



**Mummers
Festival**
Celebrating
10 Years
2018 FESTIVAL REPORT

About Us

Our Mandate

To produce festivals for the purpose of education, charity, cultural promotion, community engagement and advancement of the public's understanding and appreciation of Newfoundland and Labrador folk traditions related to mummering and Christmastime practices; and to assist in the transmission of these folk traditions through participation by the public and tradition-bearers in such festivals and related forums, lectures, workshops, performances and public events.

Our Goal

The Mummers Festival aims to promote the continuance and evolution of traditional culture, art and performance by encouraging active participation in mummering activities. All events are designed to equip the public with skills and knowledge about mummering so that they can better participate in our Parade day events and, it is hoped, their own mummering practices over the twelve days of Christmas.

Our History

The Mummers Festival was initially a joint initiative with the Intangible Cultural Heritage division of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador and Memorial University's Folklore Department. The initiative began in 2009 with the intention of passing along a well-researched model to a community group who would continue organizing the Mummers Festival. That year, the Festival included 16 free community events throughout the month of December. In 2010 a Mummers Festival community group was established and run entirely by volunteers. In 2011, the Mummers Festival incorporated as a nonprofit entity. The Festival is going into its 11th year.

The Mummers Festival is a participant-led, community-based festival that encourages the celebration of mummering traditions. Each year, the Mummers Festival hosts events over the first few weeks of December leading up to its crowning event, the Mummers Parade. Workshops, public forums, lectures and school programming act as educational and momentum-building events for Parade Day. Like many other Christmas traditions, mummering brings together families, friends and strangers alike to create a sense of community. The Mummers Festival and Parade is the biggest celebration of this 300 year old tradition working to keep cultural alive and strong.

A photograph of three people standing in a snowy outdoor setting. The person on the left is wearing a large, inflated blue costume with a black belt and a brown hood with eye cutouts. The person in the middle is wearing a red hat with a gold emblem, a striped scarf, and a blue jumpsuit with a monkey pattern. The person on the right is wearing a brown jacket, a white hood with eye cutouts, and red and black plaid pants. They are standing on a dark, wet surface with snow piled up around them. In the background, there is a wooden fence and bare trees.

Awards & Recognition

2015 EVENT OF THE YEAR
(City of St. John's)

2012 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD
(NL Historic Sites Association)

2011 CULTURAL TOURISM AWARD
(Hospitality NL)

10
Year
History

5452
Facebook
Follows

98
Ugly
Sticks

47
Artists
& Performers

50
Volunteers

12
School
Visits

1000+
Volunteer
Hours

Lots of
42"
Bras!

100s of
mummers &
jannies

25 Free
Events

5000
Estimated
Attendance

40
Community
Supporters
& Sponsors

2
Weeks of
Events

13
Venues

2018
By The
Numbers

**MUMMERS
FESTIVAL**



2018 Programming Highlights

Mini Mummers School Touring Program

This program is 9 years strong and aimed at elementary grade students who get to engage in an interactive demonstration of the many aspects of Newfoundland mummering. The 45 minute presentation involves question & answer, photo and video components, a hobby horse demonstration, an interactive disguise component with a teacher, and a mock-mummer guessing game with students. The Mini Mummers School tour reached over a dozen schools this year in the greater St. John's area.

Chris brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to every presentation. School staff have written to express how "students (and teachers) absolutely loved it!", telling us that "[students are] still talking about it", and sharing stories of how students want to go out and try mummering for themselves.

mummersfestival.ca

Hobby Horse Workshop

Victoria Park Poolhouse
November 24th 1:00-4:00pm

Ugly Stick Workshops

Victoria Park Poolhouse
November 25th 1:00-4:00pm
December 2nd 1:00-4:00pm

Frightening Fools

The Rooms
November 28th 7:00-8:00pm

Fool's Paradise

The Rooms
November 29th 2:30-3:30pm

Box & Bucket Mask Workshop

Buckmaster's Circle Boys & Girls Club
December 1st 1:00-4:00pm

How Do You Mummer Anyway?

