

Costuming for the Peasant Class

Colors

Use earth tones: browns, greens, golds, rusts, blues and variations there-of. Do not use fluorescents/neons, bright reds, blacks, pastels, turquoise or modern looking colors. Purple is reserved for the Queen herself and pure white is an upper-class color. Look for colors found in nature. White or other colors that are too bright can be easily brought down by soaking them in hot tea or coffee.

General Fabric Information

Use 100% natural fabrics or blends with a small amount of polyester. Natural fabrics breathe better and WILL keep you cooler. Best looks are from: wool, woven cottons, raw silk, textured natural fabrics, leather, and linen. No prints, velour, sheers, gingham, seersucker, etc. Velvets, satins, and brocades are not appropriate for peasants.

At Minimum Requirement:

Men: *Shirt, Jerkin or Doublet, Breeches, Belt, Hat and Socks* (if they show)

Women: *Chemise - long sleeved, Bodice, 2 Skirts, Shoes, Garland, Hair covering or Hat and Socks, bloomers.*

See below for descriptions of individual items.

Men's Clothing

Shirts, Jerkins, and Doublets: Shirts should be long sleeved and full-bodied. Drawstrings, high collars, drop collars, and no collared shirts are appropriate. A jerkin is a loose fitting vest, generally sleeveless. A doublet is a tight fitting vest, sometimes with detachable sleeves.

Breeches: Pants should be full with lots of volume, not form fitting in solid colors. Length can be thigh-high, above the knee, or below the knee. Ankle length pants are inappropriate unless tucked into boots. No zippers or obvious pockets. Wear hose or woolen socks if your legs aren't covered. Only Scots and Irish show bare legs.

Women's Clothing

Chemise/Shift: A chemise is the period word for a full-sleeved blouse, with a neckline that is adjustable with drawstring, or elastic. It can be white, off-white, or other muted color in natural tones. See colors above. Never wear your chemise off the shoulders.

Bodice A bodice is a fitted vest-like garment (which later evolved into the corset). It must have straps over the shoulders. A Renaissance period bodice would stop at the waistline. They are not hourglass shaped like Victorian period corsets. No princess seams or metallic trim and no velvet or silk. Brocades may be approvable if they have a period look. Ask ENT if you are not sure, before you purchase. See above for approvable fabrics.

Skirts: Skirts must be full and worn just below the ankle. Wear at least two skirts and tuck up the overskirt for the proper silhouette. Skirts should be monochrome: no prints, ruffles, or tiers,.

Both Men and Women:

Optional Accessories: You may carry on your person a Purse or Pouch, Mug, Basket (for women), Eating knife, which must be peace-tied.

Children's Clothing

Until about age three children wore a biggins hat and a shift. Children older than three dressed just like adults.

Hats and Hair

Everyone wears hats except the Irish and the Scots. Proper hats include the muffin cap, biggins, flat caps, felt, and straw hats. You may wear a wreath instead, with hair down or braided. Cover all non-period and obviously modern hairstyles and hair colors. (Example: No blue, purple, pink hair coloring and no Mohawks or spiked hair.)

Shoes and Hose (Stockings)

Bare feet and legs are inappropriate (again excluding the Irish and Scots). Most earth tone shoes will work: wallabies, Minnetonka moccasins, and closed-toe Birkenstocks. You may also use thigh-highs (Men) and black Kung fu slippers. Avoid bare feet, tennis shoes, army boots, biker boots, and anything with a high heel. No fringe on boots.

General Comments

Wear natural toned make-up, no fluorescents or lip-gloss that is too shiny. No black or 'goth' style make up. No visible watches. Keep jewelry to a minimum and keep it simple. No visible facial or body piercings. Regular ear peircings are fine. No sunglasses unless polarized and needed for sight.