

# LODESOME

August  
2023  
No. 1

Special Q&A  
with **Lily Velour** of  
The Burgundy Room

Fashion trends  
and glams you  
need to see,  
with **Ivy Gilmore**

Inside the  
Huckleberry  
Saloon's June  
Pride Fights

Crystal Magic  
What you need  
to know to get  
started

**The Faerie Soiree:**  
August's Upcoming  
Fairy Themed  
Fashion Show



**Exclusive interview with djayYAMS  
you won't find anywhere else!**



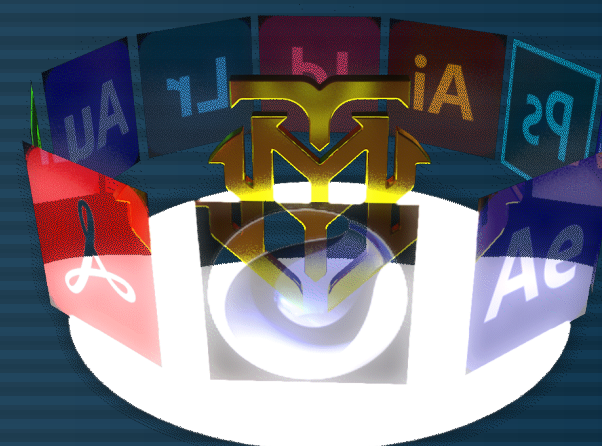


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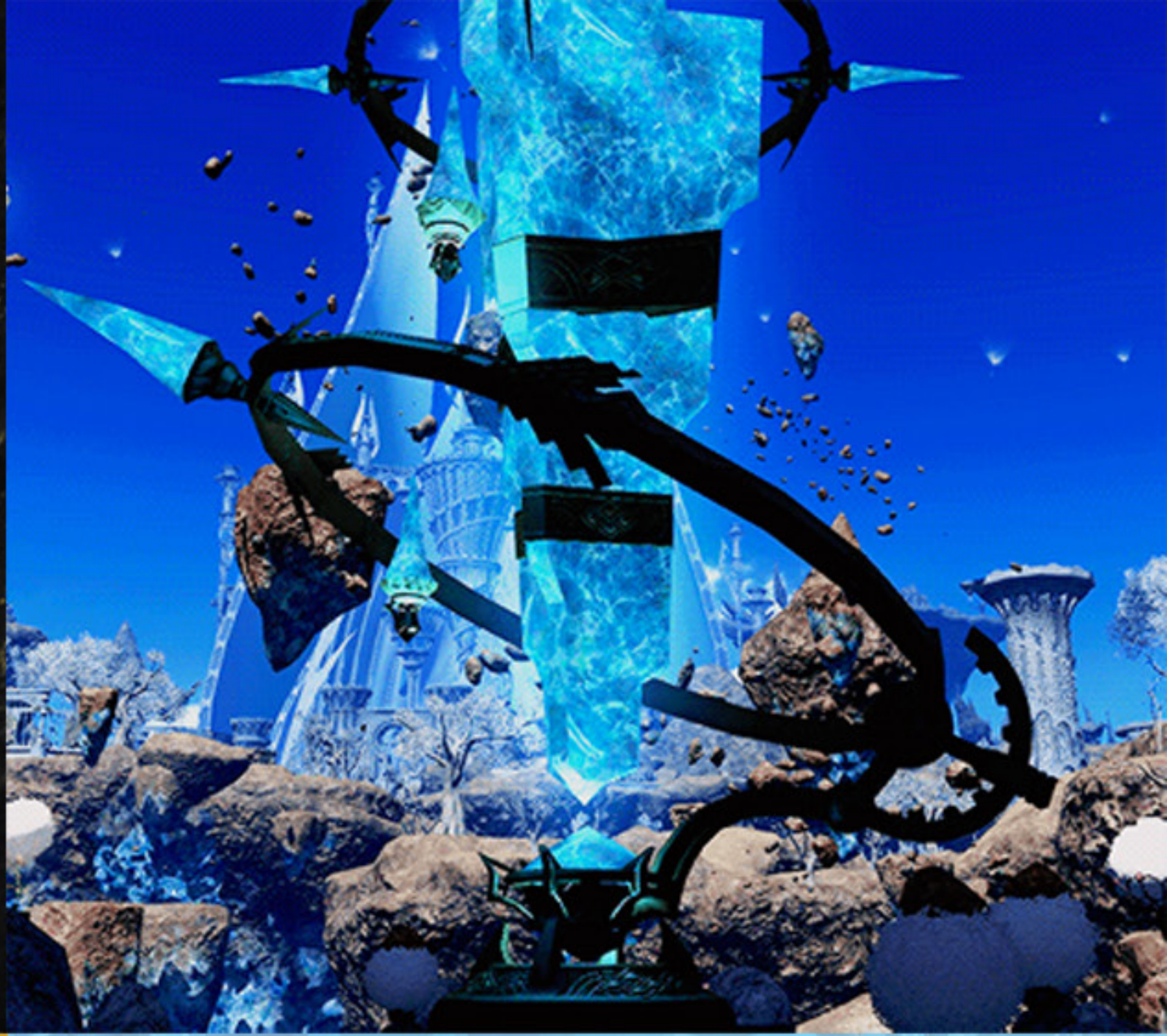


**The Man. The Myth. The Yam.**

**Who's the man  
behind the music?**  
*Story on pg. 8.*



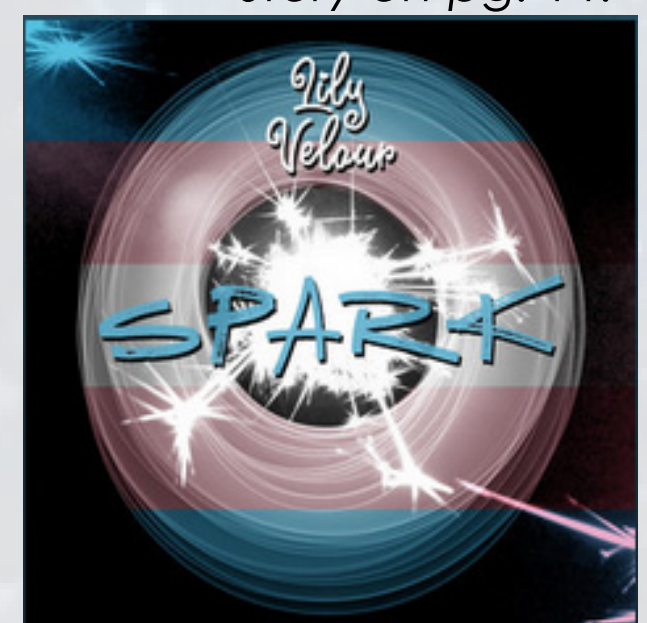
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Behind the scenes with  
Lily Velour and her  
new album.  
Story on pg. 14.