The Rooms
December 5th 7:00-8:00pm

The Story of the Armagh Rhymers

The Rooms
December 6th 2:30-3:30pm

Rig Up

Bishop Abraham Elementary School
December 8th* 1:00-2:00pm

Mummers Parade

Bishop Abraham Elementary School
December 8th* 2:00-2:45pm

Scuff 'n' Scoff

Buckmaster's Circle Recreation Centre
December 8th* 2:45-4:00pm

Janneys on the Big Screen

The Rooms
December 12th 7:00-8:00pm

10 Years of Mummers Festival

The Rooms
December 13th 2:30-3:30pm

*If weather is REALLY bad, Parade Day Events will be held on Sunday, Dec. 9th. Same time & place.



Paint Nite Fundraisers

The Mummers Festival teamed up this year with Paint Nite to offer two fundraising events where participants were guided step-by-step to create a work of mummer art! Instruction, paints, and canvasses were all provided so that each participant went home with their own handmade mummer painting. We had close to 80 participants and raised over \$1100!



Northern Ireland's Armagh Rhymers

The Armagh Rhymers is a group of performing mummers from Northern Ireland. In 2013 they visited St. John's and performed at the Mummers Festival. For this event, we screened "Na Cleamairi: The Story of The Armagh Rhymers", a documentary about their decades-long work in folk theatre and its roots in Irish folklore.

Core to the Armagh Rhymers is the age-old folk theatre tradition of masked rhyming which blends dance, drama, music and song. A vital part of the Armagh Rhymer's distinctiveness are the unique masks and costumes performers wear. They are based on traditional designs of the Wren Boys, Mummers and Strawmen, as well as characters from Celtic mythology and old Mummers plays that the Armagh Rhymers still perform.



Janneys on the Big Screen

Rap videos, horror films, and horror parodies were just a few of the genres showcased in this curated evening of mummers in the media. More than ever mummers are making their way off the streets and onto the big screen (or a YouTube channel). Indeed, mummering has found itself in the realm of popular culture. We screened 5 pieces with introductions by some of the filmmakers.

Fool’s Paradise: a look at the Ribbon Fool tradition

For this event, we invited folklorist Sharna Brzycki to present her research on the Ribbon Fool tradition in Pouch Cove and Flatrock.

According to Brzycki, most people don’t know about the Fools, but about fifty years ago these mischievous characters roamed the streets of Pouch Cove and Flatrock on Old Christmas Day flaunting the most elaborate and fantastical Christmas outfits. The Fools would emerge from the woods with a spliced rope in hand, chasing down anyone who crossed their path to give them a crack of their rope in fun jest. With their ribbons blowing wildly in the wind against a backdrop of freshly fallen snow these Fools were quite a sight to see.

Their costumes were made of white shirts, pants and gloves, all of which were entirely covered with crêpe paper ribbons and holiday tinsel. Giant masks made of decorated cardboard covered their heads and faces for the ultimate disguise.



Frightening Fools: exploring mummering’s dark side

Blown pig bladders were the weapon of choice for mummers in the 1800s. And raucous parading janneys were a common threat over Christmas. Things have changed since then when acts of violence led to an official legislative ban on mummering. We invited Folklorist Joy Fraser who introduced a remarkable collection of archival discoveries based on legal documents that shed new light on how mummering was carried out in the 1800s. Then, folklorist Ryan Davis offered up a history of the hobby horse-mummering’s hooded holiday beast.

