DFW COSPLAY MAGAZINE

VOL 001

CTRL+C

MAGAZINE



LUNANCIA

ALIVE AGAIN?

REBUILDING A LIFE THAT
FINALLY FELT LIKE HER OWN.

COSPLAY | CULTURE | COMMUNITY | CREATIVITY

EDITOR'S NOTE

"The sun doesn't ask for permission to shine. My role is to simply hand out shades."

-Julia Hubbard



Cosplay on the Main Stage: It Was Never Just Dress-Up

A space for modern expression—unfiltered & unapologettically

AS THE EDITOR of *CTRL+C Magazine*, I've spent the last few months chasing stories, tracking down cosplayers, sitting through shoots, late-night edits, and conversations that lasted way longer than planned. Somewhere in the middle of all of that, I realized this magazine was never just about cosplay. It was about people trying to be seen. More frankly, people that deserve to be seen.

Because if I'm being real, I understand that feeling more than most.

One of my biggest childhood wounds was never really feeling seen or chosen. I think because of that, I developed this habit of overgiving. I never expected anything in return or wanted to hold it over anyone's head, but it became my way of saying: "Maybe if I do enough, I'll finally matter here." Thinking that being "valuable" would finally make me visible. Before this, I spent years surviving. Trying to be responsible all the time. It was utterly exhausting. Creativity became something pushed to the side while life kept demanding more from me. But anime, cosplay, and storytelling kept finding me. Reminding me that there were still parts of myself alive underneath survival mode.

And that's why CTRL+C matters to me.

Cosplay didn't start as content. It started as a connection. People create because they love it. Characters give them confidence, escape, identity, comfort, and even healing. What outsiders dismiss as just "dress-up" is actually self-expression in one of its rawest forms.

Now the culture has evolved. What used to be dress up has become full cinematic productions creating a pressure to perform, monetize, and stay in the public eye.

That's when I noticed something: people were forgetting the human being behind the costume.

This magazine was created to preserve the heart behind the art. Not just the final image, but the process. The burnout. The fumbles. The creativity. The risk of putting yourself out there in the first place. Whether your cosplay is handmade or ordered online, your connection to the character is still valid. And no one can distort that.

CTRL+C is for the creators who stay up until 3 a.m. finishing armor pieces just to walk across a stage for 5 minutes. It's for the cosplayers learning confidence and life lessons through characters. It's for the people who never quite fit in anywhere else until they found this community. Simply put, if you're reading this, it's for you. Maybe there's a version of me that needs that space too.

So thank you for being here for Issue 001. Seriously.

This is only the beginning.



LUNANCIA

Aspiring Cosplay Creator

After years of exhaustion and survival mode, Lunancia found new life through cosplay, creativity, and community. What started as a convention visit slowly became a path back to herself.

Instagram handle: @lunancia.cos



Lunancia

Alive Again?

Lunancia's story doesn't start in some lifelong fandom deep dive. It starts in 2021, in a car, casually driving past billboards for Weebcon. That one moment changed everything.

When she walked into her first convention, she wasn't prepared for what she'd feel. The quiet understanding between like-minded strangers dressed as the characters they loved. It seemed like a new, dazzling world that seemed to call to her innermost sense of self. She didn't just want to attend anymore. She wanted to belong, so she tried.

Finding the courage to live again.

Her first cosplay was Ichigo Momomiya, the main protagonist of the Tokyo Mew Mew manga and anime series. And like most people's "first," it wasn't about perfection, it was about courage. From there, she started choosing characters that matched her energy, her aesthetic, and her identity. The same characters she admired, not just visually, but emotionally.



She studied the poison in everything.

And her relationship with anime? Not exactly by the book.

When I asked if she was the type to binge a series start to finish, admittedly she said no. She'll get close... like five episodes before the end... and just stop. No final episode. No closure. Just done. That's a little diabolical to me, but it proves something...connection doesn't require completion.

One of the series she does love is Yona of the Dawn—a story known for its strong female lead and emotional depth, which tracks perfectly with the kind of characters she gravitates toward.

And like a lot of fans, she's still holding onto hope, waiting with bated breath for that long-rumored season two release.
Lunancia's story goes deeper than conventions and costumes.

Before cosplay, she was juggling two jobs and working six days a week, one of them at a cemetery. Long hours with little freedom. Surrounded by stillness and endings. Slowly, she felt herself slipping into what she described as a "death spiral." Not literal, but it very well could have been.

She wanted a shift that would open her up to more creative freedom and a fuller life. A path that could eventually lead to brand deals and allow her to take cosplay more seriously, on her own terms. So she made a decision most people hesitate to make, she walked away. Put in her two weeks and chose uncertainty over stagnation. It was the first step toward finally giving herself permission to cosplay, create, and fully be herself. And she hasn't looked back since.

Now, her goals are evolving. Lunancia wants to build her cosplay from scratch. She's taken steps toward that by attending a workshop in Frisco, relearning her sewing machine, trying to understand the physicality of creation. Her biggest challenge isn't skill. It's expectation. Once she gets an idea, she goes all in—but that drive quickly collides with perfectionism.

And you can feel that tension the moment she puts a cosplay on. There's excitement—but also anxiety. The quiet pressure to get it right. To not fall short of what she sees in her head.

But then something magical happens. Someone's face lights up when they recognize the character. They compliment her and just like that—the anxiety softens into happiness. That's the part she holds onto.

It's also why she does something small, but unforgettable. She carries a Polaroid camera, taking photos with people she meets and afterward, she hands them the picture. A small gesture, but a memory they get to keep. Not for content or clout.

That's what separates Lunancia. She's not chasing, nor is she competing. She's building relationships through creativity, with community, with identity. And that deserves recognition.

If she could give advice to anyone just starting out, it's simple:
Choose a character you love. Someone who means something to you or maybe a childhood favorite. And then—just enjoy it.

So let's give Lunancia her flowers. Not later. Not "when she makes it." Do it now.

Lunancia cosplayed Maomao from The Apothecary Diaries



Photo credit: Brooke Richey
Studio: NOVA Photography Studio

Instagram handle: @lunancia.cos














CTRL+C MAGAZINE

ISSUE 004

GOT A STORY TO TELL? WANT TO BE FEATURED?

CTRL+C Magazine is alwasy looking for standout cosplayers, photographers, artists, creators, and community voices from the anime and cosplay world.

Whether it's cosplay, photography, interviews, convention coverage, or creative work, we want to see it.

IMAGE QUALITY
Submit high-resolution, sharp, unwatermaked images.

ORIGINAL WORK ONLY
Only orginal, human-created content will be accepted.

CREDIT + PERMISSIONS
You must have permission from everyone involved in the submitted work.

CONTENT STANDARDS
No explicit, hateful, or discriminatory content.

WRITING SUBMISSIONS
Articles should be proofread and include a title + author credit.

RIGHTS
Creators keep ownership of their work while granting CTRL+C MAgazine permission to publish selected submissions digitally and print.

Behind every cosplay is a story worth seeing.

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CTRL+C Magazine connects directly with the cosplay, anime, gaming, and creator communities shaping the culture both online and in real life. Our readers don't just consume content.

They attend conventions. Support creators. Buy merch. Travel for events. Build communities. And most importantly, pay attention.

Whether you're a photographer, artist, vendor, clothing brand, convention, local business, or creative service, this is your opportunity to place your brand in front of a passionate and highly engaged niche audience.