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Cheap Halloween Costumes

By Kathryn Finney

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This past week, I wrote in the weekly newsletter about how hard it is to find cool halloween costumes without going into debt. I asked my fellow fashionistas for advice and here are some of the best ideas—all for under \$20 bucks.

For the Single Girl:

Queen of the World. This is a Halloween favorite. Head to your nearest Salvation Army or Goodwill for old prom/evening dresses, or the back of your closet for those "forgotten" bridesmaid dresses. The puffier and gaudier, the better. Go to Claire's Boutique and purchase a tiara (usually around \$5 to \$10), several "diamond" rings, and elbow-length, white gloves. Throw on the rhinestone jewelry, correct that posture, and purchase 'Hello' (a.k.a the British 'People') at your local Barnes and Noble. Now, here is the piece de triumph: Have your male spouse/friend/partner be your man-servant, "James", for the whole night. Total outfit cost: \$20.00–\$80.00, depending on the size of your kingdom.

Marathon Runner. Toast the Olympics and dress like you're a marathon runner. Purchase a tank, shorts, and tennis shoes (the Canadian Athletic apparel store ROOTS has some great Olympic items at their online store). Since it is the end of October, go ahead and wear tights underneath those short shorts. Print out a race number on your computer, pin it to your tank, and you are ready to go. Total Outfit cost: 0.00–\$40.00, depending on the medal you are seeking.

Christina Aguilera. All you need is a big blonde wig (think drag queen), black eyeliner, a plaid mini-skirt, a cropped top, and some thigh-high boots and you are set. It is helpful to bring a little CD player and have "Genie in a Bottle" playing in the background. Total Outfit cost \$10.00–\$50.00, depending on the size of your record contract.

For couples:

Ward & June Cleaver. The fifties look was very hot this summer, so head out to your local department store or thrift shop and find fifties-inspired, a-line dresses for a fraction of their normal price. Check out

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post summer sales at your local department store like Macys. Add a simple strand of pearls, pearl earrings, a waist apron, sensible pumps and you are ready to go. Have your significant other dress as Ward. Total Outfit cost \$40.00– \$80.00, depending on whether the `Beav' needs braces.

Game Show Host and Pretty Helper Girl. This is a perfect costume for couples. Head out to your nearest thrift store and find the cheesiest late 70s/early 80s polyester, double knit suit ensemble for men and 80s deranged bridesmaid dress for women. Purchase a children's play microphone (Target has some for super cheap prices). Buy the cheapest hair spray you can find (All Net is good) and tease your hair like you are from the Jersey shore. Get a piece of cardboard, cut out a star about 8 inches in diameter and glue on gold glitter. Write the word "Grand Prize" in silver. To keep you smiling for the entire night, try this beauty pageant trick– put Vaseline underneath your upper lip. \$60.00–\$100 for both costumes, depending on whether or not your show picks–up for another season.

With A Group of Friends:

Sloth. This is the easiest and cheapest costume. Don't wash your hair or take a shower for two days, roll out of bed in your PJs and you are set! This costume is particularly effective if you get six friends to go as the other six deadly sins: greed, envy, wrath, gluttony, pride and lust. Total Outfit cost– \$0, depending on how sinful you are willing to get.

1970's Television Family. There are so many great ones to choose from: the Partridge Family, Brady Bunch, Evan's family from Good Times, Donny and Marie Osmond, and the Jeffersons. The family you chose depends on the make–up of your group of friends, but putting together the outfits is almost as much fun as the actual Halloween event itself. Make a date and head straight to your local thrift store or your parent's closet. Total Outfit Cost– \$20.00 and up, depending on how "dy–no–mite" you want to be.

Kathryn "The Budget Fashionista" Finney is the founder and Chief Shopping Officer of TheBudgetFashionista.com (<http://www.thebudgetfashionista.com>), a popular website that provides realistic fashion advice, shopping tips and sale event information to budget conscious consumers. Known as "the stylist to the cheap," Kathryn has been around the world searching for the perfect bargain on designer goods and is willing to get the bargain by any (legal) means necessary.

Halloween Costumes For Pets

By Michael Perry

It's a night for scary surprises, lots of free candy for kiddies and the chance to dress up in Halloween costumes. And, even though he cannot eat chocolate, Fido may enjoy getting all dolled up for a night of fun. In recent years, designers have begun manufacturing Halloween costumes for pets. In creations ranging from super heros to villains, pet costumes are gaining in popularity both locally and through online merchants.

With the internet being the largest shopping mall in the world, albeit a virtual one, the selection of

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Halloween costumes is much greater in cyberspace. Designers and specialty stores around the world have the opportunity to showcase their latest ideas and fabrics that are sure to please even the pickiest of pet owners. Anyone who plans to order via the internet can expect to pay a shipping and handling fee, but with Halloween costumes being lightweight, this additional cost won't likely be a significant one.

When selecting Halloween costumes for pets, it is a good idea to measure your cat or dog beforehand so that you will know what size to purchase. That's right. Not all Halloween costumes for pets come in a one-size-fits-all cookie cutter shape. In fact, most quality outfits will be specially made for various size animals. A yellow lab and a poodle probably wouldn't agree on the same size costume, so stay away from designers that gear toward the one-size-fits-all design.

When selecting Halloween costumes, it is a good idea to choose one that will be most comfortable for your furry little friend. Remember, they are also wearing a fur coat, so anything that is breathable will be ideal. It's also a good idea to keep in mind that most pets will be resistant to Halloween costumes at first, simply because it is a new concept. If you plan to show them off on Halloween, make sure that you break them in several days prior to the big night. One way to do this is by showing them the costume, putting it on for a few minutes and then removing it. Afterward, give them a treat and praise them for good behavior. After several of these exercises, not only will your pet be happy to wear the costume, but he/she will also be looking forward to a treat afterward. So, just make sure that you have a special treat for them on Halloween as well – but no chocolate.

Want to learn more about halloween costumes? Make sure you visit our site at:

for access to additional halloween costumes tips and
information.



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