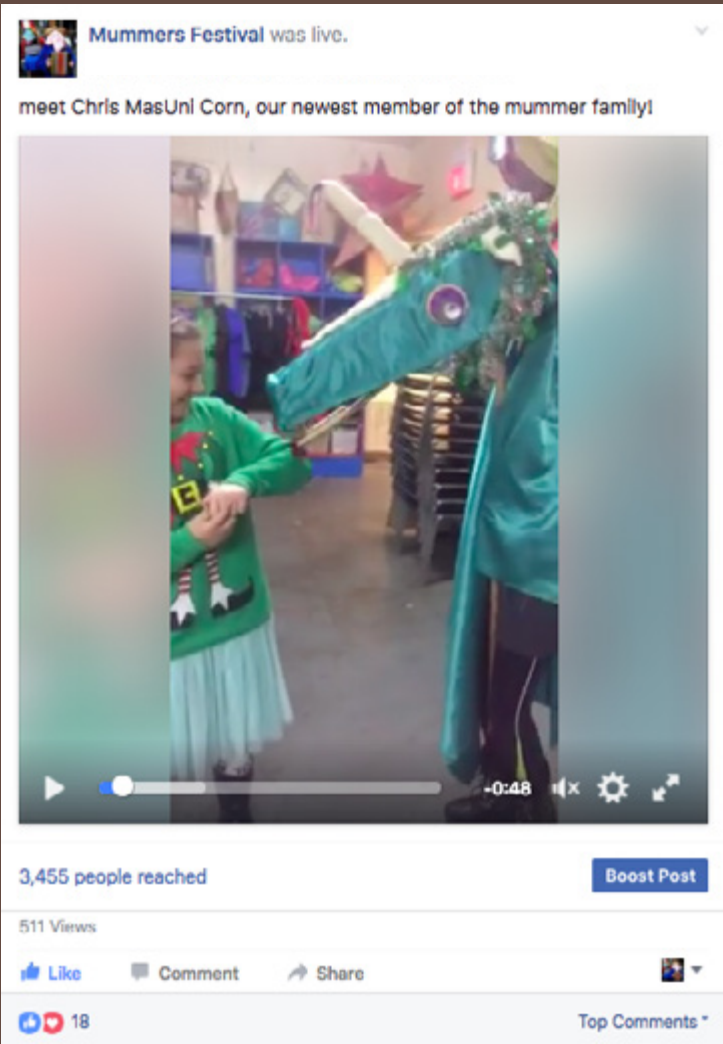


10 Years of Mummers Festival

The Mummers Festival celebrated its 10 year anniversary this year and we felt like reminiscing. Hosted at The Rooms, we spoke with Ryan Davis, Dale Jarvis, and Andrea O’Brien, all members of the orginal planning team for the Mummers Festival. They discussed highlights from each of the 10 years.

Hobby Horse & Christmas Bull Workshops

A long-time program of the Mummerys Festival, the Hobby Horse Workshop invited its creepy cousin, the Christmas Bull, into the stable. Hobby horses were originally made of horse skulls but research shows that they were also made from the skulls of moose, pigs, and cows. This year we hosted 2 workshops in and around St. John's. Largely a family affair, parents and children constructed personalized hobby horses and then brought them to the Mummerys Parade.



History of the Hobby Horse Workshops

The Mummerys Festival has been running Hobby Horse Workshops since 2009. We turned to archival materials and conducted interviews to learn more about this tradition. Our template, designed by puppeteers Kathleen Parewick and Ryan Davis, is modelled after mid-1900s hobby horses located in the Memorial University Folklore Archives. These horses now turn up at the Mummerys Parade and are used during the traditional Christmas-time, house-visiting tradition of mummering. The Festival has successfully repopulated the province with this nearly-extinct and most peculiar breed.



Meet Wayne Cave

Wayne Cave has been making and playing ugly sticks for decades. We met him in 2011 in our search for a expert tradition-bearer to lead our workshops. Wayne designed this program and all the ugly sticks made are based on his specific design. Over 8 years we have helped over 750 participants make their very own ugly stick.

In the final stage, Wayne attaches a boot at the bottom of the stick and gives everyone a lesson on how to play the ugliest of percussion instruments. Since we met him, Wayne has done workshops for other communities and was featured in Downhome magazine for his skills.



Ugly Stick Workshops

The ugly stick has played a role in Newfoundland party times throughout the years. It's about four feet long, on which bottle caps, tin cans, small bells and other noisemakers are attached. Add a boot at the bottom and you're good to go! It is played by thumping the stick, and striking its attachments with a "saw"--a notched stick that really gets those bottle-caps rattling! By far our most popular workshop, participants have transformed hundreds of boots and thousands of bottlecaps into some of the finest and ugliest of musical instruments.



Fun Facts!

- * We wash about 2000 beer bottle caps for this workshop
- * All these bottle caps come from one local bar
- * Evergreen Recycling collects 120 tin cans for us
- * Participants have made over 700 ugly sticks in 8 years

The Rig Up gives people a chance to create a mummies disguise on the spot! For an hour before the Mummies Parade, people can sort through endless costume choices to fashion their best mummies rig. This year we were hosted by the kind folks at Bishop Abraham Elementary School. And where does all that clothing come from? This year we were given donations by the SPCA Thrift Store and Choices For Youth's Neighbourhood Clothing Store. We love the community support!

