



INTERVIEW

With Synical The
Professional V-Mommy

Cyclethon 4

Monke & Mouse's bike ride across
Japan raising money for the IDF

Anime North

On-site Coverage of the Biggest
Anime Convention in Canada

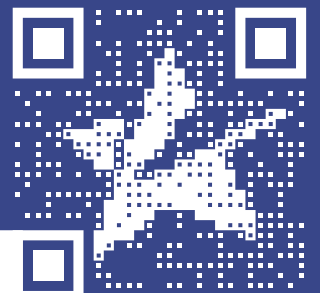
SYNICAL

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1. Could you please introduce yourself?

Hello! I am Synical, an Asian Dragon-Turned-Jackalope, and I am an emissary of the moon!

I am a literal jack of all trades: I sing, dance, draw, game, shitpost, post shit, you name it! I've been a streamer for about 3.5 years now (at the time of this interview) and before that I worked at a hospital as a medical office assistant.

2. What kind of content do you create?

I do a bit of everything! I have a popular little series called "Virgin Gamer Series" where I play games important to gaming culture that everyone has played before for the first time, as when I was a child, I wasn't allowed to play video games. As such, I've missed out on a lot. Instead of wallowing, I turned lemons into lemonade by experiencing these games live on Twitch, not only to give an unbiased opinion on such games as an adult first-time player, but also to allow my audience to live vicariously through me and re-experience what it was like playing for the first time as a kid. Outside of this though, I also run TTRPG games live on Twitch, work on my art commissions and do art challenges, and lots of community and collab party games!

3. What got you into VTubing?

I always knew I wanted to make people smile, but I honestly didn't know how. I defaulted to being a doctor or nurse of some kind (how original for an only Asian daughter growing up in a conservative household, right lmao) since most of my family works in the health field. When I was a child, I was exceptionally depressed and my family, in true first-generation Asian family fashion, didn't believe depression was something I could have and they just kept expecting me to "be happier."

No one understood me, nor tried to, and this was the way for a long while. However, I took solace in watching videos from PewDiePie and Markiplier. Their videos made me chuckle, if only for a second and it made the day bearable to see into the next day.

This is entirely the reason why I wanted to get into content creation. Even as a child I knew everyone suffered in some way, thanks and no thanks to my familiarity with severe depression and abuse. I wanted to be that person to make someone laugh after a long day of life sucking so they believed in a better tomorrow.

I initially wanted to be a story time animator, since I had some funny stories and I enjoyed drawing, but more importantly being a story time animator would mean I wouldn't have to show my face while making content I wanted to make (while I do talk about my personal life frequently on stream, showing what I look like to the world at large was something I wanted to avoid).

