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Cerny: Get a cheap, creative costume for Halloween in five tips

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By Tasha Cerny

Halloween is the one night a year when girls can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it, or so the quote from Mean Girls goes.

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But is this really true?- Granted, I'm not sure how anyone can be surprised by this premise- it seems nothing in the stores these days is offered with more than a few shards of fabric to cover up the most essential parts of the body.

This was a very vibrant discussion amongst the many women living in my scholarship hall last year.- Funny enough, the topic never really got around to the sad fact that women's costumes are so overtly sexualized while men's costume selection seems to remain fairly varied.- Instead, we got hung up on the word "slut," and what would constitute dressing "like a total slut."

In the end, we all agreed that we-men and women alike-should have the ability to choose for ourselves what we wish to wear without the social inhibition of slut-shaming or other such negative judgment.- After all, when we degrade others, aren't we setting limitations for ourselves?

I think Cady got the idea right, but chose her words badly.- Halloween is the one night a year when women may wear ridiculous conceptualizations of the word "sexy," like "sexy nurse," "sexy Disney Princess," "sexy giraffe," etc. But they aren't sluts.- A woman is never a slut for what she chooses to wear.- Self-expression through clothing has nothing to do with how sexually active a person is. And it should never, ever be seen that way.

That being said, I do think it is an unfortunate and frustrating issue that no matter where you go, finding a costume that isn't a sexualized version of something is nearly impossible. I, for one, have never really had a desire to don the shreds of fabric they're calling costumes in stores these days.- Being the broke college student and dry humorist that I am, I opt for cheaper, creative costumes.- If you're still looking for some ideas, here are some quick suggestions:

1) Old person-this is particularly good if you are theatrical and good with makeup. I went as this last year and almost convinced some friends I was an actual alumnus of the scholarship halls.

2) Puns-I am all for anything that shows this level of creativity.- A few of my favorites



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include '50 Shades of Gray' (basically just wearing as much gray as possible), 'One Direction' (draw an arrow heading upwards with an 'N' above it on a shirt), and 'Cereal Killer' (just drag a trash bag full of cereal boxes around with you all night).

3) Ironic-For some reason, dressing as an animal dressed as a human never gets old.- Also, any costume Jim Halpert wears in "The Office," except for that one year when he was Popeye.


4) Obscure-find the most normally dressed supporting character in a television series you watch. Go as that.

5) Couple/Group-Everything and anything is better in numbers. I really love the idea of Bob Ross and his painting.- Or, you know, go as pieces of a salad.- That works too.

If you do choose to wear something store-bought, please remember to be responsible with your choice in clothing. Costumes that are culturally or racially insensitive are never okay, and you should choose what you wear because you enjoy it, not because you think others will like it or feel more attracted to you.- Choosing your costume-as in all things-based on the presumed opinion of anyone other than yourself will only leave you disappointed.

So remember, Halloween is a fun time whether you dress up, or down, or not at all, but what you wear or don't wear has no basis upon your character.- Also, don't have sex. You'll get chlamydia and die.

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