## Welcome To Limsa



"Oh, that's him." Baderon stopped scrubbing at the bar to follow the direction of her gaze.

"He's just a kid, Zu. Or does the Rogues' Guild not have pride anymore?"

Zumie ran a rough tongue over pointed teeth. "Old enough for ale, isn't he?"

The young Lalafell clutched his tankard like a man overboard, eagerly scanning the crowded tavern. His jeweled necklace gleamed in the torchlight while he ogled every female that passed with a mix of awe and terror. An ideal target.

"Ye got a fat purse already. Let the lad go," Baderon said with a hint of amusement. "Banker's son ain't to be trifled with."

"That banker's son has a chain of emeralds that would go better with my eyes."

Baderon took in a breath to reply, but Zu shushed him with a claw to the lips. "Know what I like about you, Baderon? You respect the craft."

Baderon lifted a hand in resignation. "I ain't yer da."

Zu hitched up her corset so the girls looked their best. Her tail twitched back and forth in anticipation.

Baderon gestured to Zu's jingling purse. "That's 15 gil, dove."

Zu glanced over a shoulder and winked. "Tell you what, double or nothing." She bumped away from the bar with a hip and grinned at Baderon's disapproving glare. "Welcome to Limsa."

She weaved her way toward the lad, nice and slow. When she sat down next to him, his surprised gulp didn't disappoint.

"Buy a lady a drink?" she purred.

He nodded eagerly and jumped up to

wave over the help...barely cresting Zumie's shoulder.

*My, my...those emeralds around his neck glinted like the sun.*

It didn't take long to become putty in her hands, buying Zu drink after watered-down drink. Blue Lalafell eyes went glassy under the weight of his ale.

When he almost fell out of his chair, she eased an arm around his shoulders and steadied him. "Easy, handsome. Maybe we should go somewhere el—"

"Ashiru Coshiru!" a voice barked. The lad jumped – the man shouting was 'Ashiru's' mirror image, 'cept the red hair, of course. As if on cue, she swiped a claw and lifted the chain without a sound. It was in her pocket before he was even out of his chair, scrambling toward his father with slurred excuses.

It was perfect.

Zumie waited until they'd left, performing her best 'disappointed lass' pout. Once they were out of sight, she strung the sparkling chain around her neck and swaggered back to the bar.

Baderon didn't even look up. "Phantom thief reborn."

She blew him a mocking kiss. "You're just jealous."

He finished scrubbing and stowed the rag. "Pay me tomorrow. Ye ain't getting nothing for glass emeralds."

Zu pulled the jewels off and held them to the light. "Lalafells. Thought they were supposed to be clever." She tossed them onto the bar and reached for her coin. Her slit eyes went wide when she patted nothing but an empty pouch.

She spun toward the now-empty doorway. "Gods damned brat!"

Baderon leaned over and grinned. "Now that's 30 gil. Welcome to Limsa."





# FASHION

FASHION

FASHION

FASHION

FASHION

FASHION



g. The Bigger,  
The Better



# FASHION *Meets* STYLE

## FASHION TRENDS FOR 2023 By Ivy Gilmore

Fashion trends should be described as art in motion. Trends are what designers pull from their most recent inspirations. Trends are not law, but suggestion. Let's see what is trending in 2023!!

This year on the runway, we are seeing different type of "Core" wear. Let's dive into these different trends starting with this year's biggest and most out of the box trend.

**Mermaid Core (a):** Before we get into this bigger than life trend, let me just say Harry Styles (Music for a sushi restaurant) and Hallie Bailey (Little Mermaid) because well... MERMAID CORE!

How do we wear Mermaid Core? Head to toe scales or what most of us call sequin! We are also seeing a lot of the color blue with this trend. Another way to wear Mermaid core is to look into hemlines, cuts and necklines. The halter type necklines are what Mermaid Core designs are targeting on.

Knit wear will be big on Cobweb Weaves, really big net like weaves incorporating things like beachy accessories such as sea shells and pearls.

**Shimmer and Shine (b):** We will be seeing the Mermaid Core trend intersect with the Shimmer and Shine trend by incorporating sequin. If you are not a sequin lover you can wear this trend with "Liquid Metal" which are textiles with excellent fluidity.

**Indie Sleaze (c):** A fashion aesthetic that mimics a timeless "Grunge" recycle. Get your Grunge on because it hasn't gone away!

**Motocross Leather (d):** Highlighter hues, hefty padding and bulky leathers have never looked better off the bike and on the street!

**Creative Chaos (e):** Anything from frill to furs goes with this bigger than life trend. Why not just become the corsage, by wearing larger than life flowers.

Another way to wear Creative Chaos is the "Valley of the Dolls" looks by embracing colors and patterns, mixing and matching layers and textures.

**Sheer Elevated (f):** Sheer was huge in 2022 but Sheer is very much still in the trend this year. In 2023 it is done in more of an upscale vibe.