Mummers Parade



Drumline

What's a Parade without some noise?! For 6 years, a group of mummer drummers have been bringing beats to the streets! This group--Drumline --began as a percussion ensemble in 2004.

Initially, the drumline practiced and performed on drum set snare drums and tom-toms, but now has a full compliment of modern marching drums including high-tension snare drums, multiple tenor drums and tonal bass drums. The drumline's repertoire is made up of different marching patterns or 'cadences'. Each cadence is a unique piece of music and can be influenced by several different styles of music including rock, latin and jazz.

The twenty current members of the Music Collection Drumline range in age from 13 to 19 years old and some have been playing with the group for over eight years.

Scuff 'n' Scoff



Bud Davidge

“Any Mummers ‘Allowed In” (better known as “The Mummers Song”) by the band SIMANI, is one of the most iconic tunes from this province and a major influencer in the revival of mumming in the 1980s.

To mark our 10 year anniversary, we invited the talented Bud Davidge of SIMANI to perform at our annual Scuff ‘n’ Scoff. This is our post-Parade concert with live music , Purity sweets and syrup. Bud said it he’d never performed for so many mummers in his life!

As part of the duo SIMANI (along with Sim Savory), Bud Davidge recorded twelve albums from 1977 to 1997. Bud continues to write and record solo projects up to the present with five solo albums released to date.

Bud does not perform too often these days so we were especially grateful to hear him perform at the Mummers Festival this year.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Mummers Festival and we would never succeed without their support. Our volunteers range in age from high-school students to retirees. They collect materials for workshops, serve Purity syrup and cookies to hungry mummers, and work as workshop assistants, guiding the public through various activities. They help set up events, produce signage, and provide labour for event clean-up and break down. Volunteers act as Parade marshals and carry our Parade banner.

The Mummers Festival's Board of Directors is made up of 8 dedicated volunteers. This group ensures the Festival is achieving its goals. They volunteer their time to montly meetings and additional tasks throughout the year.



**Promoting
Volunteerism**

Old Christmas Day Volunteer Party

January 6th is Old Christmas Day and officially the last day of mummering. Once again, we celebrated the evening with our fellow volunteers, mummers, artists, and supporters. A big thanks goes out to Quidi Vidi Brewery for providing a great space and a generous beer tab! We were abruptly graced by the music and mischief of our local mummer band, The Mummers and the Paupers who played some great tunes and did some rude dances!

Q's BBQ set up a grilled cheese bar and a delicious tomato soup. And of course we had to finish it off with some Purity Jam Jams! What decadence! Mummers the Word gave us some beautiful mummer ornament prizes for best mummer struts!



The Mummers and the Paupers

The Mummers and the Paupers is a 10 member mummers troupe with a repertoire of music, dance, skits, stories and recitations. The troupe performs as both a roaming group and as a stage act. When circulating through a crowd, the musicians typically play guitar, accordion, fiddle, banjo and bodhran while being accompanied by a hobby horse and dancers. For on-stage performances, the troupe reconfigures with the addition of harp, upright bass, harmonica and jig dolls. The troupe is one of the few local groups to use the old jig doll percussion instrument in its performances. The performance repertoire includes stories, recitations, skits, dance and music - traditional Newfoundland songs, Christmas carols, traditional Irish tunes, English Morris dances, folk and country favourites and kitchen party waltzes. Costumes continue to evolve, but are very much in the classic Newfoundland and Labrador tradition. The troupe has performed for a variety of clients ranging from local charities to international conferences. The Mummers and the Paupers performed at this year's Old Christmas Day Volunteer Party.

Workshop Preparation Nights

With a group of a dozen volunteers, we hosted 2 workshop preparation nights this past November at the Victoria Park Poolhouse. These nights are critical to the success of all our workshops. Preparing materials for making ugly sticks, hobby horses, and masks allows for smooth-running workshops.

Volunteers were involved in cutting cardboard templates, washing tin cans and bottle caps, and cutting ribbons and fabrics. We even had a station specifically for the decapitation of stuffed toys! While everyone worked diligently, the atmosphere was relaxed and allowed for a fun work environment.

"I thoroughly enjoyed volunteering with the Mummers Festival. Everybody was very welcoming and friendly and I felt honoured to be part of such a great community event"
- Kristi McKinnon (1st-time volunteer)



Cultivating Art



Mumming is an artful tradition. As a type of theatre, it involves both performance and craft. Mumming is the art of disguise, the art of costuming, and a form of traditional drama. It includes the art of mask-making; music, singing, storytelling and recitation; dance, jokes, pranks, and puppetry as both craft and performance.

