

Interview with Jessica Chobot, On-Show Host at IGN.com

„My Heart Belongs to my 360“

IGN-Host Talks About Her Love for Videogames and Her Feminine Approach to Gaming

INTERVIEW: ERIC HAMUS

She is the face of IGN, the uncrowned princess of videogaming: Jessica Chobot provides gamers with their daily bits of videogame news since she was hired full time by the popular US gaming site IGN.com in 2006 as an on-show host. In her interview with „Young & Smart“, 32 year old Jess talks about her passion for gaming, her preference for an overabundance rather than a drought and she reveals whom (or what) her heart beats for.

■ Jess, you are smart, funny, beautiful and you like video games. In other words: You are too good to be true. Is your love for video games sincere or merely a professional interest?

It is sincere. I am proud to say I've had: Atari 2600, NES, SNES, N64, Dreamcast PlayStation, PlayStation2, Xbox, Nintendo Wii, PlayStation3, Xbox360, Gameboy, GameboySD, PSP, Nintendo DS, DS Lite and various gaming PCs. I played regularly during my youth, had an on again/off again relationship with gaming throughout college - I would call it videogame binging - and nowadays I am firmly back on the wagon.

■ You do something most of our readers envy you for: Being paid for playing video games. You've been working with IGN for four years now. How did you end up there?

A combo of luck, being at the right place at the right time, and a lot of hard work! I took the 15 minutes of internet gaming fame that the „PSP lick“-picture had gotten me and doggedly pursued IGN, trying to convince them to hire me as a reviewer. They finally relented and let me freelance for them on IGN Insider - which, looking back - wasn't very good. But that little bit of experience paid off and eventually I was offered a full time gig in California hosting our video



Makes a living by reviewing video games: IGN-host Jessica Chobot.

content (currently: IGN Strategize on IGN.com and Xbox Live and The Daily Fix on IGN.com.)

■ The first two months of 2010 have already been a treat for gamers all over the world. What are you playing right now?

I just finished Bayonetta, Mass Effect 2, my second play-through, including all current available DLC (Downloadable Content) for Dragon Age: Origins and am looking to start up Bioshock 2 tonight and maybe some Heavy Rain. I need to finish MW2 also, but I'm not the biggest FPS (First Person Shooter) fan, so that's on the backburner for right now.

■ Like I said, 2010 has been a treat so far: Mass Effect 2, Heavy Rain, Bioshock 2, Battlefield: Bad Com-

pany 2, Final Fantasy XIII. Now we are looking at the release of God of War III, Red Dead Redemption, Splinter Cell: Conviction or Alan Wake, just to name those few. Even if people could afford more than two games a month, they'd never have the time to play them all. Is the gaming industry harming itself by putting out amazing titles?

I don't think it's damaging itself. Part of me does feel as if there is a bit of an oversaturation. But then I remind myself that not all gamers have the type of income or access like I do to play these titles. So having them rest on the shelves for a while and drop in price might actually benefit in some weird, back-handed way. I'm not a business person though, so all of that is just personal conjecture and, quite

honestly, me just making a wild guess. I remember, that the launches for these consoles were rather dry game-wise and they remained a little weak for a year or so. I hated it and would rather stick with an overabundance than a drought. Plus, with titles coming out which are improved upon each time, I'm stoked to know my system is still considered up to date rather than already getting rushed into purchasing a new Next-Gen system.

■ The games-market has been booming these last years, the genres multiply and more and more women pick up the gamepads. Right now, fitness- and sports games seem to be the most popular with female players. How do you judge the efforts of the industry to get more women to play their games?

I think it is certainly a step in the right direction! Again, however, there are those girls that like the blood and guts games and are more than just a casual Wii-Sports-fan or party-gamer. I hope the industry continues its inclusive approach to gaming without forgetting about all the sub-genre type of female gamers that are still out there.

■ Is this cliché of the reclusive gamer nerd out-dated?

I wouldn't say it's out-dated. Rather, it's becoming diluted with diverse newcomers.

■ In your blog, you claim to be a romantic gamer. Question: What advice would you give to girlfriends/boyfriends, whose better half is hooked up on a console?

Learn to play with each other ... !

■ And last but not least: Xbox or PlayStation?

While my love for the PlayStation3 is on a consistent up-swing, my gamers' heart still belongs to my 360.

