



Costuming Guidelines

Costume Philosophy

The goal of **The Other Reindeer** is to entertain. In pursuit of this goal, not only do we pursue musical excellence, but also aesthetic appeal. In fact, although our costumes are intended to invoke a feeling of traditional Christmas, the emphasis should be on the theatrical rather than on the historical. There are many kinds of costumes that are perfectly period but which are not acceptable as a costume when you are caroling with The Other Reindeer.

The Male Reindeer (Stags)



Men should wear:

- A high-quality black or gray **top hat** (preferably one made from wool). Dorfman Pacific makes good ones.
- A Gray or Black **coat** (tuxedo coat is usually fine; tails are great!)
- A white, collared button-down **shirt** (not a polo)
- Black, gray, or plaid **slacks**
- A colorful **ascot or cravat**
- Possibly a waistcoat/weskit/**vest**
- Black **dress shoes**

Victorian/Dickensian costuming is generally easier for men, because if you have a tuxedo, generally all you have to do is get a top hat, a scarf, and wear an ascot instead of a bow-tie. Here is Jeremy Piven in an ascot.

Scarves are great too, and depending on your coat, you may need a waistcoat (or vest) under your coat. Satin, period patterns, and plaid are good for waistcoats/vests.



The Female Reindeer (Does)



All women should wear:

A **bonnet**;

A period long-sleeved white or off-white **blouse** (preferably high-necked);

A **capelet** or victorian jacket;

A floor-length, colorful and voluminous **skirt**, but no hoop skirts;

and black period **shoes or boots**.

Scarves, muffs, etc encouraged!

COLORS:

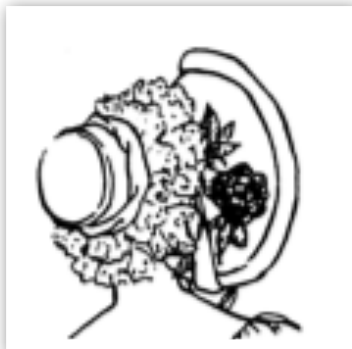
Colors should be bright or dark (few pastels) and not neon. "All white" and "all black" should be avoided.

Green, Red, Burgundy, Blue, and Purple are great choices - use yellow and orange sparingly.

Plaid patterns are very period, and so are paisley patterns. Solid colors work very well, too.

FABRICS:

Velvet or velveteen are great choices. Wool is good too. Satin is wonderful, and fur (or faux fur) accessories are encouraged. Cotton and Linen are fine too, and certain kinds of polyester may work as long as they look period. Lace, ribbons, and fringes are all VERY apropos!



On the following pages, I provide some picture examples and some links for buying or renting purposes.



Places to purchase costume items (Captions are links)



[Victorian capelet - eBay](#)
\$25



[Bonnet - Costumes4less](#)
\$16



[Variety of boots - Amazon](#)
\$35 & up

[Dorfman Pacific Top Hat](#)
\$45



[Cravat/Ascot on Amazon](#)
\$13



[Vest & Ascot Combo](#)
\$34



Places to rent complete or partial costumes:

Western Costume
www.westerncostume.com
(818) 760-0900
11041 Vanowen Street,
North Hollywood, CA 91605

Adele's of Hollywood
<http://adelescostumes.com>
(323) 663-2231
5034 Hollywood Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90027

More costume examples



If you have any suggestions for additions to this costume guide, please let me know! I intend to update it every year. Especially seeking people interested getting referrals to make costume pieces.