**The Bigger, The Better (g, pg.5):** Really oversized accessories! Shoulder skimmer earrings and enormous bags.

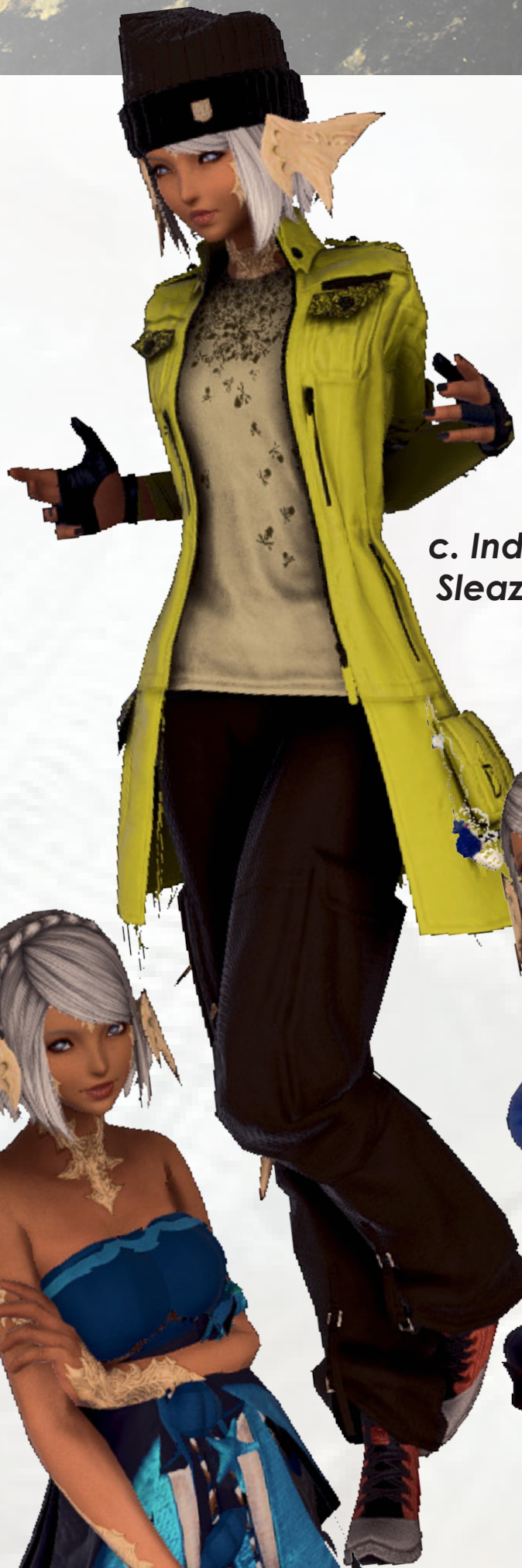
**Colors of 2023 (h):** Cobalt Blue, Key Lime Pie Green, Saffron (Red), Blinding Whites, All A Blur (mixing and blending colors together on your fabrics).



"Celeste Mermaid"  
A Glamour created by  
Lola Autumn  
via Eorzea Collection  
[instagram.com/lola.ffxiv](https://www.instagram.com/lola.ffxiv)







**c. Indie Sleaze**



**d. Motocross Leather**



**f. Sheer Elevated**



**h. All A Blur**



**a. Mermaid Core**



**e. Creative Chaos**



**b. Shimmer and Shine**



# DJAY

YAMS

Whether sipping on the house special or playing a blackjack game, if you hear that DjayYAMS is streaming, you immediately get on that dance floor and start doing the dab! But who is DjayYAMS? Lodestone Magazine presents the man, the myth, and the YAMazing artist...

**Ivee:** Thank you for being here, I am so excited to share with our LSM readers what lies underneath the surface of your streams. We are here to dig deep for the real YAMS!

**Ivee:** Tell us about yourself. Who is djayYAMS? What are you like and what makes you tick?

**YAMS:** I'm a very down-to-Earth and simple guy. I love making people laugh, hanging out with my friends, and being a clown. I love junk food, dancing, and late-night drives.

Nothing really makes me tick since I've learned to just go with the flow of things.

**Ivee:** Isn't that the truth? I mean especially now with the craziness of the world, we all need to be able to just chill and flow. So you mentioned you love junk food, I can tell you that chocolate is my weakness! What are your favorite foods?

**YAMS:** My favorite food is pizza, hands down! Extra cheese and pepperoni are what I always order. My favorite drink would definitely be COFFEE! I drink it everyday!

**Ivee:** So while we are on the subject of favorites, what is your favorite color?

**YAMS:** Even though Cream Yellow is my preferred color in FFXIV, my favorite color is Blue. My car is blue, I love to wear blue whenever I get dressed up.

**Ivee:** So say you are getting dressed up in Blue, what movie would you be heading to?

**YAMS:** My all-time favorite movie is Terminator 2: Judgement Day! When I was a kid, I thought it was the coolest movie ever! And as an adult, I still think it's one of the greatest movies ever made.

**Ivee:** Those Terminator movies were definitely great! I did love the story and just the potential that something like that could ever happen in the "future"... I mean A.I. is getting out of hand these days so why not? Let's get back to your

favorites! What is your favorite type of music? As a kid, what was your favorite toy? Who is your all-time favorite superhero?

**YAMS:** My favorite music would definitely be any kind of dance music, specifically from the 80s. That whole vibe is just super cool! My favorite toy as a kid was definitely LEGO sets. I loved building the Star Wars X-Wing and Millennium Falcon! My favorite superhero is Spider-Man. His quips are too good and I just love how even when he's fighting his enemies, he's still talking smack haha.

**Ivee:** Spider-Man's sarcasm is top-notch for sure! Miles Morales who is Marvel's newest "Spider-Man" is bilingual, do you speak any other languages? If so, how did you learn them?

**YAMS:** I speak Spanish here and there, usually if I'm





talking to my family back in Puerto Rico. I'm not as fluent as I should be, but fortunately, I've been using Duolingo for a while to brush up on my learning.

**Ivee:** Wow that is awesome! I would love to learn another language. Probably French because it's just romantic. Speaking of romance... Could you let us know if you are still eternally bonded with Swage? Tell us about how you two bonded and why he was the perfect other half for you?

**YAMS:** Yes! Eternally bonded with my manses forever! Hahaha I think our Eternal Bonding happened as a mutual friendship between him and I, but I also believe it's what the community wanted to see. Everyone knows the bromance is real and so I remember in the early days, people would say "Hey YAMS, when are you and SWAGE getting



bonded?" and so I think we finally said "Ya know what? Let's do it!"

