

Much Ado About Sebastopol Simple Renaissance Costume Ideas -

General ideas:

- Natural fabrics – cotton, wool, silk, velvet, leather – satiny material works for ladies
- Solid colors or plaids are best versus floral or modern prints like geometric shapes
- Earth tones (tans, browns, greens, rust, mustard) - usually black and purples and reds were reserved for royalty or nobility. Pure white was rare.
- Shoes that are not obviously plastic or an unnatural color.
- Something to cover your hair – braids, circlet, skullcap – piece of rectangular material draped over hair
- Burlap sacks make great aprons, vests, long vest or “jerkins”, or bodices. Good for men and women peasants.

For Peasant Women

- long dresses and skirts (cotton if possible) – you can layer 2 skirts with the top one tucked into the waistband
- cords and sashes for belts
- overdress or bodice
- wimples (make from a cloth rectangle or scarf placed on the head and pinned to the hair)
- soft shoes – moccasins, mary janes, kung fu shoes with ankle strap, boots

For Noblewomen

- long dresses and skirts (silky fabrics, velvets, and brocades)
- nightgowns for chemises to be covered with additional layers
- long tabards (sleeveless open tunics made from single pieces of cloth made by folding a piece of solid color fabric in half and cutting a hole for the head in the middle of the fold.). A piece of felt over almost any dress makes you an instant noble woman. Take a long piece of felt, cut a head hole in it, and you're done.
- long scarves
- sheer curtain panels for veils to wear under a circlet
- cords and sashes to wear as belts (drapery rope looks good!)
- wimples
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For Peasant Men

- sweatpants, pants, baseball pants, yoga pants, long karate pants (dark colors are preferable)
- long loose shirts (large men's pull-over rather than button-down shirts with sleeves rolled up) w/ rounded neck
- belts or cords (natural twine or wide leather)

For Noblemen

- sweatpants, pants or leggings
- turtlenecks or plain shirts
- tabards – attach a small version of the heraldic shield to the front with tape or pins. A short white tabard with a red cross on it make men a Crusader.
- cape – short to cover shoulders or longer (a Christmas tree skirt works well for this)

Accessories:

- cup or bowl? Wood or metal work best
- brooches, long chain or leather or satin necklaces, medallions, bells, headbands
- leather strips for hanging things from your main belt or tying up and outer skirt
- pouch or something to similar to hang from waist to hold your possessions
- extra safety pins in case you fall apart
- portable instruments, whistles, recorders, etc