



2011 Mummers Parade Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia Mummers Parade struts into 111th parade as the nation's oldest continuous folk event

PHILADELPHIA – (*December 20, 2010 - January 1, 2011*) -- One of the hottest and oldest events in town is scheduled to step off on **Saturday, January 1, 2011 at 10 a.m.** when the city's beloved sequined Sultans of Strut, the Philadelphia Mummers, dust off their fancy golden slippers to take center stage in the spectacular 111th annual Mummers Parade.

The extravagant showcase of talent and feathery finery kicks off with the Comics Division at 10 a.m. at Broad Street and Washington Avenue, followed by the Fancy Division (at 10:30 a.m. at Broad and Moore Sts); the String Bands (at 11 a.m. at Broad Street and Oregon Avenue) and the Fancy Brigades (at 1:30 p.m. at Broad Street and Oregon Avenue). The Fancy Brigades are scheduled to march in the parade on Broad Street, from Oregon to Washington avenues, and will be judged at one of their indoor shows (rain or shine), while the remaining three Mummers' divisions will end their competitive performances at the City Hall judging area in Center City.

Said Leo Dignam, Mummers Parade Director: "It promises to be a banner year in light of the overwhelming fan response to the 2010 Mummers Parade, and with a shorter, more streamlined parade, the event continues to grow into a bigger and better tradition and attraction. It is a day of celebration when the City of Neighborhoods comes together. The City of Philadelphia is excited to partner with the Mummers for another spectacular year of fantasy, fancy and fun."

Dignam noted that some of the changes for the 2011 parade include the addition of the Pennsport String Band and the departure of the Irish American String Band and the Oregon fancy club, which will be marching this year as a Wench Brigade. There are now three comic clubs, two fancy division units, 17 string bands, 10 fancy brigades and 8 Wench Brigades in the Mummers Parade lineup.

The parade also promises to will be more fan-friendly with the return of the Pine Street performance area and bleachers and other amenities at all 6 performance areas.

With bleachers, DJs, food and bathroom facilities, the performance areas or “zones,” are some of the best perches to view the Mummers Parade. They are free and located at the following cross streets along Broad at Shunk, Wolf, Washington, Spruce and Sansom. Families can warm up and enjoy additional entertainment at the High School for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) at Broad Street and Washington Avenue and at the Kimmel Center, Broad and Spruce streets. Perhaps the ultimate view will be from the Grand Stand entertainment zone near City Hall at 15th and Market streets. Tickets for the City Hall bleachers are \$19 for all ages to assist with the cost of the performance zones.

From performance areas to the marching lineup and history, the following provides information to keep in golden stride and catch all of the action with the nation’s oldest continuous folk event.

Route: _____ North on Broad Street to City Hall.

Judging: The main judging stand for the String Bands, Comics and Fancies will be located at 15th and Market streets. Additional judging will take place along the parade route for Comics and Fancies. Twelve judges will score the String Bands, while six judges will rate the Fancy units and nine will score the Comic units. The Fancy Brigades will be judged by six judges at the 14th annual Fancy Brigade Finale in the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1001 Arch St., beginning at 5 p.m.

Scheduled Parade Starting Times & Locations: Comics start at 10 a.m., Broad Street and Washington Avenue, Fancy Division Starts at 10:30 a.m. at Broad and Moore sts., String Bands step off from Broad Street and Oregon Avenue at 11 a.m., followed by the Fancy Brigades Division, which will march from Broad Street and Oregon Avenue, north to Washington Avenue at 1:30 p.m.

Disband: Benjamin Franklin Parkway, between 16th and 20th streets.

Information Headquarters: Department of Recreation, One Parkway 1515 Arch St., 10th Floor,
215-683-3691 or 683-3595.

Command Center: One Parkway Building, 1515 Arch Street, 10th Floor, 215-683-3691.

Weather Conditions: In case of inclement weather, a marching decision will be made by **4:30 a.m.** January 1 at the Municipal Services Building. Representatives from the City and Mummers will make the decision and parade-information headquarters will be notified. KYW 1060 AM Newsradio also will broadcast whether the parade has been postponed or delayed, as soon as the decision is made. The media also can obtain information about the marching decision by calling information headquarters at **215-683-3691**.

Postponement dates: Sunday, January 2, 2011. If the parade is postponed on the rescheduled date of January 2, then the parade will be held on **Saturday, January 8,** weather permitting.

Public Transportation: SEPTA will reroute all public transit on the parade route and around City Hall for the parade. SEPTA bus routes 2, 7, 17, 23, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 37, 38, 44, 48, 57, 64, 68, 79, 124/125, C and G will operate on local detours in and around Center City during the parade. On New Year's Eve all service will run on a Saturday schedule and the SEPTA Customer Service office (215-580-7800) will be open, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for riders seeking information about scheduled services. On New Year's Day all service will run on a Sunday schedule and the Customer Service office will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. SEPTA service information also is available on SEPTA's web site at

About the Participants

Parade participants total about 10,000 Mummers who make up three parent clubs in the Comic Division, two parent organizations in the Fancy Division, 17 groups in the String Band Division and 10 units in the Fancy Brigade Division. The Murray Comic Club (Comics), Golden Sunrise Fancy Club (Fancy Division), Pennsport (String Bands) and 2nd Satin Slippers (Fancy Brigades) officially will kick-off their respective divisions in the marching order.

