

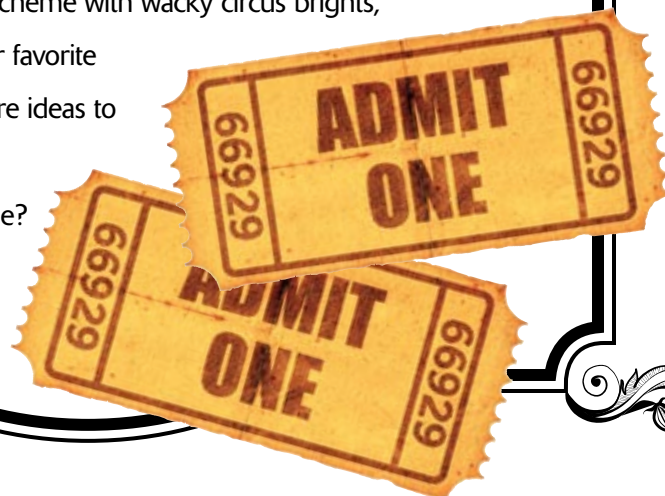
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THE GREAT CARNIVAL

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

STEP RIGHT UP...

Games of chance, magic tricks, outlandish characters and crazy costumes—the zany allure of the Midway* fits right in with Halloween tricks and treats. Break the mold of the usual tombstones and ghosts with a carnival-theme party. Thrill guests with the weird wonders and creepy curiosities of the freak show and have them test their skills playing classic carnival games with a Halloween twist. Punch up the basic black-and-orange color scheme with wacky circus brights, and tell guests to dress as their favorite sideshow star. Looking for more ideas to turn your backyard into a fun and freaky Halloween spectacle? Right this way...



ALL MAKEUP: ALICIA METZDORF/COLORS THE CLOWN



Pitch Man

Welcome to the show! The Carnival Barker* will talk you into anything, and his dapper costume gives him winning charm. Pull items from your own wardrobe, add some thrift-shop finds and top it off with a snappy boater hat and a cane to reel 'em in.



Try Your Luck

What's a carnival without old-fashioned arcade games? Draw a crowd with bright Banners and Signs* (painted on inexpensive fabric paint tarps) and strings of lights set up on laundry poles.



Concession Stand

Crazy stripes in bright hues help pitch the carnival theme. Spray-paint a large galvanized Metal Bucket,* fill it with ice and add cold drinks. Smaller versions can hold chips or popcorn.



Head Game

Make your own ghoulish variation on the Knock 'Em Sock 'Em* game. Give your targets masks for faces. Knock one down and win a prize!



PUMPKINS: FUNKINS



Palm Pilot

Don't worry: It's all good news. Set up a table with a crystal ball and tell guests what they want to hear. Cross the gypsy's hand with candy corn to pay for your reading.



Princess of the Sea

The Mermaid* is the star of the show. Use shimmering fabric and a simple-to-sew pattern, or trim a thrift-shop gown with sequins and shells and add a fish-tail of tulle to create the prettiest part of the act.



Hole in One

Put a new spin on bobbing for apples: Jumping for Doughnuts* works on the same principle, but no one gets wet. String 'em between two poles so they slide and rotate as guests try to sink their teeth in. No hands!



She Sees All

Mix, don't match, to pull together a Fortune Teller* costume. The magic spell for a gypsy look includes stripes and florals, exotic embroidery and layers of ruffles. Add a romantic shawl, gold charms and anything shiny.



Ring Me

Was it love at first bite? Test your skills with the Marry the Ghoul* game. Catch the ring on different fingers to earn the most points. It's all in the wrist...



Double the Fun

Two can play the Pumpkin Patch Toss.* Try to get Ping-Pong balls in the pumpkins from about four feet away. The smaller the gourd, the more points scored; the lightweight balls make it harder than it looks.



PUMPKINS: FUNKINS



All-Day Sucker

For this Blood Drive,* feed the vampire by pitching “drops of blood” into his mouth to win. Red balloons filled with birdseed look the part—and it’s no problem if they break.



Novelty Act

Two heads are better than one when it comes to passing treats to guests. Carry out the sideshow theme by having Siamese Twins* serve up old-fashioned novelty candies on an easy-to-make hawker's tray.

PUMPKINS: FUNKINS



Charm School

Here's a costume with sheer animal magnetism. Strike a pose as a Snake Charmer* in a bejeweled towel turban with an easy-to-sew snake. Add an elegant vest for extra allure.



Weight and See

It's scary how easy it is to lift 500 pounds when you know the secret. This Strong Man* gets his muscle from partially inflated balloons under his shirt.



Photo Op

No need to strike a pose: The Newlydeads* (a.k.a. Mr. and Mrs. Frankenstein) give everyone's favorite carnival booth a Halloween spin. Use fabric paint tarps as a canvas and cut holes for faces. Remember to place them at the right height for your guests! ■