



# ANOTHER COSTUME ?

What happens when your child needs another costume? We've a plan to help you whip one up on short notice—a leopard, his trainer, or whatever—and change it to meet the next costume demand! Turn to page 45 for our 14 time-saving solutions!

And what do *you* do when your child comes home from school with a note saying he needs *another* costume for a class play?

Everywoman's found its simple (and versatile) solution in the leotard, the simple basic costume dancers wear, which you can find in the dance equipment and sports stores for as little as \$1.95. A plain, unadorned knit bathing suit will work as well, and with sweater, tights and the appropriate accessories, it becomes practically any costume called for on the note from the teacher.

Leotards were the start of the two circus costumes shown on page 18.

The glamorous "animal trainer" wears a sunback leotard, with these extras: a ruffle made of layers of nylon net gathered to an elastic band; neck and wrist puffs of the same nylon net, sewn to black ribbons; black kid ballet slippers (or your young lady's shell "flats") with black ribbons added; a pair of feather plumes from the dime store; a whip, made with ribbon wrapped on a painted stick.

Mr. Leopard's costume is more of a project, but a fun one, and the costume itself can be changed around and used a number of times, in back-yard skits, Hallowe'en parties, or even as cold-weather "longies" under a snowsuit. His leotard has a turtle neck and long sleeves (you could use a T-shirt with high roll collar), and with it he wears either classic tights with feet or long black stockings. With black kid ballet slippers or shoes, black gloves, a head-piece and corkscrew tail, the little man becomes the little beast! For the helmet use the top of a black cotton stocking,

cut off 16 inches from the top. Gather the raw edge, draw together snugly and fasten securely. Open the stocking seam an inch below the top band and slash along the seamline to make a face opening (from chin to one inch above the hairline). Cut two pie-shaped pieces from remainder of stocking and stitch to form pointed ears. Turn ears, stuff with cotton, and attach to hood, two inches above hairline. Bottom of hood will be tucked inside collar or turtle neck when worn.

For the tail, wrap a wire lightly, but tightly, with black fabric cut in one-inch strips. Finish by wrapping remainder of black stocking around tail, curl end and attach to leotard. Guide wires of black thread from tail end to outer edges of shoulders will hold the tail up jauntily.

Use yellow felt for the leopard's spots, cut in half-dollar size circles. Tack spots to leotard with several strong stitches in centers only, to allow for stretch when costume is put on. You will need about half a yard of felt or a substitute yellow cotton fabric, for the spots.

That covers the circus costume situation . . . but if Johnny's teacher's note calls for him to be an American Indian, an Easter egg or a May apple tree, the solution is in the same leotard!

**American Indian:** Make slipover tunic of two towels or brown wrapping paper or crepe paper, fastened at shoulders. Fringe or ruffle red crepe paper for band across chest, stripes down sides of pants and around bottom of tunic, and sew or staple in place. Braid crepe paper of several colors for belt. Headdress war bonnet can be made from cardboard feathers (or wooden tongue depressors) spray-painted in bright hues and stapled to a cardboard crown.

**Wise Man:** Put a drawstring through the hem of an old sheet, and tie on at chest under armpits. Fashion capelike sleeve from two pillow cases by lapping over corners at open ends and stitching, leaving center part open for head opening.

Form sleeves by quick-stitching sides of pillow case together from wrist end part way up, allowing room for shoulders. Staff can be made from an old broom handle, with a cardboard crook. For sandal-style shoes, trace around feet on heavy cardboard. Cut out and tie on to feet with ribbon or tape.

**Choir Boy:** Use sheet and pillow cases as for Wise Man, and have child wear white turtle-neck sweater, with a wide floppy black bow tied at neck.

**Easter Egg:** Insert elastic drawstring at hem end of pillow case. Open other end of pillow case, hem, and insert another elastic drawstring. Stuff with wadded tissue paper and wear over trunk of body. Easter egg designs can be taped on egg body with colored cellophane tape.

**George Washington:** Use white jabot for neckline, white crepe paper cuffs, a wide belt with an aluminum foil-covered cardboard sword, and gold buttons down front and two at back of waist.

**May Flower:** Fold dark green paper in strips and cut out leaf pattern, joined along one edge in paper-doll chain style. Stitch row upon row of these to leotard trunk. With pinking shears, cut out petals from pink and rose crepe paper and string together, using blunt needle and sturdy twine to form two leis. Tie one around the neck, and one around chest under armpits. For cap, cover skull cap with green crepe paper leaves, with crepe paper rose at center.

**Pilgrim:** Make slipover tunic of gray crepe paper or towels, belt in with wide belt. Add collar and cuffs of white crepe paper, a black mat paper hat, and aluminum foil-covered cardboard buckles on hat and shoes.

**Camel:** Cut four semicircles of black mat paper and staple each to form cone-shaped hooves for feet and wrists. Force two balloons into brown stockings for humps and attach stocking vertically at shoulder and hip-line. Form hood and ears from brown stocking, as for leopard, above. Knot another brown stocking at intervals to make tail, and sew to leotard. Make hair and mane for camel from brown yarn loops or shredded crepe paper strips sewn to hood, top of humps and front from chin to waist.

**Easter Bunny:** Add an enormous puffy tail made of crepe paper or tissue paper, white gloves, and a stocking hood with long cardboard ears.

**Turkey:** Paint a big 15 x 30-inch sheet of heavy wrapping paper with horizontal stripes in shades of brown, using poster paint or liquid shoe polish. Pleat paper fan style, staple together one end, punch hole through end and attach to narrow belt or cord and tie to waist. If fan tail is not steady, use thread guide wires from fan edges to shoulders.

Make turkey's bill of heavy cardboard, V-shaped, painted with liquid red shoe polish and creased down the center. Staple bill to brim of a baseball or fishing cap, point end away from cap. Make wattles and comb from crepe paper and staple comb to hat top and wattles to turtle neck of leotard.

**Smokey the Bear:** Over leotard use over-sized blue trousers or jeans, stuffed with tissue paper and belted tightly at waist. Roll up trouser legs to mid-calf. Attach half ears (made from cardboard) to a borrowed Scout hat. Make yellow cardboard badge reading "Help Prevent Forest Fires," to pin over heart.

**May Apple Tree:** Cut strips of brown crepe paper two and four inches wide, to cover body lengthwise from chest to feet forming bark of trunk of tree. Spacing irregularly and overlapping some, sew strips loosely to leotard at top and to tights at feet, and tack at waist. Fringe deep strips of green crepe paper and sew across chest and shoulders, down top of sleeves and on undersides of sleeves, to make tree branches. Cut small cardboard "apples," sew some in the green fringe at chest and fasten rest to one- and two-inch strings sewn to undersides of sleeves, so that apples will dangle when "branches" are raised.

That leotard has turned out to be a mother's lifesaver. And there are dozens of other costumes it can make! Without spots, it's a panther; with wings it's a butterfly; striped and maned it's a zebra. Feelers and fuzz and orange stripes turn it into a caterpillar. Crazy color patches make it a harlequin. Comes Hallowe'en, and with fringed crepe paper and peaked hat the leotard is a witch's costume; with whiskers, tail and ears, a cat; with black wings a bat.

And what did your latest note from the teacher call for? Well, get out the leotard and start in!