



**For Immediate Release**

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### **World's Largest Mermaid Convention Returns to Virginia**

(MANASSAS, Va, July 21, 2021) – Every year, the world's largest mermaid convention happens near the heart of the D. C. area, and it is back for 2021. MerMagic Con will return to Manassas, VA, from August 6 through 8, 2021, to celebrate all things mermaid.

#### **WHAT AND WHY**

Attracting hundreds of merfolk from around the world, MerMagic Con is proud to present a variety of seminars from some of the mermaid industry's biggest names. Seminars range from costuming to professional development and even the history of mermaids in folklore. New and returning programming includes modeling workshops, photoshoot sessions, certifications through the acclaimed National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) and Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), and more! See the full course catalogue for all programming options, as well as a host of unique artisans and vendors.

#### **NEW ADDITIONS**

New for this year is all-new children's and family-friendly programming.

"As this convention grew to become the largest of its kind worldwide, a completely reworked children's track became necessary to welcome its younger attendees," said Shannon Rauch, aka Mermaid Shannon, the head of the convention's Children's Programming. "I have been performing my "Aquarioke" show during my aquarium residencies, and it fit in perfectly with our curriculum. The chance to reach a younger audience through a fun medium while also teaching the importance of aquatic safety, skills, and conservation is a new opportunity that we are excited to provide."

#### **MERMAIDS ARE FOR EVERYONE**

No scales? No problem. MerMagic Con offers seminars and programs for those with feet as well as fins. Disney artist Philo Barnhart, who worked on beloved classics such as *The Little Mermaid* and *The Black Cauldron*, will be present.

"Mermaids capture everyone's attention and one of the goals of MerMagic Con is not only to be a celebration for those already in the community, but to welcome and connect the new or curious," said MerMagic Con co-owner Morgana Alba. She adds, "Mermaiding is for everyone and this is a place for people of all experience levels and backgrounds to come together."

MerMagic Con is thrilled to welcome merfolk of all backgrounds, experience levels, and ages, as well as mermaids-at-heart and those new to the community. MerMagic Con is equally committed to the health and wellness of venue and convention staff, volunteers, and attendees. Please see the COVID-19 policies page for frequently asked questions related to the convention in the wake of the coronavirus.

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