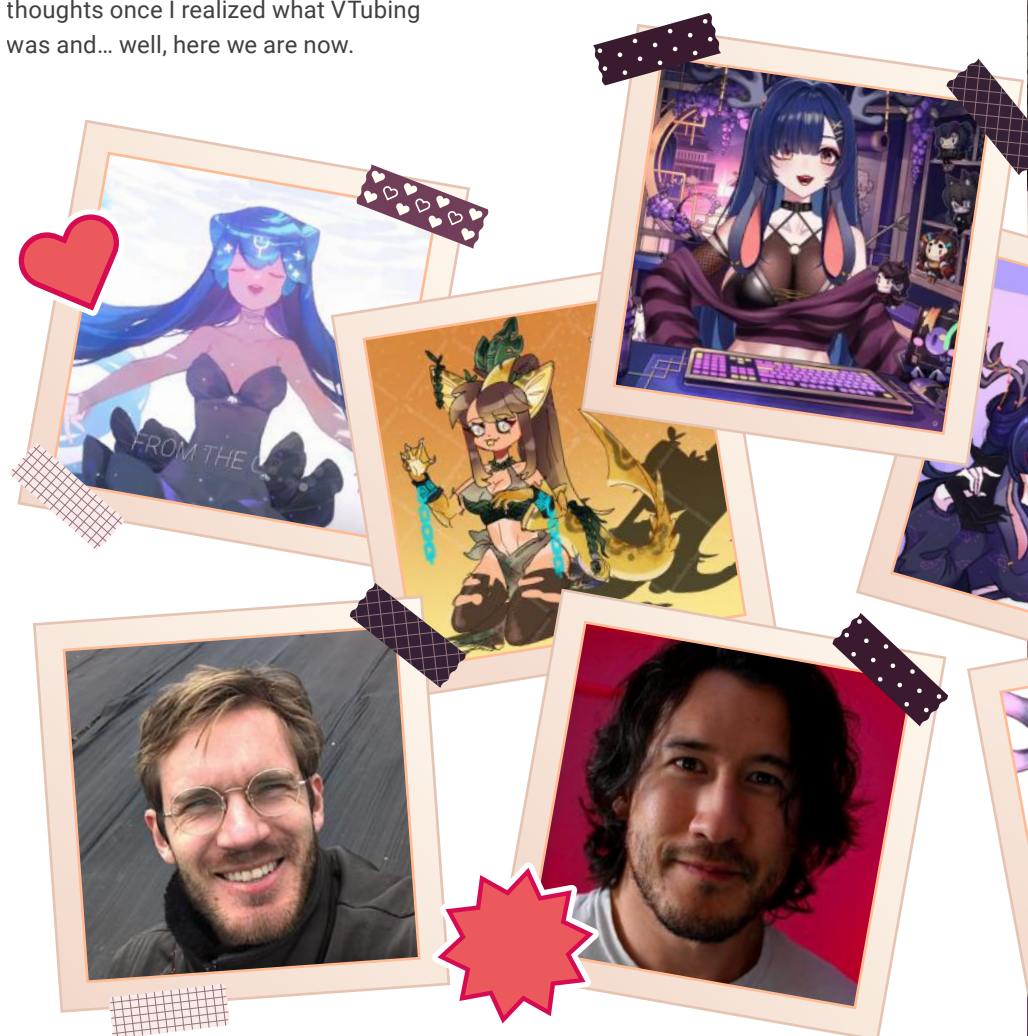
One day, Bao's "52 Hearts" song was recommended to me on YouTube and from there I fell down the rabbit hole of VTubers. "What? You mean I can make content while expressing myself as an anime person and I don't have to show my face? Sign me up!" Those were my exact thoughts once I realized what VTubing was and... well, here we are now.

4. How did you get your start in doing character designs?

I started character designs long before I started VTubing, and I started by making lots of adopts on Deviantart. I really love making character concepts, and even now I make them for fun and even pair them with TTRPG character sheets. I take a lot of care into my character design and seeing my ideas and concepts come to life and be properly showcased with just a glance brought me much satisfaction.

5. What's the best part about being a VMommy?

My greatest joy about being a "VMommy" (VTuber content creation consultant and manager), it has got to be the fact that I help motivate creators to continue doing what they love, but with a little more direction. I know I would have loved this service years ago, hell or even when I first started out. Sometimes all someone needs is a push in the right direction to get the ball rolling.







 @synicalbeanical

 /synicalbunni

 /SynicalBeanical

6. How important was it for you to be able to talk about and include your partner with your audience?

Exceptionally important! I understand if others want to keep their relationships private, it's honestly probably a better "business decision" to do so.

However, I like being able to talk to my community about the good and the bad, and my husband is a very good part of my life. In fact, I would go as far as to say that if I didn't meet my now husband, I probably wouldn't be here, let alone making content for everyone. He's an important part of my life and he brings me lots of joy, and like all things that bring me joy, I like talking about them!

When I first started creating content I sat down with my husband and we actually had a discussion about this: if I should be honest about my relationship or not.

I chose to be, as for one I wouldn't be able to keep him a secret at all even if I tried, and most importantly I wanted to start off my career by being transparent with my community. While I know that keeping my relationship status a secret could help me grow faster and larger than I am now, I personally don't want to compromise anything when it comes to my husband.