"That looks fun, I think I wanna try that!" so I told my FC that I would love to throw a beach party and on the 21st night of September in 2021, I DJ'd for the first time in FFXIV and loved it! I didn't have a camera or a good microphone at the time, but I remember playing nothing but funk music for four hours straight in front of my FC mates and I immediately knew that this was a hobby that I wanted to pursue! Little did I know that that hobby would soon blossom in a full blown streaming career! When it comes to dJAYAMS, it's definitely the help of friends and great people that helped get me to where IYAM today. From my absolutely YAMAZING FC mates for believing in me, to Rem, Raskal, and Ransetsu for helping out with bookings, graphics, and social media to Onuka with her clips and the rest of the Twitch moderators for always being present. It's a collaborative effort and I appreciate everyone that has been along for the ride since the beginning.

**Ivee:** Tell me about how you met and acquired Rem Chacha as your manager. How do they help your business and sanity?

**YAMS:** Rem is a wonderful soul! Rem and I met in World of Warcraft, we were both in the same guild (shoutout to the BRAINZZ familia) and we were both Vengeance Demon Hunters. Rem was my co-tank and WAY more skilled at the game than I. Over the years, Rem has become someone who I consider an amazing friend and someone that I can trust. Rem helps out immensely by staying on top of the Google Calendar and making sure that the events page is always up to date. Rem provides me with flyers to post on the Discord and goes above & beyond when it comes to booking. Rem is not only a great friend, but a heck of a booking manager and someone that you definitely want in your corner.

SWAGE has been an amazing friend and mentor for me. I've had the honor of not only meeting him in real life, but he gave me a place to stay while I was in LA. We did a few back-to-back DJ sets and we even got matching SWAMS tattoos on our right leg. So we are not only bonded in pixels but also bonded in ink and I think that is hella cool!

**Ivee:** So it is a DJ bromance made in heaven! What made you want to become an FFXIV DJ? How and what has made dJAYAMS one of the most sought-after DJs in the FFXIV community?

**YAMS:** I've always loved two things, music and entertaining others. So when I first came to FFXIV in September 2021 and my FC invited me to a club, I immediately fell in love with the idea that there were DJs in a digital space! I said to myself,

**Ivee:** It is just comforting to have a strong support system, especially when your name is out there in the community. Here's a question for you, If you could change your name, what would it be and why?

**YAMS:** Ooo! Great question! Haha if I could change my name, hmmm. I love the name dJAYAMS because there's a bit of sentimental value to it. When I first started DJing, I used a software called dJAYPRO to teach myself how to mix and spin tunes. And the name YAMS comes from my World of Warcraft character of the same name. YAMS was my Blood Elf Demon Hunter that I played for years! So everyone just came



to know me as YAMS lol. But if I could change my name, it would probably be my first online alias FJ the Pump Man. It was a nickname given to me by a co-worker. FJ standing for Frank Junior, my name, and Pump Man for my love of Reebok Pump sneakers. They're pretty much the only sneaker I wear haha!

**Ivee:** Hehe, I will now forever envision Reebok Pump sneakers when I watch your streams! Now since we are talking about sneakers, I know you have a thing about socks... Can you explain what that is and why you get rid of them so quickly?

**YAMS:** Hahaha! Shoutout to clean feet! When doing laundry, my least favorite part was trying to sort the socks out. You'd always end up with a missing pair, or mismatched socks. So, when I went to my local dollar store and found out that you can get five pairs of socks for one dollar, I had a lightbulb moment! To eliminate the stress of laundering socks, just buy socks from the dollar store and never worry about washing them when you can just throw them out and wear a new pair the next day!

**Ivee:** That totally makes sense! I always toss out pairs of unmatched socks anyway so why not skip that headache!

During your DJ streams I notice that you blow your horn... what is the significance of this Viking horn?

**YAMS:** The Viking horn was a gift from the wonderful Ris J, a long-time member of the YAMFAM. Prior to having the horn, whenever I would raid out, I would say "It's time to sound the Viking horn and raid on over!" But now that I have the horn, I blow it for hype, but also cuz I think it's so damn cool lol. I've never had a Viking horn before so this thing has quickly become one of my most prized possessions.

**Ivee:** Super cool! Obviously, I am a big fan, I not only watch your FFXIV DJ streams but I tune in anytime you are streaming. I remember a stream where you ran for mayor in a different game. Can you tell our readers about this game and why you were running for mayor?

**YAMS:** GTARP! Yes! Lmao I love to roleplay. When I played WoW I would do light RP where I pretended to be a barber and would stand outside the Dalaran barbershop waiting for people to come in. I just love stepping into the role of a character and the collaborative story telling of RP. So when I was playing GTARP, I figured I'm a people person that loves to please others, let me try to run for mayor and see if anyone will join in a help build this story. Sure enough, people got onboard and where with it!

**Ivee:** I regret that we are running out of time, but before we let you off the hook and back to what dJayYAMS does best, I have one more question. This one I have been saving for last because this is one of my favorite parts of your streams... You're widely known for your dabs! Can you describe the most creative dab you've performed?

**YAMS:** I love the dabs! I believe the most creative dab that I have seen redeemed was "Go Get A Slurpee Dab". Fortunately there is a 7-Eleven right up the block from my house, so one night I put on a ten minute song, left my house, got a cherry Slurpee, came back home and did the dab while drinking my frosty beverage! It was YAMZING!

**Ivee:** Thank you so much dJayYAMS for all of your time and allowing our readers to know the man behind the streams. For our readers that would like to learn more about dJayYAMS please check out these links!

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dJayYAMS>  
Twitch: <https://www.twitch.tv/dJayYAMS>  
Discord: <https://discord.gg/dJayYAMS>







LODESTONE MAGAZINE'S

# FAIRIE SOIREE

*FFXIV Fairy Fashion Show*  
*Wednesday, August 30th, 2023*

9PM- 12AM EST

AETHER, ADAMANTOISE, MIST

WARD 29, PLOT 35

LSM HEADQUARTERS

- Mod designer's newest creations!
- FFXIV Vanilla glams on the catwalk!
- After-party with live Twitch DJs!
- Open bar & VIP bottle service!
- LSM giveaways!

TICKETS ON SALE: ADMIT  
NOW: ONE





# CRYSTAL MAGIC

By Yin Doll



**CRYSTALS** are incredibly versatile and beneficial! They resonate with energy, showcasing characteristics that are signature to each stone. Some promote positive aspects, like love or courage. Others alleviate negative energy, such as anxiety or hot-headedness. Several contain unusual attributes such as vivid dreaming or luck. The possibilities are nigh endless!

