



# Backgrounder

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## **Naka-Kon 2009 Guests** Biographies provided by guests or their agents

### **Chris Ayres**

Christopher Ayres has been working professionally in theater, television and film since the age of six. His work has been seen regionally, nationally and on Broadway. He currently works as a voice actor for ADV Films and FUNimation Entertainment. Chris is also an ADR Director for ADV Films and Amusement Park Media.

His first project at studio was the hit anime musical comedy *Nerima Daikon Brothers*. He is also the director for *Xenosaga: The Animation* and *Magikano*. Most recently, he served as director at Amusement Park Media for *Mermaid Melody Pitchi Pitchi Pitch* and as co-director with Matt Greefield on *The Wallflower*. Some of the roles Chris is best known as a voice actor are Kei Kurono in *Gantz*, Suitengu in *Speed Grapher*, von Kampher in *Trinity Blood*, Hayashimizu in *Full Metal Panic? FummoFu*, Nakamaru in *Maburaho*, Yamanami in *Peacemaker*, Plugman in *Air Gear*, Johnny in *One Piece*, Sid in *Devil May Cry*, Yusuf Ali Mesa in *Yugo the Negotiator*, Kouji in *Godanner*, Murato in *Hakugei - Legend of the Moby Dick*, Sawadust in *A Tree of Palme*, Pluto in *BASToF Syndrome*, Akimoto in *Sakura Diaries*, Kenji Kurata in *Diamond Daydreams*, Oshodani in *Papuwa*, Jimpachi Arishiana in *Nanka 6/17*, and Woogy in *Michel*.

His voice can also be heard in *Elfen Lied*, *Claymore*, *Tokyo Majin*, *Ouran High School Host Club*, *Kanon*, *Gravion Zwei*, *Utwarerumono*, *Coyote Ragtime Show* and *Desert Punk*, and Wagram in the Square Enix Game *The Last Remnant*. Chris is also one of the anime industry voice actors who sings on *Voices for Peace*.

### **Greg Ayres**

Greg Ayres has spent the better part of two years rockin' his way through some really fun anime series. As the loud-mouthed Hideki in *Nerima Daikon Brothers*, and Koyuki, singing with the the band in *Beck: Mongolian Chop Squad*, he is also thrilled to add the role of Kaoru Hitachiin in *Ouran High School Host Club* and Abe in FUNimation's upcoming *Big Windup* to his list of new favorite roles.

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Other recent works include Jr. in *Xenosaga*, Roan in *Ragnorok 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 in anime a little over 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 he voiced Kaworu Nagisa in the Director’s Cut of *Neon Genesis Evangelion*. Other roles include Chrono in *Chrono Crusade*, Negi Springfield in *Negima*, Heihachi in *Samurai 7*, 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 at conventions. 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 which is read by desperately bored people all around the world.

## **Shion Francois and Yumi Kawaguchi of Cure Media USA**

Shion Francois and Yumi Kawaguchi are representatives of Cure Media USA. Cure Media USA is the home of Cure Rock Radio, your cure for pure J-rock. Cure Rock Radio brings you the best in Visual Kei music 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Cure Rock Radio hosts special guest bands and features an instant message request line. The station can also be streamed via mobile phones.

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## **Kyle Hebert**

Kyle Hebert is a Los Angeles-based anime and video game voice actor whose credits include Ryu in *Street Fighter IV*, Kiba in *Naruto*, Aizen and Ganju in *Bleach*, and Kamina in *Gurren Lagann*. He is best known as the Narrator and teen Gohan in *Dragonball Z*.

Other notable roles include Kazukiyo Soga in *Ouran High School Host Club*, Vato Falman in *Fullmetal Alchemist*, and Rychter Abend in *Tales of Symphonia*. Kyle also provides voices in video games for *Watchmen*, *Star Wars: The Old Republic*, and *Wolfenstein*. He co-hosts a podcast dedicated to news on all things geeky called *The Big Bald Broadcast*. He also does private voice acting critiques and consultations online. Download episodes and keep posted on his latest projects at [KyleHebert.com](http://KyleHebert.com).

## **Kojokan Shinbutai**

Daniel Coglan is a full time samurai martial arts instructor, who has been performing and teaching the way of the Samurai for twelve years. In addition to running a full time dojo, Daniel has hosted and starred in an ongoing television show, performed over one hundred shows around the Midwest each year, and spends more than 80 days teaching in public and private schools every year.

## **Kansas State University 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.

### **Members**

Fritzi Domingo  
Sean Domingo  
Ching Her  
Barbara Johnson

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Rick Johnson  
Greta Kliewer  
Langdon McGowan  
Jordan Mizell  
Kyle Rogler  
Abby Sarvis  
Molly Sarvis  
David Smith  
Micah Weltsch

## **M. Alice LeGrow**

M. Alice LeGrow is a freelance artist and the creator of TOKYOPOP's seven-volume graphic novel series *Bizenghast*. She has been featured on Teen People's "What's Hot List" and in the 2006 HarperCollins book *Mangaka America: Manga By America's Hottest Artists*.

