selch.

Do you have a favorite NPC in the game? If so why.

Emet-Selch: he was well-developed, I loved his attitude, he was different from some of the other NPC villains, and his acting was great.

How did you come up with your character, was there anything that drove you to creating 'Laureall'?

The name Laureall is a mix of my real name and my twin sister's; I'm Lauren and it sounds like my twin's name, Loriel. That's my name in every game I play. A mix of things I like made this Laureall.



Forzean Chronicles

A deeper look into the lore of FFXIV

5: The Black Waltz

What is a Black Waltz? A Black Waltz is a special kind of winged black mage from Final Fantasy 9. They are especially strong mages, each of the 3 that were created embodies a different element of the black mage's spell elements: Black Waltz 1 is ice, Black Waltz 2 is fire, and Black Waltz 3 is thunder. While they are extremely powerful, they have much shorter life spans due to their magic strength.

They sport the traditional look of a black mage from the original Final Fantasy games, with a tall, pointed yellow hat, flowing robes, and a pitch black face with glowing white eyes. However, they are huge, wearing their robes tattered and sprouting a gigantic pair of feathered wings from their back.

Each Waltz is stronger than the last, showing how they are slowly improved on as each was successfully created. Black Waltz 1 is misshapen, with only a few spells at its disposal compared to 2 and 3. Even as the weakest, however, it is very smart and cunning, laying traps for an ambush. Black Waltz 2 has its wings shredded and in bad shape, but it is a great improvement in speed and power from the first, in addition to being highly eloquent. The final Black Waltz, Black Waltz 3, seems to have taken the cake in terms of how swift, smart and powerful it is.

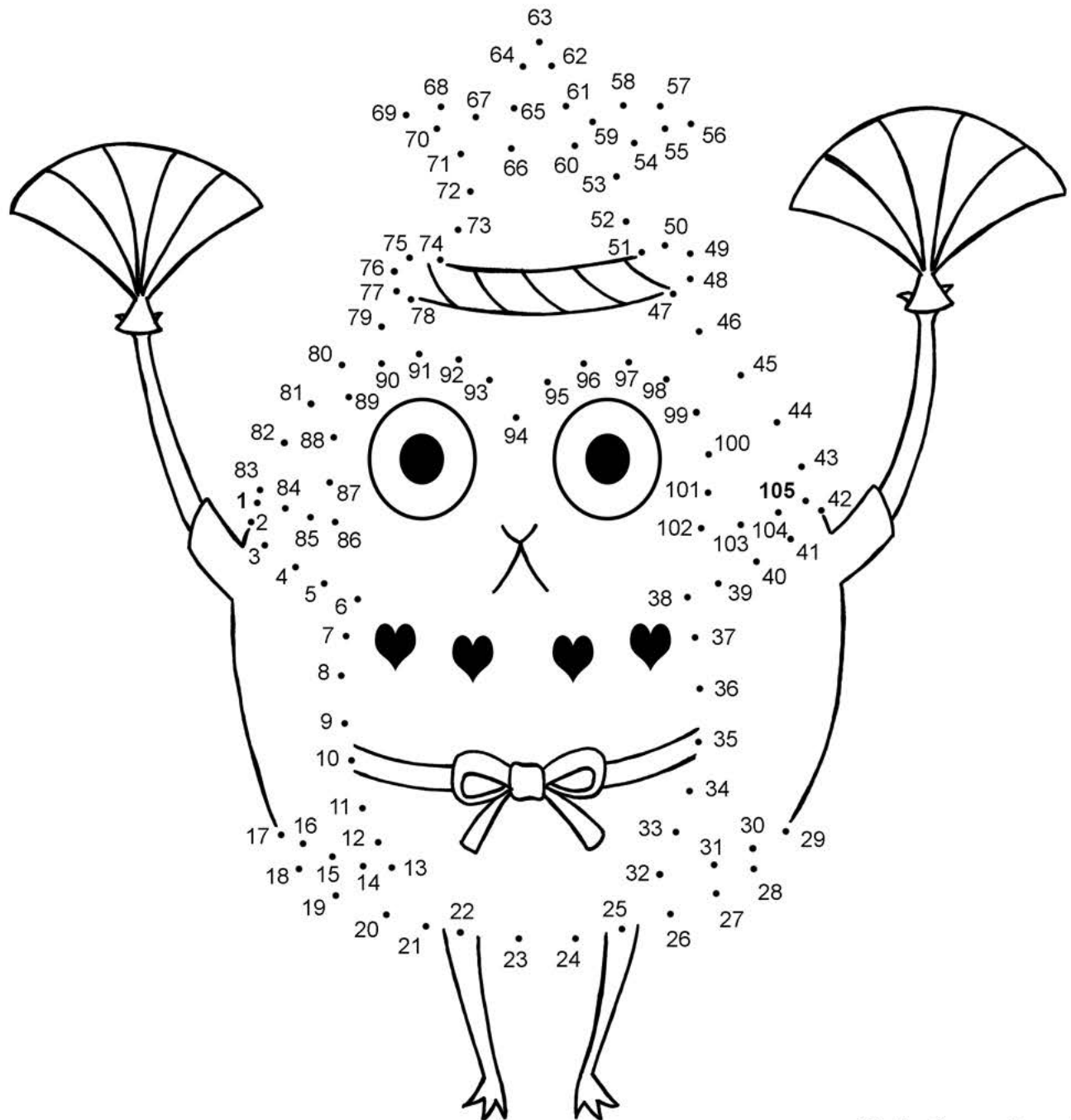
Aside from their role in Final Fantasy 9, Black Waltz's appear in many other Final Fantasy games, such as cards in Triple Triad and units in Final Fantasy Brave Exvius. Also, the composer for most of the Final Fantasy themes, Nobuo Uematsu has a rock band called "The Black Mages" who feature a Black Waltz on the cover of their first album.