The primary goal of the Mimmers Festival is to promote the continuance and evolution of traditional arts and performance. Our hope is that informal, community-based folk drama and associated material arts will flourish both during the festival and afterward as a living, 300 year old house-visiting tradition in Newfoundland and Labrador.

traditional drama, the art of disguise, mask-making, costuming, folk theatre, music, singing and recitation, jokes and pranks, instrument crafting, storytelling, dance, puppetry and performance

In The Press

Mummers made quite the racket this year and the media noticed. We were featured in international, national, and local publications.

CBC's Day 6
CBC News
Porter Airlines: In Flight
NTV News
The Telegram
VOCM
Le Gaboteur



'TIS THE SEASON

ST. JOHN'S

In Newfoundland, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas when locals roam from house to house disguised in raggy costumes, goofy glazes and masks. Chances are they're participating in the centuries-old custom of mummering, which originated in England and Ireland in the Middle Ages. Outward in Newfoundland for much of the 20th century, due to roadiness, the now family-friendly tradition takes place during the 12 days of Christmas. Participants deliver raucous performances at neighbours' homes until the hosts guess the identity of each mummer. A Terre-Neuve, quand Noël approche, les résidents déambulent de maison en maison, en costumes déguisés et affublés de grotesques lunettes ou d'un masque. Ils participent à l'«mummering», une coutume médiévale d'Angleterre et d'Irlande. Inversé à Terre-Neuve pendant une partie du 20^e siècle, en raison du chahut qui s'en suivait, cette tradition désormais familiale a lieu durant les 12 jours de Noël. Les mummers défilent des spectacles raucoux chez les habitants jusqu'à ce que les hôtes devinent leur identité.

Text by Arvick Weber and Illustration by Dan Woodger

HALIFAX

When it comes to sharing Christmas treats, most Nova Scotians will gladly bring the bigged temptations. Belnickeling around the icy streets of their hometowns. The tradition, introduced by German immigrants in the 1750s, sees kids donning Santa costumes to visit their neighbours, jangling chains and bells. Revelers challenge onlookers to guess the identity of each Belnickel. Get it right, and you'll be rewarded with a piece of Christmas cake and a hot drink — preferably a toddy — to wash it down. L'habitude de partager des friandises plaît tant à la plupart des Néo-Écossais qu'ils ébranlent le froid pour « faire le Belnickel » dans les rues glacées de leur patrie. Cette tradition, introduite par les Allemands dans les années 1750, veut que les gens, costumés en père Noël et secouant chaînes et clochettes, rendent visite à leurs voisins. Les passants croient par ces Belnickels sont mis au défi de deviner leur identité. Un petit gâteau et même un chocolat chaud, ainsi qu'une boisson chaude — de préférence un grog — pour faire descendre la friture.



This archival illustration depicts mummering in St. John's. (The Rooms Historical Archives)

The history of mummering

Nobody is quite sure when mummering — called mumming or jannying in some areas — began in Newfoundland and Labrador.

There is documentation of the practice dating back to the early 1800s, though, says Larry Dohy, director of programming and public engagement at The Rooms in St. John's.



A mummer at the Mummer's Parade in St. John's, part of the modern-day revival of mummering in the province. (Ding Lohoff)

"It's just like many of the customs that we had," Dohy said, explaining the tradition was brought by British and Irish settlers and then merged and became part of the community over time.

Mummering traditionally runs from the Feast of St. Stephen on Dec. 26 to the Old Twelfth Day on Jan. 6. In the best-known variation of the tradition, people hide their identities by disguising their faces and bodies and modify their speech and behaviour while visiting neighbours' homes.

Dollies, beer cases and Nan's bras disguise mummers at St. John's parade

The Christmas tradition lives on as residents plaster selves in lace and underwear

CBC News - Posted Dec 26, 2019 6:11 PM NT | Last updated December 2, 2019



A few hundred mummers took their places in the streets for the annual Mummer's Festival parade on Saturday. (Maithe Mulvihill)

Dev Stehans came out to Saturday's annual Mummer's Parade in St. John's to make new friends, but she never imagined she'd meet another Dev Stehans.

