



# FRIENDS' School of English News

First bilingual newspaper in Almirante Brown

## Robert Douglas Thomas Pattinson

Born 13 May 1986, is an English actor, model, musician, and producer. Born and raised in London, Pattinson started out his career by playing the role of Cedric Diggory in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Later, he landed the leading role of Edward Cullen in the film adaptations of the Twilight novels by Stephenie Meyer, and came to worldwide international fame. Pattinson was ranked as one of the highest paid actors in Hollywood based on 2009 earnings. In 2010, Pattinson was named one of TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People in The World, and also in the same year Forbes ranked him as one of the most powerful celebrities in the world in the Forbes Celebrity 100.

### Early life

Pattinson was born in London. His mother, Clare, worked for a modelling agency, and his father, Richard, imported vintage cars from the U.S. Pattinson has two elder sisters, singer Lizzy Pattinson, and Victoria Pattinson. Growing up in the Barnes suburb of London, he attended Tower House School until he was 12, and then The Harroldian School. He became involved in amateur theatre at the Barnes Theatre Company. He auditioned and was cast in a small role in Guys and Dolls. He next auditioned for Thornton Wilder's Our Town and was cast as George Gibbs. He also played in Anything Goes and Macbeth. He caught the attention of an acting agent in a production of Tess of the d'Urbervilles and began looking for professional roles.

### Modelling

Pattinson began modelling when he was twelve years old, but the number of jobs began to decrease only four years later. In December 2008 he blamed the lack of work as a model on his masculine appearance: "When I first started I was quite tall and looked like a girl, so I got lots of jobs, because it was during that

May 2005, he was slated to appear in the UK premiere of The Woman Before at the Royal Court Theatre, but was fired shortly before the opening night and was replaced by Tom Riley. Later that year he played Cedric Diggory in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. For this role he was named that year's British Star of Tomorrow by The Times. He

Saga: New Moon and The Twilight Saga: Eclipse, which was released 30 June 2010.

Pattinson had lead roles in the feature films Little Ashes (in which he plays Salvador Dalí), How to Be (a British comedy), and the short film The Summer House.

In 2009, Pattinson presented at the 81st Academy Awards. On 10 November, Revolver Entertainment re-

Los Angeles Nokia Theatre. In 2011, he starred in Water for Elephants, a film adaptation of the Sara Gruen novel of the same name, with Christoph Waltz and Reese Witherspoon. He will play Georges Duroy in a film adaptation of the 1885 novel Bel Ami, with Uma Thurman, which will be released in 2011. He will also appear in a theatre production for producer David Pugh.

### Music

Pattinson plays guitar and piano, and composes his own music. He also appears as the singer of two songs on the Twilight soundtrack: "Never Think", which he co-wrote with Sam Bradley, and "Let Me Sign", which was written by Marcus Foster and Bobby Long. The songs were included in the film after director Catherine Hardwicke added Pattinson's recordings into an early cut without his knowledge, and he agreed that "one of them specifically, it really made the scene better. It was like it was supposed to be there." The soundtrack for the film How to Be features three original songs performed by Pattinson and written by composer Joe Hastings. Aside from recording for the soundtracks, Pattinson has said, "I've never really recorded anything – I just played in pubs and stuff", and when asked about a professional music career, he said, "Music is my back-up plan if acting fails." In 2010, Pattinson was awarded the Hollywood's Most Influential Top Unexpected Musicians' award.



period where the androgynous look was cool. Then, I guess, I became too much of a guy, so I never got any more jobs. I had the most unsuccessful modelling career. Pattinson appeared in the advertising campaign for Hackett's autumn 2007 collection.

### Acting

Pattinson had supporting roles in the made for television film Ring of the Nibelungs in 2004 and in director Mira Nair's Vanity Fair, although his scenes in the latter were deleted and only appear on the DVD version. In

has more than once been touted as the next Jude Law.

Pattinson played Edward Cullen in the film Twilight, based on Stephenie Meyer's best-selling novel of the same name, which was released on 21 November 2008 in North America.

According to TV Guide, Pattinson was initially apprehensive about auditioning for the role of Edward Cullen, fearful that he would not be able to live up to the "perfection" expected from the character. He reprised his role as Edward Cullen in the Twilight sequels The Twilight

leased the DVD Robsessed, a documentary which details Pattinson's life and popularity.