7. Do you feel like the conversation around VTubers being open about their relationships has changed at all?

Oh, absolutely! When I first started VTubing, and conversely when I began my career open about my relationship status, it was during the time where it was rather unheard of, or at least not looked upon favorably.

I had very little to no backlash and my community ended up loving me for my content, the banter I have with my husband as well as self policing the community at large. Ever since I started I have been very loud about the fact that creators (who don't want to hide their relationship status) should be honest to their communities about it.

Ever since then, I have been seeing more creators come out about their relationships and honestly it's a much more welcoming space since then! I've had multiple creators at meet and greets come up to me and say that me being loud and proud of my relationship

inspired them to do the same and now they do content they genuinely enjoy, some even going as far as to game with their husband on stream like I do! These days, VTubers being in relationships isn't as taboo as it was when I started.



8. What made you want to start the VMommy Debut Management Service?

I thought about what would benefit the community at large, what I can do to give back and one of the first things was having someone to help me with starting things off in this space as well as assistance in managing events. Of course, it's not mandatory to have a smashing debut (you can seriously start your career out of the gate with no debut and be fine), I do know some people want it but don't know how to go about attaining it.

Most people look at content creation and only see their creators hitting the "live" button, but there's a lot outside of streaming that a creator needs to do (such as managing their schedules, organizing collabs, making graphics, knowing who to commission and for what, merch and sponsorship co-ordination, etc...). So I figured why not help out by offering a service that shows less experienced VTubers the ropes, coming from a person who now has 3 years of experience.

9. What is a skill you think is essential in VTuber Management?

Time management. It is essential as a manager. Especially since with this career you are not only managing your schedule but another persons' as well, maybe even more depending on how many talents you wish to pick up.

10. Do you have any long term goals either as a creator or in a supportive role?

As a creator, I would honestly love to be able to be Twitch and YouTube partner and be able to do this comfortably full time! I think this is every aspiring creators' dream; to be able to entertain others and make them smile full time. As for a supportive role, I have long term goals working toward having a VTuber company of my own to guide other creators! I don't plan on seriously going down this path until I personally feel it's time to "retire" being a content creator, but I also want to be able to hit these milestones on my own since... well, how can I guide others to be successful if I'm not one myself?

I want to be able to pass down my experiences and knowledge to the next generation of creators, to continue making others happy!



11. What is something you're looking forward to in the near future?

I suppose in the near future, I am excited to get closer to my goal of Twitch Partner, as well as celebrating 4 years of content creation in September! I have a lot of fun things planned~

Naexi Glaurwyrm

Eye-Doll Esque

3D 1ST LIVE



One of the best things about the VTubing industry is how much creativity and expression there is. Coming from all walks of life, there are as many dreams and aspirations as there are VTubers themselves. One dream, however, has been shared by many as the ultimate goal post: to perform on a virtual stage in a 3D Live! That dream came true recently for the Bionic Dragon of VIVARIA, Naexi Glaurwyrm. Eye-Doll Esque was a 3D Live event with songs and choreography chosen and performed by Naexi herself. She opened with a performance

of "Psychic Fire" by BiBi of muse, a song that holds special meaning for Naexi and her journey as a VTuber that is "idolesque." She went on to perform three more songs and one encore performance of "Future Diver" by Dempagumi.inc, her favorite J-idol group, to close out the show. She later had a 3D showcase to show off her gorgeous 3D model, including its numerous expressions, removable jacket, armpits, big dragon tail, and her detailed cave stage. Congrats Naexi on a wonderful first 3D Live!





phase INVADERS QUEST

When Phase Connect announced a new wave of Invaders, they made a game of it. Phase left clues in the form of an ARG, inviting fans to don their tinfoil hats and speculate on the upcoming talents. Days before debut, Clio Aite, Mari Mari_EN, and Eepy Sleepy were revealed to be the next wave joining Phase Connect as "Phase Invaders Quest". Each talent was given a new model for their debut, and Clio was first in the lineup.