When it comes to the same category of crystal (amethyst for example) each individual crystal will radiate its own unique energy. In other words, all amethysts will exude a general calming effect, but one amethyst will resonate with some individuals better than others. This can be due to several factors, such as size, shape, whether it is polished or raw, and coloring patterns. Just like

humans and snowflakes (which are crystalline in nature), no two amethysts are exactly alike. This is one of the major reasons I advocate for people to pick their own crystals.



To do so, you'll want to find a metaphysical store, and borrow one of their books to research while you shop (or study online beforehand.) I know this is easier said than done – the closest shop to me is over an hour away. However, it is significantly better than ordering crystals online and letting a stranger pick them for you.

Once you've determined which crystals suit your purpose (ex: Tiger Eye for courage) then you'll find the container and begin sifting your hand through the crystals.

Focus intently on how they feel. Do any of the individual stones stand out or arrest your attention? Hold those and inspect them from all angles. Once you feel as though you've found a proper match, trust your instincts – that crystal is resonating with you on a personal level.

After your crystal claims you, you'll need to bring it home and cleanse it. It's been in the shop for who knows how long, drawing in other people's energies. You'll want to attune this crystal to your energy. Most crystals can be rinsed in clean running water – otherwise, burn sage and let the smoke cleanse them. The next step is to charge it – yes, like a battery. Set the crystal in a windowsill overnight, so that it absorbs lunar energy.



Sometimes your crystals will feel dull or lifeless. This is a sign that it has absorbed too much negativity or burnt out of energy. For as long as you're utilizing crystals, you'll need to cleanse and charge them for routine maintenance, to keep them (and you) healthy. I cleanse and charge my crystals once a month, though it varies per individual and their given circumstances.

Crystals usually perform best when they are within close proximity to you for an extended period of time. You can wear the crystal by placing it in a pouch and carrying it in your pocket, though some are crafted into jewelry. You can keep it on your desk at work, or perhaps under your pillow while you sleep at night. Whenever you need it, hold it close and meditate on its purpose.





# HUCKLEBERRY SALOON CELEBRATES

By Ionessa Wynn

## Pride



It was a quiet night in the Goblet when I arrived at the cozy locale. Little did I know that I'd be swept away by its charm until the early morning hours. The décor was warm and inviting,

despite the unusual clash of a hunting lodge paired with a unicorn's daydream. Mounted game hung on walls next to roaring fireplaces and furniture painted in rainbow shades!

Bards were serenading on stage with dancers and a vibrant crowd! As the DonoCellos finished with "Somebody to Love", I noticed a performer named Scanlan. Smiling at the reference, I knew that Vox Machina's Bard would've had a blast here. Excellent songs pervaded the evening. Special by-hand performance by Braxius Brave demonstrating gorgeous FFXIV orchestrion music. Prism followed with a FFX throwback "To Zanarkand" and Lady Gaga's "Baby I was Born this Way!"

With playful banter and sportsmanship, the fighting tournament couldn't be ignored! The first round revealed a female Highlander, Gamilla vs. Vivyn, a Miqote and one of the Femboy Hooters. Gamilla initiated with a flurry of blows, showcasing her Monk mastery! Odds were 3-0, and it wasn't looking good for Vivyn, but that didn't keep him down!

Returning with a fury, he achieved a stunning victory of 4-5! Next up was Big Stank, a giant Roegadyn in a pink dress vs. the Elezen Pirate, Venger. True to his name, Big Stank fought with dirty tactics and a sense of humor. Tying shoelaces and poking at a pirate's one good eye, but Venger also made a comeback! Dodging nipple-aimed karate chops with poise, he stole the crown!

As for indulging refreshments, two menus were available with Femboy Hooters hosting at the bar. Huckleberry's selection displayed fine beverages spanning across the cultures of Eorzea, including a Garlean cocktail made with airship fuel! After perusing Hooters' contents... curiosity demanded to see how this would play out, and I ordered way too much food. The first tempting combo was a "Vanilla" Shake, Huge Sausage, and C\*\* Brulé. (Note: These are not ERP establishments.) The second combo enticed with an Estrogen Spiked Shirley Temple, Soy

Battered Fish & Chips, and Phallic Shaped Cookies. Not to mention the Crispy Hentai (Calamari)... let's just say I had leftovers. Watching with amused enthrallment, the dark and handsome Viera

searched the bar in vain for a sink. Finally locating pipes from another source, he yanked out an octopus to fry up. Other bits of meat (which were stored in his pants) joined the grill, and the cookies were locked in a compartment of his boss's steampunk back. What about the most risqué items? Those were taken behind closed doors for preparation.

Gambling-Master Nightingale offered a unique game of her own design! With each dazzling flash of the deck, her attire and star-globes changed on cue with matching colors and glowing effects! That alone was worth the price, though I did lose all of my bets. But no complaints, because the odds were fair and truly based on luck of the draw!

Another hidden gem is a secret that lies within this place. Investigate long enough and you will find it. A whisper in the right ear will grant a reward! The fun is in the journey and discovery.

Before closing, I was fortunate to get a few words from the owner, Doc Laladay. What inspired him to build Huckleberry Saloon? "I wanted a place where people feel welcome and have a good time! A saloon felt different. We love our Bards, bar fights, gambling, giveaways, random silliness, holidays and special events." What's his secret for growing a community? "Aww, no secret! We just try to be friendly and supportive of other venues who share similar values. It wouldn't be here without a group of friends who help make it possible." And last, does he have a message for those celebrating Pride, or any new guests who may wish to visit in the future? "Happy Pride everyone, we hope you can visit us soon! We're a welcoming group of folks, and we're always appreciative when someone chooses to spend time with us."





# Q&A WITH

# Lily Velour

**Q: How long have you been singing?**

I first started singing during my middle and high school years as part of various choir groups, but fell out of it by college. I've actually only recently gotten back into it!

**Q: What led you to pursue singing?**

A: Honestly, health issues that came up brought me back to my voice.

