



Kobi Shaw

April 1 · 3

Day 1 Costumed Quarantine - Being told we needed to stay in place at home, I thought this costume was particulary fitting to start with. Honestly, I forgot we even owned this costume.



2 Comments









Thom Hubert



Like · Reply · 14w



Robin Michelsen Okay here's my suggestion for a theme song for these pictures... I Fought the Law and the Law Won."

Like · Reply · 6w















Day 2 Costumed Quarantine - I really don't frequent Renaissance festivals. I just happen to have it, just because. This dress has appeared in our local high school production of Once Upon a Mattress. I think that is the only time it has seen the light of day (since I purchased it at a thrift sale) unless Carrie Christensen ever wore it for a trip to the Ren Fest.







Kobi Shaw

Day 3 Costumed Quarantine - Schools may be closed but not Hogwarts!



4 Comments









Bryan Louiselle Did it choose you? You look worried.

Like · Reply · 14w



Bryan Louiselle You'll sort it out

Like · Reply · 14w



Kobi Shaw I am listening...intently.

Like · Reply · 14w



Jason Lynn Hufflepuff!

Like · Reply · 13w





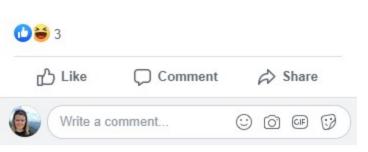








Day 4 Costumed Quarantine - Seriously, don't lose your head yet. It's still early in this "Safer at Home" order. Just remember to keep your wit and sense of humor around you!







Day 5 Costumed Quarantine - Once we can travel again, it would sure be nice to return to Scotland.

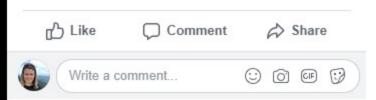








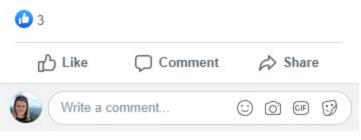
Day 5 Costumed Quarantine (continued) - This photo entertained Steve and me the entire flight home from Scotland. Where would you like to go once all this is over?







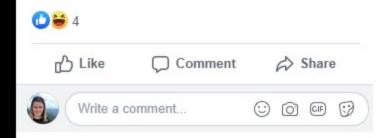
Day 6 Costumed Quarantine - This vampire is here to remind you that the American Red Cross is asking for anyone who is healthy and able to donate blood.







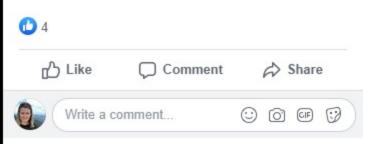
Day 7 Costumed Quarantine - This is no joke, people. You need to stay at home - but you can at least try to have fun while doing it!!







Day 8 Costumed Quarantine - Stevie Nicks here to remind you there are many RUMORS out there regarding the coronavirus. Be sure to check the facts before sharing information on social media. Also, STAND BACK!!







Day 9 Costumed Quarantine (continued) - As seen in last year's local high school's production of Newsies. Tonight would have been the opening night for this year's musical at our local high school. Though there would have been no place for this dress in Joseph, I'd like to use today's costume challenge to pay tribute to all those kids (and adults) that worked so hard to bring the show to life. This school is a rarity in that they have a wealth of talented guys right now, with a good portion of them being seniors. If there was ever a year to do Joseph, this was their year to do it. My heart is sad for the entire cast, that they will not get to share their talents tonight. Their voices, the set, the costumes. The whole community was excited to see this. I know this is just one of many casts who have experienced a similar loss.















Day 9 Costumed Quarantine (continued) - This costume was actually built for Steve's mother, who wore it while giving tours during a Victorian Christmas event. Though I have never worn it for anything, it has appeared in the last 2 musicals at our local high school (Newsies and The Music Man). I think Steve's mom would be pleased to know the dress is still being used and enjoyed. — with Steve Russell.



3 Comments









Marion Lang yes, yes, Lou would like this and This could be the work of the brilliant Doris Harmston Cronk

Like · Reply · 6w



Marion Lang replied · 2 Replies













Day 9 Costumed Quarantine (continued) - As seen in last year's local high school's production of Newsies. Tonight would have been the opening night for this year's musical at our local high school. Though there would have been no place for this dress in Joseph, I'd like to use today's costume challenge to pay tribute to all those kids (and adults) that worked so hard to bring the show to life. T... See More



Like

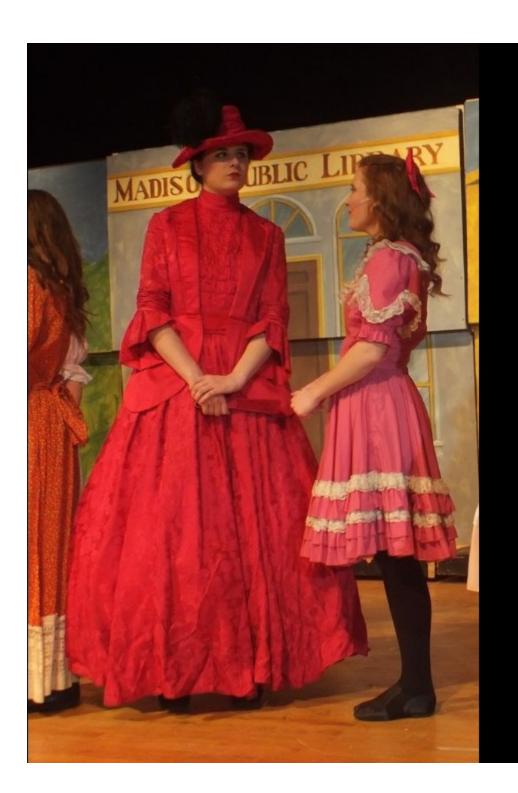
Comment Comment

Share



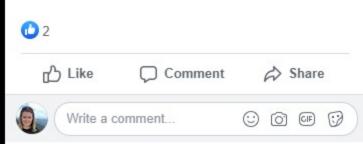








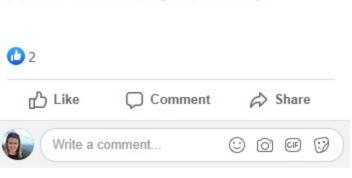
Day 9 Costumed Quarantine (continued) - As seen in our local high school's production of The Music Man from 2 years ago. Give a shout out here to anyone you know that is in the same boat, not able to perform their show. Show them some love because we all know actors ADORE attention!







Day 10 Costumed Quarantine - Hey, we're in the double digits already! So yes, this isn't one of those fancy inflatable dinosaur costumes everyone seems to have (okay, we do have one of those as well), but that's okay because this one is much more ridiculous looking and the whole point of this costume challenge is to make people smile! Remember, by staying home, you are helping to protect those at high risk, including old dinosaurs like me! Real dinosaurs may be extinct, but we want our older population around as long as possible.

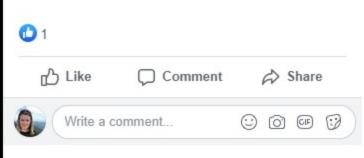






Day 11 Costumed Quarantine - Though not as flashy or ridiculous as some of my other costumes, this one holds a special place in my heart. I wore this many moons ago as part of a family themed Halloween costume when we all dressed as cowboys. The boys are now in college and a junior in high school, which tells you how long I have kept it (fyi, a sign of the times, I just cut the shoulder pads out of the shirt before taking today's photo). Also, the cowboy hat I am wearing was worn by our son in his very first show, Annie Get Your Gun, when he was in Kindergarten. So the costume as a whole is sentimental - and it still fits! Also, you can barely see it, but if you look closely, I am spinning a rope as part of my costume. Hard to catch in motion, but it's there!

Any favorite Halloween costume photos you'd like to share? Or tell us about? Let's do it, people!!







Day 11 Costumed Quarantine (continued) - Cowboy themed family Halloween costumes. — with Steve Russell.



① ① @ ⑦





Day 11 Costumed Quarantine (continued) - Our now college age son wearing the same cowboy hat in a production of Annie Get Your Gun from when he was in Kindergarten.











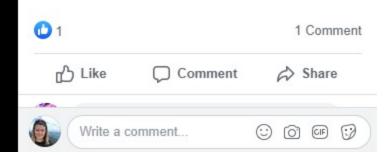




Day 12 Costumed Quarantine - WARNING:
UNPOPULAR OPINION ALERT. I do not like Star
Wars. Or at least that was the opinion I settled on
when I saw the first (now fourth???) movie at age
12. But my children always loved the movies which
is why we own this costume. The costume actually
no longer fits anyone in the house (I completely
jerried-rig it with binder clips to wear it for this photo)
and it will eventually be going to Carrie Christensen
and her children to enjoy. I thank my husband for
suggesting clearing out our utility room and using
our fog machine for a setting and for my son who set
me straight that it DOES matter what color lightsaber
Darth Vadar uses.

All that being said, perhaps during this "safe at home" period, I need to revisit Star Wars and give the whole series a second chance. I'd like to think some of my tastes have changed since I was 12!

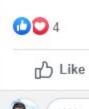
Signing off by saying "Avoid Darth Plagueis by washing your hands and by practicing social distancing." I have no idea who Darth Plagueis is, but this was my sons' recommendation as a Star Wars tie in to this post. Stay safe out there and may the force be with you.







Day 13 Costumed Quarantine - March went out like a lion...leopard...wait, is it a leopard or a lion? Or maybe it's a cougar? Is it even March? Isn't it May by now? Has Easter happened already? What day is it? I am so confused. All I know is I wear this costume in honor of my Grandmother and her intense love of leopard print. Anyone who ever met Zel knew she dressed to the nines every single day, finishing off her outfit with coordinated accessories. She would have adorded this costume, although she wouldn't consider it a costume. She'd call it everyday wear.



Comment















Day 13 Costumed Quarantine (continued) - My grandmother donning her most favorite leopard print coat.



