
Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Gothkitti - 2007/10/29 23:31

Good evening, Y-con folks, and welcome home from con! :3

As I begin my own con recovery, I'm allowing the happenings of events which I was involved with to run through my mind and it strikes me that I would absolutely love to hear what you had to say about the Bishounen Host Cafe! We all worked very hard for the event and we all want to work out our kinks so we can be even better hosts for you next year so lay it on me!

What did you like?

What did you dislike?

What stood out to you, in general?

I eagerly await your input, in this post or even, should you decide that you would like to PM me directly, there as well!

-Goth Kitti. Door-maid of the bishie cafe.

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by khelil - 2007/10/30 16:05

I attended the Cafe with three of my friends. We were lucky (?) enough to be in the 6:30 slot, so our wait was not as exaggerated as later groups.

1. I really liked the concept and the setup. I've only had high tea a few times with friends and family before, but this reminded me of it greatly in terms of presentation of the foods and drink. I liked that there was a bit of variety in terms of what was there (with the different sandwiches and choices of teas available). All of the bishounen hosts seemed very gracious; while ours did seem a bit shy in our company, we all had a very good time talking with him and having him as our host.

2. I'm certain that others will echo this, but the timing was bad. I can understand things getting delayed - especially on a first run of such an event - but two hours later than our 6:30pm reservation was a bit excessive. From what I had seen and heard, it seemed like one problem (at least with the first group going in) was that either people did not want to leave and thus took up too much time for their table reservation, or that the time slots for each group were too narrow. I mean, I certainly would have loved to sit around and chatted longer - and enjoyed the company of our host - but we tried to bow out a bit early to make sure that others would not have to stand outside all night.

3. Honestly, I had not expected the performance act! Perhaps I had just missed reading about it. Either way, it was a nice treat to have that there on top of everything else.

While the timing issue was a major turn off for me, I do understand how things can be on a first run - and when dealing with crowds of people and food. Overall, I enjoyed the experience and would certainly like to see this, or something like it, happen again in the future. One thing that came up - at least with our group - is that the cafe was scheduled during supper hours, although it had (at most) snack foods and desserts to go with the tea. Perhaps scheduling it in the early afternoon sometime during the weekend would be better to capture the real high tea atmosphere.

Thank you to all of the individuals who put on the cafe this year, and especially to our host Dante, who helped to make it memorable.

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Neko_Bazu - 2007/10/30 17:14

I think the biggest problem with the timing was that one of the people in charge of getting everything organised was delayed in traffic, and we couldn't go ahead until they arrived. That immediately threw us back a long way. I guess we didn't leave long enough for the changearound time in between either, but that's just an experience issue; we've learnt for next time.

As one of the bishies hosting it and there from the beginning, I can honestly say that the staff behind the scenes did a fantastic job; there was a point where I honestly wondered if it was gonna have to just be cancelled outright, but they

hauled it kicking and screaming into what was eventually a very smooth operation - so many kudos to them!

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Gothkitti - 2007/10/30 20:47

Thanks very much for your commentary, Khelil and Bazu. Every bit of constructive criticism, especially the level-headed sort, really helps!

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by dragonwing84 - 2007/10/30 21:04

I would like to offer an outsiders prospective on this....I didn't go myself...but I heard a lot of complaining about the time pushbacks...and I can understand the frustration...I hope to try to go next year...and good luck with the fiddling I know is probably going to take place.

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by bugangel - 2007/10/30 21:40

The pushback issues were annoying (I reserved space, and still had to wait in line? I don't care how many times it's explained to me, that's annoying) BUT the guys on the floor gave their all, the food was pretty good, the boys were lovely, and I feel I was compensated for the extensive wait. Did I mention the boys were lovely?

Honestly, if I just had Bazu and Harley clones around all the time, I don't think I'd ever have a bad customer service experience anywhere. Heck, the *veterinarian* would even be better. "We're really sorry about your cat, ma'am, but the infection was too advanced. Have tea with our Pikachu Chippendale on the house."

My only constructive suggestion would be: dear GOD serve smaller cake slices. No one needs that much pure sugar that late in the day!! Maybe petit fors or mini-cupcakes? Seriously. That cake slice was bigger than my head.

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Hpm - 2007/10/30 22:04

My only constructive suggestion would be: dear GOD serve smaller cake slices. No one needs that much pure sugar that late in the day!!

I actually suggested that to the kitchen, who on the other hand did a GREAT job in there.

Being one of the hosts were very interesting and it was nice to try it out in English. All in all it was fun and the performance were great, just too bad it were only 30minutes but it's understandable.

I hope everyone who got the Ouran table were satisfied ;)

Hope next year will be even better !