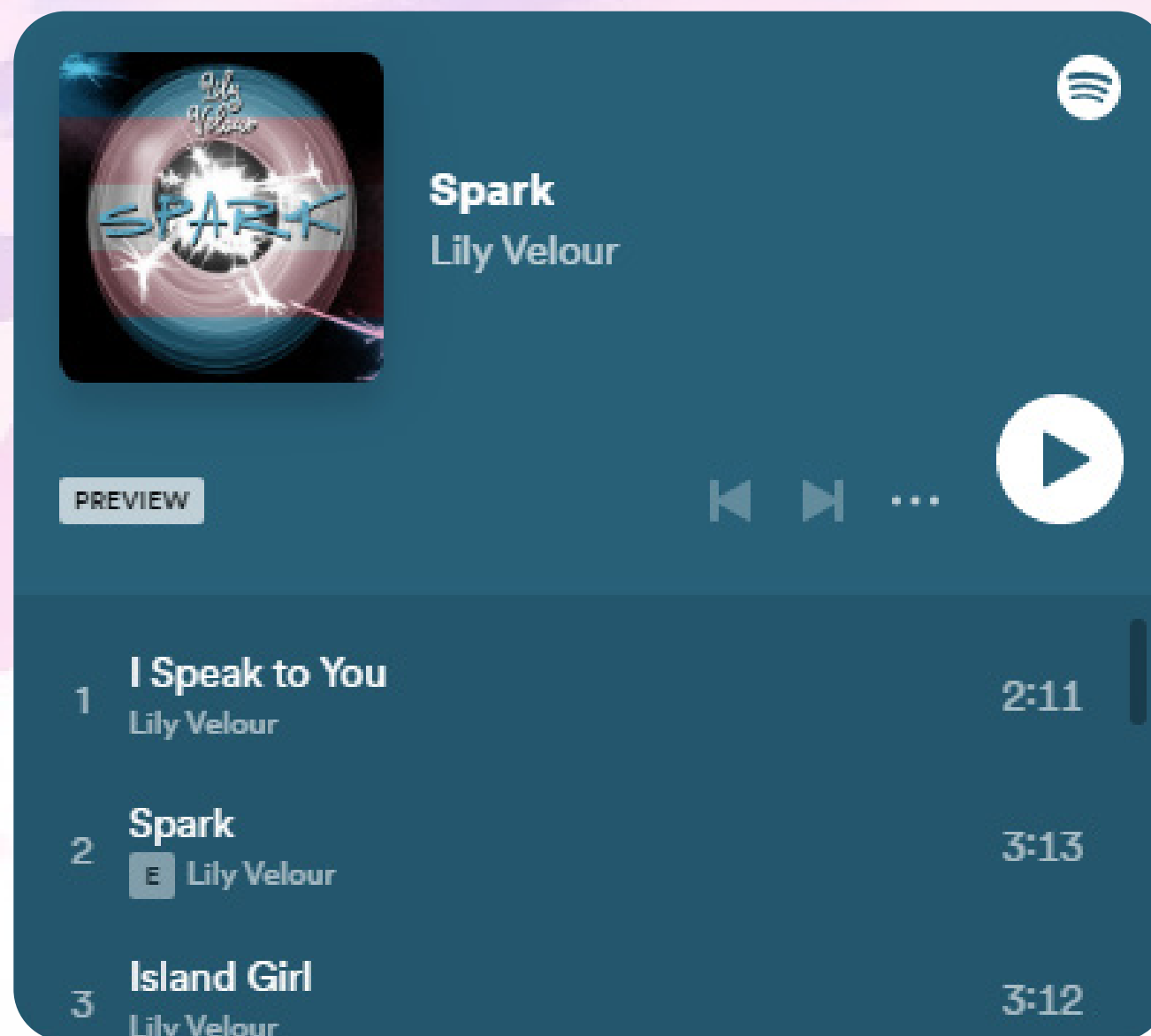
I deal with severe neurological issues and chronic fatigue that have recently left me in a wheelchair on good days, and bed-bound on many other days. It's a progressive illness that started a few years back, but we didn't notice what was happening until it got really bad.

I'm still on a journey of discovering just what is going on, and have no idea what my long-term health outlook is right now. So I've decided to just follow my dreams and do something I've always wanted to do—make music. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would get so far.



**Q: Is there a particular message you want to convey with your music?**

A: Yes, absolutely. The world that we see—that I see—around us right now is filled with hate and despair. Transgender folks like myself are discriminated against, harassed, and even attacked on a daily basis. Black folks like myself are killed by the people who are supposed to protect them. Immigrants like myself are locked away in camps and separated from their families for trying to make a new life for themselves and escape conflict.



**Additional links:**

**Social media:** <https://lily.velour.social>

**Discord:** <https://discord.gg/lilyvelour>

**Spotify:** <https://velour.social/spotify>

But we don't need to live like this. We can change this narrative for the better. Through my work, I want to showcase the joy in the lives of people like myself and show others that things can be better. And I want to bring to light these issues and point people towards concrete decisions and actions that they can take to protect us.

**Q: What is your favorite song on your album? What was the inspiration for the song?**

A: This is not an easy question! I love each song for many different reasons, but I Won't Go definitely resonates with me on a different level.

The song addresses the journey with my health that I have had to deal with over the course of this year. But even more unique, two days after writing and singing the lyrics, I found myself needing emergency surgery in the hospital. I was intubated and hospitalized for a little over a week.



After surgery, I actually took my phone out and recorded the hospital equipment attached to my body. You can hear that equipment in the song, panned to the same positions that they were in from my perspective. This song will forever be associated with those events.

**Q: Who are your musical influences?  
Why do you idolize them?**

**A:** There are too many to list here! When it comes to style, I take inspiration from almost every artist I hear.

Honestly a big influence of mine isn't any specific musical artist, but The Burgundy Room, an in-game dance troupe and venue that I lead. We've performed countless times over the past few years, covering a wide range of work. It has surrounded me in a creative and artistic environment that has heavily influenced me, and encouraged me to pursue music and make original works.

**Q: What was the first song you sang in public?**

**A:** In my choir days, I honestly couldn't tell you. It's been so long since then. Other than that, it would actually have to be Spark!

