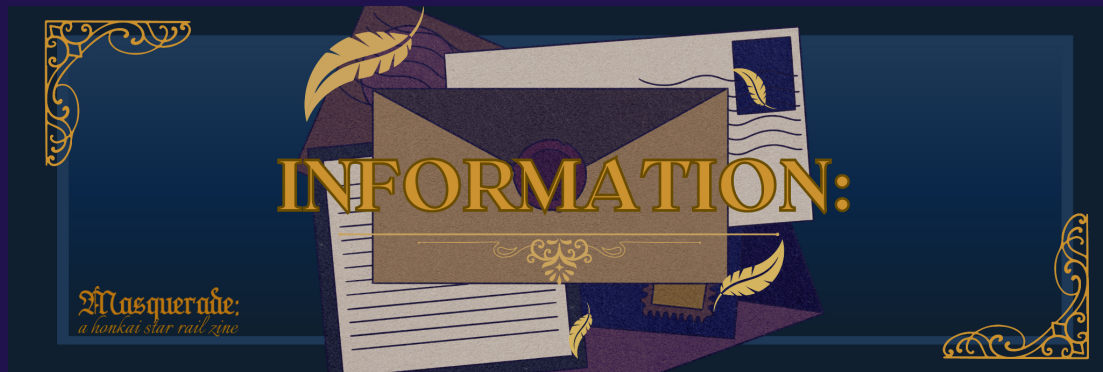




## 👑 ABOUT 👑

[MASQUERADE] is a SFW for-profit Honkai: Star Rail fanzine that seeks to explore a canon-adjacent AU where the cast of Honkai: Star Rail are tasked with infiltrating a Masquerade Ball hosted by the Interastral Peace Corporation (IPC).

Sections of the zine will be split into different parts that follow the story flow of infiltrating the Masquerade Ball.

### **Story Flow of the Masquerade Zine:**

1. IPC is hosting a grand masquerade ball within Herta Space Station to celebrate the acquisition of a high value item (Curio). All of high intergalactic society will be in attendance.

2. The Cast of Playable Characters will then be tasked with a secret mission: infiltrate the masquerade ball.

3. Mission Success! The real party begins now.

#### **- Section one: Getting Ready**

- Pieces will focus on the characters preparing for the grand ball such as dressing up, sitting at the makeup table, going through details of the infiltration mission, scouting the masquerade location for potential entry/ emergency exit routes etc

#### **- Section Two: Arrival at the Ball**

- Pieces will focus on the characters and how they arrive at the ball. Think secret entryways, disguising as workers, entering as a guest, hacking a Herta puppet... anything goes!

#### **- Section Three: Chaos Ensues, Masks Off!**

- Pieces will focus on the characters as they reach the climatic scene of their mission. It's now or never: steal the high value item, protect the high society member from an assassination attempt etc

- **Section Four: Successful Mission Afterparty**

- Pieces will focus on the aftermath of the infiltration. This can range from staying at the masquerade ball and finally getting to relax to making a grand escape from the ball and sharing a drink at some other location. Cheers to another successful mission!

**👑 ZINE SPECS 👑**

~100 pages, Standard A5 (subject to change)

**👑 SCHEDULE 👑**

August 30th: Project Launch  
August 30- September 27: Interest check  
September 30-October 31: Contrib Apps  
November 8th: Contributor Results  
November 12th: Last day to accept  
November 18th: Pitches Due  
November 20th: Pitches Accepted  
December 20th: Check in #1  
January 20th: Check in #2  
February 18th: Check in #3  
March 10th: Final Submissions  
March - May: Layout & Preorder Prep  
May 8th - June 28th: Preorders  
June 26th after: Production, Shipping etc  
Leftovers: TBD

**👑 COMPENSATION 👑**

At minimum, contributors will receive a free digital PDF of the zine. We will then work towards providing all contributors with a physical zine and potentially a full bundle of the zine if profits are high enough. As this zine is for-profit, any remaining profits will then be split among the mod and contributor team.

Do take note that when splitting profits, earnings will be sent by PayPal or WISE. Minors that are younger than 18 years old at the time of compensation will not receive monetary compensation and instead will only be receiving the free zine and merch if included.

Contributors own the copyright to their work. We do not take away your rights by printing your work in the zine. Contributors can sell their work as they wish after this

project and/or publish their work on their own site such as AO3. All contributors will be credited inside the zine with their pieces.

## **CHARACTERS**

The focus of this zine will be on playable characters that have appeared in the game or will be released (officially announced or shown in the game's storyline) by the time applications close. Do take note that this zine is SFW and canon-adjacent. (no OCs. canon lore can be adjusted slightly to fit with the ongoing AU theme of grand masquerade)

Our zine seeks to have a balanced representation of characters which requires us to limit the amount of single/duo character-focused pieces. Instead, interactive group pieces do not have a set limit and are encouraged as it is able to fit 3 or more major characters within the piece itself.

In addition, we ask that the pieces involving various characters not be explicitly romantic/ ship content. The creator may allude or imply certain relationships but romance should not be the main focus of the piece.