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Neko_Bazu - 2007/10/31 00:15

Honestly, if I just had Bazu and Harley clones around all the time, I don't think I'd ever have a bad customer service experience anywhere. Heck, the *veterinarian* would even be better. "We're really sorry about your cat, ma'am, but the

infection was too advanced. Have tea with our Pikachu Chippendale on the house."
Thank you! *^_^*

My only constructive suggestion would be: dear GOD serve smaller cake slices. No one needs that much pure sugar that late in the day!! Maybe petit fours or mini-cupcakes? Seriously. That cake slice was bigger than my head. I must admit, the cake was a bit too much for me too - and this is someone who eats Devil's Cake like it's gonna be snatched away in a second! (That's double-chocolate sponge, two layers of chocolate cream filling, with chocolate and fudge icing with melted chocolate chips in it... ohsogood~) For me personally, it was moreso that the icing was just too sweet, oddly. I do think it's better the portions were over-generous than under-done, all the same.

I also had a word with a couple of people about how the sandwiches were cut too - as someone from the country of high tea, it was frankly unacceptable dammit! ;) :D

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by masterofyoursoul - 2007/10/31 10:19

well everything important has already been said I think, the wait sucked, the boys were great, that was some big ass cake and OMG IS THAT A HALF NAKED PIKACHU!?
...overall, I'd say it was definitely worth it ^_^

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by justsonya - 2007/10/31 14:09

I had a few comments and suggestions I'd been thinking through:

1. The wait can be discussed to death as to how it happened, so rather than focusing on it, I thought about ways to improve it for those who had to wait. I don't mind waiting in line, but as someone with health issues, I mind standing in line for 2+ hours in a hot hallway while Y-con staff are screaming at the top of their lungs around and at us to "hug the wall" constantly. It damaged the experience for me.

So, with that in mind, an idea for next year might be to have a waiting area that isn't the hallway set aside, for the next seating, with ... seats. As we were called in by groups, there was no real point to keeping us in a locked-in line, when there was a huge lounge area off to the left of us most of the time. Maybe rearranging the seating there pre-event, and having a roped off access to that hallway, might better serve the purpose. Have one seating in the cafe, the next seating in the "lounge" waiting to be called, and the third, if they feel like waiting, out in that outer waiting area by the artists' alley area, where they can be called when the next group is seated.

2. Our hosts were fabulous and sweet, and we enjoyed them. But our sandwiches were warm and soggy, and we never got our second drinks at all. Still, we enjoyed the cafe part a lot, and I give it rave reviews for the effort everyone put in. I'd simply suggest reviewing food preparation, and to some extent, presentation. I didn't expect, when paying 90-some dollars for our table, to be eating off of paper plates and drinking out of paper cups. Even clear plastic would have improved the appearance, especially after the long wait.

3. I can't suggest enough the use of signboards for passing information. I found it true of the entire convention that it lacked informational signs, but a nice signboard indicating which seating was up, and where guests should wait would have saved EVERYONE a lot of frustration and stress.

All of that said, I would definitely sign up again for it next year. I could see the hard work and effort everyone put into it, and I want to encourage that kind of effort and creativity. :)

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by muskrit - 2007/10/31 14:14

I went with a small group of friends (5 of us) for a 6:30 reservation. The extended wait was not the most enjoyable thing, but the fact of the wait alone is not what put me off; I knew it was a new event and there were bound to be operational

issues that would need ironing out. The thing that bothered me was the poor communication about the delay, which got longer and longer without any real information--most of what we got was overheard "now the delay is an hour" kinds of things. Official word would have been very welcome.

Once we were seated, we all had a really good time. Our hosts--the Bleach "triplets," as they were introduced to us--were very sweet, if a bit shy and at a loss for conversation at times, and it felt kind of like the awkward part of a blind date. I don't know how feasible this is, but maybe you could prep the hosts a little on conversation, even something like a cheat sheet of ice breakers and conversation topics/starters?

The one thing about the cafe that I wasn't crazy about was how brightly lit the room was. Would you consider dimming the lights a little next year, maybe adding candles to the table? That would have made it feel warmer and more inviting to me.

Now I feel like all I've done is complain, when in fact I did have quite an enjoyable time. The performance was fun, the hosts were lovely, and I can say in all honesty that I loved the cake, which I hadn't been expecting. It was delicious, and the piece I had (about half the size of the chocolate blocks the rest of my table ordered) was just about right for me.

Good job overall on the first time out, I'd say! I hope you give it another go next year. :)

Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Magdalena - 2007/10/31 16:08

Indeed, the Malfoy table was highly pleased. :)

HPM, Ricky Lee, and Gainax Boy were very attentive and made sure we had everything we needed. The cafe itself was awesome. As mentioned, the wait was not. I hadn't had anything to eat because I was anticipating having something to eat around 6:30pm, and it didn't seem right to have the reserved folks stand in line with the standby folks.

Also? I am a grown woman. I do not appreciate being yelled at while in line by the same person we complained about last year for the auction line. She might not have been wearing a blue-purple corset (which I saw her wearing later), but it was the same woman with short brown hair and glasses and the same tone of voice that I recognized yelling at people in the line. Thanks for letting her near lines again, folks.

Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by dragonwing84 - 2007/10/31 17:12

I wouldn't mind helping in any capacity next year if you need it in concerns too the cafe...I love customer service and am a currently aspiring chef....so please don't hesitate to let me know.

Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Kalloway - 2007/10/31 17:53

I was part of a group with a 7pm reservation - thankfully I'd had a chance to snack after hearing about the original delay, else I would have passed out while waiting.

The lack of information was frustrating and my group almost left - I believe we were seated about five minutes before our 'let's see if Trader Joe's is still open' deadline.

However, the food was quite enjoyable (aside from the cake, which could have been a quarter of the size easily - I felt guilty not eating it, but it was just overwhelming) and our host was friendly even if the conversation lagged a bit. I'm not very good at conversation, admittedly, so maybe if the hosts had a decent list of topics to grab from when we fangirls fail? I felt a little awkward...

About the volunteers - they're volunteers. They're doing the best they can and chances are no one told them exactly what to say other than 'we need to keep the hall clear'.

I think it was very much a learning experience - I'd go again.

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by uomaru - 2007/10/31 23:12

Some comments and suggestions...

1. The reservation system needs some fine-tuning. The staff had to call out each group's name one by one, which took a lot of time and made the whole deal about waiting in line pointless. Maybe we can just print out our confirmation e-mail instead?
2. I thought the seating arrangement was strange. Some table had 10 people while others had only 3 or 4. I had a table all by myself. While it was nice to have my host's undivided attention, it also felt very awkward since I'm shy around strangers.
3. The presentation of the food could be better. I don't mind if they were paper plates and cups...but at least choose ones with some prints and designs. Also, plates that have separate compartments would've been nice...my sandwich was soaking in salad dressing...
4. While I think a half-hour time slot is just fine for the purpose, the amount of food was just too much for one to finish in such a short time...it was already hard enough for me trying to divide my attention between eating and talking. I felt rushed. Since the main purpose of this event is to enjoy the bishounens' company, simple tea and cookies would've been perfectly fine by me. Maybe changing the time to afternoon would also help.

Sorry if the comments sound harsh...I'm just trying to get to the point. Despite these shortcomings, I think overall it was very good for a first-run event and I would love to see it back next year. It will only get better and better, right? Big thanks to all the staff who made this event possible and the gracious bishounens who made this event memorable.

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by CatboyFanatic - 2007/11/02 15:54

Speaking as one of the hosts, I would like to say I enjoyed myself far more than I expected. All of my guests seemed thrilled to be there and they made my job quite pleasant. I hope that they enjoyed themselves as well. (I was the host in formal Gothic attire: long flowing black coat, white gloves, and a neck ruffle.)

The starting delay was unfortunate, but there wasn't anything we could do about it. Logistically, yes, we needed more time between time slots to clean up from the previous one and prepare for the next, but this is what experience teaches us. Someone suggested to me, and I agree, that a separate line for departing guests to pay would have been more expedient, but I'm not sure how feasible that would have been for our venue.

About the lines: the person in question wasn't yelling at anyone for the sake of yelling, but if many people in the hallway are talking at once, then someone trying to get everyone's attention **MUST** raise her voice to be heard. I know that sometimes one comes across volunteers who are drunk with power and are eager to overuse it, but I assure you that this woman isn't one of them. I'm sorry if anyone feels she was unpleasant. Working lines is a necessary but very stressful and thankless job (I know this from experience) that nobody wants to do.

I also agree that it would have been nice to have had proper tableware, but we stressed that our guests could take any leftovers with them. This wouldn't have been practical with real china and flatware. I have to admit that reading the comments about cake portions amused me, though. If your piece of cake was too big...don't eat it all. :) And really, if they were too small, people would have complained about that.

Uomaru, the large tables were attended by multiple hosts who shared a common theme, for the purpose of accommodating people who signed up in larger groups. Smaller groups and single guests were assigned to smaller tables, so it probably depended on how busy a given timeslot was, and whether someone decided not to attend (I had one no-show). Four was generally the maximum for the smaller tables.

Finally, I'd like to add my voice in commending the kitchen staff, organisers and entertainment. They all worked at least

as hard as, if not harder than, the hosts. I really think that despite the setbacks, the event was a big success. :D

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by vampireanneke - 2007/11/02 20:46

I know the girl in question who people are trying to accuse of yelling...Uh...no. last year she wasn't yelling either. She is one of the few people on staff who knows how to correctly project her voice, to cut over the noise of a large crowd. So yep, your going to hear her. Is she yelling, nope. (Otherwise she would have had no voice by Sunday night).

Tea really should be an hour seating. Because shovelling food isn't fun. I love tea, and why I had such a big group with me. (I was Lucius Malfoy, controlling the Malfoy table).

I also think combining smaller groups into a bigger table is a good idea. We had three different servers to entertain us, so a variety to suit the variety of people at the table. The shy people talked to the shyer bishies, the loud ones of us, talked to the loud ones. It's yaoi-con, it's about making new friends, so sitting with strangers means you make more friends by the end of the tea. I think it would also take the stress off the bishies more. One of the three handled organizing, another fetching stuff, while the third focused on serving. They rotated the roles and did what each was best suited for, and it worked out lovely. I expect to return next year to the cafe...and most likely with an even bigger group.