Scheduled designated performance areas are:

Broad and Shunk streets
Broad and Ritner streets (near Thomas Jefferson University Methodist Hospital Division)
Broad Street and Washington Avenue
Broad & Pine streets
Broad and Sansom streets (near Union League building)
Judging area (near City Hall)

Scheduled food vending areas are:

Broad and Moravian streets (near Walnut St.)
Broad and Bach streets (near Locust St.)
Broad and Pine streets
Broad Street and Washington Avenue
City Hall (west side)
Various selected performance areas on south Broad Street in South Philadelphia.

Mummers tickets:

For Broad Street: Grandstand seating tickets at 15th and Market streets for the 2011 Mummers Parade are available at the Independence Visitor Center, Sixth and Market streets, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and at the Fairmount Park Welcome Center in JFK Plaza (LOVE Park), 16th Street and JFK Boulevard, Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$19 each. Please call 215-965-7676, for ticket availability.

For the 2011 Mummers Fancy Brigade Finale Show: Organizers of the 2011 Mummers Fancy Brigade Finale at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., invite residents and visitors to enjoy a Mummers performance in a warm, high-energy environment (rain or shine) on Saturday, January 1, 2011. With elaborate, larger-than-life costumes and props and themes coming to life, *It's*

Mardi gras meets Broadway, as 10 Fancy Brigade clubs and more than 3,500 Fancy Brigade performers participate in two fancy fun-filled shows: the family show at noon and the evening show at 5 p.m. Tickets to the 2011 Fancy Brigade Finale performances can be purchased at www.comcasttix.com or at (800)298 4200. Single tickets are \$20 (center seats) and \$15 (side view seats); tickets for groups of 25 or more are \$18 and \$13. Groups greater than 45 people receive two complimentary tickets. Children, ages 3 and younger, are admitted free. For more information on booking group tours with the Mummers Fancy Brigades, which includes a behind-the-scenes sneak preview of the making of the Mummers, contact *Scott Brown at 856 832 7244 or by email at: scottbrownuopenn@comcast.net*

The Fancy Brigades' MummersFest: Leading up to the competition, from Tuesday, December 28 to Friday, December 31, 2010, enjoy the spectacle of **MummersFest** -- a four-day, interactive, family-friendly festival, also at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. For \$4, attendees can make-and-take crafts, try on authentic Fancy Brigade Division Mummers costumes (which make for perfect picture-taking), and can watch the clubs rehearse their "drills" or presentatons. Tickets are available at the door at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. For more information, visit www.fancybrigade.com

TV Broadcasts: PHL17 will provide coverage of the Broad Street parade including the comic, fancy and string band divisions in high definition and in its entirety, beginning with the special pre-parade feature "Breakfast with the Mummers." Pre-parade coverage begins at 9 a.m. PHL 17 also will televise the Fancy Brigade Finale indoor show at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, in a tape-delayed broadcast, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on New Year's Day.

2010 MUMMERS PARADE LINEUP AND MARCHING POSITIONS (FOUR DIVISIONS)

COMIC DIVISION

1. Murray
2. Goodtimers
3. Landi

FANCY DIVISION

1. Golden Sunrise
2. Hog Island

STRING BAND DIVISION

1. Pennsport
2. Fralinger
3. Woodland
4. Broomall Irish American
5. South Philadelphia
6. Durning
7. Greater Kensington
8. Aqua
9. Polish American
10. Trilby
11. Uptown
12. Hegeman
13. Duffy
14. Quaker City
15. Avalon
16. Greater Overbrook
17. Ferko

FANCY BRIGADE DIVISION

1. Satin Slipper
2. Avenuers
3. Bill McIntyre's Shooting Stars
4. South Philly Vikings
5. Golden Crown
6. Dntowners
7. Clevemore
8. 2nd Street Shooters
9. Jokers
10. Saturnalians

Mummers Parade history: Mummery dates back to ancient Roman laborers who ushered in the festival of Saturnalia by marching in masks while exchanging gifts and satirizing the issues of the day. Locally, during the 1600s, Swedish settlers to Philadelphia dressed up, chanted and fired weapons in the air to honor Christmas; they entertained their amused neighbors in exchange for desserts and beverages. The tradition eventually moved to New Year's Day and evolved into a series of neighborhood parades. As immigrants moved to the area from Ireland and Italy, each group added their own cultural flavor to the local customs. In 1901, the tradition began in earnest with the first recognized and judged Mummers Parade organized by the City of Philadelphia on Broad Street. The famous term "Mummer" is German and means "to costume or masquerade." Established with just a few hundred revelers, today more than 10,000 participate in the parade.