

# Live Out Your Fantasies This Halloween

By Cindy Frenkel

A few years ago, I had an idea for a costume party. I'd invite all the men to come as Humphrey Bogart, and all the women to come as Phyllis Diller. I, of course, would be Lauren Bacall. This Halloween, as you ask yourself once again who you want to become, spend a few minutes learning about places I've scouted for you:

This being the Constitution's bicentennial, you might want to be one of the Framers—James Madison, for example, wearing an anti-Bork button on your waistcoat. If you have an idea of what you want to be, and don't mind an easy subway ride to Long Island City (I went from the Upper West Side in half an hour), Eaves-Brooks, (21-07 41st Avenue, 718-729-1010) is the largest costume rental on the east coast. Rentals range from \$60 to \$150, with an average of \$75 (for a week or any part thereof). This is not the place to go if you don't know what you want to be, however, because you'll simply be overwhelmed; a conservative costume count is 750,000. The only way they can make sense of their stock is to label it by dates; here you'll find costumes from Biblical times to the twentieth century. Eaves-Brooks makes 80 percent of their costumes—they've done everything from "Saturday Night Live" to "The Adams Chronicles," and Halloween's a sideline for them. They'll put together a great look if you want to be Scarlett O'Hara, for example (\$75 to \$125), but if you want to be a lobster or a banana, don't come here. They have certain standards, and won't rent out Nazi uniforms, police uniforms (it's illegal because their officers look authentic), or religious clothing (they don't want to be associated with a pregnant nun). Accessories are included, and when you rent you have to leave the same amount in security.

"We're not renting clothing, we're providing the basics for a person to live out their fantasy," Jeanette, the owner, of Universal Costumes, (535 8th Avenue, 21st Floor, 239-3222) told me. Here you can rent something from \$50 up to about \$250, and if you haven't the faintest idea what you want to be, they'll help you. If you don't want to spend a lot of money,

you'll be outfitted with accessories—say a flapper headband, a cigarette holder, and a boa; or a pirate hat, boot tops, and a sword. Hat rentals start at \$35, and there's everything from feathered pillbox hats to hats made of ornate sequined curlicues reminiscent of Ziegfeld girls. Many costumes come with accessories (you couldn't have a fairy godmother without a wand). And at Universal, they've sent people out dressed to go with their street clothes in a bag (some have actually left their clothes in the store). If two people want to be coordinating characters, it's no problem. There's something for every size, so don't worry if you're very tiny or very large. From Egyptian costumes to futuristic silver jumpsuits, it's here. A brief caveman costume runs \$50 to \$65. Romeos start at about \$95. For an elegant look, there's a wide range of fall gowns from a Camelot-type gown to a French court dress with a hoop (they start at \$100).

Parade figures with huge, separate heads include a snowman, a frog, an endearing polar bear, a 2-man horse, and a clown whose nose and hat light up. Rentals for these start at \$125. The rental period is 48 hours, and if alterations need to be done, Jeanette says they'll be finished by the time the rental slip is written up.

At Bob Kelly Wig Creations and Cosmetics, (151 West 46th St, 9th Floor, 819-0030) you'll find some of the best wigs around. Mr. Kelly is known throughout the world for both his theatrical makeup and wigs. Photos of actors and actresses cover the walls, many with notes of thanks to Bob, including a brown-haired Meryl Streep from "Out of Africa" (they're doing wigs for all her new films). In the shop's front, women were sewing wigs for the new Broadway show "Into the Woods" with Bernadette Peters. Mr. Kelly has made wigs for the New York City Ballet, Jessica Lange and Dolly Parton. All wigs are made from human hair that he gets from all over the world (including Poland, China, and Spain).

You'll find a variety of styles from Madame Butterfly's to Marie Antoinette's—you name it, they have it (if they don't, they can make it in three to four days). Expect to pay about \$75 to rent one,

unless you want an ornate style—a Marie Antoinette, for example, is closer to \$125. Rentals are for a week. Mr. Kelly also sells beards and mustaches; a set is around \$90, a mustache alone runs \$40.

Want a black eye? It's painlessly yours for under \$10 with Bob Kelly's makeup. Paint on a deep scar for \$2. Or there's liquid latex to make skin appear old, and artificial blood to give cuts that realistic touch. If you want to be Cyrano, Bob Kelly's molding wax will make your nose big enough for a bird to perch on (or enable you to create an open cut). Bald caps are about \$30, or \$50 with all the makeup, and crepe wool sells by the yard (\$5.50) which you can easily make into a beard and mustache (they'll show you how). Mr. Kelly's booklet of makeup tips is \$1 and has all the instructions you need. They're happy to give out advice here but if you want your makeup professionally done, they will refer you to someone.

If you choose to buy props or accessories, drop by Gordon Novelty Co., (933 Broadway, 354-8616) where there are unusual accessories from tomahawks to scepters (from \$10 on up). Here's where you can find any types of feet or shoes you'll need (\$8.50 to \$25), including five versions of clown shoes, colossal elephant feet, and green elf shoes. Capes run from \$13 to \$100; for \$13, you'll find them in black, white, red, or green. Synthetic wigs are here, and a huge selection of masks; a great Woody Allen, an E.T., the Tinman from Oz—masks range anywhere from \$15 to \$75 with rubber monster masks running around \$35. Wacky animal noses include dinosaurs and lobsters (\$4 apiece) and 25 kinds of animal masks (\$8.75 each) include a terrific elephant, camel, and St. Bernard.

At Paper House stores (they're all over the city), adult costumes go up to about \$39. A colossal polka-dotted bow tie is \$3.99. A black, nylon unlined cape is \$15.99, glittered hats in assorted colors run around \$3, and a pink, punk wig is \$12.99. Here you'll find lots of kits—a bumblebee, for example, is \$11.99 with a striped bib, wings, and antennae. Boas are \$15.99. There's a wide selection of masks—facsimiles of Victorian half-masks are \$2.29 and have lovely coloring (sailors, barristers, women). A silver half-moon mask is \$5.99. Black tooth wax is \$1.00; a clown nose is under \$1. A huge Texas housefly is \$3.99 but not ugly enough to be disgusting; it's funny accompanied by the Texas fly swatter (\$3.99) which is the size of a tennis racket. The longest black false eyelashes with adhesive already on would make a good Tammy Faye (\$2.79). You supply the tears.