In 2010, Pattinson executively produced and starred in the film Remember Me, which was released on 12 March 2010. On 13 May 2010, Pattinson appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show for The Twilight Saga: Eclipse and also made an appearance on The Ellen DeGeneres Show on 18 May, which aired the following day. Pattinson attended the official worldwide red carpet premiere for The Twilight Saga: Eclipse on 24 June 2010 at the

Nunca un general debe mostrarse parco en la alabanza cuando es merecida. A la gente le gusta el elogio cuando se lo ha ganado. En relación con esto, sir Winston Churchill me habló una vez de la contestación que dio el duque de Wellington, en sus últimos años, cuando un amigo le preguntó: *"Si volvieses a vivir otra vez, ¿hay algo que podrías hacer mejor?"* Y el anciano duque replicó: *"Si, dispensaría más elogios."*

*Historia del arte de la guerra, Mariscal Montgomery, Vizconde de Alamein, Aguilar, 1969*

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# FRIENDS' School of English News

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## Riding along

This year I decided to visit my sister and her husband in Wilmington, in the State of Delaware in the USA, as I have often done during my winter holidays. Because their place of residence is as familiar to me as Adrogué, we thought of doing something different from what we had done in the past. Their neighboring country of Canada was the place of choice for our trip; so with suitcases in the boot, and bicycles well secured to the car rack, our adventure started.

From the moment we made the decision of taking the bikes with us, I became very excited with the idea of touring new places in such a simple means of transportation. I even thought we would be limited to riding on bicycle trails, as riding in such large cities as Ottawa and Montreal wouldn't be easy. Was I proven wrong!

We left Wilmington early in the morning and drove to Skaneateles, a small town in New York State. This town is located on the northeast corner of the Finger Lakes, a district formed by many lakes near the border between USA and Canada. Once we left our luggage in the Bed and Breakfast, where we would spend the night, and ate a simple lunch, we mounted our bikes and off we went. I remember being so happy looking at beautiful landscapes, lovely old houses with flowery gardens, the lake, the people who passed by and said "hello", or stopped walking to let us go by, that I forgot that it was the hottest summer day Skaneateles had had in many years. While we were riding along the lake's coast we found out about touring boat rides on the lake. Seeing the enthusiasm that my sister and brother in law had about this opportunity, I

went along with the idea while at the same time thinking "where shall we leave our bikes?" There were no bicycle racks near the marina, only benches and one lamp post. My brother in law convinced me the bikes would be secure just leaning against the lamp post with only the bike lock around them. After a long hot but pleasant boat ride, I was marvelled to see our only means of transportation for the next two hours, still tied to the post and safe. Nobody had even paid attention to the lonely bikes.

The next day we arrived in Ottawa just after lunch, left our luggage in yet another Bed and Breakfast, and took our bikes to begin the neighbourhood "reconnaissance". This time we decided to go to "The Canal". Everybody ignores its real name "Rideau" and just call it "The Canal". Like many other man made canals in the world, this one has locks where boats and yachts have to wait in one lock until water flows from another in order to continue their journey. It was very interesting to witness such a simple, and at the same time complex, procedure.

In Ottawa many people use their bikes to move around. There are bicycle trails all over the city. Traffic and pedestrians pay great attention to them and you can see people riding their own bikes or rented ones taken from bicycle stations in different parts of the city. In summer or when the weather is not very cold, people prefer to ride a bike rather than take a bus, use their car or take a taxi. If they are near one of the stations they just slide their credit card at the meter, take a bike and then return it to the same place or another station in the



FRIENDS' School of English - Adrogué

city. You can see people going to work, going shopping or just for a ride wherever you are in the city. Many shops have bicycle racks on the sidewalks for the customers convenience, and if there aren't any, you can always leave your bike tied up to a railing, a tree or a pole. Nobody complains, education and good manners prevail. I couldn't believe what I was experiencing, I could go anywhere in the city, park my bike, visit a museum, a university, a shopping mall, or a park without breaking the law or inconveniencing anybody. I am sure Canadians do not only use their bikes to save gasoline but to save the environment as well. It is true you see more cars after the sun goes down, but during the day people move around in two wheels!

