



# 2023

## Comic Con Schedule

### &

## Guest Artist Biographies



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# Friday, February 24th

## 7-8pm @ Visible Voice Books

### **Comics and Community: Building New Worlds**

This panel for adults and teens will feature a conversation between artists [Bryn Adams](#), [Dawn Arrington](#), [Juan Fernandez](#), [Lynnesha Hamilton](#), [Terri Libenson](#), and [Jaromir Stoll](#), moderated by [Valentino Zullo](#). Light Refreshments Provided.

# Friday, March 3rd

## 4pm

### **Virtual Drawing Workshop with Nickelodeon Artist [Alexia Valentine](#)**

Join this virtual drawing jam led by Alexia Valentine, a Nickelodeon artist who currently works on the *Loud House* graphic novels!

## 5:30-7:30pm @ the B-Side Lounge

### **Teen Cosplay and Trivia Party**

**sponsored by the Cleveland Institute of Art**

Cosplay fashion show, trivia, prizes and more! Hosted by [CandiBee Cosplay](#).

ages 12-18

**Saturday, March 4th**

**Virtual**

**10:30-11:20am**

**Words and Pictures: The Craft of Creating Comics**

**with [Marc Sumerak](#)**

An in-depth, step-by-step look at the process of creating a comic book page - from concept to completion!

All Grades

**11:30-12:20pm**

**Finding Your Monster Story with the Cincinnati Cabinet of Curiosities**

**with [Jay Kalagayan](#)**

Talk with the creators behind the Cincinnati Cabinet of Curiosities comics anthology and find out how they put together their collection of Ohio regional myths, legends, and creepy creatures. Learn about ways to research local inspiration for your stories and how they can be incorporated into a comic book format. Join creators Kat Klockow (Redcat Comics, Corpse Flower Press), Tim Fuller (Sham Comics), Jay B. Kalagayan (MeSseD Comics) in finding your monster story.

All Grades

**1:30-2:20pm**



## **Live Your Ambitions, Not Your Fears: How Publishing is Informed by Punk and Upbringing**

**with [Joe Biel](#) of Microcosm Publishing**

A publisher of 27 years, Joe Biel has continually found that the underground is much bigger than the mainstream. This talk offers actionable lessons about how to incorporate your seeming deficits as strengths in your publishing. A certifiable history of the trajectory of self-publishing, zines, DIY culture, and punk rock, this talk followed by Q&A will explore the success in creating the world we need to see in our work by tracing the trajectory of Biel's career.

All Grades, kids and adults

# **In-Person**

**10:30-11:20am**

## **Clay Character Creation with Lake Erie Ink Staff**

Bring your original characters to life with modeling clay!

*All Grades*

## **What is Your Kryptonite?: Comic Character Design with [Angela Oster](#)**

Learn how character design drives narrative! We will explore simple concepts in character design and create a hero, a villain, and an element that would serve as the hero's weakness.

*All Grades*

## **Crazy Cars: Design characters who will drive these crazy cars! with [Od Perry-Richardson](#)**

A fun, character design activity in which participants will choose a car from a collection of weird and zany vehicles. They will then be tasked with designing a character that fits the design of the car! This is a great exercise on practicing how to design unique characters.

*All Grades*

## **From Novel to Comic: Turn Books into Comics with [Kate Atherton](#)**

In this workshop, participants will be given a page of a novel to adapt into a comic. The books will be a selection of popular titles from the library where I work and given to the students to interpret however they wish into a one-page comic! The workshop will include three phases; reading their page and laying out their comic, inking and finishing writing, and coloring (time allowing).

4th-8th grade

### **Become an Anime Master!**

with [Sequoia Bostick](#)

Learn all about the history of anime and then create your own anime OC. Anime has become very popular as of late, join us in exploring its essence and taking what we discover to create the ultimate anime OC.

6th-12th grade

### **Comic Challenge: Drawing Quick Comics One-Pagers**

with [Matt Habermusch](#)

Students will generate ideas for comics constraints, then choose a constraint from the list and try to make a one-page comic in 15 minutes. Great exercise for people who "don't know what to draw" or "can't finish a comic."

