

# Fashion Outlook

## What do you want to be this Halloween

By Rochelle Chadikoff

You may be too old to believe in Santa Claus, but you never outgrow Halloween. Yet the question "what to wear" still spooks a lot of people when it gets close to Oct. 31. I can dispel that haunting problem with costume ideas that go beyond "have sheet, will trick or treat."

It's not that I think that simply turning a white sheet into a ghost costume is the hobgoblin of little minds; maybe it's more like short-sheeting your creativity. That same white sheet can be twisted into a toga fit for a god or goddess out of Joseph Campbell's mythology (cut your toga thigh-high, add a bow and quiver and you could be Cupid or Diana, the goddess of the moon and hunting.) Drape a pale-green sheet over your shoulder, add book, crown and torch, and you've got the makings for the Statue of Liberty.

And don't doubt the long-lasting impact of simplicity. I still crack up thinking of a guy who put on a yellow shower cap, swirled a white sheet around his shoulders and rigged up earrings from two pieces of toasted white bread. He was a fried egg sandwich.

Maybe you'd rather go Hollywood. While commercial costume-makers have been exclaiming "Holy Caped Crusader" over this year's predictable packaged best-seller, Hollywood has made this year a Halloween treat. It's easy to put together a costume suitable for the Joker, Indiana Jones or "Nightmare on Elm Street's" Freddy. Rent a powdered wig and elaborate dress or waistcoat and viola, you can plan your own dangerous liaisons.

Or pay tribute to the golden movies of 1939. You don't have to turn a green velvet curtain into a dress to be a saucy Scarlett O'Hara. Just don a cap, gown and nerd glasses and profess that you're Mr. Chips. A pinafore, pig-tails and a pair of pumps and red glitter will turn you into Dorothy before you can say "Toto, too."

Most of these costumes can be assembled from the racks in a second-hand clothes store. Find a cutaway jacket and a top hat and without much hocus-pocus, you can be transformed into a magician. Browse around until you find a modish mini-dress, or a Nehru jacket or a cocktail dress that inspires a great costume.

Blame it on the full moon or the fantasy, but Halloween has a romantic edge. I've always liked partner costumes. One of the most charming couples I know went to a party as the



HONOR "The Wizard of Oz" on the movie's 50th anniversary and go to your costume party dressed as Dorothy or the Scarecrow. If you have children, they can go along as Munchkins.

Tin Man and his heart. Were you high-

Since people often pick costumes that reveal part of their persona, if not their person, surprise becomes part of the thrill of Halloween. Yet even sex appeal has its limits: Don't be too graphic. At a recent party, I noticed that a woman wearing a larger than life package of birth control pills spooked away would-be suitors. It's easy to come up with provocative costumes. A slinky black cat costume used to be a favorite with women, but I predict that there will be a lot of Ly-school sweethearts? She wears a second-hand prom dress and he puts on a tuxedo jacket. (Make sure she gets a corsage and of course, there's a midnight curfew.) Or waltz away the night as Fred and Ginger (think "Top Hat": He's dapper in tails and cane, she's dripping glamour in a gown and feather boa.) Couch-potatoes can go as Lucy and Ricky Ricardo, if the she-spud knows something about henna rinses and the he-spud can find a conga drum and a two-tone jacket from the '50s. If you're really adventurous, consider Tarzan and Jane (substitute a stuffed monkey for Cheetah).

wig and bizarre makeup are crucial to a Halloween costume, free form your own Beauty and the Beast, Frankenstein and Bride, Raggedy Anne and Andy. You don't have to go as a famous couple, sometimes just going along with a partner's idea can be an act of love. I have a fond memory of my parents as Ma Jongg and Pa Jongg, wearing simple shifts that my mom decorated to look like tiles from a mah-jongg game. I never doubted her artistic talent, but I'm still not sure how she got my father to wear the shift and a pigtail made from braided black yarn. cra-sleek leopards this year.

That's a costume that could be put together easily — wear leopard print pantyhose, blouse or dress and a spotted scarf that can be twirled into a tail. And you can recycle the pieces into your regular wardrobe. Or you can find the makings of a costume in your own closet. Take a Japanese kimono and some white makeup and

you could be a Kabuki dancer or a Geisha girl. Combine a full skirt with a peasant or ruffled blouse, some scarves and lots of jewelry and you're on the trail to becoming a gypsy. Opt for leggings, boots, vest and an eyepatch and you can be a pirate. I also imagine it would be easy enough to wrangle up a Western outfit.

