



# Backgrounder

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## **Naka-Kon 2009 Guests**

Biographies provided by guests or their agents

### **Greg Ayres**

Greg Ayres has spent the last year rockin' his way through two new anime series as the loud-mouthed Hideki in Nerima Daikon Brothers and singing with the band in Beck: Mongolian Chop Squad as Koyuki. He is also thrilled to be able to add the role of Kaoru Hitachiin in Ouran High School Host Club to his list of new favorite roles. Other recent works include JR. in Xenosaga, Roan in Ragnarok The Animation, Yamazaki in Welcome to the NHK, Nowy in Glass Fleet, and Yukinojoh Tohyama in The Wallflower.

The once-fanboy turned VA started working for ADV Films a little more than five years ago, and within the first two years managed to snag two of his favorite roles in anime. He was thrilled to voice the role of his favorite character Son Goku in Saiyuki. Just one year later voiced Kaworu Nagisa in the Director's Cut of Neon Genesis Evangelion. Other roles include Chrono in Chrono Crusade, Negi Springfield in Negima, Roan in Ragnarok The Animation, Hajime Hario in Magikano, Heihachi in Samurai 7, Jr. in Xenosaga: The Animation, Satoshi Hiwatari in DNAngel, Pope Alessandro XVIII in Trinity Blood, Tsuyoshi in Kodocha, Leo in Ghost Stories, Tsujido in Speed Grapher, and Gau Ban in Shadow Skill. He can also be heard in other anime titles such as Super Gals, Spiral, Macross, Mythical Detective Loki, Burst Angel, Gravion, Godanner, Pretear, Full Metal Panic, E's Otherwise and a whole lot more.

When he's not in a booth with headphones on, you can usually find him sporting headphones of another variety behind the decks. A veteran nightclub DJ of many years, Greg has really enjoyed the opportunity of doing something else that he truly loves. From packed rooms at anime conventions, to the legendary stage of The Knitting Factory (NYC), Greg never misses an opportunity to share his love of music with anyone who will listen.

## **Amelie Belcher**

Amelie "Ami-chan" Belcher was born in Baton-Bloody-Boring-Rouge Louisiana where the combination of chemical plant fumes and river water did major damage to her fragile little mind at an early age. By all accounts, she started drawing at the age of five (when she figured out that the pencil goes on the paper and not up your nose) and didn't stop drawing until she ran out of paper... twenty years later.

Amelie taught high school art for four years, but lost interest in teaching when it started cutting into her drinking time. She now travels the country selling her award winning art, doing one of a kind commissions for con goers, giving the best damn panels on earth, and being paid tribute to by her army of fans known as the "Ami Army" in the form of pocky and manga. Known as "the angriest chick on the net", she is the creator of the popular web comic "The Real Life Adventures of Amelie" at [Cordeval.com](http://Cordeval.com) which is read by desperately bored people all around the world.

## **Leah Clark**

Leah is a director, writer, and voice actress for FUNimation Entertainment. She got her start in anime by voicing bit roles for Case Closed, Burst Angel, and Spiral. Shortly after, she landed her first major role as Nodoka in Negima.

Since then, she has voiced Akane in Rumbling Hearts, Noah in Full Metal Alchemist, Eri in School Rumble, Suzuka in Suzuka, Kataro in Black Blood Brothers, Paris in Shin Chan and Maron in the re-release of Dragon Ball Z/GT. She has also played feature roles as Ayanakoji in Ouran High School Host Club, Noel in Claymore, Kako in Peach Girl, Junko in Hell Girl, various roles in Mushi-Shi, Mayu in Kodocha, Coby in One Piece and Asami in Sasami.

Leah is excited to reprise her role as Nodoka in the second season of Negima and can later be heard in the upcoming releases of Baccano!, Strain, Darker Than Black, and Heroic Age. Leah has adapted scripts for One Piece, Suzuka, Peach Girl, Baccano!, and Sasami: Magical Girls Club. As a director, she has worked on Shuffle!, Strain, Case Closed, and Sasami: The Magical Girls Club.