6th-12th grade

**11:30-12:20pm**

## **Collage Comic Trading Cards**

with [Maya Watkins](#)

Create a piece of art you can carry in your pocket! Participants will draw or collage a mini comic or a trading card for a superhero. Trade with friends or start your own collection.

All Grades

## **Batgirl & Robin Take Center Stage: Creating Cool Sidekicks**

with [Miguel Hernandez](#)

Learn to have fun and create great side characters for a full comic story.

All Grades

## **Draw What You Feel: Explore Your Emotions Through Comics**

with [Sam Green](#)

Participants will learn how to process their emotions, positive and negative, through comics. We will view examples of characters based on emotions (my own characters, the movie Inside Out, etc.) and make our own characters to represent our feelings. We will make a comic/zine where we get the chance to talk directly to our emotions.

All Grades

## **Write Your Life: Turning your life stories into superhero stories**

with [Brad Ricca](#)

So you want to be a writer - but what can you write about?!? We will talk about how the Cleveland creators of Superman used their own lives to make up the first superhero. If they could do it, so can you. How can you use stories and things in your own life in your writing? We will talk about how!

4th-8th grade

## **Inking Your Comic Pages Like a Manga Artist**

with [Sevita Lochan](#)

Have you ever wondered how your favorite manga artists draw their comic pages? Did you know that most manga artists still ink their pages with paper and ink? Bring a sketched page of your own comic, drawing, or feel free to draw something while at the workshop. We'll show you the ins and outs of using manga nibs, inks, how to clean them, and of course, how to draw a manga page with them!

6th-12th grade

## **Jam Comics: Collaborate to Create New Comics**

with [Joe Schorgl](#)

Creating a Jam Comic is a collaborative drawing exercise where one person draws a single panel to a comic and then passes the sheet of paper on to their neighbor. That person then draws the next panel of the comic, choosing to take the story wherever they want. The process continues until the page is filled up and whoever gets the paper last gets to draw the last panel.

Participants learn how to collaborate with each other by creating a narrative together and by trying to replicate images from previous panels. However, participants are also encouraged to let their own drawing styles come through with their panels. More often than not, jam comics bring out a lot of laughter amongst the groups. Creating jam comics can become a weekly activity amongst friends and the comics can be collected into books/anthologies that all participants can have copies of. If collaborative groups like their work enough to self publish zines, they can try selling their work at local comic book shops and book stores.

6th-12th grade

**1:30-2:20pm**

## **Drawing Dangerous: Tips for Drawing and Writing Villains**

with [Gilberto Rivera](#)

In this class students will learn how to create villains using tips the pros have been using for years, both drawing techniques and narrative ideas.

All Grades

### **Collage Comic Trading Cards**

with [Maya Watkins](#)

Create a piece of art you can carry in your pocket! Participants will draw or collage a mini comic or a trading card for a superhero. Trade with friends or start your own collection.

All Grades

### **The Comic "Me": Turn Yourself into a Comic Character**

with [David & Misty Wilson](#)

Learn how to find what makes you unique and transfer that to a likeness of yourself. Work on a self portrait of yourself as a comic book character.

All Grades

### **Explore Scott McCloud's Five Choices: Moment, Frame, Image, Word, and Flow**

with [John Boucher](#)

The class will begin with a brief discussion and demonstration of Scott McCloud's "Five Choices" that comic artists make each time they draw a panel: choice of moment, choice of frame, choice of image, choice of word, and choice of flow. Students will then get an opportunity to make and share their own comic pages using these skills.

4th-8th grade

### **From Scribble to Story: A Cooperative Comics Exercise**

with [Katie Starr](#) and [T. Van Hager](#)

Comics in the Circle believes that all comics have value no matter how polished, a fact on full display in this simple but inspiring workshop. From portraits to scribbles to the talents of your table neighbors, join Taylor and Katie for an hour of creative collaboration and comic creation. The workshop will start with a self portrait exercise as a warm up. To begin the main exercise, our audience will be asked to create a series of scribbles on a sheet of paper. By passing around those scribbles and adding details, characters will be formed. Finally, the creators will be guided into drawing the life cycle of those characters by continuing to pass their papers around and adding detail. At the end, everyone will have worked together to create their own stories that they can share.