**Q: Words of wisdom for someone getting into a career?**

**“JUST GO FOR IT!”** **A:** That sounds cliché, sure, but it's true! Worry less about how others perceive your work and dive into what you want to do until you can do it really freaking well. Then search relentlessly for opportunities.

**Q: Best advice you ever got?**

**A:** Musically, the most important piece of advice I got was to not micromanage my creativity. Part of the journey of making music is to trust yourself, even if just a little bit. I've been performing for a few years now, but putting your work out there and showing others your art is always scary! Once you get past that stage, the creative freedom is wonderful.

By Adi Daitou



Learn more about The Burgundy Room dance troupe at <https://theburgundyroom.com/>



Lily's album Spark is out now on Spotify.

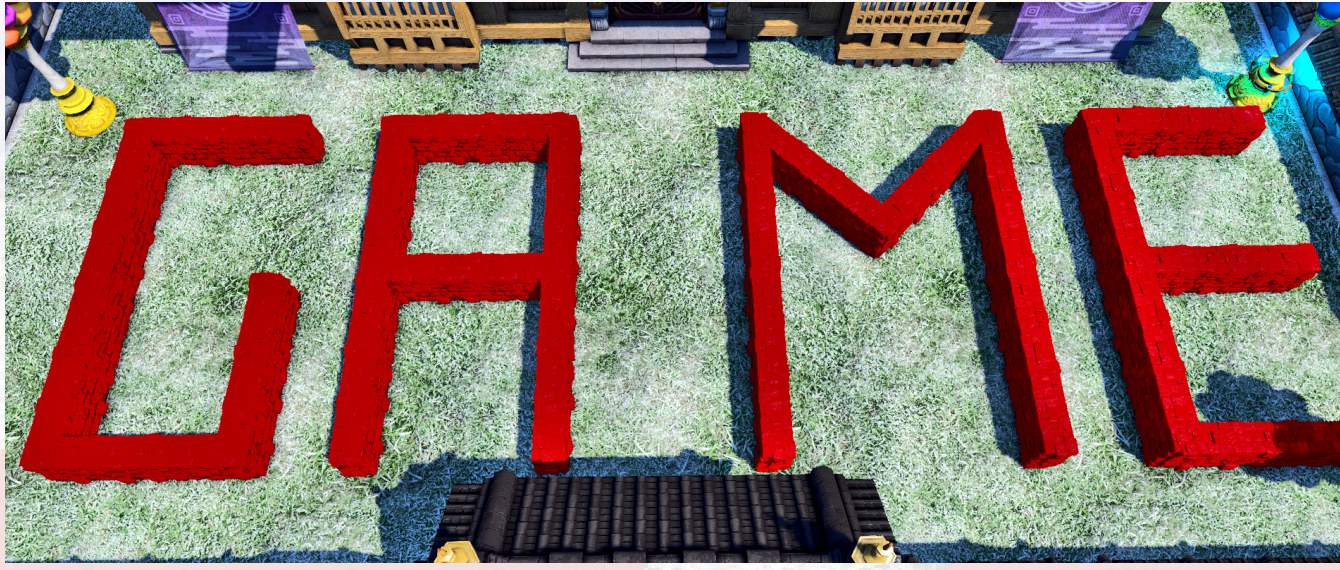
Lily Velour





# HOUSING Showcase

By Faye



## A Visit to Jump Puzzle Paradise:

The house in Sargatanas' Empyreum, located at Ward 17 Plot 2, is nothing short of miraculous and creative. Known simply as 'GAME', with its name even written out on the lawn outside, this house is a fun adventure.



Created by player 'Cutest Fox', she dubs the place 'Australia's Biggest Indoor Amusement Facility.'

They aren't lying either. Inside, the house has pretty decorations and what resembles a gift shop right in front of the door. Since this house is a Free Company House too, they have turned all the members chambers into games for visitors to compete in. These games are given difficulty numbers using stars. Five stars seem to be the maximum difficulty, with one star being the lowest.

The tutorial shows that the puzzles take advantage of glitches in the game. By placing decorations perfectly, you can jump into the void, and here in the void the house designer(s)

have placed platforms and objects anywhere they wish to provide platforming puzzles. Using other commands like /doze and /sit, these puzzles use all kinds of tricks to provide a fun but challenging task.



Each room gets more and more challenging, and the smallest mistake be it jumping too early or too late or even walking too far can result in falling to square one.

I decided to check out one of their hardest rooms, and I couldn't even get off the first platform. It involves a perfect jump, using paleton or sprint, and jumping at the right spot but no matter how much I tried I couldn't make it.

Honestly this house looks incredible, and I'm sure the creators of these puzzles are very happy with what they've made as they should be. While not something I am good at, these platforming puzzles are a joy, and hopefully they can get more visitors who can find a lot of entertainment from this.

## Q&A with the Owner:

**Q: Tell our readers a little about "Game" and where you drew your inspiration from?**

**A: Galactic Circus <GAME>** is one of the newest play hubs for our international jump puzzle community, known as Strange Housing. We're a collection of builders and players worldwide who are always looking for a new place to get together and do some crazy stuff in!



Far from being the first to exist, Galactic Circus draws inspiration from other puzzle hubs in hope of mixing in some unique ideas

and style to create the ultimate hangout spot to bring friends and have an awesome time together. It's designed to be a little less like the normal "venue" that people have come to expect, and more like that secret bonus-stage out in the wild where you can jump into and try out a totally new and unique way to play and challenge yourself in FF14!"