After two days of sightseeing in Ottawa we once again hauled our bikes on the car and rode to Montreal. Once there I experienced the same sense of safety. I did not feel afraid of the traffic while riding along avenues and busy streets. I saw nobody falling off a bike, or a car accident caused by a bicycle rider. Going out to lunch and leaving our bicycles outside the restaurant

turned out to be a normal thing to do, and we weren't the only ones to do it. One of the highlights of walkers, runners, and bicycle riders alike, is to reach the summit of Mont Royal. This very high "hill" at the edge of town commands a spectacular view of the city. Reaching the top on our bikes took us almost two hours, descending it took only ten minutes. What an experience!

Something that called my attention was that we weren't obliged to wear helmets. Some people did, some didn't. However, I saw no child without one, which makes me believe there is a law against not wearing a helmet under certain age. I was thrilled to see everybody complying with traffic regulations and being so civilized! Everywhere I went people looked happy, which in turn made me happy because I was getting to know many places in a fraction of the time it would have taken to walk, wait in line to take a bus, or hale a taxi. I felt great because I was exercising and doing what all Canadians do every day. How I long to do the same in my hometown!

**Maria Cristina Maggi**  
FRIENDS' Director



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### WHAT'S INSIDE

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**MISCELLANEOUS P.7**  
\* COSPLAY.

## STUDENTS CORNER

## Art behind the scene

**Carolina Rocha**  
FRIENDS' Student CPE

Many artists and critics disagree with the use of special effects, and technology in general, to "improve" the artistic productions, oblivious of the fact that the visual arts, such as photography and cinema, are closely connected to technology. This is why the movie industry is directed affected by every single development and cannot ignore them. So nobody can deny that technology stopped being just a resource for industrial production and has found its place in the world of art and creativity.

The use of special effects is paramount since they emphasise what the creators and writers of these stories once thought. In some cases they are used to create a realistic effect, whereas in some others they contribute to imagination and unreal situations like dreams.

In many occasions producers have given technology the leading role of the film, making the post productions work a must. As a result, there are big productions that have been successful for the quality achieved by the mixture of human work and special effects.

The Black Swan, for example, counts with an extraordinary combination of human work and technology. Not only have the actors achieved creating a big impact on the audience, but they have also enhance the metaphor of the film encouraging viewers to realise the "behind the scene" of ballet. The hostility, the unhealthy competition and immoral actions supported by parents and adults are some of the topics denounced in the movie. The ballet dancers are submitted to social and psychological problems caused by this environment, turning these young ladies into black swans. This film was nominated with several awards including best photography and best lead role, which proves that behind the technical resources there are professional and accomplished artists working even harder.

According to human ideas and perceptions, special effects and technology work, as tools that enhance the message of the directors, writers, actors and musicians, to mention a few. The vision of how the world works and what reality is, even improved by technology, lays in the hands of artists.

## TAKERS, who's taking who?

**Ignacio Buet**  
FRIENDS' Student CAE

Looking for more than just action on a crime Film? "TAKERS, who's tanking who?" Is a perfect answer for such a complicated question. Directed by John Luessenhop, the film does have it all. Not only action, escapism, arms, good characterizations and settings but also the plot and the mise-en-scene of this movie are excellent and original. It all starts when a group of well-organized professional bank robbers led by Gordon (Idris Elba), consisting of John Rahway (Paul Walker) and brothers Jake (Michael Ealy)

and Jesse Arrica (Chris Brown), are stealing one important bank of Los Angeles with an almost perfect plan. No evidence but some C4 explosives, used to disable cameras of the bank's security system, which appears in each robbery of this band, was left on the crime scene. This known, detectives Jack Welles (characterized by Matt Dillon) and Eddie Hatcher (by Jay Hernandez), start investigating C4 dealers on the vicinity of L A and, with information recompiled, managed to discover the thieves' identity. However, this is not the only story that takes place in the same plot of the film as family problems, professional misbehavior of detective Hatcher and mistrust of an ex-member (Delonte Rivas, also known as "Ghost") who re-joins the band, is also involved.

Sound track, lightening, camera shots, music and sound effects are all played on a manner that fills your senses in a thrilling way with excellent camera shots, soundtrack and dark lightening which all combined carry to a suspense combination that would maintain you on constant suspense feeling, added to the admiration given by the actors' costumes which are really eccentric are stylish. So, if it is an excellent crime film what you were looking for, this one will seem as made especially for you. Enjoy it!

