

For a haunting Halloween

Fingernail art makes masquerading more so

Story: RUSTLE SHAND
Photos: DICK KELLEY

Halloween parties — either you love them or you hate them. If you are one of those who say, "No pumpkin heads, witches' noses or dragon costumes for me," don't give up and settle for a gloomy evening because you can't think up a clever costume. The solution could be in a handful of weird fingernails that may make you the hit of any party.

Even if you choose to be a Halloween stay-at-home, think of the reaction of all the hobgoblins and ghosts who come to your door. They'll not soon forget the hands that dish out treats when those hands have ghostly lavender fingernails or a skull imprinted on them.

To be a witch, fashionable or not, isn't the aim of most women. But once a year on All Hallows Eve, anything goes, and women are apt to opt for witchy and wierd get-ups.

Manicurist Ana Hicks of David's Perfect "10" Nail Salon in West Bloomfield can help give your fingernails a touch of the bizarre, appropriate for Halloween. She's prepared to handpaint each fingernail with the various symbols of Halloween.

SOME SUGGESTIONS are a floating ghost who says "Boo!" for the thumbnail; or an R.I.P. tombstone for the pinkie.

Two fierce looking jack-o'-lanterns can dance on the ring finger; a dangling skeleton might grace the middle fingernail and a bat can fly menacingly on the index finger.

à la mode

Handpainted fingernail art doesn't take as much time as it would seem to require. In about five minutes per nail, you can have witchy nails done.

One nail costs \$5; a full set of 10, \$50. Ms. Hicks paints in the medium of finger nail polish. "I just use weird colors and a very fine sable artist's brush," she explained.

Using the top of a plastic box for a palette, she can paint free-hand any symbol or message a customer might like.

"I've painted everything on nails from a kitchen sink to little Cadillac cars," she said, "from Champagne glasses to the Playboy bunny."

"It all started about five years ago when I painted stars and stripes on nails for the bicentennial celebration," she recalled.

HALLOWEEN is not the only holiday saluted by nail art. "For prom night, girls like to have their left hand, ring fingernail painted with their name and their date's name, encircled with hearts," Ms. Hicks said.

Although she has already painted some 40 customers' nails for Halloween, Ms. Hicks said the Christmas and Hanuka holidays are the most often chosen to get the unusual manicures.



A Halloween witch (left) is all ready for spooking with bats, skeletons and pumpkins artfully decorating her nails. Above, Ana Hicks, manicurist-artist, applies Hal-

loween symbols the better to haunt you with. (Staff photos by Dick Kelley.)



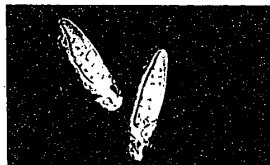
Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

A Deux

Ballet slippers are no longer just for ballerinas. They've become a new foot fashion for both dressing up and lounging at home. The Janet Varner shop in Rochester sells ballet slippers that have been handpainted with brightly colored abstract designs plus tiny silver and gold-colored hearts. Some slippers are also studded here-and-there with multicolored rhinestones. Available in white, pink or black leather in sizes five through 10, the slippers cost \$50 per pair. Orders take approximately four weeks.

Janet Varner, 321 Main Street, Rochester, 652-2212.



Almost Real People

If you like to give creative gifts, here's one that's bound to be a show-stopper. First, you supply the artist with photos and details about the recipient's occupation, hobbies, idiosyncrasies, clothing preferences, etc. Then she will handcraft a delightful, 18-inch caricature doll complete with paper-mache head and fabric body. The charge is \$100 and the artist's details are wonderfully authentic. In one case, she purchased actual suiting fabric from the gentleman's tailor for a suit for his caricature doll. Orders take three weeks.

P.S. Stationery, 335-0989 or 626-7916.



Nice People

The wonderful, warm and friendly small-town atmosphere of Birmingham and its merchants is something to cherish. Take, for example, Judy Trumbull, the owner of the popular Rialto shop. Ms. Trumbull has hired professional photographer Linda Solomon to be at Rialto from 6-8 p.m. on Oct. 30, the night of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Halloween parade. Ms. Solomon will take free 3x5-inch colored photographs of any person or group in their Halloween costumes. Complimentary refreshments include cider and doughnuts. Isn't that nice? Rialto, 217 South Woodward, Birmingham, 642-2230.



Tinker Bell

Ever since the Bruce family opened a shop that specialized in welding, aligning and repairing the front ends of automobiles, friends would bring in such diverse items as broken skillets, belt buckles, lawnmowers and candlesticks for possible repair. As a result, Don Bruce decided to open The Tinker Shop where he will weld, or sometimes glue, just about any broken or bent metal object. Bruce thrives on challenges; one of the more unusual projects was to convert an antique metal headboard from twin- to king-size by adding to it and matching the design.

Bruce's Tinker Shop, 4601 North Woodward, Royal Oak, 549-3112.



Films offered for children

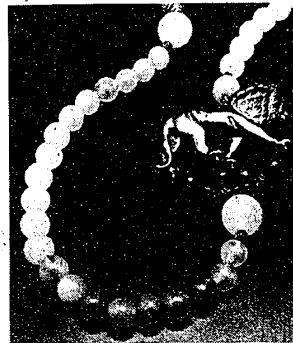
A drop-in film session for school-aged children is slated for 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, in the multi-purpose room of the Beech Woods Recreation Center, 22200 Beech in Southfield.

"Me and You Kangaroo", "Boy and a Boa", and "Let's Look at Animals" will be the film features.

No registration is required, and admission is free. The programs last 45 minutes.

Preschoolers may attend if accompanied by an older child or adult.

For more information, call Beech Woods Reading Center at 334-9513.



The Ruth O. Frank Collection, a matchless array of Far Eastern opulence! Show, the ancient vermeil lion's head necklace—set with a Chinese agate, lapis beads from the Ching dynasty and Ceylonese vermeil beads; 1900. In Fine Jewelry Collections, Street Floor—where we are all the things you are. Join Ruth Frank, here in SFA Troy, on October 29, 30 and 31 from 11 to 5.

Saks Fifth Avenue

Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy