



Lisa Kothari Gives Her Spooky Secrets for a Perfect Halloween Bash!

The Revered Author Shares Her Knowledge of Halloween Soirees.

Los Angeles, CA (August 2007) -- **Lisa Kothari**, author of the newly released "**Dear Peppers and Pollywogs... What Parents Want to Know About Planning Their Kids' Parties,**" knows what kids want in a Halloween party. Why? Because not only is she an expert kids' party-planner, but Halloween is her favorite holiday as well.

"It's always been my favorite time of year," says Kothari, "so magical and mystical. And as more and more people are embracing Halloween parties, the entire month has become a time of decorations and fun."

Here Lisa shares her magical tips for throwing the best kid-friendly Halloween party on the block, from soup to guts.

START WITH DECORATIONS!

It's easy and inexpensive to create a spooky theme inside -- and outside -- of your home. For instance:

- Blow up balloons, place a small white sheet or cloth over it, draw the face with a black magic marker, and suspend from the ceiling using fishing wire around the ghosts' "neck".
- Make a graveyard in your front yard using old appliance cardboard boxes by cutting out tombstone shapes, spray-painting them black, and using white paint to paint spooky, funny epithets on them.
- Create a 'victim' using old jeans, shirts, work gloves, a hat, and a paper bag all stuffed with leaves. Using corn syrup and red food coloring for blood, the murdered body can be placed on the front steps or in the yard.
- Use different-sized jars and fill them with water. Place inexpensive rubber "body parts" such as fingers, eyeballs, hair, and hands in the jars. On the table, illuminated by candlelight, these will look creepy!

SERVE SPOOKY FOODS!

There's nothing better than a buffet full of ghoulish treats at a kids party. Start with an assortment of snacks and labels (written on black construction paper with white chalk) placed next to them:

- Bat Brains (Popcorn)
- Bloated Ants (Raisins)
- Boiled Lady Bugs (Red Jelly Beans)
- Braised Beetles (Milk Duds)
- Candied Spider Eggs (Gum Drops)
- Cheesy Owl Eyes (Puffed Cheese Balls)
- Chocolate-Dipped Houseflies (Chocolate-Covered Raisins)
- Compressed Cobwebs (Chex Brand or Similar Cereal)
- Crumbled Bat Wings (Blue Corn Chips)
- Deep Fried Fingernails (Bugles Brand Snacks)
- Dehydrated Dragon's Wings (Doritos)

- Dirty Shoelaces (Black Shoestring Licorice)
- Dried Seaweed (Chow Mein Noodles)
- Earthworm Knots (Miniature Pretzel Twists)
- Flattened Slugs (Corn Chips)
- Freeze Dried Drops of Blood (Red Hot Candies)
- Ghost Guts (Mini Marshmallow)
- Goblin's Belly Button Lint Balls (M & Ms, Any Style))
- Plops of Pigeon Poop (Yogurt Covered Raisins)
- Rat Claws (Shelled Sunflower Seeds)

Then, for the dastardly dinner, serve **Blood & Guts Pasta** using green (spinach) elbow macaroni, fettunicini or spaghetti, with marinara sauce and Spanish olives. Slice the olives in half to look like eyes and serve two on each plate of blood and guts to the kids.

MAKE IT EVENTFUL!

Activities at a Halloween party are a *must!* One innovative idea for the kids is called **The Hanging Tree**. Here's how it's done:

Supplies: Thirteen apples (twelve red and one green) and a few extras, string, blindfold, and a tree branch.

Tie each of the apples to the tree branch so they can swing freely. To keep observant kids from memorizing where the green apple is loosely tie the strings together.

How to Play: Take a child and tell him to close his eyes and make a wish. As he makes a wish, blindfold him. Once blindfolded, spin him around and say this rhyme with him:

13 Apples hanging from a tree
 12 dark red and one bright green
 Blindfolded, spun around, and then set free
 Is that green one meant for me?

Release the apples and point the child in the right direction to pick an apple that he stumbles upon. If he picks up the green one his wish will come true! Before the next kid goes, replace the apple and move the green one. If you want, place a tag with a number on each apple that corresponds to small gift or prize.

DON'T FORGET THE FAVORS!

No Halloween party is complete without a trick and a treat to take home. Lisa suggests this inexpensive and creative favor: **The Magic Wand of Goodies!!**

How it's Done: Take a piece of 8 ½ x 11 construction paper and roll it into a tube; fasten with double stick tape. Wrap each tube with a combination of orange and black crepe paper. Make sure to leave enough crepe paper at the ends so they can be tied with orange or black ribbon. Tie one end with ribbon and fill the roll with candies, plastic spider rings, Dracula teeth, glow sticks, etc. Tie the other end with an orange or black ribbon.

The most important thing Lisa says, however, is to make the party safe. Keep any flames or breakables away from the kids as they scurry around the house in a Halloween frenzy!

All these tips and more can be found on Lisa Kothari's website, www.PeppersPollywogs.com and in her book, "**Dear Peppers and Pollywogs...What Parents Want to Know About Planning Their Kids' Parties,**" available at Amazon.com and www.PeppersPollywogs.com for \$9.95.

Lisa is available for interview for all of your party planning subjects. **To set up an interview or find out more about Lisa Kothari, contact Kelly Anderson (Kelly@cloverpr.com) at Clover PR or call 818-484-8664.**

Kelly Anderson
President
Clover PR
kelly@cloverpr.com
www.cloverpr.com