Like

Comment Comment

⇔ Share







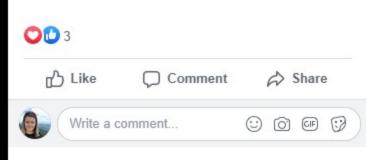








Day 14 Costumed Quarantine - Sure, it's April 1st, but don't be fooled. As much as I'd love to wave my magic wand and make all this go away, this pandemic is not going to "miraculously disappear" any time soon. It's going to take all of us to do our part and that means staying at home! Really, it's not that hard people. STAY AT HOME!!!!







Kobi Shaw

April 2 · Edited · 3

Day 15 Costumed Quarantine - Okay, the news recently has become particularly sobering so it is time to pull out the big guns ... or in this case, the big wig. Besides being completely over the top ridiculous, Steve tells me this is perfect for social distancing as no one would want to be near me in this gem. Truth - I have 3 of these wigs. I purchased them for 90% off after Halloween, just in case I ever did a girl group number which could use something like this. Yeah, I've had the wigs for years and this is the first time any of them have ever been worn.





47 Comments

2 Shares



Comment



View 28 more comments



David Strah Hi there Kobi! I know Ruth would love to hear from you. txt me at 917-922-2650 and I will give you her cell if you don't have it. She is fine here in LA and staying "safer at home" Love your pics!

Like · Reply · 14w



Kathleen Santini It's now officially OVER, Kobi ... the van is outside waiting for YOU

Like - Reply - 14w





Kathleen Santini It's officially OVER ... the















Kobi Shaw

April 3 · Edited · 3

Day 16 Costumed Quarantine - Okay, I know people out there are disappointed they had to cancel their Disney vacations this spring. But you can still ride the rides and tour the parks virtually for now. And I'm sure many of you have been watching Disney movies while stuck at home. Maybe check out one you haven't seen yet, like Fantasia, perhaps! What is your favorite Disney attraction or which one do you hope to visit if you've never been to a Disney park? Do you have a favorite photo from a visit you'd like to share here? I know some of my friends have even worked for the Mouse ...



25 Comments 1 Share







View 10 more comments



Sandy Patten Your costumes are amazing. This is from Gypsy - my second show with Anna.















Day 17 Costumed Quarantine - "That's How Vikings Sail". Because our local school is the Vikings, we (once again) find ourselves with multiple Viking helmets. I could never seem to convince my children to wear them as spectators at sporting events, though! But this is more than a tribute to our local school. This costume reminds me of all the warriors out there every day, fighting this fight for us, the doctors, the nurses, the first responders etc who go into battle for us. I wish I could say they go in fearlessly, but that would not be completely true. Thank you to all the warriors on the front line, not only in the medical field, but those who continue to keep this country running during this dark period of history. Thank you.







Kobi Shaw

April 5 · Edited · 3

Day 18 Costumed Quarantine - Sure, it's nice to not worry about how you look every day during this "Safer at Home" period. But even sitting around in sweats day after day can get tiresome. Break the routine by dressing up, just for the fun of it! Pick out something colorful or flashy, like this little number! It just might lift your spirits, and even those around you.







22 Comments







View 13 more comments



Laura Peter The entire outfit is WONDERFUL!! I especially like the shoes!

Like · Reply · 14w



Sandy Patten I'm running out of pictures! Lol. Mrs Millennium from Urinetown.

















Day 19 Costumed Quarantine - Spies out there have informed me not every one is taking social distancing seriously. If you have to be out and about, maintain 6 feet distance from anyone else and wear a mask, whether you have a hacking cough or not. Please, police yourself so others don't have to do it for you!

*Side note to this costume - while we were taking this photo, Steve and I were basically caught (unexpectedly) by the UPS man. I hope he only saw the back of me running full speed into the house. I can't imagine what he would have thought, seeing me lurking in the woods dressed like this.



18 Comments







View 8 more comments



Cathy Pierzina Thank you for inviting us into your life, Kobi. You are a gift to the world!

Like · Reply · 14w



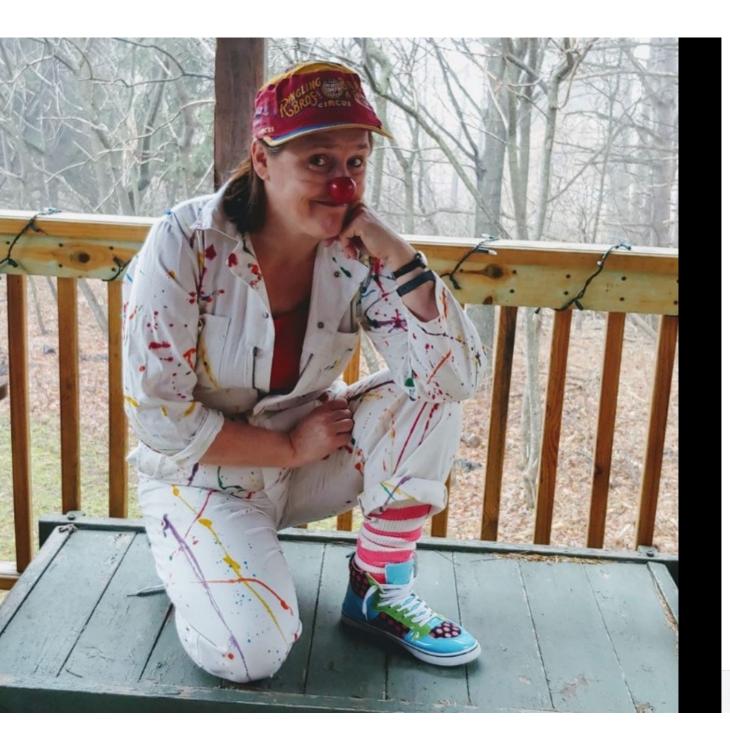
Susan Rineck I'm surprised you ran! I thought it would have been a great opportunity for you (and Steve) to go into some kind of action scene for the driver's entertainment 👄 👄













Day 20 - Costumed Quarantine - "The tears of a clown when there's no one around...". SO many people I know and love are hurting emotionally right now. Every day I can feel their struggle and I want them to know that even though I have been dressing up for these posts, making a fool of myself, I am right there with you. Our mixed bags of emotions are raw, right at the surface and some days it does not take much to release them. Like you, I have unexpectedly found myself in a puddle of of tears multiple times. Thank goodness for the emotional release that laughter provides.

This might not look like much of a costume to many of you, but this was my "uniform" when I attended Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Clown College. We wore these jumpsuits when we were out in public as a group. I know people have strong opinions on whether they like or dislike clowns, but attending Clown College is still one of my proudest accomplishments. It's where I learned from one of the greatest teachers and clowns out there (Steve Smith) that being a clown is so much more than a costume or makeup; that while humor and laughter are important, clowns can make people FEEL. Attending clown college not only made me a better performer, it made me a better person. I proudly wear this "uniform" today as my costume, Please know this clown shares many of the feelings the rest of you are having during this stressful, unsettling time. Virtual hugs to you all.













Day 21 Costumed Quarantine - Hey, it's been 3 weeks of this nonsense already! Okay, so you can't really go visit Grandma and bring her treats right now, but that shouldn't stop you from still reaching out. Pick up the phone and make a call, write an email, video chat, Zoom, Skype, FaceTime or use the postal service to mail an actual letter or card! Everyone likes to be remembered so this applies to more than just Grandma or Grandpas! Reach out to parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, that random 3rd cousin, friends and more. Keep that human connection alive however you can. You might not realize how much someone needs your support and kindness right now and I can assure you it will be appreciated.



31 Comments







View 14 more comments



Brett Jensen My daily burst out laughing!!

Like · Reply · 13w





Susie Draeger "Hello, little girl, what's your rush?...." JN

Like · Reply · 13w





Barbara Gallo This is the perfect outift to go get essentials at the supermarket. You may















Day 22 Costumed Quarantine - This costume was built for me by the wonderfully talented Stephanie Mueller Goodrie when I played Marmee in Little Women, The Musical. A story about a family struggling to get by during a time of war and turmoil, of sacrifices being made and loved ones being lost to to scarlet fever. A story of love and family and strength. I can't help but think of the lyrics of Days of Plenty, a song I sang to Jo late in the show, urging her that she must go on.

"I never dreamed of this sorrow. I never thought I'd have reason to lament. I hoped I'd never know heartbreak. How I wish I could change the way things went. I wanted nothing but goodness. I wanted a reason to prevail. Not this bare emptiness. I wanted days of plenty. You have to believe there is reason for hope. You have to believe that the answered will come. You can't let this defeat you. I won't let this defeat you."

In the words of Marmee, carry on...with hope.

* Costume fun fact - this fabric was supposed to be used for my wedding dress!! Originally I could not imagine myself in a white dress so I found a pattern and purchased this fabric and notions. About a week later, I sat bolt upright in bed thinking, "I can't wear a green dress to my wedding!" So I purchased new (ivory) fabric and this fabric sat for years until it was transformed into this gorgeous costume that I adore.













Day 23 Costumed Quarantine - Ahoy, me hearties! No doubt, we all have a little cabin fever by now. Personally, I find it therapeutic to go outside (dressed as a pirate) and let out a huge AAAAAAARRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGHHH HHHHH!!!!!!. Seriously, give it a try. It can be quite cathartic!

Honestly, you had to know a pirate costume was coming. It seems like a go to costume that most people have worn at one time or another. If you have a pirate costume or have a photo of yourself dressed as a pirate, share them here! Now get to it, you swarthy swashbucklers, you!



54 Comments







View 19 more comments



Bryan Louiselle Just step up, will ya?

Like · Reply · 13w



Bryan Louiselle Get that eye patch on!

Like · Reply · 13w



Bryan Louiselle Arghhh.