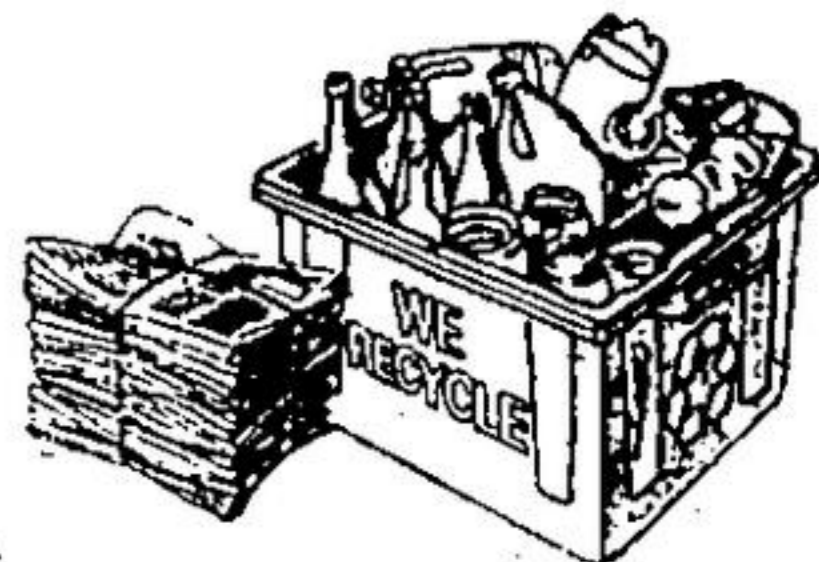
There are some tricks to making Halloween a treat. Take a lesson from your kids and use your imagination. And heed the advice adults often give kids: Make sure your mask or costume won't obscure your vision or your breathing. I suggest a dress rehearsal, so you know you're not baring anything unintentionally, you can move comfortably and you can easily get in and out of doors or the car. Halloween is more fun if you're bewitch-

ing rather than bothered or bewildered.

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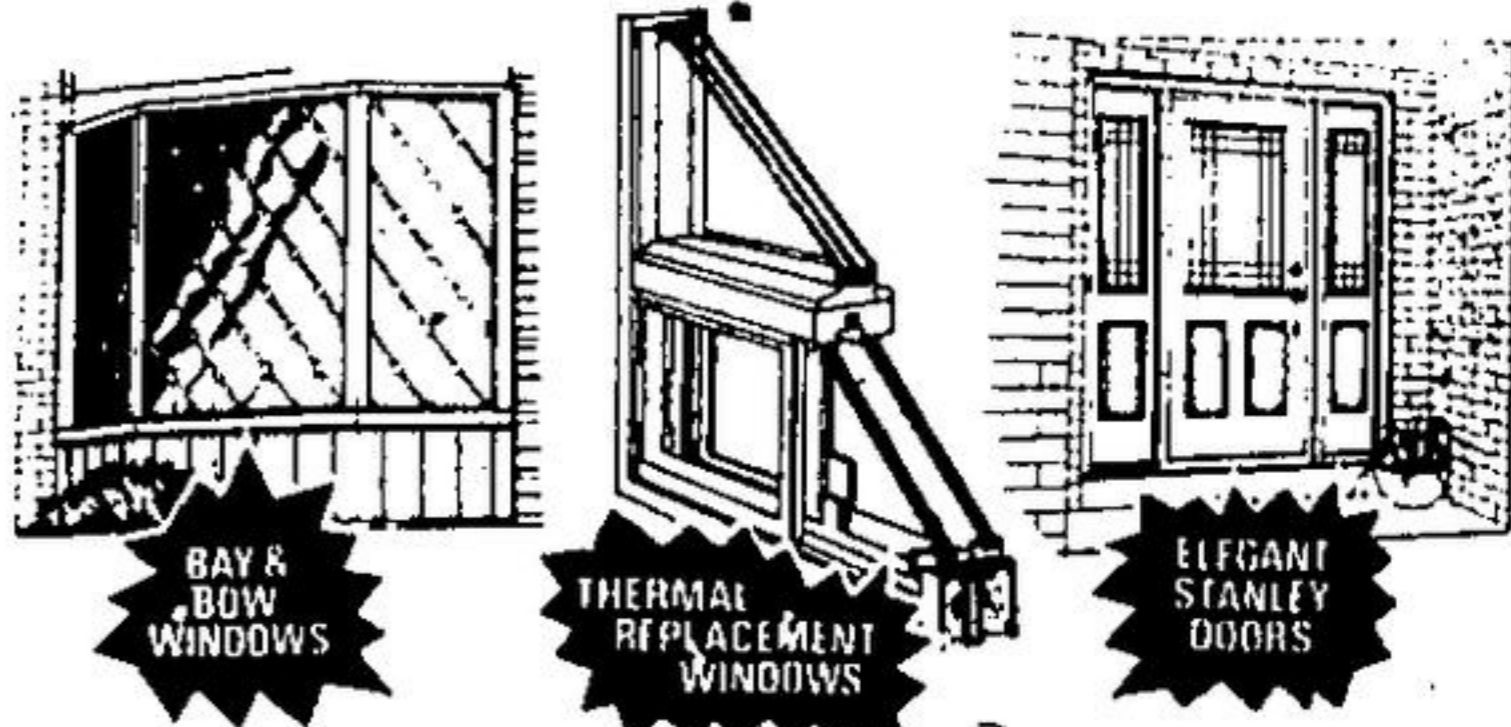
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