The Archivist of Phase Connect, Clio made a strong first impression. Some VTubers debut with a song; Clio debuted with an Orchestra. After the high-class display, Clio devoted time to share a little about herself. This included her love for history, and the fact she eats cereal with two bowls — one for the dry cereal the other for milk, a very normal behavior.

Next in line was Mari Mari, a goldfish-turned-princess. Folks who

know Mari appreciate her casual and slow style of speech and absurd sense of humor, which she delivered on with her cutely crude drawings and one-liners. Closing out her debut, she released her cover of "IMAGINARY LOVE STORY", originally by Synthion.

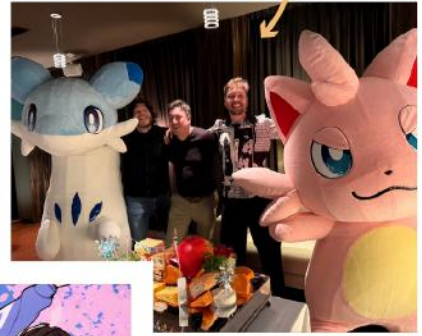
Ending the event was Sleepy, an adorable tactical elf who showed you around her compound after knocking you unconscious due to a misunderstanding. After singing some karaoke and showcasing herself with her dossier, Sleepy revealed a lore video featuring both gunplay and wholesome vibes. To round things out, Sleepy revealed Quest's new merch line, which included coffee for each of them — Sleepy's coffee appropriately being decaf!

There's a lot in store for Invaders Quest, so be sure to keep your eyes open! Congratulations Invaders!

Cyclethon
start!!



Day 10!



Happy birthday
Chris!

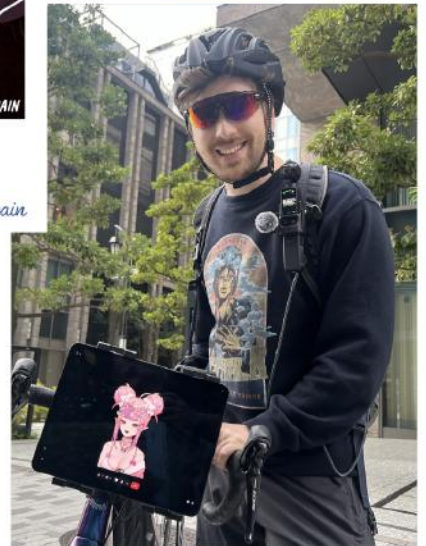


Day 14!



"Congrats on finishing Cyclethon 4
and crushing last year's goal!"

- Sad @sadsamrain



"Guess who's having fun!"



Cyclethon
end!!



As VTuber fans, it's sometimes hard to see the influence our favorite hobby has on the outside world. For one Latina "gremolin" VTuber, her friendship with a certain Welsh content creator has not only developed a fandom of its own, but has resulted in real-world change for thousands of people suffering from Primary Immunodeficiency (PI). By now, you've probably figured out I'm talking about VShojo's Ironmouse and her "monke" friend CDawgVA aka Connor Colquhoun.

For the fourth year in a row, Connor has completed his cyclethon: a multi-week bike ride across Japan, streamed live on Twitch, all while raising money for the Immune Deficiency Foundation (IDF). Connor first became interested in PI and the IDF after hearing of Ironmouse's condition. Ironmouse suffers from Common Variable Immunodeficiency (CVID), a type of PI which affects her body's ability to produce enough antibodies. As a result, she is mostly confined to an isolated life at home,

despite dreams of singing on stage. VTubing provided an outlet for her to not only socialize with others, but see and do things she otherwise could never experience. Enter: "monke."

Connor's friendship with Mouse isn't necessarily unique, but it's the amount of chemistry and care between the two that people have grown incredibly attached to seeing. While he has done multiple events raising money for the IDF, none have garnered quite the amount of excitement and support as the cyclethon. Every year, he has managed to raise more than the previous, with last year's event nearly doubling the one prior, at just over 1 million USD. With

this year's Cyclethon 4 being in a time with much economic uncertainty, many thought the idea of meeting last year's goal to be unrealistic. However, by the end of the two-week journey from Northern Japan to Tokyo, Connor and his team had raised 1,072,344 USD!