Like · Reply · 13w















Day 24 Costumed Quarantine - If I said Easter won't be strange this year, I'd be LION! I know many of us won't be able to be with family which is especially disappointing. And traditions will be harder to keep as well. This is the time to get creative and figure out how you can still make the day special, honoring customs you might regularly follow. Attending chuch on line? Get dressed up, even if you will be sitting at home on your couch. Can't have your mom's special deviled eggs? Ask for the recipe and make them yourself. Can't have the grandkids over for an egg hunt? Hide eggs outside and watch them from indoors. I know I will miss playing my flute at church this year, but that won't stop me from going outside and playing a verse or two of Morning Has Broken. A friend of mine was having trouble finding eggs at the grocery store so she dyed plastic eggs with her kids. I repeat - they dyed plastic eggs in an effort to still have the experience and give some semblance of normalcy during this crazy time.

Do you have some Easter or Passover traditions you look forward to every year? Share them here!



21 Comments







View 10 more comments



Sandy Patten We always got dressed up in our new drasses my mom made with our















Kobi Shaw

April 12 · Edited · 3

Day 25 Costumed Quarantine - Happy Easter! The Lord is risen, indeed.





34 Comments 1 Share







View 28 more comments



McKinzi Roberts Simonsen Happy Easter.



Like · Reply · 13w





Jenn Page Hallelujah! H \$\mathbb{9}\$ ppy E \$\frac{100}{20}\$



Like · Reply · See Translation · 13w · Edited



Nancy Langhough Cook You always find the perfect settings for each costume!

Like · Reply · 13w





Cathy Pierzina Happy Easter, Kobi!

Like · Reply · 13w





Kay Scharn Hallelujah

Like · Reply · 13w





Reva Youngstein Kobi, PLEASE put all these photos together in a coffee table book . Any profits from sales of the book could go







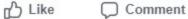






Day 26 Costumed Quarantine - Okay, I know there's a trend of people putting up holiday decor to cheer themselves during this pandemic. But seriously, Wisconsin, I think this might be taking things a bit too far. Settle down, Mother Nature. We've kind of got a lot going on right now!







View 12 more comments



Susan Rineck and you make the best of it!!

Like · Reply · 13w





Like · Reply · 13w





Kobi Shaw replied · 1 Reply



JM Miller What, are you on a break or something Kringle? Put the beard on, and go push store brand toys to the kiddos.

Like · Reply · 13w





Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt I'm wondering when you're going to run out of costumes!

Like · Reply · 13w

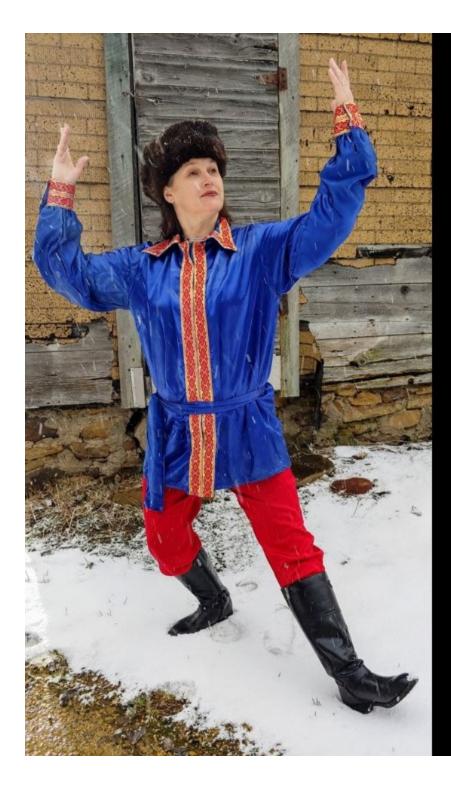














Day 27 Costumed Quarantine - More snow flurries this morning in northwestern Wisconsin.

So while we live in a town of approximately 1,100 people, we actually live 8 miles outside of town where our nearest neighbors are 1/4 mile away - and those are cows! This isolation thing comes pretty naturally to us. But even so, there are times (especially when it won't stop snowing) that it can feel like Siberia out here, so far away from anyone and everything. Thank you to all of you that have been supporting this silly project of mine, sending postive and kind thoughts and words. We love reading everyone's comments and it helps us to feel a little more connected with the outside world.

*Costume side note - this is one of those outfits that wasn't really an offical costume, but came together after some thinking. I knew I had the shirt, but didn't know how to use it. Then I remembered this furry hat I had purchased in Ukraine on my second date with Steve (long story there). The pants are very old pajama bottoms from Victoria Secret that I bought when I worked there in the 90s (me, working in Victoria's Secret was ridiculous unto itself). Who knew all those years ago the pajamas would be used to complete a cossack costume in the midst of a worldwide pandemic 25 years later? Crazy.



38 Comments













Day 28 Costumed Quarantine - To quote Guenevere in the musical Camelot, "What do the simple folk do to help them escape when they're blue?" From the looks of it on facebook, I'd say puzzles! I've heard reports that since this pandemic started, puzzle sales are up by 370%. Puzzle Warehouse, the largest puzzle distributer in the country, says their sales are up a staggering 2,000% compared to the same time last year! "With most of America staying in place at home, deliveries from the puzzle outlet are on a two-week delay, and they've added 30 employees to help with demand." So thanks to all of you who have gone back to a simpler time, doing puzzles to keep yourself entertained!

Personally we are working on this 2,000 piece bad boy we got for free through a donation to our local library. It's the largest puzzle we have ever done. "If we're ever going to do it, now would be the time," I told my kids. What puzzles have you completed since this "safer at home" period began?



View 15 more comments



Tony Laundrie I expect these photos to appear in a coffee table book some day. Or at least on the walls at a Pablo exhibit.















Day 29 Costumed Quarantine - Every Who down in Whoville sang out the same song, missing my stylist, my hair is too long! And don't get me started about all that grey, I need a dye job in the worst way!!

Seriously, salons are going to be swamped when we come out of all this!! Anyone care to share their shaggy, over grown hairdos here? Or did you just go for it and shave your head or try to cut your hair yourself? Let's see it, people!

*Costume side note - Don't know why but I have 2 of these mustaches (once again, a clearance item). I guess I thought perhaps Steve and I could both wear them for something. The jacket is from Clown College. When you attend clown college, you create your character and work with a costume designer to create (and sew) a costume for your clown. This costume is called your "agent suit". This jacket was from a fellow graduate's agent suit, that eventually came to be owned by Steve. It weighs A TON!







Day 30 Costumed Quarantine - Well, some habits are hard to break and I guess for me that includes dressing up as a nun. From what I can remember, I have been a nun on stage for 3 different shows (Nunsense, Nunsense Jamboree and Fanny) as well as dressing up as a Punching Nun Puppet for Halloween at work one year. I actually forgot I had this costume until prompted by Steve Turek who requested it. And the only reason I have it was because I created a nun costume prototype when I helped costume Newsies last year for our local high school.

I know there are MANY others out there who have appeared as nuns in shows - Sound of Music, Sister Act, Asphalt Christmas, Doubt, Newsies, too many versions of Nunsense to count... Let's see you in your nun costumes!



96 Comments 3 Shares









6 of 51



Kobi Shaw I love seeing all these nuns. Thank you to everyone who has been sharing their photos!

Like · Reply · 12w

















Day 31 Costumed Quarantine - Okay, this project has been going on for a month now (and one of the longest months at that!). Even I am surprised. Not sure how long I can keep this up but I will give it my best shot (cue I'm not throwing away my shot).

So here's a revolutionary idea for you. Use this time to learn to play a new instrument - or drag out an old one and brush off some long forgotten skills. I managed to drag out my bicenntenial fife (circa 1976) for this now classic photo.

You don't have an instrument? Maybe you can play one electronically. Just yesterday my husband learned he can play an ocarina by blowing into his ipad. He has a huge collection of ocarinas and yet he chose to play one electronically on his ipad. Go figure.

Oh and hey, have you seen you can build your own bagpipes with 2 recorders, some straws and a garbage bag? Yeah, I fear that is coming up next at our house. Oh, well. It will be good for social distancing.

Care to share a photo of yourself being musical? I'd love to see it here.



24 Comments 1 Share





Comment













...

Day 32 Costumed Quarantine - As sung in Hello, Dolly, "Put on your Sunday clothes when you feel down and out!" This jacket/robe (I don't know what exactly it is suppose to be) is one of my absolute favorite thrift sales finds. It was handmade by the woman I bought it from and was created using her husband's old ties. You can tell many of the ties are vintage from as early as the 40s. It is beautifully lined and is truly a work of art. What kind of art have you been creating during this down time? Share your projects here!







Day 33 Costumed Quarantine - It's wild out there right now. People have had it with staying at home and not being able to work. Tensions are high and people are pouncing on one another all over the place. We need to stop tearing one another apart like a pack of animals. I know we are all frustrated but we can still treat one another with kindness and respect. Let's drop this beastly behaviour and treat one another humanely. It's something that doesn't take much effort, but can have a huge impact on our world.



43 Comments 2 Shares







View 18 more comments



Cathy Pierzina Thank you for doing this, Kobi. I know it takes time and effort and you may wonder if it is worth it. I think it is an awesome public service and I applaud you!

Like · Reply · 12w





→ Mary Lou Heimstead replied · 2 Replies



Nancy Langhough Cook As with many others, I look forward to each day's costume contribution.

Like · Reply · 12w





Laura Poter These are so wonderfull!















Day 34 Costumed Quarantine - "We Can Do It". I love that this campaign says "We Can Do It." Not "I Can Do It". Not "You Can Do It". WE can. And that is what it is going to take. All of us, working together. So please, do your part so we can go back to our lives and see each other once again! Ultimately, we all want the same thing, don't we?

Anyone else have photos of themselves as Rosie they would like to share?

*I would like to point out that we just so happened to have all the items around to create this photo. Yellow fabric and blue fabric for the background, red polka dot fabric for the headscarf and a navy blue coveralls. The only thing I had to create was the (obviously) hand made lettering. Yeah, art has never been my strong point.





Day 35 Costumed Quarantine - It's Wednesday.

No one seems to know what day it is anymore, so I am here to tell you, it's Wednesday. Yesterday, I spent the bulk of the day thinking it was Friday, so this post is as much for me as it is for you. You're welcome.