■ www.ign.com

Konzertdaten

- **Blackliquid**
am 6.3. im Peppe Parola in Luxemburg/Grund;
- **The 69 Eyes**
am 8.3. in der Rockhal in Esch/Belval;
- **H-Burns + John Wolter**
am 9.3. in der Rockhal in Esch/Belval;
- **Lord of the dance**
am 10.3. in der Rockhal in Esch/Belval;
- **Florent Pagny**
am 10.3. im Galaxie in Amnéville (F);
- **Blue October**
am 11.3. im Atelier in Luxemburg;
- **HIM**
am 11.3. in der Rockhal in Esch/Belval;
- **Ultrasocial presents Mr. Oizo, Simon & The criime**
am 12.3. in der Rockhal in Esch/Belval;
- **Imogen Heap**
am 12.3. in der Kulturfabrik in Esch/Alzette;
- **Listen to Haiti**
am 13.3. in der Rockhal in Esch/Alzette;
- **„Heavy Metal“**
am 13.3. in der Philharmonie auf Kirchberg;
- **Violons Barbares**
am 17.3. in der Kulturfabrik in Esch/Alzette;
- **Heavy Trash**
am 18.3. im Atelier in Luxemburg;
- **Rickie Lee Jones**
am 19.3. im Atelier in Luxemburg;
- **The Cranberries**
am 19.3. im Galaxie in Amnéville (F);
- **Iamx**
am 21.3. in der Kulturfabrik in Esch/Alzette;

Magnetic Spring Session: Two-Day-Pass für 25 Euro

Noch gibt es Tickets für das Magnetic Spring Festival vom 25. bis 28. März im Atelier. Wer jetzt allerdings noch ein Drei-Tages-Ticket ergattern wollte, u.a. für den Auftritt der grandiosen Phoenix am 28. März, der geht leer aus. Wie das Atelier gestern verlautete, sind nur noch Pässe für die ersten beiden Konzerttage erhältlich. Das Konzert der französischen Grammy-Gewinner (für das beste Indie-Album) ist bereits ausverkauft. Miss Platinum (25. März) und Vitalic sowie Artaban (27. März) sind aber mindestens genau so einen Besuch wert. Zwei-Tages-Karten kosten 25 Euro (zzgl. Ausstellkosten) und sind erhältlich an allen Vorverkaufsstellen.

Internationaler Austauschdienst fährt nach Kent

Der Internationale Austauschdienst organisiert auch in diesem Sommer wieder eine dreiwöchige Reise für Kinder und Jugendliche zwischen 11 und 20 Jahren nach England. Dabei wurden auch einige Plätze für Schüler aus Luxemburg reserviert. Ziel der Reise ist die Grafschaft Kent an der britischen Südost-Küste. Die Teilnehmer logieren bei Gasteltern. Täglich stehen neben Sprachkursen auch Exkursionen sowie Freizeit- und Sportveranstaltungen auf dem Programm. Einzige Voraussetzung: Grundkenntnisse im Englischen. Mehr Infos unter englandsummer@austauschdienst.de.

Der kleine Helfer

„Guide des Jeunes“ ab sofort erhältlich

Studien, Job, Wohnung, Beziehung Sport - Das „Centre information jeunes“ versucht Licht in jenes Dickicht zu bringen, in dem junge Menschen sich ab und an wiederfinden. Ihr Instrument: der kostenlose „Guide des Jeunes“, der ab sofort im CIJ erhältlich ist. Auf 100 Seiten erfährt der Leser alles, was er über Schule, Job, Freizeit, Gesundheit, Sport und Leben in Luxemburg sowie im Ausland wissen muss. Praktische Surftipps ergänzen das Angebot des CIJ, das sowohl die Suche nach einem passenden Ferienjob erleichtert als auch wertvolle Hinweise zum Au-Pair-Aufenthalt im Ausland liefert. Mehr unter:

■ www.cij.lu



Kostenlos: der „Guide des Jeunes“.

Projet «Schülerreesen»

Acel relance les visites universitaires

Une des préoccupations principales de l'Association des Cercles d'Etudiants Luxembourgeois (Acel) est l'information des futurs étudiants sur les études universitaires avec leurs différents aspects. C'est dans un tel esprit que cette année, après une pause de deux ans, l'Acel relance le projet «Schülerreesen».

L'Acel organisera, en collaboration avec ses cercles membres et Sales-Lentz, des voyages informatifs dans douze villes universitaires. Ceci afin de permettre à de futurs étudiants de 12^e, 13^e, 2^e ou 1^{er} de visiter des villes universitaires européennes et leurs universités. Sur place, les élèves seront encadrés par des étudiants qui les guideront à travers la ville, le campus

et les facultés. Le contact direct avec les représentants des cercles d'étudiants permettra ainsi aux élèves de poser leurs questions en toute convivialité.

Prévu sont des visites à Zurich, Montpellier, Lausanne, Strasbourg, Bruxelles, Nancy, Aix-la-Chapelle, Berlin, Karlsruhe, Cologne, Francfort et Freiburg.

Pour la première fois, cette année les parents des élèves pourront participer aux «Schülerreesen». Les inscriptions sont possibles dans les agences Sales-Lentz. Pour plus d'informations sur les dates et les modalités: christine.zimmer@acel.lu ou tél. 661 420 541.

■ www.acel.lu