The two women with the same name — at least, in pronunciation — bumped into each other over their matching ugly sticks, and erupted in laughter when they realized they had more in common than their costumes.

"What are the chances?" Stehans chuckled from behind a dolly and glowing sunglasses.



Dev Stehans met another Dev Stehans — different spelling, but same pronunciation — when the two met over similar ugly stick designs. (Maithe Mulvihill)

It was Stehans' inaugural parade. After 35 years in the military, she's finally retired and able to enjoy hometown traditions, she said.

It's whimsical encounters like these that fuel the festivities, said organizer Ryan Davis.



From the scally to slightly horrifying, everyone made sure to cover their faces and get a bit silly at Saturday's parade. (Maithe Mulvihill)

"It's about bringing community together. It's about social bonding. It's about taking time out of your day to connect with people in your neighbourhood," Davis said amid hundreds clamouring for costumes at the pre-parade rig up in Bishop Abraham Elementary's gym.

Donated clothes, masks and pillows for traditional burn-stuffing were laid out for the taking.

"There's a bit of magic that happens... On this one day everyone is just a maggoty old mummer, and we can all come together and have a great time," Davis said.



Michael Pinson, right, is a pro at mummering, and can show first-timer Reiko Maruyama how to play her ugly stick. (Maithe Mulvihill)

Nobody seems to particularly the Mummer's Parade spirit more than Bobby Bessy, who hasn't missed a parade since its first iteration nine years ago.

Today her friend from Japan, Reiko Maruyama, is getting a taste of Newfoundland with her Christmas tree-themed outfit.

Bessy has brought Michael Pinson since he was just a baby — this year, he's old enough to make his own ugly stick, a breadloaf tribute to American rapper Lil Pump.



Ugly stick workshop helps outfit next generation of mummers

Nearly 20 ugly sticks made at event, mostly by young families

CBC News - Posted Dec 26, 2019 5:34 PM NT | Last updated December 2, 2019



Helen and Jose Prety and their dad Michael took on as Ryan Davis of the Mummer's Festival helps attach their grandfathers' boots to an ugly stick. (Jared Munton/CBC)

It wasn't a kitchen party, but there were plenty of ugly sticks in Portugal Cove-St. Philip's on Thursday.

The town, in partnership with the annual Mummer's Festival, held a workshop to help people build their own sticks for the holidays.

- "I stuffed my butt so I can shake it": Mummer's dance in the streets of St. John's
- What's a holiday horse? Mummer's Festival hopes to bring back old Newfoundland tradition

Ryan Davis, executive director of the Mummer's Festival, was on hand to help out at the workshop, and says while not a lot is known about the history of the ugly stick, it's a great instrument for mummers.

"What I do know, it's just an instrument that's made with whatever you have around, which is very fitting for mummering," he said.

All you need to make a stick of your own, Davis said, is a broomstick or a strong branch and something to attach to the bottom of the stick, using a screw and a washer.

"Usually it's a boot or a sneaker or something that's not going to bang up the kitchen floor too bad," he said.



There were nearly 20 ugly sticks made at the workshop. (Jared Munton/CBC)

Finally, put a tin can on top, and you've got an ugly stick. The whole thing is struck with a second stick, which Davis calls a "law."

"The second stick has got little notches in it so you can run it along the main stick," he said. "It makes a nice sound with all the bottle caps that are attached as well for that nice rattle."

And the more bottle caps the better.

"It's definitely a percussion instrument, and people can play the ugly stick so well because you've got that lovely rattle when the saw goes across, the sound that it makes when you hit the can," said Davis.

"And then of course when you smack the boot on the floor, that's a different sound altogether, so combined, you can really make very interesting sounds."



The ugly sticks were topped with well-decorated cans. (Jared Munton/CBC)

Helen and Jose Prety attended with their dad, Michael, Jose, it, said it wasn't her idea to go to the workshop, but she was having a good time.

"Dad just got us into this, but I like it."

Michael said the girls each used one of their grandfather's boots to make their ugly sticks.

"He passed before they were born and they have a connection with him somehow and we're using his boots," he said.

"So I'm thinking he's smiling down from heaven tonight looking at us doing this."