49 Comments 3 Shares







View 31 more comments



Lorna Wood



Like · Reply · 11w



Laura Peter Very cool!!

Like · Reply · 11w











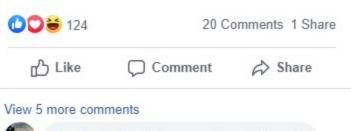






Day 36 Costumed Quarantine - It is not easy with everyone being home together all day long. I am sure there are times you wish YOU had a referee costume, whether for underfoot bickering children or argumentative adults on line. Moments like that can just be foul! But you can't always be the referee. Sometime you're the one who needs a time out. But rather than just sitting court side to the chaos, try some traveling. Move to a different room or go outside and get some kind of exercise. Take an on line exercise class, go for a walk or shoot some hoops! Remember, exercising and staying fit not only keeps you healthy physically, it can also boost your mental and spiritual health which is so important at a time like this.

*Today's post is actually two costumes in one! In addition to the referee costume, the contraption I'm wearing is used by our boys to provide "Hot Shot" strolling entertainment. The backboard is on a pulley system so it can be raised and lowered to different heights. It truly is a hit with people of all ages. If I could, I would come visit you to be your referee AND your backboard!













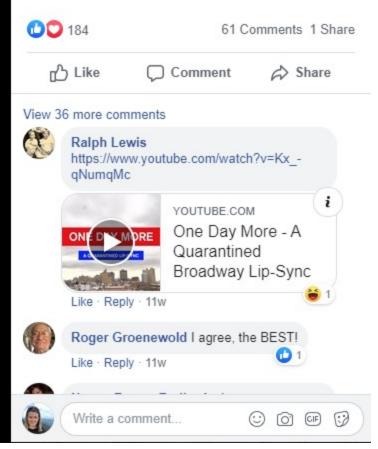








Day 37 Costumed Quarantine - Les Miserables. Poor Eponine is feeling very much on her own during this time of isolation. But what is making her especially miserable is that she is doesn't have enough to eat. Sure, there are food pantries but even they are low on food with so many mouths to feed. If you are able to do so, please consider donating to your local food pantry. Who knows how many people your contribution may help, even if only for one day more.







Day 38 Costumed Quarantine - This tailcoat just may be my longest owned costume piece. While I have been to multiple proms at multiple schools (looong story for another time), this was the jacket I wore to my senior prom at my high school. Tonight was scheduled to be prom at our local high school and I know there are a lot of disappointed students out there. These kids have missed out on so many events this spring! Personally, I have always enjoyed seeing everyone's prom photos at this time of year. These teenagers getting to feel like "adults", decked out in outfits they would otherwise never get a chance to wear. Sometimes I look at friends' photos of their children on prom night and I can't even recognize them, they look so grown up! Anyway, if your kids have prom attire they would like to show off today, I would LOVE to see their photos here. Or if you have a favorite prom photo of yourself that you'd be willing to share, by all means, I want to see those, too. Heck, even if it's not from prom, fancy attire photos, please!! I'm waiting.....



27 Comments 3 Shares







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Kate Deacy Brophy Jim and I had an awards banquet so I bought a sparkly dress for less than \$30 at Ross, figuring I'd only wear it once. After dinner, when I stood up.















Day 39 Costumed Quarantine - Feeling a little witchy here in Wisconsin so I went "into the woods" for this photo. I even got to use my prosthetic nose for this one! Kind of spooky, right?

You know what else is spooky? Photos of Times Square and the Las Vegas strip, completely deserted, the empty highways of Los Angeles. It's unreal to see images like that. However, this pandemic and everyone staying at home is allowing us to see the real impact we have on the environment. Los Angeles, "with some of the highest smog levels in the U.S., has seen nitrogen levels drop significantly and rush-hour traffic essentially vanish." Worldwide, the improved air quality has allowed things like the Himalayas to finally be visible, the murky water of the Venice canals is starting to clear and animals all over are reclaiming their natural habitats. While these situations are only temporary, perhaps seeing what is possible will inspire us to do better once we all come out of this.







Day 40 Costumed Quarantine - Forty days. That's how long I have been doing this challenge, forty days (and forty nights), just like the rain Noah endured after building that ark. All I can say is thank goodness for Noah and that ark as I am so grateful for animals during this time of isolation. I am glad to see deer in our yard, birds in our trees and cows on my walks (I live in Wisconsin, remember). I'm so thankful to have our cat curled up on our bed, snuggling against us, nudging our hands to pet her. And when we're running errands, I actively look for dogs on walks or riding in cars, looking so happy to be out and about with their owners. Where would be without those faithful furry (or feathered) companions, who love us unconditionally? I know I would definitely be more stressed and smile a lot less if there were no animals around. Here's to our pets and the animals that are making our days of isolation a little less lonely.

So let's see the pets that brighten your day. Photos, please!





Sharon Gibbs McIlquham I look at these posts everyday. It makes me smile, Every. Single Time But I have to say you really















Day 41 Costumed Quarantine - Ever since Clown College, polka dots just make me smile and I think we can all really use a smile right now. I honestly thought I was doing pretty well until this weekend when I caught myself completely off guard. I was singing I Miss the Mountains from one of my favorite shows, Next to Normal. I know the song very well and yet I completely forgot the final lyrics are, "I miss my life, I miss my life." Suddenly tears filled my eyes and I choked to get the words out. It was in that moment I realized just how much I DO miss my life the ability to gather with friends, to make music at rehearsals, to perform and interact with an audience. The list goes on and on. Besides (perhaps) going back to work and making money, what kind of things, big or small, do you miss right now?



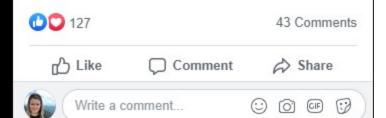




Day 42 Costumed Quarantine - Employment, or lack there of, is a huge piece of this pandemic puzzle. Being self employed as entertainers, our work is obviously affected. It is hard to think of the work we are, and will be, missing, not just for the money, but because we so love what we do.

When people find out Steve and I are jugglers, they typically ask if we ever work renaissance faires. Though we don't, Steve actually started his juggling career at one. It was his first job as a juggler (what stories he has!) and juggling has been his career path ever since. Last fall, we visited the Minnesota Renaissance Faire where Steve brought me to a patch of grass amid of a bustle of people and said, "This is where my juggling career began." I loved that he was able to exactly pinpoint where it all started for him. We recently unearthed this banner from Steve's days at the MN Renaissance Faire. It was painted by his dad, one of his biggest fans and supporters. I just knew it needed to be part of today's costume photo shoot.

So, what was your first job? Or do you have an favorite job from your past? How about your current job? It's amazing how many people you can be friends with and not know what they actually do!







Day 43 Costumed Quarantine - We've all seem to hit a wall right about now, wigging out, being in a funk. That's why I decided to break out some new moves and turn up the volume on my ridiculousness. You know, I was always envious of people with curly hair, but I think this is a little more than I bargained for.

My son came across this wig prior to today's photo, picked it up and said, "Now this scares me." I just have to give a shout out to my family who has been so awesome throughout this process. They endure mounds of costumes around, random props and clothing pieces strewn from room to room. They patiently tolerate my questions about costume pieces and assist with brainstorming for settings and poses. Poor Steve has been a saint, always agreeing to come take my photo, following me all over our house and property, sometimes to multiple locations for one outfit, just to get the right shot. My favorite, though, had to be the day our college student was quietly working downstairs. Dressed as a nun, I had to retrieve something from the room he was in. Not knowing if he was on line in the middle of a class, I worked quickly, trying to be as unobstrusive as possible. I glanced over to see if I was disturbing him, only to see him on the couch, looking at me with a half smile, shaking his head in disbelief. So thank you to my wonderful family for putting up with me and the insanity this project adds to our daily life, because (as we all know) this world is not crazy enough right now.













Day 44 Costumed Quarantine - First of May. Today's costume choice was a no brainer. In the circus world, a First of May is a circus newbie, someone in their first season with the show. May 1st is a day circus people show their pride, sharing photos and wishing one another Happy First of May.

This costume is my "agent suit", created at Clown College. All students worked with a costume designer to build a costume that enhanced the character they were creating in their clowning classes. There were bolts and bolts of fabric to choose from - brightly colored stripes, plaids, polka dots and more - and we were part of the sewing process as well. We chose our own wigs and customized clown shoes, too. To this day, my clown shoes are the most comfortable shoes I own.

Clown College changed my life in more ways than I can count. I never really wear this makeup anymore, but it just seemed like it needed to be part of this project. So from Day 44 of this Costumed Quarantine Challenge, Happy First of May.















Day 45 Costumed Quarantine - Typically the first Saturday in May is Kentucky Derby Day. Unfortunately this year, it has been postponed until September 5th. This tradition, that started in 1875, has never been canceled and was postponed only one other time, in 1945. After 145 years, it just seems that we need to remember the Kentucky Derby today. I know I have friends that celebrate the Derby every year, so don those fancy hats, sip your mint juleps and share your photos here!

*Some of you might recognize this dress as my wedding dress from Mamma Mia. How fun to pull it out and wear it once again. I will note that when I pulled out the shoes that accompany the dress, they still had gold glitter all over them. It made my heart happy.



23 Comments 2 Shares







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Thom Hubert I'm a little disappointed in your lack of commitment to this challenge.

The Kobi *I* know would have Tate and Quinn dressed as horses, running a Mock Derby in the yard.

Like · Reply · 10w



















Day 46 Costumed Quarantine - Some people learned about my Costumed Quarantine project late in the game, so let's play ketchup! I started dressing up on March 19th, the day schools closed here in Wisconsin. Originally our "Safer at Home" order was supposed to end April 24, but has since been extended to May 26. It is my goal to keep dressing up until then. I may have to limp across the finish line, but I will do my best. All these costumes are what I have right here in my home, so I have to be resourceful and I appreciate your understanding if things are not completely perfect.