### ***Zine Character Options:***

- Belobog
  - Bronya
  - Seele
  - Gepard
  - Serval
  - Lynx
  - Natasha
  - Sampo
  - Clara (and Svarog)
  - Hook
  - Luka
  - Pela
- Herta Space Station
  - Asta
  - Arlan
  - Herta (Genius Soc.)
  - Screwllum (Genius Soc.)
  - Ruan Mei (Genius Soc.)
  - Peppy
- Xianzhou Luofu

- Jing Yuan
- Yanqing
- Fu Xuan
- Yukong
- Tingyun
- Qingque
- Guinaifen
- Sushang
- Jingliu
- Baiheng
- Luocha
- Bailu
- Xueyi
- Hanya
- Diting
- Astral Express / Nameless
  - Welt Yang
  - Himeko
  - March 7th
  - Dan Heng
  - Stelle and/or Caelus
- Stellaron Hunters
  - Kafka
  - Blade
  - Silver Wolf
  - Sam
  - Elio

## **👑 GENERAL APPLICATION GUIDELINES 👑**

1. All contributors will have free reign to pitch their own ideas for how the masquerade infiltration mission will progress in their piece, mods will then look through and approve of them at a later date.
2. Contributors may choose to change their pitch when they are accepted.
3. Applicants are welcome to apply to more than one position but you will only be accepted for one position, so choose wisely and play to your strengths!
4. Previous zine experience is not required to apply for this project and we will not hold it against you.

5. Acceptance criteria will be based on the strength of your portfolio and pitches so the amount of followers on your social media will not be taken into consideration.
6. All work submitted for zine creation must be the contributor's newly created piece. Reuse of old works is strictly prohibited.
7. Accepted contributors will be invited to a Discord server for any discussions and info sharing about the zine. All communication will be done on Discord so applicants without an account will need to create one after being accepted.

## ARTIST APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. Please provide link(s) to three sample pieces of your best work. Only completed, fully coloured pieces are accepted (meaning no sketches) and at least one of the samples must be a full-body illustration.
2. You may provide a link to a more extensive portfolio as well, but we will be looking and basing our judgement mainly on the three sample pieces provided so choose carefully!
3. Honkai Star Rail pieces are not mandatory but will be an added asset.
4. Portfolios can be in the form of a Google folder or website (such as deviantart or bigcartel for merch artists).
5. Please check that your links are working and your portfolios are not locked before submitting; it will be a shame to get disqualified if we cannot access your samples.
6. If you would like to include pitches during application, you will need to indicate the zine section (ie Getting Ready, Arrival, Chaos, Afterparty), the character(s) you plan to write and the idea of the art piece.
7. Artist pitches are optional but strongly preferred as we may use it in the final decision.

## WRITER APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. Please provide link(s) to three sample pieces of approx. 2-2.5K each with a leeway of 100 words. Accepted writers will be asked to write within the same word count.

2. Please provide the necessary content warnings in the documents submitted. (ie. NSFW, Gore, Self-Harm, Suicide etc)
3. You may provide a link to a more extensive portfolio as well, but we will be looking and basing our judgement mainly on the three sample pieces provided so choose carefully!
4. Honkai Star Rail pieces are not mandatory but will be an added asset as we will then be able to see how well the characterization is.
5. Portfolios can be in the form of a Google folder or writing site (such as AO3), links to Twitter threads of fanfic is discouraged. You may compile your Twitter Fanfic Thread into a word doc and submit that instead.
6. Please check that your links are working and your portfolios are not locked before submitting; it will be a shame to get disqualified if we cannot access your samples.
7. You will be asked for pitches (ideas of what you are planning to write if you are accepted) during application. The pitches will need to indicate the zine section (ie Getting Ready, Arrival, Chaos, Afterparty), the character(s) you plan to write and the idea of the fic.
8. Writer applicants may choose to write only about one zine section (Getting Ready, Arrival, Chaos, Afterparty) or they may opt to write a piece that follows the story from start to finish. Please indicate in your Pitches which zine section you plan to write (not applicable if you wish to write from start to finish).
9. Please note that pitches are mandatory and will be taken into consideration when selecting contributors. Writer applicants are expected to submit a minimum of one and a maximum of five pitches during applications.
10. The pitches submitted can be just a general idea or a detailed outline. Accepted writers may also change their pitch upon joining the project.

### **Masquerade FAQ:**



### **1. What is a zine?**

A (fan)zine is a collection of works by fan contributors put together because we all like/enjoy the topic of the zine. A lot of zine projects also have merch to accompany the book. This zine will focus on the theme of Masquerade x Spy and will have elements of secretive identities, grand parties, royal outfits and much more.

### **2. Am I allowed to draw AUs or self-designed costumes?**

AUs are more than welcome. However, as this zine is set in the canon-verse and is canon-adjacent, no OCs will be allowed. Canon lore can be adjusted slightly to fit with the ongoing AU theme of grand masquerade.

### **3. Is shipping between characters allowed?**

We ask that the pieces involving various characters not be explicitly romantic/ ship content. The creator may allude or imply certain relationships but romance should not be the main focus of the piece.

### **5. Do I need previous zine experience to join?**

No, you do not. The main criteria for acceptance is based on the strength of your portfolio and pitches.

### **6. Can I apply for more than one position?**

Yes, you are welcome to apply for more than one position but may only be accepted for one position.

### **7. Can I collab with an artist/writer?**

This will depend on the accepted artists. Artists will be given the option of drawing an extra piece or spot art to accompany writers' fics in addition to their original accepted pitch.

### **8. What is a pinch hitter?**

A pinch hitter is someone who is contacted to join the zine in case one of the contributors drops from the project. Please note that pinch hitters will get less time to complete their piece, but we will try to give you as much time as possible.

### **9. Can I choose which section of the zine to write/draw?**

Applicants will be required to rank the zine sections (Getting Ready, Arrival, Chaos, Afterparty) from most to least preferred on the contributor apps form. Please note that although we will try our best to accommodate everyone's interests, there may be cases in which we assign contributors to zine sections that aren't their top choice.

**👑 CONTACT US 👑**

If you have any further questions or comments, please let us know!

Twitter: @hsrmasquerade

Retrospring: <https://retrospring.net/@hsrmasquerade>