## Apresentando-me

*Eu me chamo Marina, tenho dezenove anos e sou argentina. Não estou trabalhando no momento, estudo administração hoteleira já faz dois anos.*

*Em meu tempo livre eu gosto muito de sair com minhas amigas, escutar música e ir ao cinema.*

*Sou muito alta e magra. Meu cabelo é liso, preto e agora está comprido. Meus olhos são pretos e minha boca é grande.*

*Sobre meu temperamento eu posso dizer que sou comunicativa, divertida, muito responsável e, sobretudo, muito sincera.*

*Eu gostaria de arrumar uma pessoa alto astral, ativa, intelectual e, muito importante, que seja bem humorada.*

*Encontro atrente os homes mais altos que eu, magros, com narizes protuberantes, cabelos lisos e curtos.*

*Espero encontrar meu parperfeito!*

*Marina Rapela (1º ano)*

Aluno de FRIENDS'

Meu meme é Mariel, sou estudante de 2º ano de português de Instituto Friend's. Eu gosto muito deste idioma por isso, no ano passado, comecei a tomar aulas.

No curso pudemos aprender coisas interessantes. Além das conjugações verbais aprendemos sobre os falsos amigos, palavras que são iguais que em espanhol mas significam coisas diferentes. Aprendemos a fazer convites, contar sobre nossas atividades e muitas coisas mais.

Mas o que é mais difícil para mim é estudar os verbos. Porém, agora eu posso escutar música, assistir filmes e entender o que dizem, eu posso falar um pouco mais. Portanto estou muito feliz de poder alcançar meus objetivos.

*Mariel Balietti (2º ano)*

Aluno de FRIENDS'

Oi, meu nome é Victor e meu apelido é lanque. eu tenho 10 anos. sou americano, estou na quinta série. falo 3 línguas: inglês, espanhol, e estou aprendendo português. eu amo jogar rúgbi e futebol.

Eu tenho 3 irmãos, um cachorro, 2 coelhos e um pássaro e eu nasci em 12 de outubro de 2000. Eu amo todos os tipos de alimentos.



**Victor Salas (1º ano)**  
Aluno de FRIENDS'

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# STUDENTS CORNER

## Adrogué

### Review

Adrogué is a beautiful town in the south of Buenos Aires City. The means of transport are quite good; the train is very fast but it is too crowded and dirty.

The "Casa de la Cultura" is an attractive and interesting art gallery on Esteban Adrogué Street, next to "Colegio Nacional".

There are some famous buildings like "La Cucaracha", "Castel Forte" and "San Gabriel Church".

Adrogué is really cool.

You can't miss it.

Visit us!!

**Belén Saralegui, Nico Biotti, Agustín Schulz and Marcos Rey**  
6th grade  
FRIENDS' Students



"Hogar el Alba" is a Christian home that takes care of children whose rights have been violated. Some of them, don't have a mother, a father, or a guardian specially for them.

Others have someone, but maybe this person cannot give the children the basic things they need, such as food or education.

The home has two programs, two ways in which they help these children.

On the one hand, there is the Aldea program. Children live at "Hogar el Alba" in four different houses which are very similar to a home.

On the other hand, the Albores program. Here children sleep at their house and during the day, they go to the home where they study, eat and play. They can study at the "Tambo Escuela", beekeeping, baking or cooking. Also, they can study at the orchard or the kitchen.

William Case Morris was the home founder. He was born in England in 1864, and founded the Hogar el Alba in 1925. He took care of orphan or homeless children.

The "Hogar el Alba" is a place where children, (after a difficult childhood), can enjoy and see life with another perspective. There are many people working for them, and people can help in many ways. Though a home is never a nice place to be at, they do as much as possible to make them happy.

*more information at [www.hogarelalba.org](http://www.hogarelalba.org)*

**by Keila Fafulas**  
6th year teens (14 years old)  
FRIENDS' Student

- A new section in Marco's Corner!!!! -

### Teacher Challenge Corner

Do you know how to say these in English?