I didn't like the delay as I had staff members at my table and the chaos of that was horrid. I was happy to see the staff of the cafe trying to help out with the chaos of my table and staff issues.

-Anneke

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Magdalena - 2007/11/03 07:57

I apologize. I merely commented as to my own perceptions. I dislike that it appeared that yelling was the first resort.

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by justsonya - 2007/11/03 16:03

I know the girl in question who people are trying to accuse of yelling...Uh...no. last year she wasn't yelling either. She is one of the few people on staff who knows how to correctly project her voice, to cut over the noise of a large crowd. So yep, your going to hear her. Is she yelling, nope. (Otherwise she would have had no voice by Sunday night).

All I can say is that the staff member in question drove two of the six people in my party into raging migraines, and one of them away for the night, before we even got close to being seated. I'm sure better ways will evolve to handle both the crowd, and seating, but I'm certainly not going to in any way change my opinion about that particular behavior. I'm sure it was stressful, having to handle the delays and the problems, and the crowd. No one can say it wouldn't be. Hopefully the same situation won't happen again next year.

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by J_Chén - 2007/11/03 17:17

well everything important has already been said I think, the wait sucked, the boys were great, that was some big ass cake and OMG IS THAT A HALF NAKED PIKACHU!?

...overall, I'd say it was definitely worth it ^_^

Yes, that is a half naked pikachu, very macho mind you. *giggle*

http://i120.photobucket.com/albums/o193/kyshadilton/Yaoicon%2007/IMG_0215.jpg

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by uomaru - 2007/11/03 19:09

That's him all right :lol:

btw, he was wearing some other costume during the bishie auction (albeit equally scant), but for the life of me I couldn't figure out what character he was cosplaying!

anybody know?

Uomaru, the large tables were attended by multiple hosts who shared a common theme, for the purpose of accommodating people who signed up in larger groups. Smaller groups and single guests were assigned to smaller tables, so it probably depended on how busy a given timeslot was, and whether someone decided not to attend (I had one no-show). Four was generally the maximum for the smaller tables.

There was a table next to mine that had only 2 people. So it would've been nice if I had a chance to join that table. I think the staff could be more flexible next time in terms of seating since cancellation and no-show are quite common.

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by bugangel - 2007/11/03 20:42

<http://pics.livejournal.com/mskoi/pic/00078y88/> - did it work that time?

Like this, except he had a mask on.

I don't know what he was cosplaying either but it was swwwweeeeeeeet :twisted:

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Gothkitti - 2007/11/03 21:26

That's him all right :lol:

btw, he was wearing some other costume during the bishie auction (albeit equally scant), but for the life of me I couldn't figure out what character he was cosplaying!

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Uomaru, the large tables were attended by multiple hosts who shared a common theme, for the purpose of accommodating people who signed up in larger groups. Smaller groups and single guests were assigned to smaller tables, so it probably depended on how busy a given timeslot was, and whether someone decided not to attend (I had one no-show). Four was generally the maximum for the smaller tables.

There was a table next to mine that had only 2 people. So it would've been nice if I had a chance to join that table. I think the staff could be more flexible next time in terms of seating since cancellation and no-show are quite common.

The biggest problem with doing that, to put it shortly, would be timing. For any of the tables where folks left early, we couldn't actually populate those tables until after every other person in line is seated. Then, once that's done, we could get a count and see which tables are empty and open them to will-call folks. The problem with that, though, would be that it would double or triple our seating time, making the wait even longer!

... which, unfortunately, means that stratified timing and on-site will-call do not mix, in this case.

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by toshirodragon - 2007/11/05 20:11

I had a few comments and suggestions I'd been thinking through:

1. The wait can be discussed to death as to how it happened, so rather than focusing on it, I thought about ways to improve it for those who had to wait. I don't mind waiting in line, but as someone with health issues, I mind standing in line for 2+ hours in a hot hallway while Y-con staff are screaming at the top of their lungs around and at us to "hug the wall" constantly. It damaged the experience for me.

So, with that in mind, an idea for next year might be to have a waiting area that isn't the hallway set aside, for the next seating, with ... seats. As we were called in by groups, there was no real point to keeping us in a locked-in line, when there was a huge lounge area off to the left of us most of the time. Maybe rearranging the seating there pre-event, and having a roped off access to that hallway, might better serve the purpose. Have one seating in the cafe, the next seating in the "lounge" waiting to be called, and the third, if they feel like waiting, out in that outer waiting area by the artists' alley area, where they can be called when the next group is seated.

