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VOTE ON NOV. 2?**

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SCREAMIN' DEALS

BY MICHELLE MCCARTHY

Since the entire month of October is chock-full of tasty morsels of macabre, here's a look at Halloween happenings and where to find costume ideas and spooky decorations—without being haunted by your bank account.

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In celebration of National Coming Out Day, *Frontiers* joined with the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center to invite the community to share their own coming out experiences with our readers!



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BY MICHAEL ANTHONY

Everyone in Southern California knows the good, the bad and the ugly that comes along with the Halloween Festival on Santa Monica Boulevard, but L.A. is host to many other ghoulish events—including the deadly and delightful *Día de los Muertos* at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery.



Nicholas Hussein

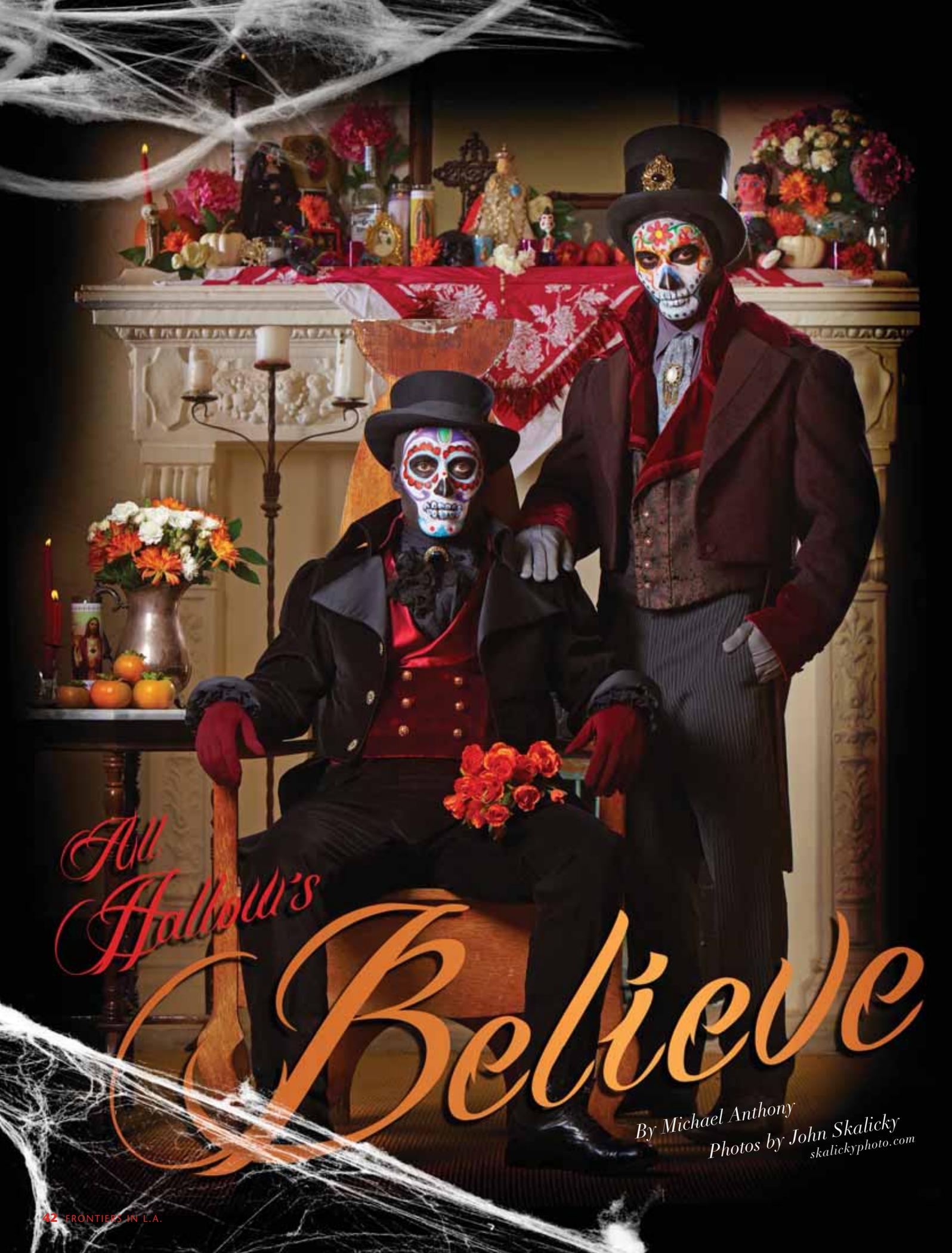


Guillermo Bass

FrontiersWeb.com
Cover Model contest winner

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All
Hallow's

Believe

By Michael Anthony
Photos by John Skalicky
skalickyphoto.com



Dia de los Muertos

The day of deadly delights returns to L.A.

