

# HALLOWEEN HINTS!

## Homemade Costumes: A Halloween Hit

(NAPSA)—As Halloween creeps up, trick-or-treaters hunt for the perfect costume—from ghosts and goblins to divas and superheroes.

For the creative and the budget-conscious, “cookie-cutter” store-bought costumes won’t do, especially if you’re trying to win first prize in a contest.

According to Emmy-nominated Hollywood costume designer Randy Gardell, anyone can have fun creating one-of-a-kind costumes. “With just a few boxes or bottles of Rit® Dye combined with some basic household items such as sponges, mops, towels or old socks, you can create fanciful costumes with more charm and character than most store-bought disguises,” says Gardell.

Having worked on many “spooktacular” movie hits, Gardell suggests the following tricks:

- Research what’s hot in “kid world”—Check out all the new movie characters, cartoon characters and television shows. Leaf through magazines and comic books for inspiration.

- Experiment with Randy’s favorite secret ingredient—Rit Dye. Grab whatever you can get your hands on—towels, old bathrobes, curtains, and slippers. Next create a little magic—add some of your favorite Rit hues to the mix (i.e. Kelly Green, Cardinal Red or Purple) and see what happens. Perhaps you’ll end up with “sponge teeth” for a dragon, or a colorful skirt for a hula girl.



**Create a little costume magic by adding some new dyes to the mix.**

- Make costuming a family-fun activity. Dream up some ideas with the entire family, then spend a weekend creating your very own disguises. Have a fashion show featuring your Halloween couture. Add some excitement by awarding prizes for costumes judged the most original, the scariest, the cutest. Create your own award-winning categories to suit the contestants.

- Add some frills and some chills. Dyed items such as ribbons, pompoms, fabric flowers, glitter or pipe cleaners will give your disguise special flair.

- Journey to the nearest thrift shop for some cheap thrills. Thrift shops are full of quirky items that can spark ingenuity and make a costume a masterpiece.

For more creative Halloween ideas, color recipes and dyeing tips, visit [www.ritdye.com](http://www.ritdye.com).