6th-12th grade

### **Writing Comic Books - The Marvel Way** with [Joseph Sieracki](#)

In this workshop students will examine writing comic books using the Marvel Method. Students will discuss the artist versus writer's role in the storytelling process of this method, providing words to completed artwork. Students will engage in dialogue activities, comparing their own storytelling to that of their classmates to see how their stories differ.

6th-12th grade

**2:30-3:20pm**

### **Clay Character Creation** with **Lake Erie Ink Staff**

Bring your original characters to life with modeling clay!

All Grades

**Draw Cute! How to Create Cute Characters from Start to Finish**

with [Michelle Littlejohn](#)

Students will learn a brief history of chibi and kawaii character design and the colors that compliment them. We will then draw together examples of people, creatures, animals, and objects... making them all forms of cute and charming!

All Grades

## **New World Building: Draw the Landscapes of Your Comics**

with [Od Perry-Richardson](#)

Whether your comic takes place in a magical forest, outer space, or anywhere in between, learn how to bring it to life in this workshop!

All Grades

## **Before the Phone Booth**

with [Miguel Hernandez](#)

Learn how to draw superheroes in the everyday world.

All Grades

## **Mastering Moods: Drawing Expressions and Body Language**

with [John Boucher](#)

Learn to modify and combine the six basic facial expressions (fear, joy, sadness, anger, surprise, disgust) to bring new feelings to your drawing!

4th-8th grade

## **Collage Zines: Create a Collaged Mini-Book!**

with [Sam Green](#)



Participants will explore all the ways they can make a story using collaged materials only. View examples, talk about how to find a story inside of random text and images, and lots of free work time.

6th-12th grade

## **Linking Your Thinking: Use Brainstorming to Explore the Narrative Multiverses That Live in Your Mind**

with [Juan Jose Fernandez](#)

Comics are famously A LOT of work. Join Juan Fernandez to learn how to get your ideas out of your head quickly and painlessly by wielding simple but powerful tools: Post-it notes and index cards!

Participants will learn to link their thinking with useful brainstorming and drafting techniques.

This will be done by working on a large canvas with Post-it notes to explore the narrative multiverses that live in their minds. All at the speed of thought!

6th-12th grade

# Artist Biographies



## Bryn Adams

Bryn is a writer and cartoonist based in Cleveland, Ohio. Much of Bryn's work is focused on the natural world and explores how humans interact with and impact their environment. Bryn's comics have appeared in Seven Days, Cleveland Scene Magazine, and the Ohio City-Tremont Observer. [www.brynadams.com](http://www.brynadams.com)

## Dawn Arrington

Dawn Arrington started Comics at the Corner in 2018 as a way to connect with her neighbors around reading. Dawn distributes comics featuring BIPOC characters in order to provide readers with experiences that they can relate to.



## Kate Atherton

Kate Atherton is a comics artist and illustrator living and working in Cleveland, Ohio. She attended the Rhode Island School of Design and has a BFA in Illustration. Kate creates lavish, detailed ink paintings and drawings as well as pen and ink comics based on literature, pop culture, and her day-to-day life working at the library, the bakery, and out and about in Cleveland. She works part-time at the University Heights Public library as a Youth Services Associate and is currently pursuing her Master of Library and Information Science degree at Kent State University.

[www.kateatherton.com](http://www.kateatherton.com)

## Joe Biel



A Cleveland native, Joe Biel is a self-made autistic publisher and filmmaker who draws origins, inspiration, and methods from punk rock. Biel is the founder and CEO of Microcosm Publishing, Publishers Weekly's #1 fastest growing publisher of 2022. Biel is the author of dozens of books, including *Make a Zine* and *A People's Guide to Publishing* and has been featured in Time Magazine, NPR, Art of Autism, Reading Glasses, PBS, Bulletproof Radio, Spectator (Japan), G33K (Korea), and Maximum Rocknroll.