But, why the name? It sounds neat, but is there a reason? Since it's a Final Fantasy game, it seems it could go either way. This time it is for a reason, although one not obvious unless you study music! A Waltz is a type of music and dance that is set to a beat of 3. Each piece of the music is divided into 3 beats per measure (or some number divisible by 3). And how many Waltz's are there?

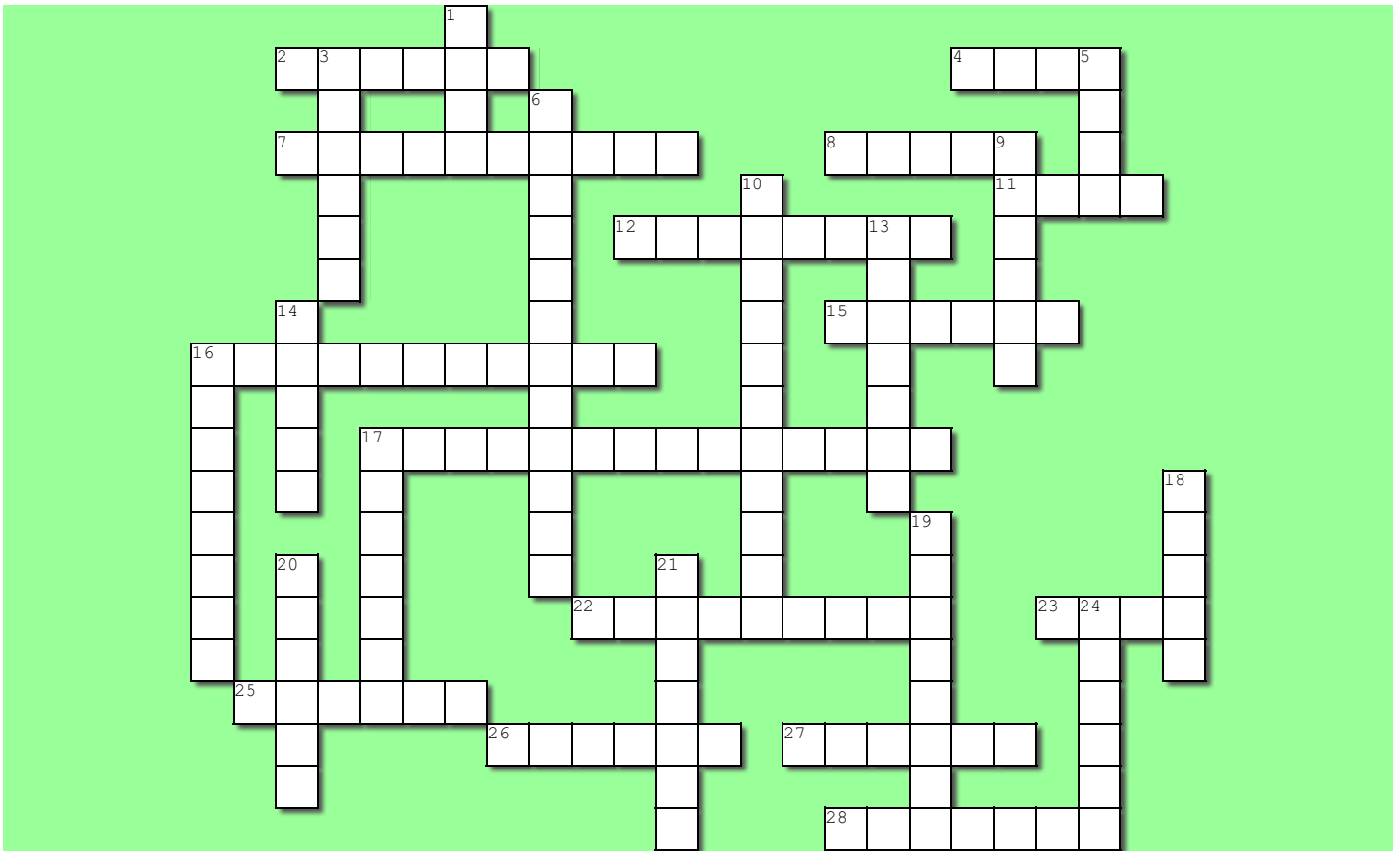


Waltz Games

Can you connect the dots?
Hint: it's a surpraissa!