## **Chuck Huber**

Chuck Huber has been an actor and teacher for 20 years. He is currently the Southern Regional Director of Pinnacle Performance Company, which teaches performance-based communication skills to Fortune 500 companies. Chuck speaks and gives workshops on the subject of education innovation and curriculum development at colleges nationwide, and writes children's books with his wife. Their first book, Zak and the Three Tree, sold more than 5000 copies. His next projects include an educational children's show and a related children's book.

Chuck began acting in Chicago on stage at the Goodman Theater in Marvin's Room as well as working at the Steppenwolf, Court and Bailiwick theaters.



Chuck's anime voice acting credits include the voice of Hiro Nohara in Cartoon Network's Shin Chan, Dominikov in Murder Princess, as well as hundreds of other voices in dozens of shows such as Android 17-Garlic Junior in Dragon Ball Z, Emperor Pilaf in Dragonball, Hiei in Yu Yu Hakusho, Shou Tucker in Full Metal Alchemist, Hector in Glass Fleet, Father Vaclev Havel in Trinity Blood, Seamus Han in Blue Gender, Adashino in Mushishi, Metal Face in B'tX, The Royal Envoy in Samurai 7, Tanaka in Kodacha, Mohji in One Piece, six different killers in Case Closed, Wong in Burst Angel, Nomura in Grappler Baki, and Eishun Konoe in Negima.

Chuck is also on the writing team for One Piece and Baccano, and directs for shows such as Sasami, One Piece, and Ouran High School Host Club as needed.

Chuck's TV and film acting credits include The Untouchables, Missing Persons, and Going All the Way. He also wrote, produced, and starred in his latest film "The Fragility of Seconds", which won the Gold Remi Award at the Houston International Film Festival.

## **Brina Palencia**

Brina Palencia is a voice actress and ADR director for Funimation.

Her voice acting credits include Nina Tucker in Full Metal Alchemist, Elsa in Gunslinger Girl, Yue in Negima, Kaoru in Moon Phase, Georgie in Shin Chan (for which she also sang the ending theme song), Eve and Tearju Lunatique in Black Cat, Maho in Beck, Honoka in Suzuka, Silvia de Alisia in Aquarion, Ai in Hell Girl, Ralph in Glass Fleet, Mikoto in School Rumble, Moro and Zashikiwarashi in xxxHOLiC, Tony Tony Chopper in One Piece, Ayane Shido in BALDR FORCE EXE Resolution, Yafuri Chao in Black Blood Brothers, and Tsukasa Takamine in Sasami.

More recently, she's been cast as Yin in Darker Than Black, Priscilla in Claymore, and Ennis in Baccano. She has also been featured in Kodocho, Case Closed, Burst Angel, Speed Grapher, Basilisk, Trinity Blood, Solty Rei, Tsubabsa, Mushishi, Peach Girl, Witchblade, and Raganarok. Her voice can also be heard on several video games such as Guitar Hero III, Stunt Driver 2, Super Dragonball Z, One Piece: Unlimited Adventure, and more recently Final Fantasy Fables: Chocobo's Mysterious Dungeon as the Moogle/Dungeon Hero X. If you're in the mood for gore, she also voiced the title character for the live action dub of The Machine Girl.

Her ADR Directing credits include: Moon Phase (eps 21-26), School Rumble, Black Blood Brothers, and xxxHOLiC (the movie and eps 1-8). She also served as the music director for Sasami and the second season of Negima. She's also a huge fan of Pocky, especially the Almond Crush variety. I'm just sayin'. I mean, you know... just in case you have any extra.

## **Chris Patton**

Chris Patton has been acting professionally since early childhood. He began his acting career with the Children's Chorus of the Houston Grand Opera at age 10, and enjoyed a busy and exciting professional theatrical stint until his late 20s when he discovered the world of voice over.

After being cast in his first prominent role at ADV Films (Daley Wong in Bubblegum Crisis 2040), Chris decided to focus on voice acting full time. He has voiced more than 140 anime titles, not to mention his work in video games, radio spots, audio books, and industrial voice over work.