- Azúcar impalpable = \_\_\_\_\_
- Azúcar molida = \_\_\_\_\_
- Leche en polvo = \_\_\_\_\_
- Mejor prevenir que curar = \_\_\_\_\_
- Fruta abrillantada = \_\_\_\_\_
- Terrón de Azúcar = \_\_\_\_\_
- Juanete = \_\_\_\_\_
- Ortiga = \_\_\_\_\_
- Nuca = \_\_\_\_\_
- Acto fallido = \_\_\_\_\_
- Urraca = \_\_\_\_\_
- Cuñía = \_\_\_\_\_
- Sarna = \_\_\_\_\_

Send your answers to: [marco.corner@gmail.com](mailto:marco.corner@gmail.com)

- Del castellano al inglés: John Saviour seagull
- Del inglés al castellano: Esteban Gaviota
- John Sunday Great Pear = Juan Domingo Perón
- July churches = Julio iglesias
- Anthony flags = Antonio Banderas
- Nicolás Jaula = Nicholas Cage
- Guillermite portones = Bill Gates
- Pedro sartén = Peter Pan
- Petirrojo capucha = Robin hood
- Bread American highway = Autopista pan americana
- Road of waist = Camino de cintura
- Little horse = Caballito
- Flower this one = Floresta
- Pileta de hígado = LiverPool
- Almost not = Casi no
- Armario de agua = Water closet

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# THIS IS US



## Vacaciones de Semana Santa

El sol se derramó por la ventanilla y el niño se despertó, acunado en brazos de su padre. Los movimientos rítmicos del tren le recordaban una rima que acababa de aprender: Erre con erre guitarra, erre con erre carril, rápido ruedan las ruedas del ferrocarril. Se quedó quieto sintiendo el calor del cuerpo de su padre. Lo miró fijo. Los ojos del padre se abrieron y debajo de ellos una sonrisa dulce le expandió la cara. -“Buen día Bocha” dijo, quedó, como para no despertar a su mujer que dormía a su lado.

El niño se desperezó y preguntó: -“¿Falta mucho?”

El padre sonrió, la madre abrió los ojos. Ella contestó:

-“Unas horas. ¿Ya tenés hambre?”

El niño asintió con la cabeza. El padre miró el reloj.

-“En media hora abren el come-

dor. Tenemos el primer turno para el desayuno.”

El niño bostezó.

Para entretenerlo, el padre comenzó a describir el paisaje.

-“¿Ves? Ese ganado vive acá desde hace quinientos años. Los primeros llegaron con Mendoza. Eran un toro y seis vacas. Los indios no los comieron, así que se volvieron millones. De a poco, los criollos fuimos empujando a los indios hacia el sur y el oeste, y entonces el ganado comenzó a ser explotado. La pampa era territorio libre, sin alambrados.”

La mirada del niño recorría la pradera infinita, recogiendo una cortina de eucaliptos en una parte, un ranchito en otra. Entre los accidentes del paisaje la pampa era un sinfín de pastos con toros, vacas y alguna oveja sirviendo de puntuación.

El niño preguntó:

-“¿Cuándo empezaron a alambra-  
brar, papi?”

El padre se acomodó en el asiento. -“Cuando llegaron los agricultores. Los primeros fueron a Tandil, donde vamos hoy.”

-“¿Tandil? ¿Qué quiere decir Tandil?”

El padre sonrió. Miró por la ventanilla los cerros que aparecían.

-“Antes, hace muchos años, los ranqueles vivían acá. Después, los araucanos los echaron. Cuando los araucanos armaron sus tiendas, llegaron los hombres blancos. Al principio era sólo un fuerte, defendiendo la frontera de los ataques de los indios, pero cuando llegaron los daneses y pusieron un molino para hacer harina del trigo, los de acá se dieron cuenta que su modo de vida, comiendo terneros y siguiendo a



la tropilla donde fuera, se acababa. Entonces dijeron: -‘Ta-an-dil.’ Que quiere decir, huyamos de aquí. Y los blancos, que los escuchábamos al juntar sus tropillas y sus mujeres, pensamos que así llamaban ellos a ese lugar. Y le decimos, desde entonces, Tandil.”

- “Gracias, papi” suspiró Bocha, y se volvió a dormir.

La madre miró a su marido con reproche. Él le guiñó un ojo como toda respuesta. El sol se filtró entre las ramas de un ombú y las luces del amanecer repiquetearon en las paredes del vagón.

**Jorge Boria**

Austin, 2010.

In Memoriam, Jorge Di Paola.

## El lenguaje Malvavisco

**Cuando los chicos hablan como escuchan en la tele.**

Hazme un pastel... pasterleeroo”. El niño (tres años y medio) repite la frase que dice su perrito de peluche cada vez que lo aprieta. Le fascina mirar a “Dora la exploradora” en la tele y, con ella, ya aprendió que el “púrpura” —más conocido como violeta— es uno de sus colores preferidos.