Print and color me!



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

2. Bow named after small seismic activity
4. Meatballs for raiders
7. Gotham's preferred class
8. This minion may know Nemo, dude.
11. Cloth based waste gear
12. Immortal Flames area
15. Lower deck's culinarian
16. Undercutters' playground
17. A reddish ore containing large quantities of Iron
22. Undoes glamour
23. You don't have to exit, but this is your mission.
25. Black Shroud chocobo keeper
26. You can only own one of these
27. Quicksand Proprietress
28. Music played after the question is asked

Down

1. In your face fighter, or type of fish
3. Best Man and Bridesmaid clothier
5. Brewed from fermented lingonberry extract
6. Your last dream
9. Elemental Hearer in Gridania
10. Reason why you won't share that glamour
13. Skribyld's station
14. Dark matter levels
16. Not really a place to buy additional deep-fried pastries
17. Airship arrival and departure zone
18. High tier crafting gear
19. Lightless wedding exchange music
20. Wind up version
21. A fish that has to catch them all
24. Primals

**JURINA'S
FASHION
GURU
JOURNAL**

SUMMER

COLLECTION



1: DANCE UNDER THE SUNSET

This outfit is absolutely adorable and cute. The Idealized Dancer's Bottoms go well with any summer outfit. I believe that is what makes this outfit pop.

The bottoms themselves are very simple when not added to the rest of the set, making them great summer beachwear. Not just that, but with the little gold accents, it makes you look glamorous!

HEAD: Cloche

BODY: Faire joi

+Dye: Lavender Purple

LEGS: Idealized

Dancer's Bottoms

+Dye: Lavender Purple

FEET: Idealized

Dancer's Shoes

+Dye: Lavender Purple

HANDS: False Nails

+Dye: Lavender Purple



2: MORNING LOVE AT THE BEACH



You want to look cute right? Like you want to impress that crush you've got? Don't worry, I have the outfit just for you. Just joking, I don't know how to impress like that.

This is one of my favorite outfits, it's truly an everyday wear for summer. On top of that, any sort of hairstyle pairs well with this outfit. Simple and on point.

HEAD: White Cherry Blossom Corsage
BODY: Gown of Light
LEGS: Spring Bottoms
FEET: Moonfire Sandals

+Dye: Snow White/Pure White

3: A MOMENT APART

This one is somewhat chill, not too revealing and very laid-back ensemble. I want to show off the character a bit, but not too much; you gotta keep it just right.

I thought it would be nice to throw on some good-looking bottoms with a nice beach-related top to turn it into a vibe-like outfit.

HEAD: Black Hyacinth Corsage

BODY: Black Summer Halter
LEGS: Survival Halfslops

+Dye: Goobiebag Brown

FEET: Moonfire Sandals

+Dye: Soot Black/Jet Black



4: OCEANS AWAY

A very calm outfit, so relaxed. The way the entire outfit is put together in such a soft and calming way can make things around the beach seem more at peace. It will make your Warrior of Light want take a few walks in the night time without a care in the world...if only for a little while.

HEAD: Blue Bright Lily Corsage
BODY: Dalmascan Draped Top
LEGS: Edengrace Pantaloons of Healing/Striking
+Dye: Goobiebag Brown
FEET: Dalmascan Leather Shoes
+Dye: Soot Black/Jet Black



5: SECRET GARDEN

HEAD: Cloche

**BODY: Endless Summer
Top**

LEGS: Plain Long Skirt

+Dye: Dark Green

FEET: Guoc

+Dye: Dark Green

HANDS: False Nails

+Dye: Dark Green

One can never go wrong with the Plain Long Skirt. Honestly, if a skirt like that existed in real life, I would actually wear it!

Putting together something like this was a struggle, nevertheless fun. The top and the bottom are very flowy which is why I paired these pieces. I wanted to make a nice, calm outfit for a leisurely stroll in the park.



THANK YOU

Thank you to the following for their efforts in making this issue possible:

Jurina Kurenai: Interviewer

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Freya Stormfall: Editor

Brock Hampton: Photog

Nina Does: Content (*Crossword*)

Kouya Kaji: Writer (*Lore #5*)

And YOU, our awesome readers!

See you next issue!