*Bizenghast* currently appears in bookstores in more than a dozen countries and languages and has garnered fans from as far away as Latvia and Hungary. In addition to comics, M. Alice also competes internationally in cosplay competitions and spends much of her free time designing clothing.

## **Peelander-Z**

Peelander-Z, the Japanese Action Comic Punk Band based in NYC, was originally formed in 1998 by Peelander-Yellow, Peelander-Red, and Peelander-Blue, after meeting in New York City (although they'll tell you they're all from the Z area on the planet Peelander). Peelander-Green was welcomed in July 2008 after Blue left the band.

Peelander-Z has appeared at major music festivals including Bonnaroo, CMJ and SXSW, and played with artists such as Buckethead, Electric Six, Particles, The Vibrators, and Guitar Wolf. Peelander-Z has also been featured on TV programs like VH1's Best Week Ever, Comedy Central's Upright Citizens Brigade, Spike TV's MXC: Most Extreme Challenge, and Anime Network. They also often perform at Anime conventions and festivals all over the US, as well as at Kaiju Big Battel. At their live show, you'll see the band in colorful costumes reminiscent of Japanese Animation, though they describe their outfit as their skin. Their shows guarantee intense audience participation and chances to exercise with the band. "Do human bowling with us. Do limbo dancing with us. Do karaoke competition with us. Hit our cowbell with us," says Yellow. "Don't be shy, give us your smile! We can beat your stress! See you at our show!"

One experience would capture you. Just pay attention to their coming activities.

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## Wendy Powell

Wendy Powell has been a professional voice actress for FUNimation Entertainment and Okratron 5000 for more than seven years. She is most well known for a little villain named “Envy” in *Fullmetal Alchemist*. She was most recently in a new role in *Claymore* where she plays the character Ilene. Her most challenging role this year was the role of IKU in *Shigurui*. Wendy is also known for smaller parts, in which she usually dies a most painful death.

Some of Wendy’s credits include Emi in *Baki the Grappler*, Amick in *Blue Gender*, The Fever Demon in *Shin Chan*, Kyo’s Mother in *Fruits Basket*, Kasuga in *Negima*, and Paula “Lady Death” in *Trinity Blood*. She has also voiced characters in *Kiddy Grade*, *Case Closed*, *Yu Yu Hakusho*, *Peach Girl*, *XXXholic*, *One Piece*, *Galaxy Railways*, *Tsubasa*, *Gunslinger Girl*, *Moon Phase*, *Glass Fleet* and many others. Her video game credits include *Spikeout*, *Fullmetal Alchemist*, *Curse of the Crimson* and *Broken Angel*. Wendy’s first love is the theatre (although anime is quickly catching up), and she works in local theatre in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

You can visit Wendy at her MySpace account at [envywendy@myspace.com](mailto:envywendy@myspace.com).

## 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. Dustin and Angela provide family friendly entertainment, and his amazing balloon art appeals to everyone, young and old.

## Eric Vale

Eric Vale spent the bulk of his acting time under lock and key in sound booths voicing characters in anime such as Trunks in *Dragon Ball Z*, Yuki in *Fruits Basket*, Yoshirin in *Shin Chan*, Tohru in *Ouran High School Host Club* and Kymblee in *Fullmetal Alchemist*. He has also scripted more than 50 anime programs as Head Writer with FUNimation Productions, and writes his own material for the film and literary worlds. On the weekends, he builds bridges to the future, crafts superconducting supercolliders in his back yard, and moves mountains with his bare freaking hands.

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## Tommy Yune of the Robotech Convention Tour

Tommy Yune has worked for over a decade in the comic book and video game industries. His early game development experience includes character design of the pioneering 3D fighting game *FX Fighter* for the Nintendo SuperFX chip and conceptual design of the award-winning *Journeyman Project* series. He also wrote and illustrated hit comic book titles such as *Speed Racer*, *Racer X*, *Robotech*, and *Danger Girl: Kamikaze* which were published by DC Comics' Wildstorm and Cliffhanger labels. His first work in feature animation was creating the computer-generated opening sequence of Kevin Altieri's *Gen13*.

Tommy grew up on a steady diet of anime, watching as much *Prince Planet*, *Gatchaman* and *Casshan* as he could in Asia and the United States. Then he shunned television and went back to being a responsible student to the delight of his parents. However, right before entering the UCLA School of Engineering, *Robotech* brought anime back into his life and he eventually found himself at the ArtCenter College of Design instead. His parents wept.

Tommy first worked in an official capacity for the Robotech universe by helping design Robotech.com for its launch in 2001. He has since come aboard as Harmony Gold's creative director and oversees new development, including *Robotech: The Shadow Chronicles* which completed production in 2006.

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