**FAQ 2014**

**Q – What can I expect from you as an instructor?**

A – I am an engaging public speaker, who uses anecdotes, handouts and hands-on examples to teach. I encourage discussion and questions, and strongly encourage note-taking for your own reference. Everything I teach is given as example, through personal experience, and is intended to inspire. I do not teach the “right method”, merely a series of methods and options that appeal to a variety of creative types. I try to get each student to identify their creative style and work with that as much as possible. While I will be teaching some specific techniques, my focus is on developing creative problem solving and creativity. These are not accredited courses, and are not in affiliation with any post-secondary institution. However, if you are enrolled at, or plan to enrol in such a course, my lessons should be a helpful compliment to the more structured, technically-focussed college level courses.

**Q – What are your qualifications?**

A – I am a business licensed instructor with over 15 years of experience in the creative fields of costuming, comics and writing. I have published half a dozen novels, short stories and comics, and won a number of costume contests. I have been giving panels and workshops for over 10 years and have been a special guest at a number of conventions in the Victoria-Vancouver-Seattle regions. Everything I teach I have learned through my experiences in the creative field.

**Q – I am only interested in some of the classes outlined. Can I drop in?**

A – With private courses, you can do drop-ins, but keep in mind that the courses are structured to build on previous lessons’ knowledge, so I cannot take extra time during the course to reteach subjects from previous lessons. If you feel confident enough in the subject matter to step in and out of the lessons, please alert me to when you will be attending so I can prep the appropriate lesson materials. For the courses held at the community centres, you will need to pay them for the full course. If you choose not to attend certain lessons, that is up to you, but their price doesn’t change.

**Q – What kind of equipment will we be using/do I need to bring?**

A – for the Comics courses: bring a sketch pad and pen or pencil. For the Writing courses: bring a laptop or notepad for taking notes if desired. For the Cosplay courses: we will be doing limited machine sewing, hand sewing, pattern cutting. Materials will be provided for lesson projects. For all lessons, handouts will be provided.

**Q – Will I need to provide my own materials?**

A – If you wish to work on a personal project through the courses (which is encouraged) you will need to provide and bring those materials. I’ll be happy to use your own projects as teaching tools and help you troubleshoot and craft them through the course. You don’t need to have a project in order take these courses. Anything that is directly a part of the lesson plan (i.e. the materials to make a bag in the Cosplay Course) are provided; your Pokémon Trainer cosplay materials will need to be provided by you, but I can help you with the patterning and crafting.

**Q – My child is interested in attending your course? What are your age requirements?**

A – I don’t have age requirements. If your child is comfortable working in a mixed ages group, can maintain focus for a 2 hour lesson, and is attentive, they are welcome regardless of age. The key is that they work cohesively with the group. As their parent, you have a better understanding of your child’s capabilities than I do, so I leave that judgment call up to you. If you are concerned about suitability of content, I target my material for teens and up, so if you are concerned about certain subjects (such as sexuality or religion from a cultural and historical context) some of my courses may not be suitable for your child. Please ask if you have any specific concerns.

**Q – You have a studio?**

A – I work out of a Home Studio. As it is within my home, there are a few points I need to address: I have cats. Although they will be segregated in another room for all lessons, those with allergies have been forewarned. I cannot permit any smoking in my studio, or during classes. I can provide tea or water to those who would like this during class. The location is within a condo building, so you will require a buzzer number to get in, which I will provide to students as needed.

**Q – Do you teach private lessons?**

A – I do, in the form of Creative Consulting. Typically this is requested by individuals working on a specific project and looking for editing, creative assessment or tutoring for the project. However, I do also offer tailored private lessons, wherein I will build a curriculum based on troubleshooting your main concerns. Want to get better at drawing hands and feet? We can focus on these techniques. Want to explore writing exercises to hone your character development? We can start there. Private lessons can be organised at a time and location preferable to the client, and can be based on an hourly rate for one-time workshops, or on a lesson plan basis for a more concerted focus. Availability for private lessons is currently restricted, so please book ahead.

**Q – Do you offer online courses?**

A – At present I don’t, but I am working on an online series that will enable students to take the courses at their leisure. If you are interested in this option, please contact me.

**Q – How do I pay for my course?**

A – If you are enrolling in a community centre course, all payment is done through their activities coordinator, and the entire course is paid in full prior to the start of the course. Due to booking/room space, cancellations or drop-outs may incur penalty fees if changes are not made to your course in ample time. If you are enrolling in courses directly through my studio, you can pay by Paypal (sa\_chan84@hotmail.com), Square (Visa or Mastercard), or by cash. You will receive a receipt. Payment for the classes must be made prior to the start of the class, and may be paid class by class or in full at the beginning of the course.

**Q – Do you have a refund policy?**

A – Any courses you enrol in through the community centres are bound by their policies, so I recommend reading their terms at the time of enrolment. Through direct workshops with me: If you are unable to continue the course due to illness, I will offer a make-up class if at all possible. If you decide to drop out for any other reason, you can be refunded any lessons you will not be attending, after giving your notice. I cannot offer refunds for lessons already attended.