What made this year's cyclethon more special was its cast of guests,

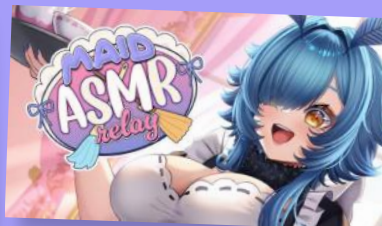
including Ironmouse herself! Thanks to new technology, Mouse was able to join via tablet for multiple check-ins and, of course, Cinnamoroll shopping sprees. She even joined on the bike itself for the final stretch! Emotions were high as they crossed the finish line. With tears in his eyes Connor made a point to say, "People always say... 'Thank you for being such a good friend to Mouse,' but Mouse is a good friend to me as well." If ever there was a better example of finding friendship across barriers of culture, geography, and life experience, I have yet to find one.

As a fitting epilogue to this story, just a few days later, on 1 May, known as Advocacy Day, Mouse appeared in Washington DC to speak on behalf of CVID. It was a momentous occasion for those suffering from PI and for VTubers as a whole. Despite all the hardships and uncertainty in the world, people are coming together. To laugh together, to cry together, and to accomplish amazing things, together.

"BY THE END OF THE TWO-WEEK JOURNEY FROM NORTHERN JAPAN TO TOKYO, CONNOR AND HIS TEAM HAD RAISED 1,072,344 USD!"

**DONATE TO THE IDF HERE:
PRIMARYIMMUNE.ORG**

MAID ASMR relay



O Okaeri Goshujin-sama! Would you like a bath? Dinner? Or perhaps... A S M R? Well, you're in luck! On Maid Day, globie's Cera Luceria and VAllure's Stronny Cuttles hosted The Maid ASMR Relay, an event featuring 24 hours of your favorite ASMRtists giving you the royal treatment. Ear cleaning? They got it. Tingles? They certainly got it. A dash of sadism? Absolutely! Just lay back, relax and enjoy everything the

maids have to whisper. To say there was a good turnout for the relay would be an understatement. Once the event had concluded, it had reached a collective total of 250,000 views. With that much love and support, maids are truly a force to be reckoned with. We wish to give a big thank you to Cera, Stronny, and all of the wonderful talents that gave it their all for their fans! We look forward to next year!

FUN EVENTS



FROM ALL OVER
THE SPACE



JAST Idols!** | 1 May

Kumo Kuddelmuddel, Vividly Vivi, Reiyu GuiGui, Yozora Aoi, Ichigo Lemonade, and Tane Tenshi debuted as JAST's h-idol VTuber group, here to capture your heart! Vivi & Yozo will be hosting a news show on the first Tuesday of every month about new JAST USA & HMarket releases, holding Q&As, and much more. In addition, JAST Idols is teaming up with RPlay to bring you a week full of "Backstage with JAST Idols!", scripted scenarios written and performed by the Idols themselves!



The Hazumi Takeover | 2 May

Princess Hazumi "Aileen" Okazaki was given reign over Elgato's Community Stream Takeover to celebrate the start of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month! Hazumi shared her experiences and struggles of growing up as an Asian American, and encouraged Elgato's audience to share their stories too. To end the month, she hosted a podcast with Taiga Chama, giving 27 other VTubers the opportunity to share their stories and words of wisdom.



Rebbi Rompin's Hatchday | 6 May

The bubbly frog celebrated her special day with an incredible stream lasting over ten hours! First of the festivities was Mario Kart with the frobbles. Following that, a R.E.P.O. collab with Toffee_VT, Chiaki Katsumi, and Miyuora full of shenanigans was on the table. After a half-time yap, revealing downloadable custom Rebbi mouse cursors and some hatchday merch, Rebbi received call-ins from friends. Rounding out the event were some solo runs of Phasmo and a closing zatsu.