Why do I have all these costumes? I have no idea. Really! I seriously have been to one costume party in my entire life. However, being a theatre person since I was a teen, I have always had props and costumes around, just in case. I always had costumes around for my children to dress up (they are now basically college aged) and I used to be a teaching artist in elementary classrooms and had items for that, too. My husband and I are comic jugglers so many top hats etc. are actually juggling props. Formal attire comes from our days of entertaining on cruise ships. I have always loved vintage clothing and costumes and absolutely cannot pass up good thrift sale finds (hello, \$3 classic tuxedo!!)

Many costumes have been handed down to me from my mother, who has always dressed up for events for as long as I can remember. Three years ago, I went home to take care of my mom while she went











Many costumes have been handed down to me from my mother, who has always dressed up for events for as long as I can remember. Three years ago, I went home to take care of my mom while she went through chemo. One of the projects she gave me was thinning out her costumes. I spent one whole day on hats alone. By the time i left. I drove home with an entire trunk load of costumes, one being this ketchup costume. On my drive home from Connecticut to Wisconsin, I lived in fear of getting a flat tire and having to unload all the costumes from the trunk, having them strewn out on the side of the highway.

Where do I keep all this stuff? We actually have very little closet space in our house. But we have a practice studio and everything is stored there in trunks or old suitcases (which double as props!). This project has allowed me to see what exactly I have in my inventory. I have unearthed costumes I had completely forgotten about - or never even knew I had for that matter! I have been able to weed out ones that no longer fit and I have been able to share ones that I love but have had no place to wear them. I glad people enjoy this project. It's been quite an undertaking, and more work than I anticipated, but it has been very worthwhile. I feel like I have gotten to know people better through it and have formed a connection during this difficult time of isolation. Thanks for taking this journey with me. Seriously, your support and words of encouragement keep me going, especially on days when I just don't feel like dressing up as a condiment!



40 Comments 1 Share















Day 47 Costumed Quarantine - May the Fourth Be With You. Okay, I have already admitted through this project that I am not a Star Wars person. Had I thought about it earlier, I would have saved my actual Star Wars costume for today (Darth Vadar showed up on Day 12). Perhaps I didn't think I'd still be dressing up on May 4th! But here it is, my second Star Wars costume thrown together on a whim (an angel costume repurposed into Princess Leia seems pretty resourceful to me). Like I've already said, I am making do with what I have around the house, so I realize my nerf shooter is not exactly appropriate. Originally I tried to disguise it somehow, but it just looks funnier this way. It seems like an indication of how long this has been going on, that this is what I need to resort to at this point. I suspect you will be able to spot more inaccuracies in the days to come as well, but obviously this is not a time of perfection.

Anyone have a photo of themselves dressed as a Star Wars character they would like to share here on this May the 4th?







Day 48 Costumed Quarantine - "Extra! Extra! Hey, look at the headline! Historical news is being made!"

Journalism was my second major in college (I did graduate from a traditional college, not just Clown College). I knew then I didn't have what it takes to be a hard news reporter, and I certainly don't envy journalists today. What a hard job, especially right now.

It feels like everyday there is so much bad news, but here's something good that is making the rounds. Certainly not everyone is in the position to do this, but there is a wave of people that are donating their stimulus checks to organizations and businesses that are in dire need right now. These people are "paying it forward" to small local business and nonprofits, things like food banks, arts organizations, shelters that deal with vulnerable communities, etc. What a wonderful way to give back and support your community and the places you love. Like they sing in Newsies. "And the World will know..."

*A year ago I helped direct and costume our local high school production of Newsies. I am still so proud of the job those kids did with that show. Today is my little tribute to those kids and the spirit and commitment they displayed, both on stage and off. What a special production that was.



31 Comments













Day 49 Costumed Quarantine - Yeah, yeah, lots of superheros wear capes. But right here, right now, what real superheros wear are masks. These superheros realize they could be asymptomatic and that not wearing a mask could allow the virus to be passed on to other people. These superheros don't think about their discomfort or their appearance, they think about the bigger picture and the people around them. These superheros know wearing a mask is a small sacrifice compared to the larger battle that rages on right now. But these superheros also know this small sacrifice can make a huge difference. So please, be a superhero and just wear the mask. Also, make sure you find a more effective mask than Batman is wearing here. It really needs to cover your mouth and nose, but you probably already know that if you have been paying the least bit of attention.



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David Coffin At the very least Pence could have just worn this at the Mayo Clinic.

Like · Reply · 9w



Doug Dunnell You should have them all out for rent during Halloween.

Like · Reply · 9w













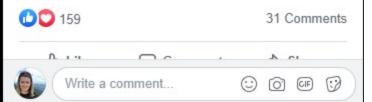


Day 50 Costumed Quarantine - Mamma Mia! A year ago today was our final dress rehearsal for Mamma Mia. We were so excited to share this show with an audience, an audience of people that was basically sold out before the show was even cast! What I wouldn't give to be doing that show again right now. To sing all that great Abba music, dress in those outrageous finale costmes, and dance with reckless abandon...Today I am wearing my actual Donna Sheridan costume, recreating our Dancing Queen number. I love that even though I am only pretending to sing, the joy in my face is still evident.

I don't know about you, but I desperately need music right now. I need that outlet for all the emotions I am feeling every day of this pandemic.

Maybe Abba is not for everyone, but find some music that feeds your soul and turn it up, loudly. And if you are compelled, sing along - and maybe even dance, too.

"Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing
Thanks for all the joy they're bringing
Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty
What would life be?
Without a song or a dance what are we?
So I say thank you for the music
For giving it to me."







Day 51 Costumed Quarantine - Did you know Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest is real? It's a royal forest in Nottinghamshire, England that is also a National Nature Reserve you can visit! Recently state and national parks here have started opening back up, which is great, especially with nicer weather upon us. If you plan to venture out to a park this weekend, just remember some pandemic basics - avoid over crowding and maintain social distancing. If you are in populated areas, remember to wear a mask. Use hand sanitizer and clean up after yourself, taking your trash with you - an important thing to remember even if there is NOT a pandemic! Also, check websites to see about paying entrance fees in advance, or to see if campgrounds or facilities are open. It is important to get outside and enjoy some fresh air, for both the body and the spirit, but please continue to do so mindfully. Now happy Friday and enjoy your weekend!







Day 52 Costumed Quarantine - Anyone binge watch Downton Abbey during all this? Since most of us don't have butlers, we've been doing a lot of our own cooking and cleaning during this "Safer at Home" period. It also sounds like there has been major decluttering going on, ridding homes of unwanted items. I know we just want these things gone, but resist the temptation to toss absolutely everything in the trash. Remember to reduce, reuse and recycle. Thankfully sanitation workers have remained on the job, allowing us to recycle what we can, but don't forget the reuse option. Even if thrift stores are closed for donations, see if your friends might need some of the items you plan to get rid of but still have life in them. As my dad likes to say, "One man's trash is another's treasure!" Personally we could use a chain saw if anyone is getting rid of theirs! Oh, and if anyone wants some silver, let me know. Turns out we have multiple silver tea pots sitting around, something else I learned from this costumed quarantine.

*Steve calls this my Victor/Victoria look.



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Tracy Petry I did actually rewatch the entire cariae and the movie over the last counte of

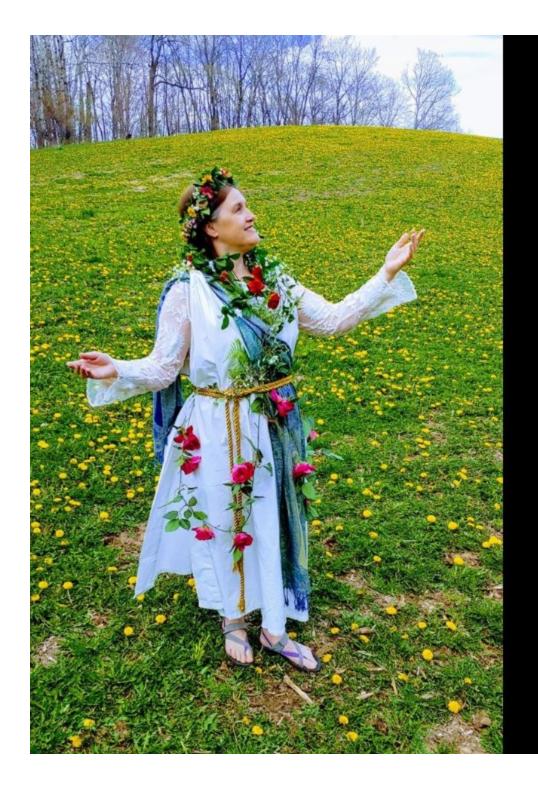








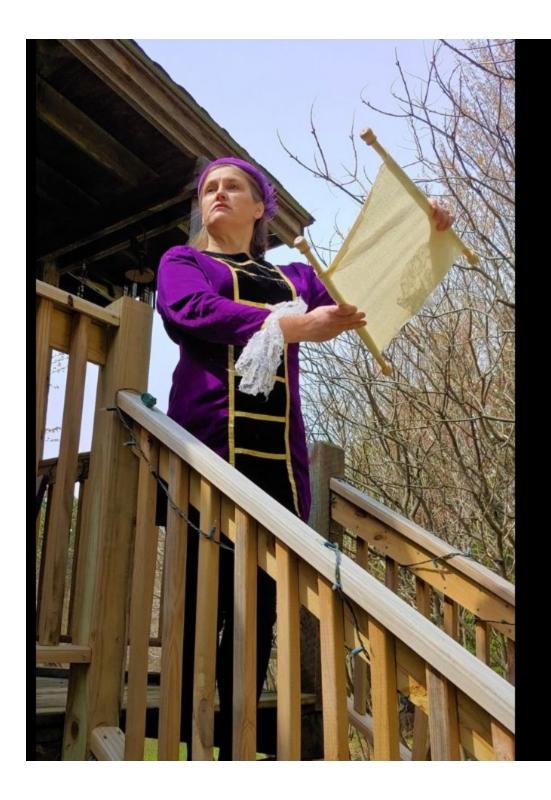






Day 53 Costumed Quarantine - Happy Mother's Day from Mother Nature. We all might be feeling especially fragile this Mother's Day, for so many different reasons - maybe you can't physically be with your mom (or children) this year, or you are an overwhelmed mom pulling double or triple duty these days. Maybe you're a brand new mom or you're really missing your mom who is no longer here. All I know is, treat moms - all moms - kindly today. Seriously, show them some love and appreciation. Mother Nature says so and for those of us old enough to remember, "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature."







