

INSIDE:
LORE
INTERVIEWS
SCREENSHOTS
ART
HOUSING

2ND EDITION

March/April 2020 Issue

INTERVIEWS INSIDE!

FLARE TEAM - Washu Masaki
ACTIVE MEMBER - Mini Archer



The Official FC Newsletter
THE BLACK WALTZ

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Calendar of Events

APRIL

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			

- Birthdays/Anniversary
- FC Events

Birthdays:

- 12: Vhanna's dog's birthday
- 29: Winter's birthday
- 30: Astro's birthday

Events all month:

- What do you Meme?
Meme Contest
- FC Room Decorating
Contest

Interview with . . .

Washu Masaki

We noticed that you had a long journey with the Firmament and the ranks, how was that for you?

It was mostly enjoyable. At first the difficulty of Expert Recipes really surprised me, but with some help I was able to start successfully making them. The hardest part for me was actually swallowing my pride and asking someone who was out producing everyone how they were doing it. She was very kind and with her help and a few others we were able to create a method that gets the highest results in a decent time on almost every attempt. In the end, I would not have done nearly as well as I did without the help of others in the FC and would have given up before it was over ... I'm grateful for the results ...

What is your favorite class in this game?

It's hard to pick just one. If we're talking about combat classes, then certainly dancer. It was a class I loved in Final Fantasy XI, and though it plays differently I enjoy the fluid motions in the dances. If we mean ALL the classes, It would have to be Goldsmith. The tink tink noises it makes when I'm crafting is relaxing and a nice stress reliever.

So aside from your adventures in crafting, how did you get involved with the FC?

In short, it was my niece's husband who is also in the FC that mentioned he was part of an FC that had regular events and a lottery. He brought this up because he knew I was back in the market for joining an FC as long as it was one that would last, as the one I had been leading died out ... I said I'd give it a go and here I am. I think it was the events that won me over.

Do you have an enjoyable experience or memory you treasure from this FC?

That's a difficult one for me to answer. I enjoy myself most of the time, but I think the memory I might treasure most was in my second or third month with the FC when I was given the Good Samaritan Award. I remember having the night off so I came online and was there for the lottery for the first time and Istari announced the Good Samaritan Award. I thought, "How nice! Good way to give recognition to someone who deserves it! I wonder who won...". Then when I was the one given the award my first thought was, "wait... what? I wasn't even trying for it. I didn't even KNOW about it." But that is one of the great things about The Black Waltz; the people here, particularly the winners of this award, are rarely doing it because they want to WIN. Most people here just want to genuinely help others have the best experience in-game that they can.

So, tell us, is there a fact you want your FC mates to know about that they do not know about?

I was offered a role in a National Lampoon movie once. My agent however told them I wasn't willing to do a movie that might be rated-R. This was the second time I failed to get onto the big screen. The first was in sixth grade when an agent came to my school looking for someone with my physical description to play the lead in Free Willy. I was sick that day, and though my twin sister was there they told her they were in a hurry, so I missed that too. I've been an extra in a few films though.

Who is your favorite NPC?

My favorite NPC is without a doubt Hildebrand. His story arcs are comedy gold and I've never enjoyed any piece of content more. I can't wait for the Shadowbringers arc.

Do you have a favorite mount and minion in this game?

Humphrey, my Morbol mount. The Anima minion is awarded for completing the Heavensward relic weapon and looks like a mechanical Eos, so it's my favorite in most situations. However my Wind-up Garuda is my lucky minion and if I'm crafting she is always out for the RNG. She was with me through all of the Firmament.

Ok, so the game is coming to an end and you have thirty minutes before servers officially shut down, what would be the last thing you would do in-game?

Travel to Central Shroud and stand on the road that leads to Gridania, while looking at the Water Wheel. The area has changed since the Calamity, but for me, that spot is where my whole adventure in Eorzea began, and that is where I would want it to end; with one last look before leaving for places unknown.



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

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



Jurina



S'llandre

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Serenity



Vista



Jurina



Gothica

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



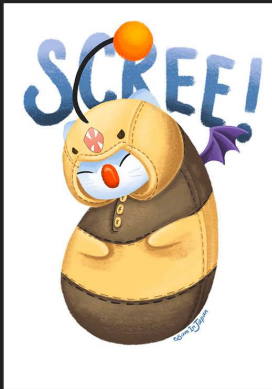
Laureall



Brock

THE BLACK WALTZ ART GALLERY

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



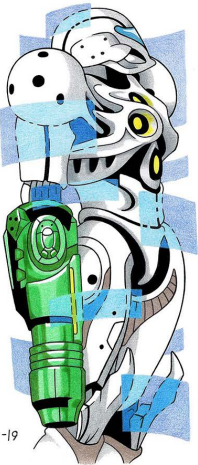
Kouya



Lucida (Nyx)

