

Ensemble Costume Guide - Cyrano de Burger Shack

This show is supposed to look like a high school as it existed 10 or more years ago. Styles really haven't changed that much in the last 10-15 years, so we are asking you to provide mostly your own clothes. Most of your clothes will probably work fine. We are asking that you pick something from your personal wardrobe that you feel comfortable in and can leave at the school for a couple weeks that can be your costume(s) for this show. We want to avoid certain things that are definitely a 2020s trend, and we would like to add a few costume things that really bring the nostalgia. Similarly with hair, we hope you can avoid certain things, just for this month, and maybe add some fun retro dos and well. Here's a guide.

Everybody needs at least one casual costume and a Prom costume. A few others need fencing uniforms.

CASUAL CLOTHES

MASCULINE COSTUME OPTIONS

1. Normal/Neutral clothes that will most of the time work.
 - Regular T-shirts
 - Fitted/moderately slim T-shirts
 - Graphic tees (but if it advertises any product or IP, it should have been invented prior to 2016. But older is great)
 - Polo shirts
 - Henleys
 - Plaid shirts
 - Flannels
 - Button-downs
 - Hoodies
 - Sweatshirts
 - Zip-up hoodies
 - Moderate style jeans (Not all jeans were skinny jeans, but most were "skinny-adjacent" Not baggy, tapered on
 - Khakis
 - Chinos
 - Cargo pants
 - Regular shorts (around knee length or below the knee)

- Converse
- Vans
- Skate shoes
- Athletic shoes
- Boots

2) Avoid these

- Very baggy or extremely wide-leg jeans
- Modern chunky sneakers with the soles much bigger than the shoes
- Air Jordan style shoes with the toe cap piece of leather, often in a contrasting color, that everybody is wearing. It is technically a retro style but not really of this particular era and certainly not ubiquitous like we see today. (Air Jordan's have been around for 40 years, so that's not the problem, it's this one particular.)



- Smart watches (they existed but they were rare)
- Shorts that are shorter than just above the knee
- Anything that everybody at East High is wearing in 2026.

3) Extra Credit if you can incorporate any of these things into your fit.

- Skinny jeans
- Flannel tied around the waist
- Flannel worn open over a t shirt or tank top
- Pants with elastic cuffs sometimes called joggers. Casual on the top, sporty on the bottom.



- Graphic/band tees for bands and movies that were cool back then but aren't now. (Force Awakens, Stranger Things Season 1, etc.)
- Hipster hats (fedoras or tilbys)
- Anything with a handlebar moustache on it.
- Beanies, especially the ones that worn far back on the head and baggy in the back.



- Hipster Scarf



- Obscure pop-culture references
- Galaxy print
- Skinny jeans
- Colored pants (best worn with a neutral colored shirt.)
- Military-style jackets
- Denim jackets
- G-Shock-style watch
- Nixon-style watch
- Silicone/rubber bracelet
- Awareness bracelet
- Woven bracelets
- Friendship bracelets
- Leather/cord necklace
- Dog tags
- Small pendant
- Guitar-pick necklace
- Canvas belt
- Big belt buckle
- Colored shoelaces Fedora/trilby
- Deep V-neck over a contrasting undershirt

- Skinny colored chinos
- Wallet chain on an alternative kid
- Graphic tank layered under an open shirt
- Oversized headphones worn around the neck
- Canvas messenger bag
- Novelty mustache accessory
- Wrist stacked with rubber/woven bracelets

Hair

Most of your hair is fine. Please just avoid this:



NO

If you have this style or want to, please just let the edge grow out before the show (you can shave it again afterward) and don't blow dry it up for the show.

Extra Credit Hair cuts:

The shaved sides and back with long hair on top only swept to the side was huge.



Fluffy, flat, whatever. Nobody tapered short sides and I couldn't get a decent haircut this whole decade.

Even though the Bieber haircut was earlier, many many haircuts swirled their hair to the side without a part in a whole variety of lengths.

FEMININE STYLED COSTUMES

- 1) NEUTRAL — NORMAL CLOTHES THAT WILL WORK

- Clothes
- Fitted T-shirts
- Tank tops
- Long-sleeve shirts
- Cardigans
- Simple sweaters
- Blouses
- Plaid/flannel shirts
- Denim shirts
- Graphic tees
- Sweatshirts
- Hoodies
- Denim jackets
- Lightweight jackets
- Skinny jeans
- Straight/slim jeans
- Jeggings
- Denim shorts
- Leggings
- Simple skirts
- Regular shorts
- Converse
- Vans
- TOMS
- Ballet flats
- Simple sneakers
- Ankle boots
- Combat boots

2) AVOID — TOO 2026

- Baggy/wide-leg jeans
- Current oversized cargo pants
- Curved leg trousers
- Matching athleisure sets
- Cropped athletic tops

- Current chunky Kpop demon style running shoes
- Anything strongly TikTok/Gen-Z contemporary
- Too much bright colored hair. Natural colored hair is better but if you want bright colors, just small streaks and patches.