Day 54 Costumed Quarantine - Well, apparently this herald has nothing to say as (if you notice) her scroll is completely void of writing. We are in unprecendented times right now and by the looks of social media, people have lots to say about what we are going through. Perhaps now would be a good time to officially record the different things we are experiencing and feeling. In fact, historical societies, universities and more are asking people to contribute their stories from this pandemic. And telling your story doesn't just mean journaling! These personal stories can be captured through written word, audio recordings, photographs, video, art etc. But whether you do it for yourself or for someone else, tell your story - for the here and now and for generations yet to come. Oddly enough, this Costume Quarantine project has become a big part of my pandemic story, not something I expected when I began back in March!

*While I have never worn this costume for anything, it did get loaned out and worn on stage for our local high school production of Once Upon a Mattress.





Like · Reply · 9w

















Day 55 Costumed Quarantine - Read any good books lately? Personally, I finally got a chance to read The Hearts of Men by Nickolas Butler, a wonderful novel from a local writer who also happens to be an internationally best-selling author. What a wealth of talented writers we have right here in the Chippewa Valley! I can't wait to read more.

So what have you been reading that you can recommend?



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Ben Shaw Yep , the old Photo Bomd 2



Like · Reply · 9w



Kenneth Ahern Re-reading Clown Alley

Like · Reply · 9w



Bryan Louiselle I will not curl up in a lump. I may, I say sit on my rump. These last three years are but a bump.... See More

Like · Reply · 9w



Rico Robb Top 3

















Day 56 Costumed Quarantine - For many people, the most unBEARable part of isolation is the inability to hug others. It's maddening that in a time when we really want (and need) hugs, it's something we are recommended not to do. Family therapist Virginia Satir once said, "We need four hugs a day for survival, 8 hugs a day for maintenance and 12 hugs a day for growth." The benefits of hugging are many. When you hug someone, it relaxes muscles, increases circulation and releases endorphins in your body which can reduce tension and may even help soothe aches and pains. More than just a way to display love and support, hugging releases oxytocin which can counteract stress and reduce anxiety. Hugging also triggers the release of things like serotonin and dopamine in the brain which creates happiness and alleviates sadness. Hugging can make us more patient, can build self confidence or self esteem, and can convey many emotions without saying a word. And best of all, if you are giving a hug, chances are you are receiving one in return. I didn't become a hugger until later in life and I am definitely feeling this loss. So look out because when the time is right, I will be giving out some big ol' bear hugs. You have been warned.



View 20 more comments













Day 57 Costumed Quarantine - After our "Safer at Home" order was overturned by the Wisconsin Supreme Court last night, I wondered if this project should continue. After all, I created this challenge as something to do while confined at home. Admittedly, I am ready to be done, but to end so abruptly would feel incomplete. My goal was to make it to May 26th, the end date for our current "Safer at Home" order. We were so close to that deadline and I'm deciding to honor that. Besides having more fun costumes to share, I feel like we still need this distraction, in some ways even more now.

I don't know why I have so many Renaissance/Medieval costumes, but I am pretty sure I bought this coat from an ECCT costume sale. When I put it on for this photo, I really didn't have a vision for a setting or pose. It was Steve who said I needed a stone to go with my sword. I just feel King Arthur and the sword in the stone is the right costume choice for today. Because even if Wisconsin has opened back up, we still need to think like King Arthur. We need to be brave and courageous, ready for battle against this virus that could rise up at any time. We need to use our intelligence and be strong, emotionally and physically. I found this description of King Arthur which nicely sums up what I hope for us all. "King Arthur was (1) Honest, in that he displayed sincerity, integrity, and candor in his actions. (2) Intelligent, because he read and studied. (3) Courageous, because he had the perseverance to accomplish a goal, regardless of the seemingly insurmountable







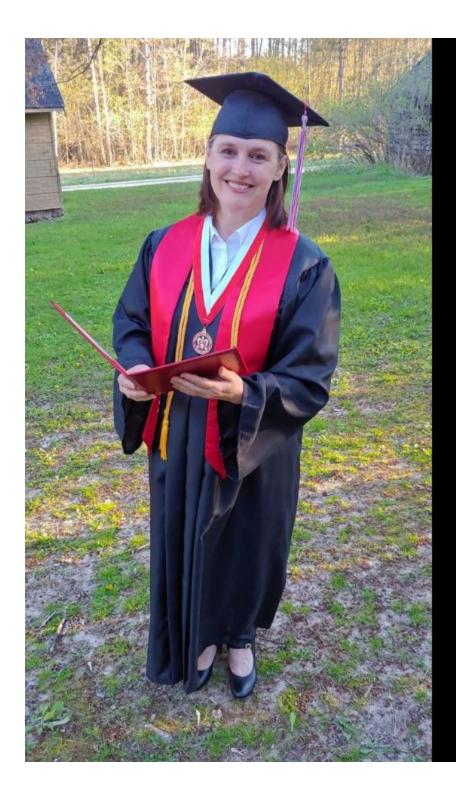




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I bid thee farewell for now and anon, my friends. Be well.







Day 58 Costumed Quarantine - The Graduates. Tonight would have been our local high school's graduation ceremony. In a small town, these events really do feel special - and personal. You know pretty much all the kids - their stories, the struggles they've overcome and their achievements. You're definitely proud of many more kids than just your own. A highlight of the ceremony is a slide show of each individual senior, with side by side photos of their senior photo next to a childhood photo. It always garners lots of awwwws and a few laughs. It's also the final night to see the seniors play in the band and sing with the choir, dressed in their cap and gowns. Watching always makes me tear up, knowing the seniors chose the song for their final performance. And then of course, those same seniors are often in tears, too.

Last year we were the ones watching our eldest graduate and next year we will watch our youngest process. Perhaps that's why I am feeling this loss so hard this year, even though I don't have a child graduating. It so easily could be our family. Having recently been through graduation (and all that leads up to it), I know all the special events these kids and their parents missed out on - recognitions, banquets, award ceremonies, final concerts, final games etc. I am sad for these families, hoping the students can still feel special and recognized. That's why I want to honor them today. I want to see their photos and hear their stories. I want to hear about their achievements, what they might have overcome and what they hope to do in the future. I know I have





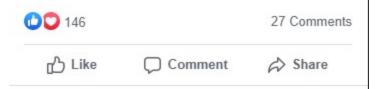






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*I am actually wearing my son's cap and gown from last year. You pay a lot for those things, so you might as well get some wear out of it, right?? Of course, his cap and gown is far more adorned than mine, so it really did feel like a costume to me. I never had a stole, chords or a medallion to wear. But then again, I was never the student he was either.







Day 59 Costumed Quarantine - I don't know what this is and I don't know why we have but it is part of our costume collection and it matches our sons' car. So there you have it - day 59. The photo does seem to capture the absurdity of our lives right now, though. You look at it and think, "WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE? WHAT IS GOING ON? AM I LOSING MY MIND???" Anyway, I hope today's Costumed Quarantine provides a momentary distraction and gives you something to ponder other than the news. Happy Saturday!



40 Comments 1 Share







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Aurora Krajnikconde The dance team at Osseo-Fairchild would wear these at the end of their season every year and do a dance...they called it the "bag dance."

Like · Reply · 8w





Pam Kerrihard-Sollars This collection needs to become a coffee table book. I'd order it!

Like · Reply · 8w





→ Mark Pruett replied · 1 Reply



Doug Dunnall le that a new mask hady













Day 60 Costumed Quarantine - No, not perfect. Practically Perfect. I realize this costume is not completely accurate, but it is my inspired by, quarantine version of Mary Poppins. As I have said before, I'm working with what I have around the house, and considering this is my 60th costume, I still deem it worthy of sharing. Sometimes, when things aren't completely perfect, you have to make compromises. You have to accept things as they are, make the best of the situation and keep going. There are lots of less than perfect situations going on right now, but we get to decide what attitude we are going to have about it. We don't all have to be Mary Poppins about this, but some days, a spoonful of sugar does help the medicine go down.

I have done a lot of shows in my life, but I have never done a Disney show. I did get to play Snow White in 9 to 5 The Musical, though, and that was a blast. What Disney shows have you enjoyed being part of? Photos, please! Non-performers, do you have a favorite Disney character?



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Aurora Krajnikconde I had fun as Babette in Beauty and the Beast! I would love to do that show again someday, but different













Day 61 Costumed Quarantine - "What ELSE do the simple folk do to pluck up the heart and get through?" Apparently lots cooking and baking! I've seen photos of some amazing foods people have prepared during quarantine - everything from homemade donuts and pretzels to Whole 30 healthy meals. We even received baked goods in the mail, something I had never experienced before this pandemic! For us, we expereinced a miserable failed attempt at sourdough starter. We did have success, though, in making our son a fan of Tiki Masala and Indian food! And anytime our sons ask if they can bake something, we immediately and emphatically reply, "YES." The other night one of our sons decided to bake chocolate chip cookies at 11 p.m. The smell was heavenly. So what are some favorite or new quarantine cuisine items YOU have been making during this pandemic? Feel free to send samples our way, if so inclined!

*Okay, I think this is my final Renaissance type costume. I really don't know why I have so many. I'm glad I have been able to balance them out with other non Renaissance attire. We're winding down here, folks!



