Cosplay by Alex Tanser

Alex, like most of the students in fact, utilised his existing skills and interests in his creative output. Alex is a YouTuber in his spare time and therefore decided to create a video as his final output in which he explores the shades and characteristics of Japanese Cosplay (Costume Play). With the benefit of his studies and research for this module, in this five minute video Alex explores the history of Cosplay, it's relationship with Japanese Manga as well as the role cosplay plays in Japanese society, particularly among the younger generations.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6wJVj7bO2E

"Anime and manga being one of Japan's biggest forms of media, provides an escape from the day to day routine of commuting, school, and/or work. Cosplay on the other hand requires more than just a 30 minute journey or break. It takes time to create a costume, to then be able to show it off at a convention, event or gathering. But that is not the main reason why people go to the effort of making these intricate costumes. Even the creation process gives individuals the opportunity to socialise and connect, with other cosplay practitioners asking for help and sharing construction ideas, patterns, and material suggestions over the internet. As Emerald King (2016) mentions these are "almost religiously copied and recreated" (King, 2016, p. 365)."

"Like any city Tokyo is a sea of grey buildings with vast subways and scattered patches of green in the form of parks. With more of Japan's younger generation running multiple part-time jobs doing enough overtime to cover full-time work (Gaston & Kishi, 2007), and in some extreme cases, dying from overwork (McCurry, 2017). It is easy to see how someone would want to escape from this kind of scenery, and cosplay is a catalyst that allows this."

""why do you cosplay?" some of the most common replies were, "becoming someone else" and "changing my mood" (Daliot-Bul, 2009, p. 368). Which are good examples of people finding escapism and a way to de-stress within cosplay."