Mufinella

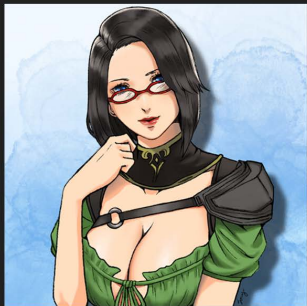
ShaniaNowhere
6-24-19



Kai



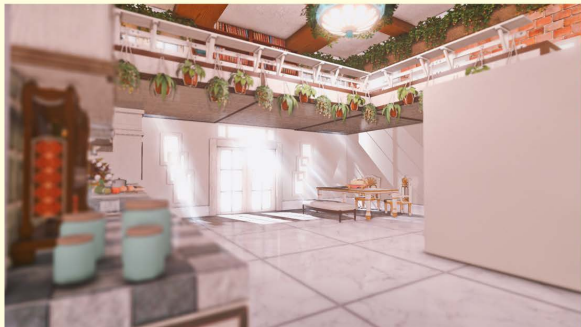
Mini



Diana

THE OPEN HOUSE

Tour around in these fabulous housing designs!



Crispy Gyoza



THE OPEN HOUSE



Crispy Gyoza



THE OPEN HOUSE



Turiladun



Interview with . . .

Mini Archer

What's your favorite part of the game? What keeps you playing it?

It's tough to answer this with just one thing that keeps me in this game. I used to be able to just say that the story is what kept me in. I love the characters, the world, the twists and turns but now I have found something else that keeps me coming back as well. It's you, and everyone in The Black Waltz. Not to be super cheesy but it's beyond true, everyone is just so kind and helpful. I am not someone with a lot of friends irl but when I log in as Mini Archer, I have a whole family of supportive and caring people welcoming me home.

How did you get into the game?

Well, I spent a lot of time looking for an MMO that my fiance and I could play together. I saw an ad for the Heavensward expansion and I was already hooked. I actually spent a lot of my early years with him literally just watching him play FFX. I figured FFXIV is a good way for us to both have the Final Fantasy experience together again.

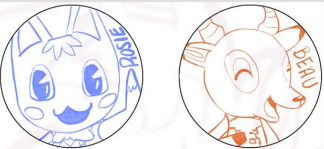
Do you have a background to your character's name?

It is pretty simple, for every character I've had it has been Mini(something). This dates back probably 10-12 years when I really got into gaming. So, when I made the decision to play I became Mini Archer. Simply because I knew I wanted to play an Archer. I also didn't know you could be any class by switching your weapons when I started, lol.

Favorite mount? Favorite minion?

Euphonious Kamuy mount and the Mameshiba.





Are there shows/films or songs you would recommend?

Anime I recommend are: The Ancient Magus Bride and Made In Abyss. Songs I recommend are: Shelter by Porter Robinson & Madeon and Energy Drink by Virtual Riot.

If you were able to, would you be down to meet people outside of this game? If so, what do you think would be your first reaction when you first see them?

Absolutely! I would be so excited to see everyone, I can be a bit shy but I no doubt would be really happy.

Which expansion has been your favorite so far?

Shadowbringers, hands down! The unbelievable love that the dev team put into that expansion really shows. I had so many feels throughout the story and I couldn't continue the MSQ fast enough. The soundtrack is something I listen to fairly often and is by far one of the most inspired gaming soundtracks I've ever heard. I cannot shout out enough how much I love the expansion.

What's one thing you're looking forward to most in the coming patches?

Probably just more story content for now, I'm not really doing much else besides MSQ and I'm trying to go through it slowly. I am looking forward to seeing what comes next!

Tell us a little bit of what you love to eat, even if it's a snack.

Pasta, especially filled ones like tortellini or ravioli. Also a local favorite Chicken Pot Pie (It's not a pie locally I am talking about the Pennsylvania Dutch version). And for a sweet, I enjoy ice cream Mochi.

Who is your favorite NPC(s)?

Alphinaud, Alisaie, Crystal Exarch and Ryne currently.

And lastly, share with us a quote you live by.

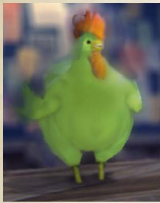
I can thank Mewtwo in the 1st pokemon movie for this one. "The circumstances of one's birth are irrelevant. It is what you do with the gift of life that determines who you are." I always try to remember, no matter what, everyone is different and that is amazing. Where/How you started out doesn't 100% define you, it is the actions you take and the love you show others, that's what really matters!