Everyone in Southern California knows the good, the bad and the ugly that comes along with the Halloween Festival on Santa Monica Boulevard; a time for wild revelry, it's an all-out party on steroids. But Los Angeles is host to a slew of other ghoulish events—and its most popular is the *Dia de los Muertos* celebration at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

Returning for its 11th year, the festival is a colorful celebration that fuses the Mexican Independence Bicentennial and Revolution Centennial. On Saturday, Oct. 30, the famed cemetery will come to life with a slew of traditional celebratory customs: altar settings, processions, incense, food and candle-lighting ceremonies, as well as a humble homage to the fallen heroes and icons of the Mexican Independence and Revolution.

Traditionally a Mexican heritage event, this year's festival is set to also feature other cultural practices—special African and Chilean customs, as well as a few traditional American Halloween-inspired events.

The celebration will begin at 2 p.m., as Calpulli Huehuetiliztli will lead a procession that aims to aid spirits in their transition to the afterlife. This is to be followed by a series of truly unique Aztec rituals, including fire dancing and spiritual cleansing. Specifically for children, storytelling and face painting will be on hand; and also this year, \$3,500 in prizes will be distributed for the "Best Altar" decorations and the "Most Creative Calavera" outfit—an added bonus to get families in the Halloween spirit.

Aside from the eclectic mix of food and sweet treats, the main draw will surely be the musical stage. This year's headliners will include the rock-folk group Hoppo with Ruben Albarran and singer/songwriter Carla Morrison—and more than 10 groups from Veracruz, Mexicali, Santa Barbara and Mexico will be dancing and singing throughout the day.

A true Los Angeles melting pot of an afternoon, this year's Dia de los Muertos is one October event not to be missed by event-goers of all cultures and creeds.

Sat., Oct. 30. \$10 admission (children under 10 years are free). Doors open from 2 p.m. until midnight. Hollywood Forever Cemetery, 6000 Santa Monica Blvd., Hlywd. ladayofthedeath.com

WARDROBE:
Valentino's Costumes
valentinoscostumes.com

BODY PAINTING:
Filippo Ioco
iocobodyart.com



Believe it or not,

spirituality has a lot to do with Halloween—
here's how some religions approach the holiday.

Christianity

Christianity is perhaps the most diverse religion, with more recognized factions than any other faith; ergo, their views on this topic wildly range from Evangelicals who revile the holiday to "Christmas-only Christians" who think of it as nothing more than a time to dress their babies up in this season's cutest Halloween garb.

"By-the-book" Christians do not participate in the holiday, as they associate it with the Devil and Pagan ritual; however, more progressive Christians believe the holiday was born from Christian roots, in reference to the "Feast of All Saints" (Nov. 1) which celebrates the dead in heaven and prays for the souls in purgatory. It is on this post-Halloween holiday that believers bang pots and pans together to remind the dead (and the damned) that they are not forgotten.

Catholicism

While churches on the local level often classify Halloween as a secular, harmless holiday (some congregations even host costume contests and trick-or-treat events), the highest levels of the church denounce the holiday. In fact, in October of 2009, Pope Benedict XVI made an official statement that the holiday was the kick-off to the "darker half of the year" and is an "anti-Christian and dangerous" event.

More radical groups, like the influential Association of Pope John XXIII, even have gone so far as to publicly label it "a great Satanic ritual...[and] all those that hold the values of life dear should know that Halloween is an adoration of Satan." Simply stated, the holiday is forbidden in doctrine, but in practice, it is often secularly enjoyed.

Hinduism

Hindu culture is mum on Halloween; and many American Hindus participate in the holiday socially and secularly. In India (where approximately 85 percent of the population is Hindu), a 15-day Halloween-like festival called *Pitru Paksha* is held. It is a period (usually August or September) in which ancestors and dead family members are remembered. Spirits are not looked upon as scary but as wise and blessed beings.

Satanism

Despite mainstream belief, religious Satanists do not assign any importance to Halloween. The often misunderstood faith is merely a favorable view of the God Satan and the associated values of extreme individuality and independent thought. The tradition of Halloween is in no way born from Satanic origins—celebrating the holiday is purely a personal preference, not one dictated by the faith.

Wicca

Halloween represents the Wiccan New Year, a time for merriment and contemplation. Instead of frightening and dark-sided, the holiday is looked upon as a joyous spiritual awakening. The lives of the dead are celebrated, as well as the Great Horned God of divine male energy. It is believed that the veil between the spiritual and material worlds is the thinnest at this time of year—and a metaphysical connection between the two is possible.

Commonly referred to as the Samhain holiday, it is one of the Wiccan's eight Sabbats (aka seasonal holidays) and is one of the most important days of the year for the followers of Wicca.

Judaism

Orthodox Jews do not celebrate Halloween for the same reason as Muslims; it is forbidden to partake in any non-Jewish-based holiday. Because they believe that Halloween is born out of Christianity's All Saints Day, they do not accept it as part of their culture or belief system.

Jews, however, do have a holiday similar to Halloween called *Purim*. It is a marking of the time in history when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from genocide. Much like mainstream Halloween, the celebration includes costumes, candy and even a little mischievous revelry.

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