Collie Woolchaser Birthday | 10 May

VeXpo's VTuber mascot Collie Woolchaser held a cozy stream celebrating her birthday. Despite her laid back and cool demeanor, Collie took her job seriously and held a quiz for the fans to see how well they could identify the VeXpo guests. For the latter half of her stream, Collie hosted games of Gartic Phone with her community. With many lighthearted and fun moments, chat knew how to bring just the right level of chaos to their artistic works. Happy Birthday Ms. Woolchaser!



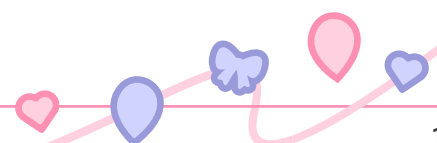
SEAcasT HuZeria | 11 May

Taring Hu of globie and Azeria.EVE of Specialite have teamed up to start SEAcasT HuZeria; a podcast where this self-described "dumb-duo" will share their knowledge and experience of Southeast Asia. Every two weeks they'll be going over the countries, their culture, food, and an audience Q&A about the region. They even plan to invite VTuber guests from the area as well! Join Hu and Azeria as they share their love for their homeland with you.



V4Mirai Eternal Vows | 11-18 May

Many VTubers have special connections with their communities. But for Kou Mariya and Alias Anono of V4Mirai, those connections mean lifelong bonds. During their week-long event Eternal Vows, Mariya and Alias held special streams and collabs themed around marriage. There was also wedding-themed merchandise such as rings, marriage certificates, standees, and voice packs. The event culminated in an off-collab ASMR stream. Congratulations to the happy couples!





key visual illustration
by @mkmt_mkmt

NEW DEBUTS

RE-ENTERING THE SPACE



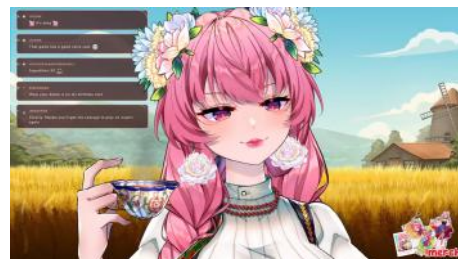
AxiPom | 5 May

With an alluring voice and slightly crazed demeanor, Identity-Thief Dragon VTuber and artist AxiPom made her debut earlier this month! The debut was both soothing and exciting, through the unique application of ASMR qualities and calm Lo-Fi beats adding to the ambience of the debut stream. Her model, which was both drawn and rigged by Axi herself, perfectly embodies the sleep-deprived artist. Make sure to pay attention and you might spot the chubby dragon tail peeking out from behind her adorably tousled head of hair!



Monii | 9 May

What do you get when you cross a bagel and a moth? The music producing wonder, Monii! After opening her debut with a superstar rock performance, Monii dove into showing off her new model. Featuring a sleek and edgy black outfit, purple gem accents, and a fan mascot for her Bagel Brigade, all drawn and rigged by fellow Asteroid Music Team member, Mage Mimi. Other members of the team also helped produce Monii's first original EP, which was released after her debut.



BabyPinkVT | 9 May

Jumping into her re-debut head first, BabyPinkVT unlocked her Slavic powers in a beautifully themed stream honoring her Polish heritage. Pink showcased her gorgeous new design, an interpretation of traditional Polish dress, with rich colors and flowy fabrics. The ensemble brings one back to simpler days, spent frolicking in the fields. Pink pulled out all the stops with this debut, which also included new merch, original BGM and a cover song! We're happy to see BabyPinkVT have such a successful debut and wish her the best.



Pina Penguin | 9 May

After an almost 6-month long hiatus, Pina Penguin is finally back! Her PenPals have certainly missed her healing presence, and their long wait was rewarded this May. During the debut, this adorable penguin provided new lore, merch, a brand-new model (illustrated by Rinotuna and rigged by Meowao), along with her fourth original song. Not only that, Pina also shared the happy news that she had recently become a mother! We can't wait to see what she has in store for the future.



