

Inspired by the variety shows of the 60s and 70s – such as Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In, Hee Haw, and The Muppet Show -- Mars Presents can bring a show like no other to your convention! Like its predecessors, The Mars Variety Show is a stylized cacophony of live music, burlesque, art, comedy, spoken word, circus performance, wild characters, bawdy humor, silly jokes, and whatever else you can squeeze in to a cabaret hall or ballroom. There's a reason we call this show a "relentless good time!"

Tailor-made to your event, this 60 to 90 minute showcase will be a surefire delight to any con-going audience! The shows are hosted by 90s sitcom actor and voice artist Jason Marsden, and feature cosplay performers, musicians, Artist Alley talent, circus performers, burlesque acts (optional), and celebrity guests all within YOUR Con!





## How it works:

In the weeks leading up to your convention, Mars Presents will collaborate with the con and reach out to upcoming guests (celebrities, artists, cosplayers) to see who would like to take part in the show. Via social media, we will put out a call for local talent to fill out the acts/cast. It's the thrown-together-last-minute bits and pieces that usually make a show like this shine!

## Location:

The ideal space for a show like this would be a convention hall or ballroom. Or perhaps a nearby off-site venue working with the convention. The "cabaret style" is preferred with tables and chairs, and the show will utilize the entire space. For example: when an act finishes on the main stage, the stage will go dark. Then the lights will be lit on on the left side of the room where a brief skit, poem, or song is performed. Then a blackout on stage left, and then lights up in the audience where a strategically placed celebrity interacts with attendees, and so on. The fun is not knowing where the next act or bit might strike!

## Equipment:

A sound board, sound engineer, and lighting system (especially spotlights) would be ideal. If the convention is unable to provide the necessary equipment, Mars Presents can provide spot lights, Lavalier Microphones, and a modest sound setup.

## Show template:

- 1. An audience-grabbing opening performance (music), followed by Mars introducing the show! After a brief monologue and crowd work, Mars immediately announces the next act. 10-15 mins
- 2. Acoustic performance. 3-4 mins
- 3. Mars introduces the guest artist, who is placed off to the side but in plain view, complete with easel/drawing pad. The artist will illustrate/create throughout the show. 2 mins
- 4. Lights up on a comedy sketch. 3 mins
- 5. Mars introduces a burlesque act. 5 mins
- 6. Mars introduces stand-up comedy. 5 mins
- 7. The secret celebrity guest makes a cameo. 2 mins
- 8. Mars introduces another music act. 3-4 mins.
- 9. Lights up on a comedy sketch. 3 mins
- 10. Mars revisits the guest artist and goes over their work so far.
- 11. Mars introduces the main closing music act. 5-7 mins.

Sprinkled throughout the show will be random "Monty Python"-esque throwaway jokes as well as unexpected "games." For example, Mars may ask the attendees wearing inflatable T-Rex costumes to demonstrate Fortnite dances. Or he may gather all the cosplayers dressed as DC villains (or Deadpools or Negans) and have them do a conga line. Another option is "Let's Make a Deal" with cosplayers in the audience for prizes!

Of course, none of this is set in stone. Each show will and SHOULD be different because each *Mars Variety Show* is tailored to each convention and geared specifically to FEATURE and to be FOR the attendees!

To make this the best entertainment experience, we'd love to hear any ideas YOU might have!

The Mars Variety Show is ready to be plugged into your event!