

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

THE BUDGET FRIENDLY WAY

By Erin Wold

If you're anything like me, Halloween is one holiday involving more procrastination than planning. If you're a parent, you're probably just recovering from "back-to-school" shopping. The kids have been "reminding" you about Halloween since the first signs of it appeared on store shelves in August. Now, it's October and you still have a few days. Plenty of time, except for the fact that it is now "bottom of the barrel" as far as costume selection goes. And so, you're left with three options. Purchase an okay, but overpriced, costume. Don't purchase anything. Or, use your wit and creativity to come up with a budget friendly, but great costume. So, if you're feeling the time crunch coming down on you, here are some easy last minute costume ideas...

For the Little Ones

Lion - Find a tan or gold hooded sweatshirt and pants. Stitch some yarn around the hood, arm holes and leg holes. Add some tan socks with claws drawn on them with magic markers and gold gloves. It's GRRR..eat!

Dust Bunny - Find a grey hooded sweatshirt and pants. Find some cotton stuffing at the local craft store. Glue the stuffing on the sweatshirt. Add a fluffy cotton tail to the back of the shirt, some bunny ears and a bunny nose. Don't sneeze!

For the Older "Kids"

Mismatch - Let your daughter dress herself in whatever old dress up clothes she can find. Purchase a tiara and make a pageant sash that says "Miss Match".

Bum or Hobo - Find any old clothes you have laying around, or hit the local thrift store. Cut holes in the clothes and add patches if you wish. Top it off with an old hat and a long branch with a bandana bag tied at the end. Use watercolor paint or makeup to create the dirty face.

Para-dice - This one works better if you have two bodies to work with. Dress in black with white gloves. Find two cardboard boxes (the right size for the wearers). Paint them white and add the black dots.. There you go... a pair of dice!

Nerd - Pants that are too small, and a shirt that's buttoned wrong. Hair slicked back, or in pigtails for girls. Add old glasses with tape and a big book.

Absent Minded Professor - If you have an old graduation gown hanging in the closet, here's an idea. Have someone zip you into it backwards. Put your shoes on the wrong feet and the graduation cap on backwards. Add a book. And there you go...to the head of the class!

And also, there are the classic quickie costumes. For Hippies, you can take an old pair of boot cut jeans and slit up the leg. Find a piece of funky fabric and sew it into the leg. Add some flower iron on patches to the jeans.

Take your favorite tie dye shirt. Add some groovy glasses and a headband. There you go! You can

also try the tourist route. Khaki shorts and a Hawaiian shirt. Add a fanny pack, map, straw hat, and a camera (fake). You're ready to go.

Halloween doesn't have to break the bank to be "Spooktacular". There are plenty of things around the house you can use to create memorable and fun costumes. A little time and creativity is all it takes.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