View 15 more comments













Day 62 Costumed Quarantine - Okay this is mainly an excuse to pull out my orange parasol. I bought it for a \$1 at a yard sale. The person running the sale was a gruff middle aged man who seemed surprised and relieved to see someone was actually buying the item. "Yeah, I don't know how that is supposed to keep anyone dry," he said as he took my dollar.

Lots of people in Wisconsin have orange clothing, but typically that is more "blaze orange" for hunting. Once I was wearing an orange fleece at a rehearsal (during non hunting season) and the guy sitting next to me looked over at me, down to my fleece, then back at my face and asked, "You bag any deer?" But orange is just a color that lifts my spirits and I love to wear. I have this funky boiled wool orange coat that I wear in the fall (that I also purchased for \$1). Sometimes people laugh at it, but typically every time I wear it, someone comments, "I LOVE that coat!" One friend saw me wearing it and commented, "Of course you have an orange coat."

Anyway, I know this is not much of a costume, but when I started this challenge, I said it could be a costume or interesting outfit. What I also like about this outfit is the accessories. The earrings and necklace came from my grandmother, which if you don't already know left me over 500 sets of costume jewlery which I used as a fundraiser for Alzheimer's. I raised about \$2000 with the project. The bracelet was a Mother's Day gift from my son when he was very, very young. While I have never worn this outfit (or used the parasol) in public, it cheered me to put it









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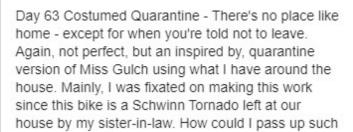


an opportunity?

Kobi Shaw







Obviously we've all spent a lot of time watching movies and t.v. during this time of quarantine. Have you watched any old classic films, such as The Wizard of Oz, maybe even for the first time? Have you discovered any new favorite movies to recommend? Discuss!





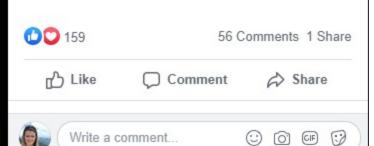




Day 64 Costumed Quarantine - The Ringmaster. The circus is used as an analogy a lot these days. In a real circus, it is the ringmaster who keeps everything flowing smoothly. If something goes wrong, it is the ringmaster who sends in the clowns to provide a distraction. I guess in some way, my inner clown heard a ringmaster's call with this project, knowing we all needed a silly distraction.

After graduating from Clown College, my husband Steve toured with a one ring mud show (a mud show circus performs under a tent). On his very first day, it was the end of the show and all the other clowns had headed backstage to get changed. Steve was standing off to the side, just watching, when something went wrong with some rigging. Much to Steve's surprise, the ringmaster turned and motioned to him, calling in the clowns. Steve immediately ran the other way. He left to get the other clowns saying, "They need us!!!". Quite a first day on the job.

So yes, life can feel like a circus. Some days things run smoothly and other days you need to send in the clowns. But like a ringmaster, just do your best keep the show going however you can.







Day 65 Costumed Quarantine - Green Acres. This vintage jade dress made of jaquard print fabric, with matching stole, came to me by way of my fashionable mother-in-law. I have never worn it anywhere but when paired with my grandmother's vintage jewelry and antique ostrich feather fan, it becomes a stunner.

When Steve saw this dress in relation to my project he immediately said, "Green Acres." Of course, I knew this meant Steve needed to be Eddie Albert to my Eva Gabor. Having lived in NYC for many years, my life here in rural Wisconsin often feels like a true life episode of Green Acres!

Steve has been my partner in this project, just like in every other aspect of my life. I can't begin to express how patient he has been, taking endless photos until we get a picture that captures the vision I have. More than once, he has followed me to multiple locations for just one costume. Also, being a photographer's son, he has an eye for composition and is full or great ideas for settings and concepts. We shot multiple locations for today's photo, but it was Steve who set this shot and I love how it came out, much better than my original vision.

In many ways, Steve and my partnership has well prepared us for this pandemic. Being self employed entertainers, we are well acquainted with not having regular paychecks. We've always had to be resourceful to get through. We live 8 miles outside of a town of 1,100 people so we've been self isolating











In many ways, Steve and my partnership has well prepared us for this pandemic. Being self employed entertainers, we are well acquainted with not having regular paychecks. We've always had to be resourceful to get through. We live 8 miles outside of a town of 1,100 people so we've been self isolating for years. As for being around your spouse 24-7, well, we have that down. We've basically been doing that for the past 24 years. I couldn't ask for a better partner to weather out this storm and this project has provided us many laughs on days when we wanted to cry.

I'm so glad people enjoy this project, but like any production, there are always people behind the scenes who don't get the recognition they deserve. Costumed Quarantine absolutely wouldn't be possible, or be the quality it is, without Steve. With him by my side, the project is definitely in capable hands. So here is to my partner in life, on stage and now behind the camera - my husband, Steve. Thanks for being my Eddie Albert on our own Green Acres. — with Steve Russell.







Day 66 Costumed Quarantine - Six years ago today I appeared on the Ellen Show wearing this bell suit. I was a finalist in her Ellen, Here's My Talent talent competition. It was me, a hula hooper and a woman who sang like a chicken. I did not win. I was completely okay with not winning, but the girl who won (the hula hooper) won a week long Carribean vacation, a tiara, an enormous trophy and a sash that read "I'm Talented." The only thing I coveted was the sash, which I thought was hilarious. But Ellen gave me a consolation prize (a 50 inch flat screen t.v.) and I flew home on a red eye, experiencing a violent bout of food poisoning mid flight. I literally had to be wheeled off the plane I was so sick, a very humbling way to end my high of appearing on national t.v.

Anyway, that Christmas, I received from my husband my very own "I'm Talented" sash. I laughed so hard. It was a perfect gift, one I wanted to pull out as part of this Costumed Quarantine. The sash is like a costume for my bell suit, allowing me to dress up as if I had actually won the Ellen, Here's My Talent talent competition. Pretty fun for me!

So what IS the bell suit? The bell suit is part of our show and I play Carol of the Bells while wearing it. It is one of my absolute favorite routines. There is a whole big story that goes with it, but in a nutshell, after my appearance on Ellen, a woman completely copied my outfit and routine, down to the last nuance. Her video went viral and in a weird twist I suddenly became an imitator of my own creation. It











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But here's a silver lining. A local arts publication asked me to write about my experience, including copyright infringment and intellectual property, for their magazine. A few years later, that same arts publication invited me to turn my story into a large scale, live stage interpretation of my experience. Not only did I get to tell my story, I got to collaborate with amazing talents, an accompanying original score was created by a Bon Iver band member, I got to wear my sash (finally) AND they made it snow on stage for me. So as you can see, this bell suit has quite a history for me, with many high and lows. It absolutely had to be part of my Costume Quaratine project and I'm so glad the sash got to come out its box once again. It definitely deserves to be seen.





Day 67 Costumed Quarantine - Plan B. Back on Costumed Quarantine Day 22, I had on a dark green period costume from when I played Marmee in Little Women, The Musical. I told a story of how I originally purchased the green fabric for my wedding dress, a Victorian traveling suit. But then one day, I woke up saying, "I can't wear a green dress to my wedding!". I ended up purchasing the same fabric in ivory, using my original Victorian traveling suit pattern, and here is the result. It took years later for the green fabric to be made into my Little Women costume and now I have 2 totally different period dresses, both of which I love.

Many people have had to adjust their wedding plans during this pandemic. There has been much disappointment, frustration and heartache over the inability to hold that dream wedding as planned. I know a wedding dress is just one aspect of that special day, but when I look at this photo, I can't help but think sometimes plan B can work out pretty well, too. Maybe in some cases, plan B might even be better than the original. I can only hope those people readjusting their wedding days find a plan B they can love and appreciate, also.

*This wedding dress definitely has a costume element to it. It was built for me by a long time costumer for the local theatre guild founded by Steve's father back in 1958. The wedding was held on stage at a 1889 Victorian jewel box theatre, which Steve's parents were integral in the first restoration of. An original backdrop from the theatre served as













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Day 68 Costumed Quarantine - While today is Memorial Day it is also 7 months until Christmas! The design of this holiday dress may be questionable (Really, "Ho Ho Ho" across the bustline?), but it's definitely festive.

Maybe you've used this quarantine time to do some early on line holiday shopping. Maybe you've been working on different handmade projects that will become gifts come December. If you're like my mom, maybe you've even used this time to write your holiday cards, but I would be really surprised if that were the case.

As a child, I remember loving getting the mail around Christmas. There were always stacks of cards waiting, and even better, my parents allowed me to open all of them. It didn't matter who they were from, I just adored ripping them open and seeing the colorful cards inside. Then we would hang them on display, enjoying them until Christmas was over.

I still enjoy this holiday tradition, right down to the hanging of the cards, but with each passing year, the cards get fewer and fewer. I get it, though. Writing out holidays cards is time consuming and people just don't have the time.

But one thing I have noticed during this time of isolation is that there has been a resurgence of sending cards. Not only have I have mailed many, many cards, but I have received a plethora of cards, so many that I have hung them like Christmas cards.













sending cards. Not only have I have mailed many, many cards, but I have received a plethora of cards, so many that I have hung them like Christmas cards. Right now that space, typically reserved for holiday cards, is more full than it has been in years and it cheers me every day.

Mailing a card to someone is a small gesture that should not be underestimated. Sometimes even just seeing a hand addressed envelope amid flyers and junk mail is cause for excitement! But the reality is, someone thought of you. They thought of you as they selected that card or piece of stationery. They thought of you as they wrote the sentiment inside. They thought of you as they addressed and sealed the envelope. Ultimately, they cared enough to make an effort, letting you know they were thinking of you and that is amazing.

So kudos to all the people who have been reaching out during this crazy time, whether it be through postal mail, emails, texts, facebook messenger, phone calls or whatever. A pandemic may have started all this, but our new obsession with communication doesn't have to end as states open back up. Stay connected and keep in touch, whether that be now or 7 months from now - when I still might be sitting around my house wearing this ridiculous dress.