2. Our hosts were fabulous and sweet, and we enjoyed them. But our sandwiches were warm and soggy, and we never got our second drinks at all. Still, we enjoyed the cafe part a lot, and I give it rave reviews for the effort everyone put in. I'd simply suggest reviewing food preparation, and to some extent, presentation. I didn't expect, when paying 90-some dollars for our table, to be eating off of paper plates and drinking out of paper cups. Even clear plastic would have improved the appearance, especially after the long wait.

3. I can't suggest enough the use of signboards for passing information. I found it true of the entire convention that it lacked informational signs, but a nice signboard indicating which seating was up, and where guests should wait would have saved EVERYONE a lot of frustration and stress.

I was in this group. After 2 and a half hours in line my back hurt so bad I could barely walk, if it hadn't been for the two cosplayers behind me massaging my back I'd have likely had to be taken to the hospital. That's really not made me excited for the con next year. Consequently, I was so sore the next day I dared not stand in line for tickets and had to miss the AMV contest, which is one of the reasons I attend cons.

WHITE BOARDS people! They are cheap and can often be found in second hand shops. They would have been so much better for giving information than a screaming volunteer.

On the plus side, the bishies at our table were adorable and articulate and very enjoyable!

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Klebkatt - 2007/11/06 22:05

1: I enjoyed the bishie cafe. Our host was great and we all had a good, even though brief, conversation.

2: It shouldn't have been so delayed to get in and should have lasted longer. Also, I thought that the bishie cafe was the Verfuhrer cafe, as was disappointed that the Verfuhrer didn't have the yaoi improve that they tried for in 2006 (though I did like that I wasn't sitting behind a pole like last year at Verfuhrer).

3. For next year, it would do well to make a better distinction between the V cafe and the bishie cafe since I signed up for the bishie cafe though the V cafe website (which is why I thought I was making reservations for the V cafe and that is what I thought I was attending).

--Kleb

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Puppy - 2007/11/07 00:41

1: I enjoyed the bishie cafe. Our host was great and we all had a good, even though brief, conversation.

2: It shouldn't have been so delayed to get in and should have lasted longer. Also, I thought that the bishie cafe was the Verfuhren cafe, as was disappointed that the Verfuhren didn't have the yaoi improve that they tried for in 2006 (though I did like that I wasn't sitting behind a pole like last year at Verfuhren).

3. For next year, it would do well to make a better distinction between the V cafe and the bishie cafe since I signed up for the bishie cafe though the V cafe website (which is why I thought I was making reservations for the V cafe and that is what I thought I was attending).

--Kleb

I'm terribly sorry that you mistook the links for the Cafes, however, there was never a link to Yaoi-Con's Bishi Cafe on Verfuhren's website. On Yaoi-Con's website, there were separate postings for each one under the main page updates. Clicking on the Bishi Cafe's update directed to the Yaoi-Con reservation page while the Verfuhren update provided a link to their own webpage off the Yaoi-Con website completely. Since Cafe Verfuhren is a fan-hosted event, the Yaoi-Con staff doesn't have anything to do with their reservation process beyond posting updates they've requested on the front page with other announcements.

The Main Events Chair, did send out clarification emails to try and clear things up when more than one seemed to have mistaken one Cafe for the other, but not all of those were answered. Hopefully next year, the confirmations can be done a little earlier so it's less of a time-crunch on clearing up any unintentional misconceptions.

If you have any other suggestions on things the staff could do to improve the event, please tell us more. It was brand new and has some kinks to smooth out, so we'd like to get as much input from you as possible to improve it for the future.

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The Bishie Cafe

Posted by senshixdoukeshi - 2007/11/28 10:21

I apologize for this late post. I would have posted sooner, but several circumstances prevented me from doing so.

This year at the Bishounen Caf  , while I had a good deal of fun and was happy to support YaoiCon 2007 with this new fundraiser, I can't help but feel slightly cheated. I'm sure that everyone involved did his or her best, and that there were some extenuating circumstances (like the head of the project getting caught in traffic) and whatnot that prevented the event from being started at the originally appointed time. Those things are understandable, and I was expecting a slightly rough execution, it was the first year being done and all that.

No, what disappointed me was the actual tea service. I realize that for the price given and the situation at the con there were going to be some restrictions on what could be served, but I don't think that was a good excuse for the food served, nor for the manner of service. I didn't expect fine china, it's a nice thought, but completely unrealistic, but that doesn't mean we didn't deserve perhaps plastic or at least patterned paper plates and cups, or perhaps some nicer napkins. Little touches that would really convey a sense of elegance usually thought of when one imagines Western High tea.

And the food! To be honest, when I paid ten dollars for my tea service I was expecting something a touch more catered. Thinking back that expectation might have been too high, but I certainly don't think it's too much to expect a bit more than Wonder bread with a smear of mustard and a single slice of pre-packaged ham. The other sandwiches were rather similar. And the sweets service? Two brownie bites and a few cookies from some bargain brand bag? I'm sorry, but that certainly doesn't seem to add up to a fraction of what we paid.