[www.microcosmpublishing.com/catalog/artist/joe-biel](http://www.microcosmpublishing.com/catalog/artist/joe-biel)

## Sequoia Bostick of Vagabond Comics

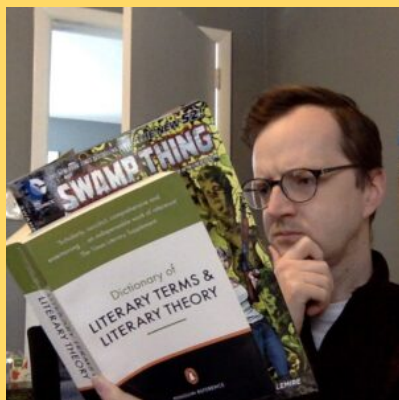
Sequoia Bostick is an illustrator, comic creator and designer living in Cleveland. After earning her BFA in Illustration from the Cleveland Institute of Art, Sequoia pursued a career as a resident teaching artist working with local youth.

@sequoiabostickillustration

[www.sequoiabostickart.com](http://www.sequoiabostickart.com)



## John Boucher



John Boucher is a teaching artist at Lake Erie Ink. He has been teaching about stories for six years, and has been reading them for considerably longer than that.



## Brandi AKA CandiBee

Hello!! My name is Candibee and I'm an event planner and host that loves to cosplay! I grew up as a military brat in Okinawa, Japan and I've enjoyed making Cleveland a second home. I want to continue to think outside of the box and create safe events that allow children and adults to be their full selves...and wear costumes, of course. =)

## Juan Fernandez

Poet, cartoonist and comics scientist. Juan works as an educator to create spaces for those who love comics who don't identify as cartoonists. Graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and MFA Recipient of the Center for Cartoon Studies.

[www.juanjosefernandez.com](http://www.juanjosefernandez.com)



## Sam Green

Sam Green (she/her) is a big fan of play. Her art and comics focus on exploring new ways of making things, putting faces to her feelings, and diving into things that make her curious. When not making things, you'll find her playing with her cats, Tofu and Scribbles, going on long walks, and sweeping her apartment... for fun!

@doodlegreen





## Matt Haberbusch

I consider myself to be an indie/alternative comics maker local to Cleveland Heights. I enjoy the nervous creative energy of timed group drawing exercises, and in 2020 I co-organized a local public comics making group for adults, Comics in the Circle! I love making personal comics in my composition notebook. Recently I've been publishing more: I've made one-off zines to give to strangers at events, and I'm compiling those into my multi-issue personal zine, "CIMZANY".

[www.matthaberbusch.com](http://www.matthaberbusch.com)

## Lynnesha "Nesha Mars" Hamilton

Forty year old Cleveland Heights native and alumni. Currently I'm the Chief operating officer, co-owner and character creator for 50\*Fifty Comix Publishing LLC which was established Fall of 2020. We worked hard to build a collaborative art progressive company and now have artists in 2 other countries and 6 US States. My goals when not working on comics and art is to give and engage in outreach and community as much as possible.

[www.50fiftycomix.com](http://www.50fiftycomix.com)



## Miguel C Hernandez

Miguel C Hernandez is DC Comics/Milestone Initiative-Comic artist, Illustrator, Muralist, Teacher & Martial Artist.

[www.studiojsart.com](http://www.studiojsart.com)

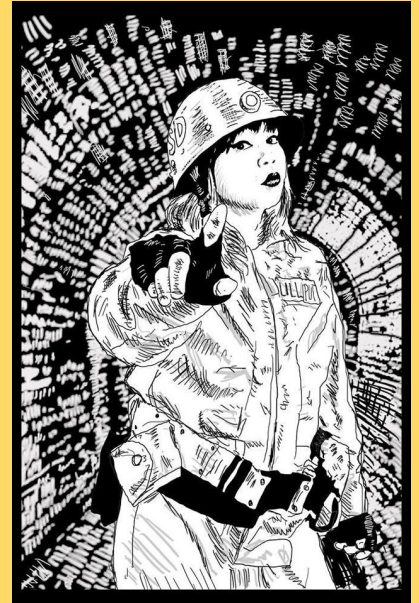
## Jay B. Kalagayan

Jay B. Kalagayan is the creator, writer and publisher of MeSseD Comics. MeSseD, the nickname for the Metropolitan Sewer District, brings sewer management to science fiction. Tough sewer worker Lilliput is our guide to the wet, weird and wild world under our feet.