Tomás tiene 7 años, y cada tanto pide permiso a sus papás para comer “goma de mascar” (no chicle) o para invitar a algún amiguito a jugar al “balón”. Casos como estos, en que los nenes hablan con términos “extraños” para los adultos, resultan cotidianos y —con mayor o menor frecuencia— se repiten en muchos

hogares, jardines de infantes o primeros grados de la escuela.

Los especialistas hablan de una “generación malvavisco”, en alusión a las clásicas golosinas del Norte. Para los padres suele ser llamativa esta aprehensión de expresiones propias del “español neutro” que los chicos escuchan y “copian” de personajes de la tele. Aunque defensores del lenguaje, como la psicopedagoga Andrea Kejek, consideran que esta situación “aporta y suma a lo largo del aprendizaje de la primera infancia y de toda la vida”. “El hecho de que los niños estén expuestos a distintas variedades del español es beneficioso porque, de este modo, amplían su competencia lingüística, enriquecen su vocabulario, aprenden las

diferencias tónicas, fonéticas, morfosintácticas y todo esto les permite familiarizarse con la diversidad que caracteriza a su propia lengua”, opina Guiomar Elena Ciapuscio, profesora titular de Lingüística en la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras de la Universidad de Buenos Aires.

Y agrega: “Lo que llamamos español ‘neutro’, fruto de los doblajes en los medios de comunicación, es del todo discutible”. La catedrática sostiene que esa neutralidad es imposible de lograr en un sentido estricto. “La lengua de los dibujitos animados exhibe gran variedad de rasgos. Gran parte de los que consumen nuestros chicos son doblajes de México”, agrega.

Así, expresiones como “atrapar

un resfriado”, “tenía picazón por conocerte”. Decir “tienda” en vez de “carpa” o elegir el “tuteo” en lugar del “voceo”—según Ciapuscio— son elecciones no neutras. El español es una lengua pluricéntrica, lo que significa que hay distintas normas regionales, es decir, diferentes focos (por ejemplo, México, Buenos Aires, Madrid, Lima). Cada lugar determina ciertos usos estándares de la lengua que son percibidos por los hablantes como adecuados y correctos.

Esta situación, lejos de interferir en la formación de la identidad regional de los niños, la fortalece. “Así aprenden que una misma cosa puede ser nombrada de diferentes maneras. Lo importante es que tengan, como res-

paldo, una explicación de adultos y maestros”, apunta Kijek.

Ciapuscio está convencida de que “las diferencias lingüísticas deben aprovecharse para trabajar en la escuela, para fortalecer la identidad del niño con su propia variedad (en nuestro caso, la lengua rioplatense), mostrándoles los contrastes y haciéndolos conscientes de la riqueza del español y de las peculiaridades de su variedad frente a otras lenguas”. Que los niños “amplíen su competencia lingüística y adquieran el sentido de diversidad del español repercutirá en su sensibilidad y flexibilidad para aprender otras lenguas”, concluye la lingüista.

Fuente: Diario Clarín

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# MISCELLANEOUS

## FRIENDS' Calzada Projects

At FRIENDS' Calzada we worked with three new projects during the month of June. These were June 5th World Environment Day, June 10th Road Safety Day and June 15th Book Day in Argentina. Our students were encouraged to learn new vocabulary, talk about these topics and give ideas and solutions to the environmental problems such as lessening traffic accidents or promoting reading books.

This led to the creation of a Re-

cycling Campaign which is being carried out in order to promote the importance of looking after the environment and be responsible for the daily actions.

In addition, the work of every group was shown on the Institute walls to be shared with other students and parents. We chose to work with these dates to raise our children's consciousness about the problems of society and how to solve them working together. This is part of our daily work

with our students who we see as individuals with rights, with the possibility of working in the social environment and not only as students of English.

We wanted to share this with you and invite you to participate in our Recycling Campaign bringing plastic, paper or cardboard and helping us take care of our planet!

JOIN US!