Forzean Chronicles

A deeper look into the lore of FFXIV

2: The Bravest Little Chicken

(Warning, this article details the life of Enkidu as revealed in the side questline "Hildibrand Manderville Chronicles")



Enkidu started out his life as an ordinary chicken, white as the driven snow and innocent as...well, a chicken. One day as he was clucking around minding his own business, he crossed paths with the distant traveler Gilgamesh, becoming his comrade in arms (so many arms) as well as being painted a resplendent hue of apple green. Long gone was the easy life as he was swept up in the shenanigans of his new besty in a quest to collect the most powerful weapons in the world. Briefly joining forces with the bumbling detective Hildibrand Manderville to solve cases of broken pottery, the comradery soon turns to rivalry as Enkidu recognizes the spear Hildi

carried as one Gilgamesh desires. Now on the run, Gilgamesh and Enkidu become fugitives and flee to Griffin's Crossing.

Brave little Enkidu is quite fond of toads as a tasty snack, getting the chance to nibble on the Warrior of Light during the Battle on the Big Bridge as his master transforms the enemy into hoppity treats to chase. Though they battled long and hard, even calling upon the aid of his fellow feathered friends, they tasted defeat at the hands of their foe. Beating a hasty retreat, Enkidu attempts to aloft into the sky with his lord, forgetting briefly that he was but a wee rooster as they plummeted to the unknown mists below.



Not one to give up without a flight - at least not without munchies, Enkidu follows Gilgamesh as they work to track their mortal enemy, Hildibrand, to retrieve the treaty blade. During their travels, his master crosses paths with the unstoppable force known as Hildibrand's mother and is commanded to carry a crate of fire crystals for her. It is then that poor Enkidu is betrayed by his master's wishes, wishes that are shockingly answered by the summoning of the primal form of the real Enkidu. Replaced at Gilgamesh's side, Enkidu the chicken has nothing to do but watch as he is left behind to roast in the hot Ul'dahn desert, the backs of Enkidu and Gilgamesh gloriously disappearing into the distance. But Enkidu the chicken never gives up on a friend, no matter how rough things get. Tracking him down, Enkidu finds Gilgamesh defeated and friendless at the Big Keep, commiserating with his master and giving him the hope to carry on. Reunited, the pair flee into the darkness to fight another day.

Some time later, the plucky Enkidu becomes separated from Gilgamesh in the grassy lands of Othard. Roaming the fields and mountains in search of his compatriot, he finds his way back to his side on the sandy shores of the Ruby Sea, only to find that Gilgamesh had thought he'd eaten him long ago. Not put off by his master's fowl play, he stands tall with him as they disappear into the void. Who knows where their paths may lead them next, but as long as Enkidu is by his master's side, it will always be true poultry in motion.



What's New In Waltz?

A Monthly Highlight

March was a very crafty month for the folks in Waltz. Starting out the month with a bang (of pickaxes and scythes), our new director of the Crafting Emporium, Alexius Pierce (formerly known as Draco Maximus), organized an FC-wide effort to craft the new Half-timbered Walls for our head quarters. A lot of people put in their hard work, from gathering materials, to managing the submarines for the blueprint pieces, to finally putting it all together; we're thrilled to have a framework we can all be proud of! Thank you everyone for their time and contributions!



Another huge crafting event to come upon us was the newest installment in the Firmament: Ishgard's restoration project, now featuring gathering in Diadem! Our Disciples of Hand and Land were out in droves, representing the Black Waltz on the Firmament leaderboards for product turn ins. Day and night they labored and cried,



some passing out in the FC yard from exhaustion or muttering under their breath about "One more craft...". In the end, Waltz dominated on the leaderboards, many coming in on the top 12 list! Great job everyone and a huge thank you to those who contributed their time to support our crafters or just help people get collectibles. You guys are the real MVPs!

To close out the month, our FC held the Black Waltz Footrace, one of our more popular events at the FC! Our runners and their raisers were pitted against each other in lands across Eorzea, from dodging the Ok' Vundu in the Sea of Clouds, to succumbing to the twisted delight of Sylpheed in the Sylphlands. It was a long and hard fight to the finish, but coming in first were our brave runner S'llandre Flamh and his devoted raiser Jak Rivers! Nice footwork, you two! Coming in for a tie-breaker victory, second place went to T'kala Moonlithe and Yuzuyu Muzuhoshi with Mufinella Pemstein and Diana Starborn coming in third.



What are you looking forward to in April? Stay tuned for next month's highlights!

THANK YOU

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

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And YOU, our awesome readers!

See you next issue!