OUR LIVES: Crazy canines



bouquet of pink roses sits on a carpet of red love hearts. In the background, soft esusic is playing and a candle casas a golden glow over everything.

It could be a romantic scene being played out to a boudoir

But in fact it is on a dog - in Northampton,

No, your eyes are not deceiving you. This bound has been dved, coiffed and steneilled for the Extraordinary Grooming Show 2014, the UK's first creative-only

Here, dogs are clipped, embelished and sprayed into fairy-tale characters, sea creatures

and magicians The only limit to what Your eves can be achieved is their are not owners' imagination and those imaginations are incredible.

The show is organised by the Leigne of Extraonlinary Groomers

- also known as Tanya Stevens, Josnne Beddoe and Su Eld-Wesver.

They are all dog groomers with their own businesses. Together, their aim is to teach and

demonstrate safe creative grooming. Tanya says: The artistry of

grooming captures our imaginations. The Extraordinary Grooming Show combines our skills with a love of art and spending quality time with our dogs. It's wonderful.

Visiting the show is an eye-opening experience.

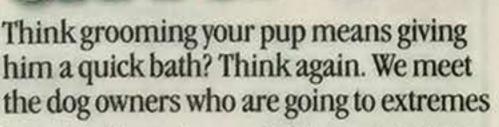
Everywhere you look are pink, green, orange and red dogs.

Among the whomsical woofers taking part is a poodle that looks as though it has leapt straight from Alice in deceiving Wonderland A white rabbit has been fashioned on its back leg, next to

the toothy grin of the Cheshire Car. The dog's owner sports the jaunty top hat and crazy

vou

how tie of the Mad Hatter. Another daring dog appears to have stepped out of a circus ring. It



has a top hat and ringmaster's moustache and its fur has been transformed into a multicoloured clown costume, while its back legs have been clipped to resemble a show horse.

Nearby, against a backdrop of the

with a full mane, protecting its cub. A touch of Vegas glamour is added by a pimped-up pooch

representing Sin City. A head-dress of red feathers matches the Vegas sign on its midriff, while diamantés and sequins add bling.



popping out of a hat on its back while its owner waves a wand and hopes they'll be the ones to walk away with a prize. But the bar has been

set high. Su has taken US

competitions by storm with her bright orange octo-poodle and Japanese geishathemed hound.

This time, there are four different categories to judge.

Carving Class sees owners crafting designs with clippers, trimmers and scissors.

In the Salon Creative Class, groomers are tested on their use of stencils or freehand techniques to add tattoos, colour and other embellishments.

The Runway Section allows dogs and stylists to show off their work on the catwalk.

And the final category is the Extreme Creative Class where

Edited by Sian Gregory

anything goes.

In the end, two rosettes and a trophy go to a pretty poodle adorned with pompoms and butterflies, sniffing the roses in a pretty garden.

As the show comes to an end and all the dogs trot back home for a both and a bone, one thing is for sure. We'll never fur-get these crazy canines!

Does your pet the to dress up? Send your pics to ib sian@hauecco.ui We'll pay for any we publish Take a Break 33

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