Now I completely understand that the Bishie Caf   is a fundraiser, and as such the proceeds go into funding future cons. I'm all for that, but when you think of other fundraising endeavors (such as Girl Scouts with cookies, Boy Scouts with popcorn, High Schools with chocolate, pies, apples, you name it) I tend to think that a bit more effort and respect for the product being sold needs to be had. And it's not as if YaoiCon doesn't have one of the most amazing, lucrative fundraisers in con history with the Bishounen Auction. There's no reason for the slap-dash food service at the Bishie Caf  .

Your volunteers are free, so there's no paying them. Good food is rather inexpensive when bought in large quantities and it really doesn't take much to present a nice service and still have a perfectly decent return. The presentation and execution of the entire event put me in mind of something someone dreamed up over the weekend and didn't properly follow through on. I truly apologize if I insulted anyone with that last comment, especially if it isn't true, but it did rather feel that way.

I'm not the only one who feels this way, one of your service staff made a post on his site with a sizable apology to the

patrons and a few suggestions for the future caf  . http://www.1000gears.com/soapbox/15_yaicon-2007-one-servers-thoughts/#more-15 I really can't improve of lostcatboy's suggestions, so I won't try, I'll just recommend that you read his post and take a few tips from him. I would really love to attend the caf   again next year, but if I can expect that same as this year, then I will probably find something else to do. Thank you for listening.

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by toshirodragon - 2007/11/28 15:08

Lest you all think I do nothing but complain, I have a lovely collection of teapots that just sit in boxes because I have nowhere to display them. If you tell me how many tables, I will bring enough to next year's con. That will lend a bit more zip and sass to the table and the tea!

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Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by senshixdoukeshi - 2007/11/29 06:54

That would be wonderful! And just so people know that I'm all for helping as well, I'd be happy to either help arrange something when I get there (I'm and out of townie) or help prepare food or something. I promise I'm not just out to bring it down, I really do think it's an idea with lots of merit, I just want to make sure that it's fair and functional. ^_^

Lest you all think I do nothing but complain, I have a lovely collection of teapots that just sit in boxes because I have nowhere to display them. If you tell me how many tables, I will bring enough to next year's con. That will lend a bit more zip and sass to the table and the tea!

Thank you, toshirodragon! If we get more people involved I'm sure we could totally wow everyone next year.

=====

Re: Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Neko_Bazu - 2007/11/29 08:03

In light of that latest review, I think there are some fair points in there, but also that some context needs to be applied too. Obviously, you won't have seen it yourself, but as one of the bishounen I can tell you that it was incredibly hectic 'backstage', and for a first time effort and under the circumstances, I thought a very good job was done.

Unfortunately, yes, things could have been better, but that'll hopefully come about if there's a second round. You made lots of valid points and suggestions, and hopefully they'll be taken on board - I just don't think anyone realised how big a task it'd actually be!

There are all sorts of ways it could be improved, but when thought is given to it (again, especially having been behind closed doors, so to speak), there's a lot that should be kept the same too - I'll admit the sweets selection did miff me a little, for instance, but then I don't know what the budget was.

The other thing to consider, of course, is that Western high teas are done by professionals who often specialise in that field and have done it for years - certainly in England, the servants for those events have training specifically related to how to correctly prepare the sandwiches, present them, serve them in the right fashion and so forth, right down to the most minute detail. By comparison, our collective experience was very little! A year on and a year wiser, though, I'm sure it'll be a vastly improved event - that really was our beta-run :D

The teapot suggestion is a nice idea, and certainly one I hope the staff pay a lot of thought to (whether they run with it or not). The hot water from this year was reasonable, I thought, since we had no idea in advance which teas each guest would want - perhaps I should just bring a suitcase full of Earl Grey next year and force that on everyone? :lol:

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Bentokitty - 2008/06/14 01:15

My impression, both as a worker and a n00b looking at the eyecandy, is that some of the boys should be on the menu also.
Seriously. yum.

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by winterbubbletea - 2008/10/01 16:42

What did you like?

The space! It wasn't crowded though some tables seem smaller for parties that were over 4. I think the set up was nice and it seems the staff tables were effective. Service was timely and busy. I really like the screen in the front-but it prove hard to view it if your back is to it. The display of food was in variety and it was good because none of the food could spoil so easily compare to other served item. Whomever-thought of it was good at considering the issue of food poisoning then.

What did you dislike?

Like I said the table set up was a bit hard for parties that were bigger then 4. This is my first time so I wasn't sure about how things go in the Cafe. I was highly impressed though.

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Neko_Bazu - 2008/10/02 02:35

As one of the workers, I cannot emphasise enough how much I preferred the system this year to last year's, and I certainly got the impression that that was a widely-shared opinion among the bishies. I also got the impression from the attendees that they were enjoying it a lot more - better food selection, a wider range of company, less pressure to eat in time and so forth.

The only gripe I personally had was having it the day after the auction - many of us were up 'til 5am the day before, so having such an early start (realistically needing to be up at 9am if we wanted to take the first shift, which ended up being impossible for me ^^) really sucked. For me personally, having this year's system in last year's time slot would be superb - but that said, I'll be happy to work Sunday morning again next year if that's where it ends up, because I really did enjoy myself!

