

It's time to plan your Halloween

Costumes made easy

by Shelley Hoekstra
Battalion staff

Halloween night means candy. Candy means trick-or-treating. Trick-or-treating means...means... "oh heck, what do I wear trick-or-treating?"

What to wear trick-or-treating doesn't have to create a problem. Costumes don't have to cost an arm and a leg. With a little bit of planning ahead, and a whole bunch creativity and imagination, trick-or-treating costumes that are fun to wear, inexpensive and original can be made.

"What are you going to be for Halloween?"

Every household contains enough old clothes, props and related "gag" items that can be made into a "do-it-yourself" costume. For men, items such as tuxedos, military uniforms, pants, shirts, vests, suits, pajamas, hats and sports uniforms can be used. Women's costumes can be made from gowns, formals, dresses, blouses, petticoats, choir robes and old ballet, tap or jazz clothes. Costumes for children can be made from sleeper pajamas, boxes, pillow cases and old adult clothing.

If a certain article of clothing is needed to complete the costume and is not available around the house, check with a neighbor or a second-hand store. Also, left-over pieces of fancy

trim from your sewing bag can be added to costumes to add "just the right touch."

Sometimes it's nice to buy just one piece to add to your costume; this gives the costume an aura of professionalism. For example, the purchase of a pirate hat will give a home-made pirate costume authenticity, a rhinestone tiara added to a princess costume will add glamour and sparkle.

Finally, hand-carried props can complete the costume and the image you are trying to achieve. Props can be useful — you can carry your candy load in them. What's more natural than a hobo carrying a knapsack? That knapsack also can serve as a "candy carrier." A gangster could carry a violin case, full of M&Ms ... or Tootsie pops ... instead of guns.

Easy and inexpensive costumes, especially for children, can be made from cardboard sheets and boxes. After finding a suitably sized box, cut out holes to allow free arm, leg and head movement. Additions to the box can be made with additional cardboard or other items, and attached with glue, staples or sticky tape. Paint, aluminum foil, contact paper, cloth or crepe paper can be used to cover the box.

A few box-costume possibilities include: a robot, die, televi-

sion, jack-in-the-box or a pizza box.

The following costumes can be made with clothing articles found around the house: gangster, Harpo Marx, flapper, 50s, pirate, Roaring Twenties, gypsy, pioneer, lumberjack and hobo.

Sleeper pajamas can be used in making a variety of animal costumes. Sleeper pajamas are made in adult sizes, so the ideas are not limited to children.

Most sleeper pajamas are made of a soft, fuzzy material that easily can be dyed at home. By adding the proper set of ears, spots or a tail, pajamas can be used to create any animal — from mouse to lion.

Sleeper pajamas also can be used for non-animal costumes, such as a monster or a mummy.

Gowns, robes and capes can be made into costumes with a minimum amount of sewing, glueing or pinning. Witch, ghost, angel and toga costumes easily can be made out of an old dyed sheet or cape.

Costumes capture the true spirit of Halloween. Wear a costume that reveals your true character, or design a costume fitting for that other identity you've always wanted to assume. Be as conservative, or as wild as you wish, and have a blast on Halloween night!



photo by Dean Saito

Walking down a deserted stairwell late at night can be as spooky as Halloween.

Book offers seven weird tales

by Rebeca Zimmermann
Battalion staff

If you're interested in strange and unexplained stories, The Reader's Digest Association, Inc. has come out with a book containing seven true experiences guaranteed to send shivers down your spine.

"Tales of the Uncanny" covers stories from UFO encounters to demonic possession with these seven tales, recounted by well-known authors.

Whether you're a credulous or an incredulous reader, you will have trouble putting the book down. The tales are well written and fascinating.

The first story, "Dr. Holmes's Murder Castle," tells of a seemingly respectable businessman who lured victims to a huge, specially designed building and killed them during the 1890s.

"Curious Encounter" details the 1961 experiences of a New England couple. Under hypnosis, the couple revealed fascinating accounts of their abduction, and subsequent release, by creatures in a UFO.

Mediums figure prominently in two of the stories, "The Remarkable Daniel Dunglas Home" and "The Captain's Return."

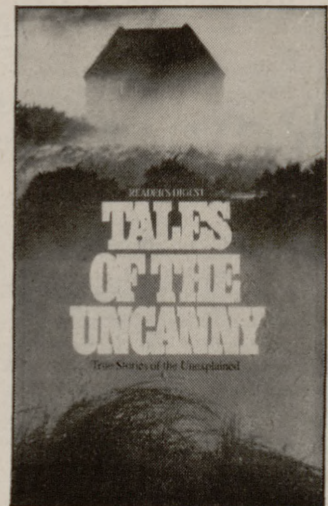
Daniel Dunglas Home received messages from the dead, floated through the air and moved objects around the room. No one could ever prove he was a fraud. In "The Captain's Return" a dead pilot sent messages through a medium that the British airship R101 was doomed. No one paid attention to the medium's messages, and the airship crashed and burned.

Spirits and demons figure in "The Strange Affair at Strat-

ford" and "The Possession of Sister Jeanne." In the first story objects flew through the air, furniture disappeared and mysterious writing appeared in Rev. Eliakim Phelps's Connecticut home in 1850.

Sister Jeanne was an Ursuline nun in the 1600s who supposedly was a victim of devils. Tormented by the demons' possession of her mind and body, she accused a priest of bewitching her. He later was burned at the stake. This tale discusses more than demonic possession. It offers a vivid picture of a nun's life, court and Catholic Church politics and the conflicts experienced by a nun who really wasn't suited for the veil.

The final tale in this book is yet another version of the Rasputin story. A Russian peasant, Grigori Rasputin became a close friend and adviser to Tsar



Nicholas and Tsarina Alexandra. Rasputin's life was filled with experiences of clairvoyance and of healing people. His death in 1917 was as strange as his life.