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Some of Chris's anime credits include Sousuke Sagara in Full Metal Panic: Fumoffu and Full Metal Panic: The Second Raid, Greed in Fullmetal Alchemist, Sho Fukamachi in Guyver: Bioboosted Armor, Sato in Welcome to the NHK, Fakir in Princess Tutu, Ichiro in Nerima Daikon Brothers, Ranmaru Morii in The Wallflower, Ayato Kamina in RahXephon, Yuiichi Aiazawa in Kanon, Noah in Kiba, Sasame in Pretear, Hajime in Ghost Stories, Haruka in Tactics, and Nishi in Gantz. He will also be voicing a top-secret character in Baccano.

## **Dustin and Angela Reudelhuber**

Dustin the Balloon Guy and his wife Angela are seasoned entertainers. Like magic, Dustin will twist a 3-foot-long balloon into the coolest balloon animals you have ever seen while entertaining you with silly slapstick, jokes, and improvisational humor. He is also a magician, and Angela is an accomplished face painter. David and Angela provide family friendly entertainment, and his amazing balloon art appeals to everyone, young and old.

## **LeetStreet Boys**

The LeetStreet Boys have reached video game, anime and music enthusiasts around the globe with their catchy musical hooks, clever lyrics, and explosive energy. With their popular single and music video "Yuri the Only One", a mainstay on the anime convention circuit, YouTube and Video Games Live, LeetStreet Boys not only wear their hearts on their collective sleeves, but deliver an epic musical experience for fans everywhere!



## **K-State Yosakoi Dance Group**

The Kansas State University Yosakoi Dance Group was founded by Seiji Ikeda, a Japanese-American, who used to serve as the group's director. He was first introduced to Yosakoi dancing while teaching in the Japanese Exchange Teaching (JET) Program. Seiji's interest allowed him to bring the dance form back to Kansas State University and introduce it to both American and international students.

The K-State dancers traveled to Hokkaido, Japan in 2006 and 2007 to participate in the Yosakoi Soran Festival. They competed against more than 43,000 dancers and more than 370 teams, and were awarded with performance awards!

Yosakoi is a style of dance that originated in Japan. It started in the city of Kochi in 1954, as a modern rendition of Awa Odori, a traditional summer dance. Yosakoi is highly energetic, and combines traditional Japanese dance movements with modern music.

The costumes used by Yosakoi teams vary widely. Happi coats and yukata are the most predominant costumes. Typically, all members of a team wear similar costumes.

Since its introduction in 1954, Yosakoi has become popular throughout Japan. As of 2005, Yosakoi festivals and competitions were held in more than 200 locations around the world.

## **Kevin McKeever of the Robotech Covention Tour**

A graduate of the lighting design program from Emerson College, Kevin has been working in the entertainment industry for nearly 15 years. He has worked in theater production at world class venues such as the Goodspeed Opera House, the Emerson Majestic Theater, Foxwoods Casino, and the Mohegan Sun Resort which he helped open in 1996.

His television production credits include Jackass, Kids Say the Darndest Things, Guinness Book of World Records, Krypton Factor, Farmclub.com, and The 60's as well as various television commercials. His film credits include Mystery Men, For Love of the Game, and Billy Frankenstein. Kevin has also served as Assistant VP of Production for feature film producer and New York Times best-selling author Lynda Obst.

Kevin's first official assignment in the Robotech universe was as an audit of Robotech's television ratings and viewer demographics during its original run in the 1980s. Kevin's analysis of the ratings in a cost effective manner along with his years of production experience made him a natural candidate for the Robotech team.

## **Yamila Abraham of Yaoi Press**

Yamila Abraham is the publisher and founder of Yaoi Press, the largest OEL yaoi publisher in North America. She is also the writer of their two bestselling series: Winter Demon and Dark Prince. Yamila travels the country year-round promoting Yaoi Press. She will be signing autographs and giving free samplers at the Yaoi Press booth in the dealers room. She will also hold her fun and informative Yaoi Press Industry Panel as well as other fun yaoi-themed events.