MiyuLily | 10 May

We hope you like cottagecore, because this froggy elf hopped into the pond of VTubing with her debut this month! MiyuLily is an up and coming independent VTuber with an adorable pastel color scheme to match her sweet voice. Her design certainly draws parallels to the likes of Thumbelina, with an appearance that is reminiscent of a small forest fairy. All this, courtesy of her artist mama Tokitamago and rigger NoraDobtsu. We look forward to seeing how far she can hop!



GentleGFASMR | 18 May

Almost four years after her original debut, elf neighbour VTuber GentleGF (Nemu) had a brand new debut featuring all sorts of goodies. Her new, full-body model (previously only being thigh-up) features her classic green sweater and black tights look, as well as a nun and chef outfit, courtesy of art from Morningstar Studio and Qijuu799's rigging. She also showed off new panels, alerts, BGM, emotes, and an animated short before being joined by friends for a comfy seven-hour-long stream.

anime north

On site by Flood & Ashers

What is Anime North?

Anime North is Canada's largest non-profit anime convention, located in Toronto, ON. It celebrates anime, manga, music, games and all other forms of Japanese Culture! Anime North 2025 was held at the Toronto Congress Centre and Delta Hotel on 23–25 May, 15 minutes by car from Toronto Pearson International Airport.

VTuber Programming

Anime North's first two days were filled with VTuber panels. Informative panels such as VTubing 101: How to Start Your Virtual Journey hosted by Kirika Yoko and Lilith Lovelace to help curious attendees. Interactive panels such as What Do You Know About Phase Connect? hosted by Pipkin Pippa where she and the crowd taunted each other. Game shows such as D20 Love: VTuber Skill Check and VTuber Feud with V4Mirai where they pitted their wits against their fellow VTubers.

Meet-and-Greets

During the convention's duration, a variety of teams also put together meet-and-greet areas stationed throughout the floor plan. From north to south, there was a non-stop flow of VTubers you were able to meet: From Anime North's official meet-and-greet area housing the talents of V4Mirai, idol, Phase Connect, and indie VTubers; and Phase Connect hosting more informal chats with their talents at their own booth; to MosoBox phoning in over 20 VTubers to the merch-abundant artist alley; and PROJECT STIM, a newly-formed indie group with the crew attending IRL alongside their own VTuber lineup, you can hardly say there was a shortage of VTubers to run into!



"Honestly, it's such an honour to meet all the Bitos. ... Actually getting to see them, and meet them, and talk to them is really [special]." - **Himemiya Rie**

VSinger Stage

A concert dedicated to giving VTubers a chance to perform on a live stage. JubyPhonic opened the concert, followed by Jupiter Magical Girl, Europa Yuu, Kenbishi Saya, Nanase Cain, Yumemi夢美, Phoebe Chan, and ended with Unnamed finishing the show. Yumemi even made a personal appearance in her idol form, and performed a duet with herself!



"I'm glad we can have a whole variety. ... Some people are like, 'This is my very first time at a concert and being asked to sing' ... That's the best thing I'm hearing, you know? ... I want everyone to at least try and have that experience." - **Yumemi夢美**

MosoMatsuri

To complement MosoBox's meet-and-greets, they've partnered up with several VTubers to showcase their talents on a live stage! GX Aura opened the performance, followed by Hyuni, Nana Asteria, Mako Sameshima, Kira Lily, Freyja Cesteline, Nene Amano, Pillow-Dear, Nyaru, and ended with Miori Celesta finishing the night.

"I've always been running meet-and-greets, but being able to run concerts and such is such a nice addition for it because there are a lot of VTubers that are singers and their full talents can't really be revealed just at a meet-and-greet." - **MosoBox**



Special Thanks

Acapella Media would like to give thanks to Anime North for approving us as Media to cover their event, as well as Yumemi夢美, Phase Connect's Himemiya Rie, and Moso of MosoBox for allowing us to interview them.





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