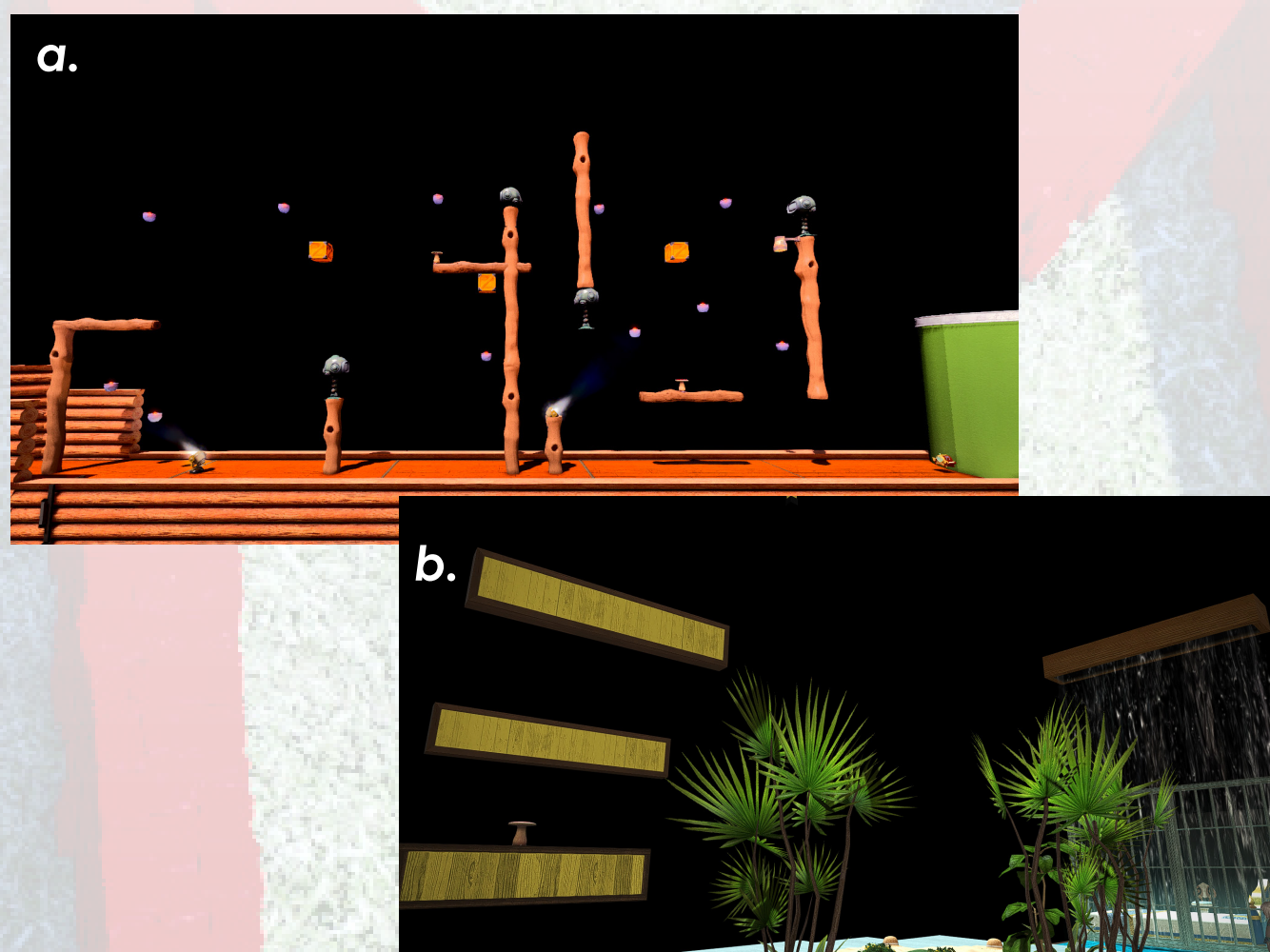




The theme and layout is based on the actual real life arcade that used to be here in Melbourne, Australia which shared the same name. It's had the bonus of giving a ton of inspiration for the puzzles we've put together inside

**Q: Which puzzle room was the most challenging to design and why?**

A: By far the most challenging puzzle to design by a long shot was the newest 5-star difficulty build, The Time Machine. The planning and research stages for this took over 100 hours, with constant testing, and three pages of spreadsheets just to piece together the layout sequence!



Examples of jump puzzle builds within 'GAME'. Mario themed rooms fill the estate (a), alongside custom made original rooms (b).

The Time Machine isn't a normal housing build in any sense of the word, it's made to stretch the technical limits of the game engine and housing limitations to the absolute maximum and take advantage of really specific quirks in the game to cause all kinds of weird interactions- animated furniture that moves on its own, the positions of items shifting and resetting, teleporting you insane distances within a single jump, there's so much tech used together to make this one happen!

**Q: Are you looking to expand into other type of games? If so what kinds?**

A: We are absolutely thinking about trying out some more videogame inspired builds! Although we have a ton fun with the arcade theme, we try to not limit ourselves too hard and have other

fun ideas on display too. Most puzzle builds are never really planned out and just sort of happen by stroke of inspiration... so depending if we see a game or idea that hits the spot, expect to see much more of it coming up in the future! Our most recent puzzle by Emileigh is a giant Pinball Machine which is a ton of fun, and we also have a Cinema inspired puzzle to play now too!

**Q: What do you hope to achieve with "Game" as far as the FFXIV communities go?**

A: The goal of Galactic Circus is to really bring a new way to have fun in the game and to inspire people who may have never seen anything like it before to come try it out and maybe even make a puzzle of their own. Our international community (Strange Housing) has collectively built over 600 puzzles together, so <GAME> truly is only the tip of the iceberg! There's a whole world of jumping out there and we even have sister hubs here on NA itself! Check out "Orbit" or "Space Camp" just to name a few.

**Q: What can we look forward to in the future with "Game"?**

A: In the future, expect a ton more crazy puzzles! There are so many ideas we have on mind, and a ton of new puzzle builders with unique inspiration planning to bring their style to the hub. We're always looking to innovate and create new techniques and ideas to apply and take our builds to the next level, and our research is far from finished. Please look forward to it!

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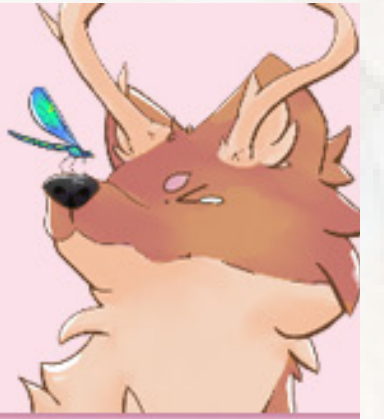
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# Ari Whisp Art



## CHARACTER ART & MOD COMMISSIONS

*« I'm Ari, a small artist and XIV modder.  
I primarily do character art and make various  
mods for textures and body replacements.»*

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