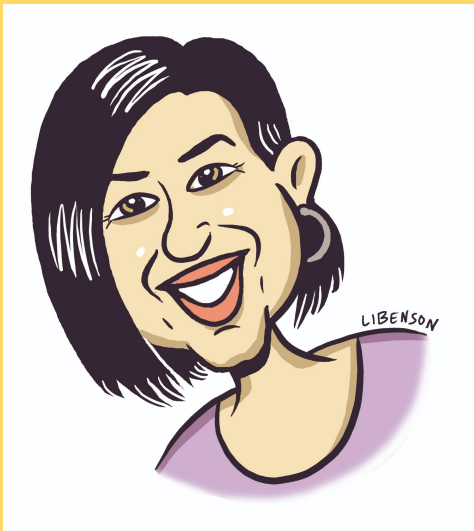
Jay is an annoyingly consistent entrepreneur and arts advocate in Cincinnati for more than twenty five years. A Xavier University graduate from Erie, PA, Jay is founder of Know Theatre of Cincinnati and a co-founder of the Cincinnati Fringe Festival. He is a writer of plays, cartoon strips, reviews, articles, marketing collateral, fundraising appeals, and geeky event calendars.

Jay is a director for Cincinnati Cabinet of Curiosities anthology. Jay also is the executive director of Cartoon Crossroads Columbus (CXC), a FREE comics, art & animation festival in Columbus, Ohio!

[www.cincycuriosities.com](http://www.cincycuriosities.com)



## Terri Libenson



Terri Libenson is the New York Times bestselling author of the Emmie & Friends middle grade series and cartoonist of the Reuben Award-winning, nationally syndicated comic strip, The Pajama Diaries (2006-2020). Previously, she was an award-winning humorous card writer and illustrator for American Greetings. Terri lives in Cleveland, Ohio, with her husband, Mike. She is the proud mom of two grown daughters and an almost-grown poodle, Rosie.

[www.terrilibenson.com](http://www.terrilibenson.com)

## Michelle Littlejohn

I'm a full time freelance illustrator and baker. I make miniatures out of polymer clay, draw cute illustrations, fanarts, and sew. I enjoy visiting local coffee shops. I share my creative lifestyle with my husband and 5 children... together we are a hoot!

@starrelish

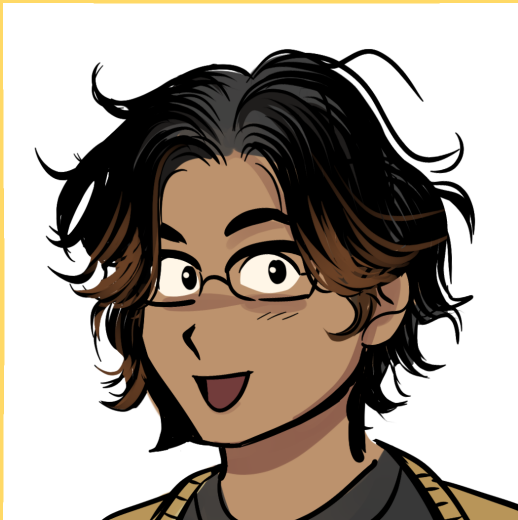
[www.starrelish.com](http://www.starrelish.com)



## Sevita Lochan

I'm a comic artist and writer who has been self publishing my work since 2017. I can usually be found working on my comic series, "Four Corners" which started out as a webcomic in 2014. My major inspirations are Japanese manga and anime, and I love to combine different influences to my characters while still holding true to my art style's Eastern roots.

[www.sevitalochan.com](http://www.sevitalochan.com)



## Angela Oster

Angela Oster is a multi-media artist whose work explores narrative, humor and character driven visions. After graduating from the Cleveland Institute of Art, she began organizing numerous exhibitions featuring comic artists and has helped curate the annual DayGlo Show in Cleveland for many years. Her long career in the arts has allowed her to exhibit at galleries across the country and connect to other comic artists and collaborators.