3) Extra 2010s stuff to incorporate

- Beanies
- Black tattoo-style choker
- Chevron
- Skater skirts
- Skater dresses
- Tunics over leggings
- Chambray shirts
- Colored denim
- Lace tops
- Crochet details
- Hi-low/"mullet" skirts or dresses
- Aztec/geometric prints
- Skinny belts over dresses/cardigans
- Long cardigans
- Oversized sweaters with leggings
- Black leggings with ankle boots
- Denim vest
- Moto jacket / faux leather jacket
- Floral leggings
- Colored skinny jeans
- High-waisted shorts
- Patterned skirts
- Peplum tops
- Infinity scarves
- Denim jackets
- Military jackets
- Flannel
- Lace details
- Color-blocked shirts
- Oversized graphic sweatshirts
- Jewelry & accessories
- Black tattoo-style choker
- Long pendant necklace

- Layered necklaces
- Statement necklace
- Friendship bracelets
- Stacked bracelets
- Large watch
- Riding boots
- Tall flat boots
- UGG-style boots
- Wedge sneakers, for a more fashion-forward character
- Keds/canvas sneakers
- Colorful watch
- Charm bracelet
- Feather earrings
- Small hoops
- Hair bows
- Headbands
- Flower headbands
- Giant owl/bird pendant necklace
- Enormous bubble/statement necklace
- Chevron top + statement necklace
- Infinity scarf
- Lace top over a colored camisole
- Colored skinny jeans
- Skater skirt + tights + ankle boots
- Oversized sweater + leggings + riding boots

Hair

- Side part
- Two braids
- Side-swept bangs
- Loose waves
- Ombre
- Messy bun
- Side braids
- Hair bow
- Headband
- Feather extension
- Small colored streak
- Big teased/voluminous hair

- Slightly messy texture

Makeup

- Visible eyeliner
- Mascara
- Defined brows
- Blush
- Lip gloss
- Slightly heavier eye makeup
- Colored eyeliner

Think "teenager doing her makeup before school," not modern professional makeup artistry.

This isn't time period related but watch that lowcut tops aren't too low cut, bare midriffs aren't too bare. You will be dancing pretty close to the audience so the outfits that look fine standing still in front of the mirror can become pretty revealing when you start moving. And you don't want your performance ruined because you're adjusting clothes instead of dancing.

FOR EVERYBODY

DON'T: Try to make your entire outfit 2013.

DO: Start with normal clothes and add 1–3 unmistakably 2010s things.

For example:

Boy: T-shirt + jeans + Vans + big watch + rubber bracelet

Boy: Graphic tee + jeans + flannel tied around waist

Girl: T-shirt + skinny jeans + Converse + statement necklace

Girl: Simple top + jeans + choker + painted nails + side braid

Girl: Normal outfit + infinity scarf + ombre hair

Our goal for a whole cast

60% — NEUTRAL Normal clothes that happen to fit the period.

30% — DO Clearly 2010s details.

10% — FULL SEND The galaxy-shirt kid. The girl with the enormous statement necklace. The guy with seven bracelets. The person wearing an inexplicable fedora.

FENCING UNIFORMS

We provide: Sweats and long socks to look like a fencing uniform.

You provide shoes, preferably athletic or running shoes without a thick sole.

PROM WEAR — 2012–2014

Girls

- Normal / will work
- Short or knee-length cocktail dresses
- Chiffon, lace, sequins, satin and tulle
- Dresses with a defined waist or fitted bodice
- Simple heels, wedges or dressy flats
- Small clutch or wristlet
- Noticeable jewelry — earrings, bracelets, statement necklaces

Very 2010s / great period pieces

- High-low dresses
- Chevron, ombré or color-blocked dresses
- Lace overlays
- Beaded or rhinestone bodices
- Tulle skirts
- Metallics, coral, mint, royal blue, purple, hot pink, turquoise, etc.
- Big statement earrings or necklaces
- Rhinestone jewelry that is a little too sparkly

- Side-swept hair, loose curls, elaborate updos or teased volume
- Hair flowers, decorative clips or headbands
- More obvious makeup than the students normally wear: eyeliner, lashes, defined brows, blush and glossy lips

And because it's black light prom

- White or very pale dresses — especially white, ivory, pale pink, pale blue and other light colors (if possible)
- Neon accents rather than an entirely neon dress
- Fluorescent jewelry, hair accessories or nail polish
- White/light-colored shoes
- Brightly colored bracelets and necklaces
- Makeup with a little white or fluorescent accent
- Lace, tulle and sheer layers that catch the UV light

We will provide Glow Bracelets and UV make up.

Avoid

- Extremely minimalist modern slip dresses
- Contemporary bodycon/sexy eveningwear
- Modern cutout-heavy dresses
- Current oversized or deliberately undone styling
- Anything that looks like a 2026 bridesmaid dress

Boys

Normal / will work

- Suit or dress pants with a dress shirt
- Tie or bow tie
- Vest
- Black, navy, gray or brown dress shoes
- Traditional black/blue/gray suit

Very 2010s / great period pieces

- Skinny or narrow ties

- Colored or patterned ties
- Vest with contrasting shirt/tie
- Bright pocket square
- Slightly shiny dress shirt
- Colored dress socks
- Skinny black suit rather than today's relaxed tailoring
- Hair with a deliberate side part, volume or slightly messy/product-heavy styling
- A large watch

And because it's a black light prom

- White dress shirts
- White or light-colored ties
- White/bright pocket squares
- Light-colored or fluorescent socks
- White sneakers if they make sense for the character
- White or light-colored vests
- Neon accessories like ties and cummerbunds if you have them.

For the prom clothes, we do have some selections in our costume storage. We have some tuxedo pants and jackets, some dress pants and suit coats. We have a few dresses. I can also inquire about leopard boutique, but we want to be careful with those dresses and return them in good condition.

I would like to help punch up the 2010s of all of it. Your budget is \$10. I would rather have you complete your outfit and get the creativity and research of all of us. So, you get to pick it. Try to use this for the thing that you wouldn't want to wear anyway and that is the thing that makes it read as retro. Here are the methods you can use to buy it.

- Find it online and let me order it. It's easiest for me to buy from amazon or Walmart, but whatever. If you order at Shein or Temu, make sure we can get it in time for dress rehearsal, last week of October.
- You may buy it at D.I., save the receipt and get reimbursed.
- You may buy it at another place like Savers and get reimbursed, but these places charge sales tax and I can't reimburse the tax. But that isn't a ton of money on \$10.