



**HauntsUSA**

5042 Wilshire Boulevard  
Suite 476  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
(323) 964-8100  
Corporate & Sales Office

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 25, 2006

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Regina Davis, (626) 356-1300 or rdavisprpr@aol.com  
Davis & Associates Public Relations

## **THIRTEEN TIPS FOR A FUN AND SAFE HALLOWEEN**

\* \* \* \*

Event Producers of "The Haunt" Share Insider's Secrets on  
How To Scare Friends and Neighbors This Halloween

*By Sondi Toll Sepenuk*

Ever been *truly* afraid? Ever wanted the daylight scared out of you? Luckily, there's one night a year it's allowed, even *encouraged*: Halloween.

"There are lots of ways to scare people," says Halloween pro Harlan Freedman. "The close-up scare, the scare-from-behind, and the noisemaker scare, just to name a few. You want a distraction that will make people look left if you want to scare them on the right."

TV veterans of the creative and visual effects fields, Halloween event producers Harlan and Laura Freedman have been scaring people for Halloween since they married 11 years ago. Starting with their own home parties, they gradually expanded to include the neighborhood. "We painted walls black, turned the bathroom into a 'bat room,' and eventually started scaring people outdoors so that the local kids could enjoy it, too," laughs Laura, a self-proclaimed 'Halloween freak.'

After years of entertaining the neighborhood families, a friend suggested that Harlan and Laura get into the Halloween biz on a professional level, so in 2002 they launched their first "Haunt," a fundraising scare-fest that encompassed 10,000 square feet of ghouls, goblins, mummies, 'scare-actors,' mazes and anything else that -- forgive the pun -- screamed Halloween.

But how does one scare up a truly fun and safe Halloween? Besides all the usual advice, like "don't eat unwrapped candy or homemade treats," Harlan and Laura have 13 more creative ideas to make your Halloween as fun, freaky and unforgettable as possible.

1. Buy and carve pumpkins together to turn the experience into a family event.
2. Begin decorating house one month in advance, but save all the "good stuff" for Halloween weekend itself.
3. For yard, create monster mannequins from old clothes, gardening stakes, wigs and masks.

- more -

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**[www.3232Scream.com](http://www.3232Scream.com)**

**(323) 2Scream**

# THIRTEEN TIPS FOR A FUN AND SAFE HALLOWEEN

Page 2

4. For young trick-or-treaters, avoid long costumes that may cause them to trip while running.
5. For safety, blend reflective tape or glow-in-the-dark jewelry into costume.
6. Scariest monster costume of all: dress up like your parents!
7. Black out eye sockets to create a dead look.
8. If handing out candy, dress up in costume yourself!
9. Instead of candy, hand out small toys that you buy in bulk.
10. Swap out regular porch lights with colored lights.
11. Put pennies in a tin can and shake vigorously to scare kids.
12. Don't just scare the kids – scare the parents!!!!
13. After Halloween, devise a plan for eating candy. For example, place candy in a special jar and allow "x" number of candies per day.

"The best part of Halloween," says Harlan, "is that it's a night for kids *and* adults. Anybody can be anything they want and they won't be judged for it. What could be better than that?"

This year's fundraising "Haunt" will take place at the Northridge Fashion Center during a Fall Festival that will incorporate 50,000 square feet of fun, three mazes of fright, and thousands of screams. The haunt will open to the public on Thursday, October 12, at 7:00pm and will run for fourteen nights, Thursday through Sunday, with the final five days of spookiness Thursday October 28<sup>th</sup> through Halloween on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Ticket prices will range from \$10 - \$25 per person, per night, with a portion of proceeds benefiting Special Olympics (Southern California), Project GRAD Los Angeles, and Kiwanis. For more information, call (323) 2-scream, or go online at [www.3232scream.com](http://www.3232scream.com).

Oh. And prepare to be scared. *Very* scared. Mwah – ha-ha-ha-ha!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

***Sondi Toll Sepenuk is a television writer and guest columnist for one of Los Angeles' local newspapers, The Larchmont Chronicle. She resides in Los Angeles with her husband and daughter.***

- End -

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** JPEG's are available for your use, please visit [www.3232Scream.com](http://www.3232Scream.com), click on the "Press Info" link and download. **Please photo credit: ©HauntsUSA2006.**

For additional information, to schedule an interview with Harlan or Laura Freedman or to receive an invitation to the October 8 "VIP/Media Night," contact Regina Davis, Davis & Associates Public Relations, at (626) 356-1300 or by email: [rdavisprpr@aol.com](mailto:rdavisprpr@aol.com).