Day 69 Costumed Quarantine - The Fortune Teller. My goal was make it until May 26th, the original ending date of Wisconsin's Safer at Home order. I thought I would be scraping the bottom of the barrel, limping across the finish line with costumes at this point but it ended up being a decent week. So this is my final official day of Costumed Quarantine, but I miiiiiiight still have a few things in store... only time will tell.

So there is no crystal ball to tell us what is going to happen in the future with this pandemic, but if there were, these are things I would hope I could see: Obviously a vaccine, but beyond that, the ability for people to gather safely once again, to be able to shake hands and hug one another, allowing human connection. To make music and create art in person, not just virtually. For graduates to be able to start their futures properly and for students to return to their schools, their teachers, their friends. That people in hospitals and nursing homes no longer have to be alone, and that family and loved ones can be at their side. That grandparents can meet and hold their grandbabies and that weddings can go on as planned. That depression, anxiety, insomnia and other mental health issues subside for those who have been struggling. That people in abusive or dangerous situtations can readily access the help they need. For people who have lost loved ones to be able to to join with family and friends to grieve and start the healing process. For the economy to bounce back, for people to have work to feed their family and keep a roof over their head. That non-









their schools, their teachers, their friends. That people in hospitals and nursing homes no longer have to be alone, and that family and loved ones can be at their side. That grandparents can meet and hold their grandbabies and that weddings can go on as planned. That depression, anxiety, insomnia and other mental health issues subside for those who have been struggling. That people in abusive or dangerous situtations can readily access the help they need. For people who have lost loved ones to be able to to join with family and friends to grieve and start the healing process. For the economy to bounce back, for people to have work to feed their family and keep a roof over their head. That nonprofits and small businesses can be supported and thrive once again. That travel returns to our lives. That we can find a way to have political differences and yet still show respect to one another. That we all hold kindness, empathy and compassion in our hearts, are grateful for what we have and share with those in need. That we can see a world beyond ourselves and strive to make it better.

Thanks for all the support you've shown these past 69 days. I feel like we've built a little community here and I've gotten to know some of you better and grown closer as a result. I look forward to when we are reunited in person and hopefully you will recognize me if I am not in a costume. Love to you all.







Day 70 Costumed Quarantine - Suprise! It's a bonus, just like a DVD extra! Today's post is especially for Thom Hubert. At different times during Costumed Quarantine, people would ask if I just dressed up for the photos or actually wore the costumes all day. When I'd reply that I only wore the costumes for the photo, on more than one ocassion, Thom would call me "chicken."

Now I have known Thom since I was a teenager and I know he'd have no qualms about running around in a costume all day. He also has tons of costumes and did a short term costume challenge himself. Thom is a Clown College graduate, a wonderfully talented performer, artist and all around hilarious person, who was even my roommate for 2 years. Thom has been a huge supporter of this project as he's the one who has been photoshopping me with my costumes into different backgrounds. The results have been amazing, whimsical and comical. I must also credit Thom with dirtying my Eponine costume for my Les Miserable barricade photo.

Thom has added so much to my project, I felt the need to accept his challenge and wear a costume for entire day. I do not have a chicken costume, but I have a rooster costume that was handed down from my mother. I hope this will suffice, Thom. Enjoy!



11 Comments















Like · Reply · 6w



Barbara Gallo Did you go to the grocery

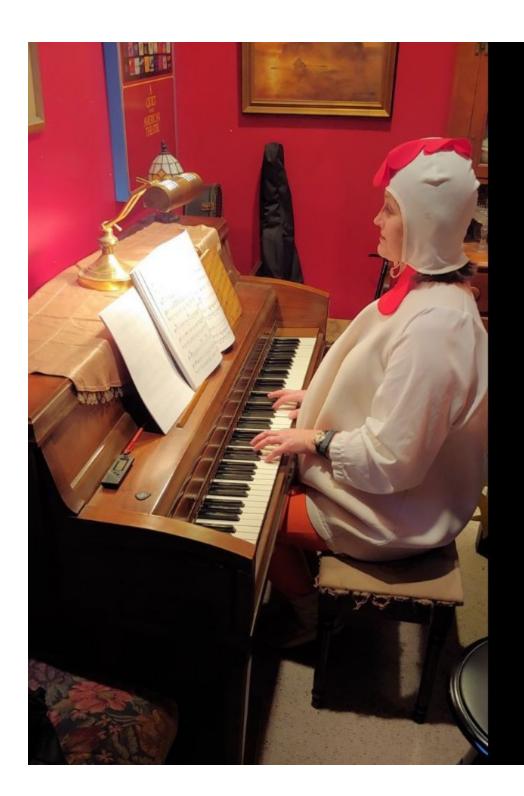




























Spending one whole day in a Costumed Quarantine costume.



2 Comments









Thom Hubert So THAT'S a chicken tractor...

Like · Reply · 6w



Carrie Christensen The question is—are you actually mowing?

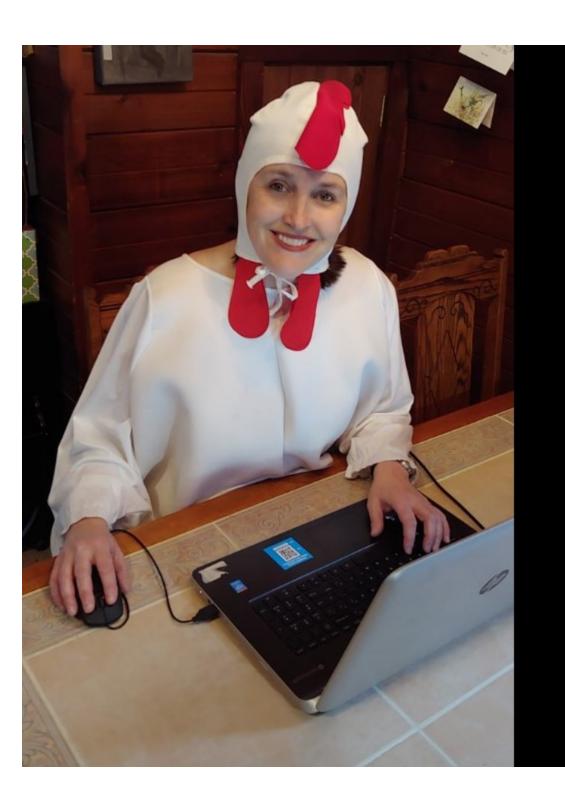
Like - Reply - 6w













Spending one whole day in a Costumed Quarantine costume.



Comment



Like · Reply · 6w

Like

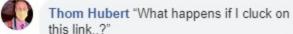


Share

Greg Kernkamp Here's the chicken actively checking her Facebook and trying to stay off the news sites!

Like · Reply · 6w





Like · Reply · 6w





Like · Reply · 6w



















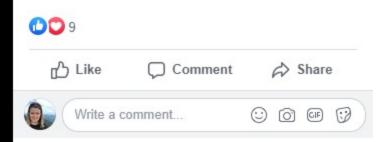
Stan Laurel. Earlier I had tried a variation of the butler costume with a bowler hat and in that moment saw a Stan Laurel possibility. We didn't feel like hauling our piano outside so this is what we came up with instead. It make me laugh that my Mamma Mia overalls doubled as a costume for Stan Laurel. We did get caught by a passing motorist as we shot this on our road.







Butler with a bowler hat. Even though I really liked this look for the butler, I decided to not use the bowler hat for this character so it could be featured with the Stan Laurel costume instead. At that point I didn't know if I had enough costumes to make it to the end, so I was creating options however I could. In the end I had enough and Stan Laurel wasn't needed, but I'm still glad we took the photo. It's nice to have the bowler hat for both costumes.









Plaid is a big things with me, probably once again stemming from my Clown College roots. I loved that this umbrella matched my cap and tried to utilize it to make more of a costume, but it just never pulled together how I wanted. But I like the photo!

I do have quite a collection of vintage and antique umbrellas that I love. They don't get pulled out very often and I thought perhaps this project was an opportunity to do so.







Variation on a theme. This was my original concept for this costume. I didn't trust it was interesting enough on its own, so I added a chef's hat and a cookbook. I was never really satisfied with this and later we went back and reshot a less gimicky version that was used on day 61.







Footloose tribute. Footloose movie fans might appreciate this. I have a jacket that looks like what Kevin Bacon wore in the prom scene of Footloose. I decked out as Kevin Bacon with the jacket, cummerbund, black pants etc. but it wasn't working for me. Then I remembered I had red cowboy boots like the ones Laurie Singer's Ariel wore. So this ended up being a hybrid of Ren and Ariel's iconic costume pieces from the film - a high concept that never quite worked. I tried variations of what to wear with the jacket and boots. I tried a dress and skirts of varying lengths, but finally just went with jeans as Ariel typically wore the boots with jeans, not her pink prom dress. Anyway, lots of thought put into something that didn't really work.



Lorna Wood From the knees up you look













On Day 13 of Costumed Quarantine I wore this leopard print coat, which stemmed suggestions of other ways this coat should be used. Little Edie from Grey Gardens was one of those suggestions. Though Little Edie typically has a solid colored fur coat, we did use the leopard print to create an "inspired by, Costumed Quarantine version of" Grey Gardens. It was early spring so our dead looking bushes and lawn worked nicely for this shoot.



needed the bright red lipstick.

4 Comments 1 Share

⇔ Share



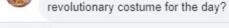


Like · Reply · 6w



Like · Reply · 6w

















I always thought my family would have been pulled in front of the camera more for this project, but it somehow never happened. When I realized I had a lion, a tiger and a bear costume, I knew just who my models needed to be. I appreciate their willingness to pose for this. We opted to keep it simple and just use the headpiece for this. Aren't they the best? with Steve Russell.



5 Comments









Joan Hall Oh my!

Like · Reply · 6w



Ben Shaw Way to go guys 👍 👍 👍







Paul Merklein I wouldn't want to meet those 3 guys in the woods.

Like · Reply · 6w



Cathy Pierzina Yes, they are the best!

















Not quite all the costumes, but a good portion.