Jose Prety says she had fun making her ugly stick. (Jared Munton/CBC)

Day 6 with Brent Bambury

Hold on to your pillow-stuffed arse: It's mummering season

f t i y

A Day 6 guide to the weird and wonderful tradition of mummering

CBC Radio - December 1, 2019



People gather dressed in costume during the annual Mummer's Parade in downtown St. John's, N.L., on Dec. 15, 2015. Mummering is a traditional Newfoundland Christmas tradition. (Jonathan Hayward/Canadian Press)

3 comments

Listen 5:17

Most Canadians probably know mummering as a tradition unique, in this country, to Newfoundland and Labrador, and also parts of Nova Scotia. But at least one city south of the border has a similarly odd and somewhat frightening custom.

Philadelphia's history of mummering came to *Day 6*'s attention when we did a story about the *equally frightening Gerty*.

Mummering also popped up in November after the long-forgotten Nova Scotia tradition of "Belnickeling" appeared in a travel magazine — and left locals dumfounded.

- Nova Scotia Belnickeling is real — and here's a photo to prove it
- Horror movie based on mummering to be filmed in Twillingate

So, as the holiday season approaches, we thought we'd take the opportunity to answer some of your burning questions about the unique tradition — both in Canada and beyond.

What exactly is mummering?

We're glad you asked.

Mummering is a tradition in Newfoundland and Labrador where, over the 12 days of Christmas, you visit the homes of your friends and neighbours, and they try to guess who you are. It's kind of like a house crawl with costumes involved.

"Typically, you move on to another house and another house in another house," said Ryan Davis, the head of the St. John's Mummer's Parade.

"That would entail a full night of mummering."

Often, mummers parade in threes.



People gather dressed in costume during the annual Mummer's Parade in downtown St. John's, N.L., on Dec. 15, 2015. (Jonathan Hayward/Canadian Press)

What does one wear on a night of mummering?

Just about anything you can find.

"It's typically a patchwork of random clothing or objects that you would find around the house," Davis said.

First off, you should change the shape of your body.

Lamp shades and curtains are common attire on a night of mummering. Your face, obviously, must be covered.

Undergarments — bras and knickers — worn over clothing is fairly typical, and cross-dressing is also common.



Here, a mummer wears a chair cushion or table cloth beneath a shower cap with cut-out sunglasses. (Jonathan Hayward/Canadian Press)

And what about these mummers in Philadelphia?

The major difference is that they come out on New Year's Eve.

Back in 1840, when the Mummers' Parade was first organized on Dec. 31, word spread like wildfire. Afterward,

Social Media

Marilyn Coish · 21:42 Hello from Newfie in England..will be back next summer

Linda Sullivan · 14:02 Hello from Washington state, me mother was a Newfoundlander from Cape Broyle

Sheila Savory · 50:00 Hi from fort mcmurray

Cathy Ferg · 1:11:51 Great fun! Watching from Saskatchewan, grew up around da corner on Pennywell Rd.

Sinead Ni M · 11:46 Hello from Ireland

Maude Pittman · 39:28 Merry Xmas from sops arm

Jenn Welshman · 7:57 Nice to see the Fortune Mummers!!!
Hello from Marystown on the Burin Peninsula

Jennifer Walsh · 13:37 Hi from Alberta !!

Ed Harris · 39:00 Auckland New Zealand

Doris Randell · 10:39 Merry Christmas from British Columbia.

Sandra Moore · 9:04 Hello from Wasaga Beach Ontario

Eric Wakeham · 12:47 Hi from New York , USA

Sammy O'Keefe · 11:52 Loving watching !! Hoping to join the parade next year 🥰

Sabrina Kranenburg · 39:18 Watching from Dartmouth, NS.
Looking forward to coming home soon!

Darrell Dye · 29:19 Hello from Kelowna BC! Wish I was there, am in spirit and I guess live in Facebook. Merry Mummer Christmas to all my friends there. Love to you all this holiday season.

Maude White · 41:07 Hi from Da Birds eye Restaurant in St Bride's NL

Live from the Mummers Festival, our Facebook Live broadcast reached over 10,000 users. For a second year, the talented Elling Lien took to the streets in a very peculiar costume and walked the entire Mummers Parade from start to finish, engaging with his fellow mummers along the way. People tuned in from all over the world to watch the mummers strut their stuff. In this live stream we get to see people rigging up in disguises, we hear families talk about their favorite annual tradition, and there's even an interview with an old grandma mummer who loves Harley Davidsons!

f 5452 Followers

t 2740 Followers

ig 1200 Followers

Mummers Festival added an event.

