

SPOOKY ROMANCE

TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE SOME OUTLANDISH FUN AT HALLOWEEN AND CELEBRATE FINDING LOVE

WORDS: JOANNE WILSON



Did you know that traditionally, Halloween is the celebration held on the eve of All Hallows' Day, a day of remembering the dead ("hallows" being an old term for saints)?

It was the beginning of three days of remembering saints, martyrs and the faithfully departed.

Today it's costume parties and an excessive amount of lollies.

Ah, so... romantic?

Well, believe it or not, it was once.

Halloween celebrations at the start of the 20th century were less about gory ghouls and more about finding that special someone.

Cupid himself would often be seen amongst the cats, witches and jack-o'-lanterns.

It's not too surprising when you consider that often our reaction to death is to reaffirm our meaning of life.

What reaffirms being alive more than love.

Today we've lost much of the traditional reverence and the early 20th century's charmingly romantic take on proceedings.

We're more about decaying body parts



than remembering the dead or finding love.

To heck with that, I say! Romance is where you find it.

While Halloween may not be the auspicious occasion it once was, you know what it is now? Fun.

Fraternising with your partner to be silly and have fun is one of the greatest bonding experiences there is.

Halloween is full of activities you can share with your partner, so here are my ideas for you this Wednesday:

- Go for a morning jog together along the esplanade wearing capes or crazy hats.

- Write a Halloween-themed loved note and leave it under your beloved's breakfast plate.

- Drop off a yummy basket of treats to your partner's work.

- Attend or host a party. You could research some of the vintage romantic Halloween parties of yesteryear and have a throwback Halloween party.

- Make decorations together. Halloween is a great excuse for some creative fun.

- Visit an attraction. How about Aussie World? Haunted houses, ghost tours and themed nights at amusement parks are all great entertainment.

- Stay in and watch a romantic or scary movie.

- Buy the most ridiculous couples' outfits you can. The other day I saw a cheese and Vegemite sandwich couple's costume in one of the cheapy shops. The man was the cheese half and the woman was the Vegemite half. When you hug, you make a sandwich. It was the most fantastically ridiculous thing I've

ever seen, and I regret not getting it.

- Perfect time to grab some costumes and indulge in a little role play. Not that you need an excuse, but hey – nobody asks why you're buying an alluring weird outfit if you do it in October.

Most of all my best advice is, let your hair down. We've taken Halloween from a sombre remembering of the dead to a lively festival of the living. Take the opportunity to be silly with your partner and enjoy yourselves in the most outlandish way possible.

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