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Miki - 2008/10/03 15:05

mew =^_^=

yea.. having you crawl into the room with ms. drunken lady.. i looked at the time and was pretty much like..

aren't you supposed to be up in a few hours for the brunch?! :blink: oh goodness. you're crazyyyyyy.. but that's why we love youuuuuu!!

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Hpm - 2008/10/03 15:28

cafe this year were a bit better and I enjoyed it alot!

just too bad we didn't have more people for the last seeting cause it got kind of crowded with all the bishies and few people to serve.

Of course I liked last year and were fun to have an ouran themed table , but were a much better idea to go around and serve the things we offered and chat a little with the "costumers".

From a professional view though I'd have liked more people instead of less bishies.. you can't get enough bishie!, to

take care of and chat with / serve.

Got a bit dull at some points when everyone had gotten what they wanted to eat and both food and bishie had been dished out at all tables ;).

Some seats were turned away from the big screen but I guess that can't be helped cause of the layout, maybe skip the AMVs and have some cheesy classic music in the background instead?

Hoping to be able to be at the cafe next year also and try to make it even better.

I for one didn't get enough sleep the whole con and it were a bit early to get the preparations done that early, we'll have to see what time it turns out next year.

A little more information to us bishies would have been better though beforehand, had to ask a couple of things when we had started.

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by bugangel - 2008/10/03 15:54

I would have loved to have been there if I hadn't been vending. The brunch was a great idea for scheduling reasons for ordinary con folk, but the dinner cafe worked better for those of us who are table bitches.

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Shini - 2008/10/03 17:57

Miki wrote:

crawl into the room with ms. drunken lady

My work here is done. 8D

None the less, even though I was at the brunch, I wasn't at my physical best. However, I second that small space notion. My group was a pretty big party, and we were all mushed together. D:

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by DirtyD - 2008/10/03 18:06

But it was still better than last year shini! And people did keep popping up at our table. I liked the music, I got up and started dancing then like four bishies came over and sandwiched me. It was hella fun. My biggest complaint is we didn't get enough time with them. But much better than last year...

If I had known there was so much space HPM I would have came again. ;_;

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Miki - 2008/10/03 18:31

Shini wrote:My work here is done. 8D

None the less, even though I was at the brunch, I wasn't at my physical best. However, I second that small space notion. My group was a pretty big party, and we were all mushed together. D:

hey youuu.. ha! yea.. you were.. really, REALLY out of it.. :blink:

you said a few things that hurt my feelings too.. though i am sure i deserved some of it.. :unsure:... i'm sorrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr... rawrrr... :blush:

anyway, I enjoyed the cafe.. nice food for my empty stomach.. wonderful company. pretty bishies, and... uhh.. dunno what else to say. it was good!

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Shini - 2008/10/03 18:37

DirtyD: This is true! Last year wasn't so awesome compared to this year~ x3

Miki: Really? I don't recall lashing out at anyone- I was with Bazu the entire time (who is a complete gentlemen, by the way!). I was really annoyed at a couple of people that stayed in our room, but that was room/personal space drama that they didn't respect. Mind refreshing my memory of who you are? If it's private, feel free to PM me. :3

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Bentokitty - 2008/10/03 18:42

dangit you guyseses, I wish I could have gone ~_~

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Miki - 2008/10/03 18:54

Shini wrote:Really? I don't recall lashing out at anyone- I was with Bazu the entire time (who is a complete gentlemen, by the way!).

yes, yes! Bazu is the most wonderful person everrrr!.. uhmm.. i sent you a PM :blush:

braces for punishment

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by J_Chen - 2008/10/03 19:55

Yes, this years brunch is much better then last year cafe. We got served as soon as we seated, and we actually have something filling this time. And the bishies are very attentive. It was a big improvement. At least we don't have to wait in line for 2+ hrs!

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by doriangray - 2008/10/03 22:02

The brunch was infinitely better from my perspective. We didn't have individual plates, so we could serve tables faster. We had online payment so there were no payment lines. We had bishies roaming around for conversation so that the conversation wasn't forced and it was more comfortable.

Oh and there was much stroking of Gabumon. That in itself is an improvement from last year.

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Gryffindor - 2008/10/04 21:39

I like the Bishi brunch, I assume we are talking about the brunch on Sunday. Though Gothkitty(i?) was curious as to why

I was being served and seated. Very filling, saved me from getting a breakfast and lunch, I just had a lunner later at home.

Ni

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Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Gothkitti - 2008/10/05 11:24

chuckle I was glad to see you there, Gryffindor, and the i is the correct ending.

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Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Gryffindor - 2008/10/05 22:29

I was about to say your avatar looking nothing like you.

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Darkmoon - 2008/10/07 16:10

Me and Ethan Sakura loved the Sunday brunch. We were concerned that it would be crowded and so took the latest slot, but were pleasantly surprised to be very wrong. ^^ The bishies were very attentive and cheerful, and watching AMV's was fun while eating. One bishie was gracious even when one girl hyped up on sugar gave him a strange request. I think we surprised him (probably realized something was coming when the other three are giggling terribly.^^) but all in all was a great event. We really hope you'll have it next year and we'd certainly attend again.

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Cherry - 2008/10/08 09:48

This being my first Yaoi con and first Bishie brunch I thought it was really really fun. I love that I had a chance to talk to everyone about what they thought their favorite skit was, what they liked about this years yaoi con, and just a general time to connect with people. It was also just a great way to get feedback in general. The food there looked really good as well. Next time I am going to suggest that some of the patrons feed me because it torture watching everyone eat whilst I had to work. My only complaint (which was brought up before and is really not a big deal) is that it is so early in the morning. Basically it is 3 or 4 hours after some bishie finally get to sleep.

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by DirtyD - 2008/10/08 11:34

Damn Cherry why didn't you tell me sooner?! Why didn't I think of that?!

Next year I'm feeding a bishie. >_>

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Sakura Igarashi - 2008/10/08 16:15

Having gone to the cafe last year -and- this year, I can say that this time was a great improvement.

Pros:

-Brunch on Sunday over dinner on Friday. I know i'm not the only one who had little money come end of the con, so the free food was nice (The food items themselves were also much better). Plus I was feeling ill Thursday/Friday so I would have felt bad not being able to eat much.

-Organization, planning and crowd control. Even having one of the early time slots last year, I still had to stand in the 1-2 hour line of doom. This year I paid online for the 11:00 time slot, and my friend and I were seated promptly and graciously.

-Multiple hosts, well... I was a little bummed we weren't able to more closely socialize with the bishies this year (our host last year was very very nice!). I agree that having the boys shuffle between tables made for less awkward conversation and chances to meet and socialize with more people. I'm a shy type so I found myself at a loss for words around the bishies at times anyway. ^^

-Formal wear! I don't know if that was intentional or not, but having a fetish for uniforms/suits I was very happy to see the boys all dressed up. ^^

-Theme. The decor and all was a lot better this year in favor of breakfast. Last year was a bit 'low budget' if you'll pardon the phrase. If next year ends up being dinner again, might I suggest candles and some kind of dinnerware? Maybe a party tray of finger foods as well, instead of those sandwiches. I really liked this year's brunch set up though, so I wouldn't change a thing about that if it comes up next year.

Cons:

-Judging from the posts I'm seeing a lot of the bishies didn't have much time to sleep between the auction and brunch preparations. As for myself, I skipped out on the dance this year so I was able to go to bed at a decent time. Saturday is too busy of a day for a brunch or dinner, and I'm not sure how Friday would go again. Ah well, hopefully a happy medium can be reached for next year?

Hmm, I really can't think of any other negatives.

All in all, I really enjoyed the cafe this year, and it's a work in progress so it can only keep getting better. I was so glad to see the improvements and I look forward to attending it again next year!

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Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Gryffindor - 2008/10/08 21:33

I didn't know we were allowed to feed the bishies. Also 3-4 hours is the normal amount of time a average con attendee gets anyway a night.

I must say Cherry does look different when he is not wearing the mask.

Gryffindor's are the best. Still no name for the Polar Bear.

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Cherry - 2008/10/09 09:58

Haha I think it is funny how people could not recognize me without it. I guess the whole sailormoon tuxido mask thing is true. But yes I did have my mask off for a small chunk of the con. I only had it on when I was doing Bishie stuff. Other than that it was off.

Yes you can feed the Bishie. Most of us went to sleep between 3-7am and had to be up at 9-9:30am to make it to the brunch prep at 10am. But I guess that is normal. So most of us dont eat until after the brunch thing is over. And they did feed us after the brunch thing was over.

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Gryffindor - 2008/10/09 15:16

At least they fed you guys eventually. All the yogurts you can eat.

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Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Cherry - 2008/10/10 11:31

Meat and yogurt. Everything a growing boy needs. *wink

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by toshirodragon - 2008/10/10 19:13

This year's brunch was a TREMENDOUS improvement over last year's disaster.

The food was much nicer with a wider selection, I could have ties the cheese and cracker bish to my chair and had only cheese and crackers and been a happy fangirl. I too was ill Friday night so I wouldn't have enjoyed eating at that time, after traveling and checking in so dinner then would have been a waste.

I liked the roving boys this year better than the forced conversation of last year. The casual atmosphere suited being at a con much better. Last year, I felt rather left out because all the bishies talked to the two ladies at my table who were the most outgoing, but this year I was able to talk and chat a bit with the servers and had more fun.

So thumbs up and lets do it again next year!!

pass the cheese and crackers

=====

Re:Your impressions of the Bishie Cafe?

Posted by Swift_Heart - 2008/10/26 20:11

i be happy to feed you next year and anyone that wish to be fed an i thank all of you that put this on and how you treated this gentelman {bows deep thank you

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