

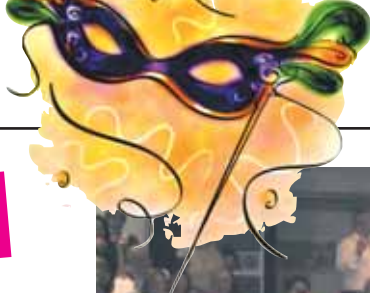
Patras Carnival for ever!!!

Greeks of Sydney danced to the beat of the Patrino Carnavali on Saturday 13th February 2010, at La Luna Reception Centre. It is well known that Patras Carnival boasts the biggest and best-known carnival festivities in Greece.

The Panachaian Philanthropical Association "Palaion Patron Germanos" celebrated its 32 years with a very successful event which proved once again that this Association is 'strong' among the Greek Community and has lots to offer! Its about time the "karnavalo" starts parading around the city to attract interest of non-Greeks as well.

History

Most people agree that starting event of the Patras Carnival was a ball given in the residence of the merchant Moretis in 1829. However the carnival, as most carnival events in the Mediterranean and the Balkans, is connected with ancient rituals, as those to honour . According to these traditions, in the heart of the winter, the faithful invoke the deity with special feasts and he is reborn in order to bring spring once again. The first carnival floats appeared in the decade of 1870s. Then the floats were exclusively creations of individuals, only later did the Municipality of Patras undertake to construct a large number of them. In the same decade, in 1872, with contributions of rich raisin merchants the celebrated "Apollo" Theatre is built, and it entertains carnival dances, as it does precisely today, because the theatre continues to have a central role in the carnival celebrations. In 1880 on day the first "mpoules" appeared (teams disguised that hang around in the neighborhoods and with humorous disposal joke with friends). This custom tends to disappear nowadays. Besides, as the historian of Patras Carnival Nikos Politis testifies, beautiful carnivals were organized during the as in the years 1900, 1907, 1909 with the attendance for first time of individuals of each social class and origin. This period also gave birth to the egg-war custom, with wax eggs stuffed with (made with special machines) which the carnivalists threw from the balconies. Although this custom has disappeared today, it is considered to be the precursor of the chocolate war.



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