Friends' Calzada Staff



## Cosplay

Cosplay (コスプレ kosupure?), short for "costume play", is a type of performance art in which participants wear costumes and accessories to represent a specific character or idea. Characters are often drawn from popular fiction in Japan, but recent trends have included American cartoons and Sci-Fi. Favourite sources include manga, anime, tokusatsu, comic books, graphic novels, video games, hentai and fantasy movies. Any entity from the real or virtual world that lends itself to dramatic interpretation may be taken up as a subject. Inanimate objects are given anthropomorphic forms and it is not unusual to see genders switched, with women playing male roles and vice versa.

Cosplayers often interact to create a subculture centred around role play. A broader use of the term cosplay applies it to any costumed role play in venues apart from the stage, regardless of the cultural context.

### Terminology

The term cosplay is a portmanteau of the English words costume and play. The term was coined by Nobuyuki Takahashi of the Japanese studio Studio Hard while attending the 1984 Los Angeles Science Fiction Worldcon. He was impressed by the hall and the costumed fans and reported on both in Japanese science fiction magazines. The

coinage reflects a common Japanese method of abbreviation in which the first two moras of a pair of words are used to form an independent compound. Costume becomes kosu (コス), and play becomes pure (プレ)

### Practice of cosplay

Cosplayers typically come from the ranks of otaku--that is, fans of Japanese comic books, known as manga. They gather at public events such as comic-book and video game trade



shows, as well as at dedicated cosplay parties at nightclubs or amusement parks. In Japan teenagers gather with like-minded friends in places like Tokyo's Harajuku district to engage in cosplay. Since 1998 Tokyo's Akihabara district has contained a large number of cosplay cafés, catering to devoted anime and cosplay fans. The waitresses at such cafés dress as game or anime characters; maid costumes are particularly popular. In areas outside of Japan, cosplay is pri-

marily done at manga and anime conventions.

Cosplay at fan events likely originated in Japan in 1978. Cosplay nevertheless gets a mixed reception in Japan even today. Events in districts such as Akihabara draw many cosplayers, yet there is no shortage of people in Japan who regard cosplay as a frivolous endeavor.

### Costumes

Cosplay differs from Halloween and Mardi Gras costume wear

not only in existing independent of any particular holiday, but in its goal. The object of cosplay is interpretation: one attempts to become one's character much as a stage actor inhabits a role. Costumes are expected to adhere meticulously to the attire known to be worn by the character represented. Even more generic costumes get an elaborately artistic treatment. Cosplayers may purchase or create costumes through fan labor. Cosplayers often educate them-

selves in crafting specialties such as sculpture, face paint, fibre-glasswork, fashion design and the like in the effort to render the look and texture of a costume accurately.

Once in costume, cosplayers often adopt the affect, mannerisms and body language of the characters they portray (with OOC or, "Out Of Character" breaks). The cosplayers do this because once they have that certain costume on, they feel and act like the character that they are dressed up as. Some Cosplayers prefer to snap into character for photos with poses and stunts, but otherwise remain fairly out of character.

Cosplayers often gather to view the costumes of others, show off their own creations, take pictures, share tips, and participate in contests. This activity is maintained between major events through participation in online forums. Major events include but are not limited to anime and comic book conventions as well as costume balls such as Labyrinth of Jareth Masquerade.

Portraying a character of the opposite sex is "crossplay" while portraying a character who dresses as the opposite sex (from the cosplayer) is called "cross-dress". Examples may serve to clarify the distinction. A female cosplayer representing a male character who wears standard masculine attire is both cross-dressing and cross-playing. A fe-

male cosplayer who dresses as a male character who wears unisex clothing or feminine attire is crossplaying but not cross-dressing. A man portraying that same character would be crossdressing but not crossplaying.

### Cosplay in Western culture

The popularity of cosplay in Japan encourages the misconception that cosplay is specifically a Japanese or Asian hobby. The term "cosplay", though Japanese in origin, described a phenomenon which was witnessed in the United States. For almost fifty years, costuming has had a widespread following and continues to experience growing popularity in North America and Europe, and has more recently spread throughout South America and Australia.

Western cosplay's origins are based primarily on science fiction and historical fantasy as opposed to animation. It is more common for Western cosplayers to recreate characters from live-action series such as Star Trek, Star Wars, Doctor Who, The Lord of the Rings, and Harry Potter than it is for Japanese cosplayers. Similarly, animated series may be the origin for many recreations. Western costumers also include subcultures of hobbyists who participate in Renaissance faires or the Society for Creative Anachronism, and historical re-enactments such as Civil War battles.



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