# [***Rain can't steal Brigades' inner beauty;***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47KF-24G0-01JV-7342-00000-00&context=1516831) [***They perform solo after parade delay***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47KF-24G0-01JV-7342-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

THE WEATHER outside was frightful but the Mummers inside were delightful.

The Fancy Brigade Finale at the Pennsylvania Convention Center was the only show in town yesterday after rain washed out the Mummers Parade along Market Street.

The outdoor parade is rescheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday. Brigades were judged, but the results sealed until after they have joined the strut along Market.

The forecast is for clearing Saturday after two days of rain and snow, with highs in the upper 30s. WPHL-TV (Channel 17) will telecast the parade, including a tape of brigades from yesterday.

Yesterday's shows drew bus tours, overnight visitors, cheering partisans of the 12 brigades and - for the first time - string- band members who normally are parading at the same time.

The show was awesome. Fans squealed as Hall of Fame Captain Jim Julia, of the defending champ Downtowners, flipped out of a tomb as a pyramid rose to the roof in "The Lost Civilization of Egypt."

The Jokers, three-time winners since 1998, spun "Carnival of Animals" with beach-ball-tossing monkeys, rump-shimmying horses, parrots on swings and pogo-jumping frogs.

Shooting Stars, the winningest brigade ever, dazzled with dance in riotously colorful kilts in "Land of the Clans." Satin Slipper's robo-cops, the Vikings' dancing piles of junk and Golden Crown's lava-loving "Phoenix" also drew huge cheers.

Dozens of string-bandsmen enjoyed the show after scrambling to get into the sold-out center on their suddenly strutless day. Some VIPs got courtesy tickets from brigade officials, who aren't always their best buddies in feuding Mummery.

Rank-and-filers, who often maintain personal friendships with those in rival clubs or divisions, volunteered as marshals behind the scenes or scored the last box-office ducats.

This was the sixth year for the brigades' Convention Center finale but the first time they've been solo. The last rainout was 1990, a lifetime ago when the entire parade was outdoors - on Broad Street.

The finale was created in part to provide the city with a guaranteed New Year's Day attraction to market for hotel packages and bus tours - a successful plan that filled the noon (unjudged) show with out-of-towners.

The Convention Center also provides a venue for the brigades' wheeled and machine-powered props, which had become unwieldy on the street. Those props aren't allowed under string-band rules. The bands, considered Mummery's major attraction, have insisted on staying outdoors. Yesterday raised the inevitable question about bands' joining the brigades indoors, but no bandsmen were signing on.

"What did you say? What did you say?" said John Pignotti, String Band Association president, with a smile. He sat in the sixth row as a last-minute guest of Fancy Brigade Association President Tom Cloney. "I'm not gonna touch that one," said Cloney.

"How 'bout them Eagles?" feigned Ferko String Band official Anthony Celenza. He added, "The brigades' concepts have always been totally different, a different style, with things not allowed under our rules."

Meryl Levitz, head of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation, took in the finale and said she'd love to have the string bands indoors to add to her marketing campaign.

"It would be wonderful to keep splitting up the parade," she said. "It's just too long. There's no reason to do it all in one day."

With the Comic, Fancy, String Band and Brigade divisions, she added, "It's four separate parades. Why not recognize that?"

Meanwhile, on Two Street, the Mummers' heartland, rains washed away any doubts about the 4 a.m. decision to postpone.

Avalon String Band Chief Marshal Paul Kaiser supervised the unloading of joker and jester props from four rented trucks that must be returned - and re-rented for the weekend.

Then he dialed his ***cell phone*** in search of a church or charity to accept donation of 500 sandwiches that Avalon chef (and saxophonist) A. J. Paesani had made for yesterday's usually hungry hordes.

Musician Mike "Myzo" Myslin-ski endorsed the decision to postpone, but he was antsy. "I had about three days' nervous energy built up, and now I'm not going to be able to release it until Saturday," he said.

Up the block, Tom Malony, captain of the 673-marcher Froggy Carr Comic Wench Brigade, had called the North Philadelphia church musicians in Froggy's hired band at 5 a.m. and told them: Stay home.

Jackie McCann Buggey, president of Hog Island and a Fancy Division director, said the meeting with city officials was a chat, not a vote, with all in quick agreement.

"We looked at the maps and it was all green - all precipitation," she said.

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