[www.angelaoster.com](http://www.angelaoster.com)



## Brad Ricca

Brad Ricca is the author of six books, including the graphic novel adaptation of *Ten Days in a Mad-House* with artist Courtney Sieh and *Super Boys*, the biography of the Cleveland creators of Superman.

[www.brad-ricca.com](http://www.brad-ricca.com)

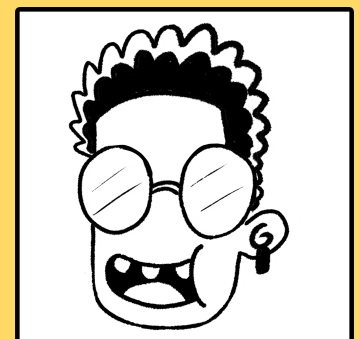


## Od Perry Richardson

Od Perry-Richardson is a Creative Arts Teacher and Illustrator who hails from the frozen northern lands of Cleveland, Ohio.

@odcomix

[www.odcomix.com](http://www.odcomix.com)





## Gilberto Rivera



Gilberto is an artist, educator, director and producer with over 15 years of work in the industry. He has produced for Cuyahoga Community College, T-mobile, Crime Stoppers, NBC, MTV and Bandai. Gilberto taught art at the Ohio Valley Arts Center his superhero workshop. He now teaches a vast curriculum of art and media classes for Narrative Boom. His "Superhero in You" workshops have been in many Cleveland area schools, Cleveland Public Library and Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center. He also is leader and instructor in the Ifilm216 program with Williams&Co.

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCidCBCXSw2lFayn9UK3Q\\_na](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCidCBCXSw2lFayn9UK3Q_na)

## Joe Schorgl

I illustrate and screen print posters, t-shirts, comics and album art. I lived in Chicago for 11 years and got my BFA at The School of The Art Institute of Chicago. Shortly after I graduated, I worked as an in-house artist/designer for The Empty Bottle, a music venue in Chicago. I moved back to my hometown Cleveland in 2020 and started to self-release records through Cleveland's own Gotta Groove Records pressing plant. I am constantly inspired by the cross over between visual art and music.

[www.magicatalog.com](http://www.magicatalog.com)



## Joseph Sieracki

Joseph Sieracki was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the writer of *A LETTER TO JO* published by TOP SHELF, *THE LIFE AND DEATH OF THE BRAVE CAPTAIN SUAVE* from SCOUT COMICS, and *GHOSTS OF SCIENCE PAST* from HUMANOIDS. Joseph is currently teaching in a suburb of Cleveland, where he resides with his wife and kids.

[www.josephsieracki.com](http://www.josephsieracki.com)

## Katie Starr

Katie Starr is a cybersecurity analyst and budding comics writer and artist. She is the co-founder of Comics in the Circle, a local comics creating group for adults, and she hopes to continue fostering the growing Cleveland comics-making scene. Katie has recently started self-publishing her work, including personal zines, poetry comics, and art based on her work in cybersecurity.

[linktr.ee/starrkd](http://linktr.ee/starrkd)



## Jaromir Stoll

Jaromir Stoll is a queer comics creator and researcher who publishes on comics culture internationally and in India. Their most recent work has been mostly autobiographical, including self-published mini comics and contributions to anthologies like *Rainbow Reflections: Body Image Comics for Queer Men*. They are currently working on *Hike in the Heartwood*, a comic about grieving through walking, and *Turn the Page! Illustrating India's Comics Scenes*, with Shreyas Krishnan, Vidyun Sabhaney, and Mara Thacker.