November 5, 2018 ·

The Mummers Festival is celebrating its 10 year anniversary this year. Join us for a retrospective. We'll look back at how and why the Festival was conceived and take you on a virtual tour of stories and programming highlights over the years.



THU, DEC 13, 2018

10 Years of Mummers Festival

The Rooms · St. John's

Going

Mummers Festival

Published by RyRy Davis · December 7, 2018 ·

Hot mummer tips for tomorrow's 10th Annual Mummers Parade!

THE ART OF DISGUISE

Mumming is the art of disguise. The origin of the word is rooted in the notion of wearing a mask. Maybe that's why mummers are also called Guisers (as in...disguisers). So when dressing as a mummer you must hide your identity. Here are a few tips:

1. CHANGE YOUR BODY SHAPE. Stuff a pillow in your pants, make a humpback, wear a travel pillow under your shirt around your neck
2. COVER YOUR FACE! Don't let people see your eyes or your teeth! That's a giveaway! Lace curtains and pillowcases with eye- and mouth-holes are classic covers. Halloween masks work well too.
3. CHANGE YOUR HEIGHT. If you're short, wear a high hat. If you're tall, crouch down when you walk
4. WEAR CLOTHING YOU WOULDN'T NORMALLY WEAR. Crossdressing is a classic look for mummers. Guys, throw on a dress or a bra outside your clothing. Gals, throw on a huntsman jacket. Or maybe a mix of both? Let's smash those old stereotypes!
5. CHANGE THE WAY YOU WALK AND TALK. The classic mummer speak is to inhale while talking. And the way you walk and dance should change.

mummersfestival.ca

Mummers Festival is at Quidi Vidi Brewing Co.

Published by RyRy Davis · November 2, 2018 · St. John's ·

Cheers to Quidi Vidi Brewing Co. for supporting the Mummers Festival once again! QV's Mummer's Brew Amber Ale is out in stores today. We dies for a drop!



Mummers Festival shared a post.

Published by RyRy Davis · November 23, 2018 ·

Whatta time we had making mummer art! Luckily, we have another Mummers Paint Nite this coming Monday. Info and tickets here: <https://www.paintnite.com/.../nl-christmas-tradition-at-glend...>



Mummers Festival shared an event.

Published by RyRy Davis · November 23, 2018 ·

Saddle up and head over to our first event for the 10th Annual Mummers Festival tomorrow! At this free workshop you will take a piece of lifeless cardboard and turn it into a jaw-snapping beast!



SAT, NOV 24, 2018

Hobby Horse Workshop

Victoria Park Poolhouse (the only building in...

Interested

Mummers Festival shared an event.

Published by RyRy Davis · December 17, 2018 ·

Mummer horror films, rap videos and more! From house visits to YouTube, mumming has moved its way to the big screen. Presenting an evening of mummers in the media. This event is FREE!



FRI, DEC 28, 2018

Janneys On The Big Screen

The Rooms · St. John's

Interested

Mummers Festival shared a post.

Published by RyRy Davis · November 15, 2018 ·

Thanks Refugee and Immigrant Advisory Council Inc. (RIAC) and Radio RIAC for inviting Mummers Festival to speak about mumming in NL. Hope to see you at some of our events!



708 Views

Radio RIAC
November 10, 2018 ·

Like Page

Mummers Festival was live.

Published by RyRy Davis · November 25, 2018 ·

Things are getting ugly here at our first ugly stick workshop!



Mummers Festival shared an event.

Published by RyRy Davis · December 1, 2018 ·

Make a mask today at 1pm. Get your rig ready for the Mummers Parade next week!



SAT, DEC 1, 2018

Box and Bucket Mask Workshop

The Boys and Girls Clubs of St. John's · St. John's

Interested

Mummers Festival

Published by RyRy Davis · December 2, 2018 ·

Check out the mummer artwork on the cover of this month's Downhome Magazine! Sending a big shoutout to Downhome for sponsoring the Mummers Festival once again! #localnl #newfoundlandlabrador



The Mummers Festival could not exist without the generous support of a proud, local community. A big thanks goes out to supporters who unite with us to help keep our time-honoured and colourful traditions alive!

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