

2013 Deep Freeze Mummers Play Contest

How to Make a Mummers Play:

What is a Mummers Play?

Mummers Theatre (Mummary) is a tradition that goes back to the middle ages when, during Christmas, or just before Lent, serfs and peasants would dress up in “disguises” and present pageant style performances to their liege lords. These performances were almost always in rhyme and involved certain set elements such as the theme of death and resurrection, as well as certain recurring characters such as St. George, Dame Jane (usually played by a man), Tom Fool, A Monk or Doctor, a monster of some sort, and some hero and heroine plot twist. There are three main styles within the Mummers tradition: the Battle/Combat, the Wooing, and the Tup. Often elements of all three styles can be found in certain plays. The plays were presented to the lords at their castles and estates in hopes of donations of food or coins or clothes. The mummers tradition was prevalent throughout Europe and grew and developed many variations in different countries, changing and evolving from the middle ages to modern times. Today we see it still alive and thriving all over modern Europe as well as the US, and Canada. It has found a particularly rich expression in the east coast maritime provinces. It is now sprouting up in communities all over Canada, and we are eager to join in the fun.

What you will need:

- To create your own mummers play you will need to gather a team of 5-7 people.
- Everyone participates in the writing of the story.
- One person will be the director, and the others will be the players.
- Players will need to play several roles each.
- The play will need to be at least fifteen(15) minutes long and no more than twenty(20).
- The performance will be outside so make sure the costumes are warm enough for whatever weather we get, as we perform no matter what the temperature.
- **Fill out an application and drop it off, at the Carrot Coffee House.**
 - **The Deadline is January 7th, 2013**

What you must include:

Themes

- Your story must include the themes of Death and Ressurection.
 - That means someone has to die and be reborn with the help of a quack doctor, wizard, monk, or other such character
- You can also include social commentary about things in the news or around the community.
- The story must be in rhyme, the sillier the better.

Characters

- There are traditional characters that can be uses, such as:
 - Tom Fool
 - Dame Jane (usually played by a man)
 - St George – A Hero

- Turkish Knight – A Villain or Challenger
- A Friar/Monk or a Doctor/Wizard/Magician
- A Demon/Monster/Devil
- A Princess or Damsel

Costumes & Props

- We encourage you to use existing clothes and other items for costumes and props, with a minimum of alteration. No more than you would do for a simple halloween costume. Raid your closets attics, garages.