[www.jaromirstoll.com](http://www.jaromirstoll.com)

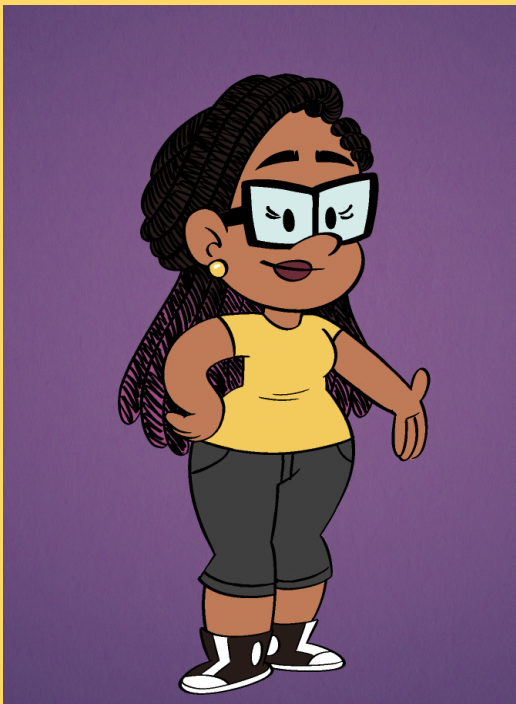
## Marc Sumerak

Marc Sumerak has spent over two decades crafting story content for some of the most celebrated brands in entertainment, including Marvel, Star Wars, and more. His work has appeared in countless books, comics, and video games. His most recent works include **MARVEL ANATOMY: A SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF THE SUPERHUMAN** and **STAR WARS: THE SECRETS OF THE BOUNTY HUNTERS**.

[www.sumerak.com](http://www.sumerak.com)



## Alexia Valentine



Alexia Valentine is a Freelance Designer and Production Coordinator of Nickelodeon's Emmy Award Winning Series: *The Loud House*. She has been creating art her entire life up and down California's coast from airbrush work in San Francisco to watercolor painting at Disneyland . Now, she designs characters for the *Loud House* Series and upcoming movie, as well as the *Casagrande* Comic book Series. Alexia lets her spirit of curiosity guide her through life, which usually means trying lots of new things and gaining a ton of new hobbies. Sewing, cosplaying, crocheting, voice acting, illustrating children's books, and her fleet of wacky pets keeps her busy and on her toes.



## **T. Van Hager**

Hello, I'm T. Van Hager! I'm an lgbt+ comic creator and editor. As well as publishing my own comic Navishroom, I've edited for the successful kickstarter graphic novel series Fox and Wolfie and Legend of the Erased. You can find me (and Katie!) in the Comics in the Circle discord, which is an adult-oriented group of comic artists in northeast Ohio!

[www.tepperzart.com](http://www.tepperzart.com)

## **Maya Watkins**

Maya is a native Clevelander and a graduate of Hiram College. She has a passion for history, writing, and art, and loves learning new types of art. She has been involved with Lake Erie Ink since 2015.



## **David Wilson**

David Wilson assumes many roles—illustrator, designer, writer, and filmmaker. When he's not working, you can find him exploring nature, skateboarding, or playing drums. He lives in Ohio with his wife and two daughters.

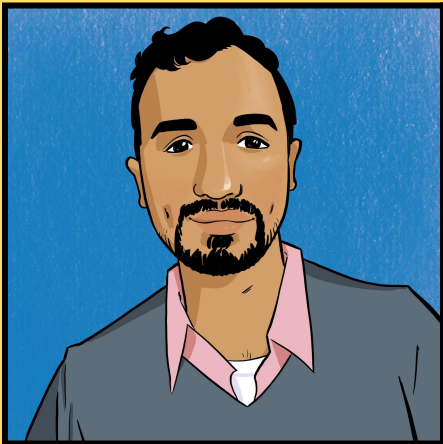
[www.workdavidwork.com](http://www.workdavidwork.com)



## Misty Wilson

Misty Wilson is the author of *Play Like a Girl*, her debut middle-grade graphic memoir, which earned a starred review from Booklist and was a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. Misty teaches by day and writes by night. She's a voracious reader who also loves binge-watching television shows. She lives in Northeast Ohio with her husband, David Wilson, illustrator of *Play Like a Girl*, and their two daughters.

[www.mistywilsonwrites.com](http://www.mistywilsonwrites.com)



## Valentino L. Zullo

Valentino L. Zullo is the Anisfield-Wolf Postdoctoral Fellow in English and Public Humanities at Ursuline College. He is the former Ohio Center for the Book Scholar-in-Residence where he continues to co-lead the Get Graphic program as well as American editor of the *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*.

[www.vzullo.com](http://www.vzullo.com)