

FASHION: HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

Expect 'Frozen' and custom costume couture this Halloween



FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTO/RANDY LITZINGER

Lita Trimmings, store manager of Spirit Halloween, looks over several 'Game of Thrones'-inspired costumes in her Warrenton costume shop.

By Julie A. Taylor

FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

With only four weeks to go until Halloween, children and adults search for ideas on sites like Pinterest for ideas and visit Warrenton's costume stores for supplies.

Some favorites never go out of style. Shoppers can still find "Where's Waldo?" costumes. Even though the "Harry Potter" series came to a close years ago, parents will still spot Hermione Granger, Ron Weasley, Harry Potter and Voldemort in crowds of trick-or-treaters.

But one Disney character revealed this past year will dominate the sidewalks of neighborhoods everywhere: Queen Elsa from "Frozen."

If sales at Warrenton's costume stores are any indicator, expect dozens of children and adults to wear ice blue, shimmering gowns, capes, and white braids to one side.

At least one costume store here has sold out of Elsa costumes, and another store is already on its second shipment.

Katelyn Bennett, assistant manager at Spirit Halloween said, "The Elsa costumes are flying out of the store."

But "Frozen" appeals to the boys too, Bennett said.

"We had one little boy who wanted to be Olaf, and when he came out of the dressing room he said, 'Hi, I'm Olaf and I like warm hugs,'" said Bennett, quoting a line from the movie.

Spider-Man, Superman and Batman never go out of style, she said.

"Boys love their superheroes," said Bennett. "Spirit has little toddler superheroes too, which is just absolutely adorable."

Costume store workers see more demand for characters from "Game of Thrones," the popular TV show based on George R. R. Martin's fantasy novels.

Spirit Halloween sells a rubber dragon to wear on the shoulder for those who want to dress as "The Mother of Dragons," Daenerys Targaryen.

This year, costume store workers find more customers want to blend several costume ideas into unique creations.

"What we've seen is consumers really want looks that can be customizable, mix and match and make

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MARIA MONTANO

Spirit Halloween employee

Costumes for a cause

Spirit Halloween in Warrenton collects for INOVA Fairfax Child Life Department, attempting to make Halloween less scary for children and their families. The proceeds will fund a party for the children on Oct. 15 at INOVA, and proceeds also go toward the Child Life Departments.

it your own," said Catherine Nissley, self-proclaimed "spooksperson" for Halloween City near Safeway.

Maria Montano, an employee at Spirit Halloween, said one woman bought doctor accessories and a witch mask to become a "witch doctor."

"We've got a lot of people that will come in and buy accessories," said Bennett.

One customer, Bennett said, needed only fangs and fake blood to match the long, black dress she already had.

"She wanted all sorts of vampire accessories," she said.

There appears to be no age limits for gory costumes, Montano said.

"One little girl said she wanted to be a zombie, but she wanted to be Dorothy, too," said Montano. "So she bought a Dorothy outfit and her mom said they were going to buy one of the brains, cut a hole in the wig for the brain and gash her face. It's cute."

Nissley's store offers separates like T-shirts because sometimes, "guys don't always want to wear a full costume, but they still want to be dressed up."

How to make Elsa's shoes



The Snow Queen needs a pair of hot kicks to complete her sparkling powder blue costume. Recycle a pair of scuffed shoes with this costume prop idea.

You'll need:

- Glitter
- Fabric glue
- Paint brush
- Spray-on clear coat

Step 1: Working on one shoe at a time, apply a layer of fabric glue to the outside of the shoe. Work in sections if the glue dries too fast.

Step 2: Sprinkle glitter over the shoe until well coated. Let stand for five minutes.

Step 3: Spray the clear coat evenly to help seal in the glitter. Wait 30 minutes, then spray a second coat.