



Meet the captains

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Brigade: Avenuers

Captain: Bob Fitzmaurice

How many years as a captain? 27

How many years as a Mummer? 48

Theme: CarnEvil

What should Mummer fans look for in your presentation this year?

“This year the Avenuers Fancy Brigade will have beautiful, colorful costumes along with the upbeat music and dancing, which will make everyone want to dance in their seats. You will also see a lot of amazing effects throughout our show.”

What was the inspiration for your theme?

“Our inspiration this year in picking out our theme was to try and please everyone who will be watching us perform from the parents down to the children. ...”

How do you think the competition will be this year?

“In our opinion, this year’s competition will be spectacular as always. Every brigade in our division always put on a fabulous show, and the hard work and dedication shows throughout the year and through each and every one involved. ...”



Captain: Bob Fitzmaurice

Brigade: Clevemore

Captain: Ralph Tursi

Years as a captain: 20

Years as a Mummer: 45

Theme: Ritual...The Devil's Domain

What should Mummer fans look for in your presentation this year?

“An elaborate set design as well as creative costumes and a lively production number with high energy.”

What was the inspiration for your theme?

“To go back to an ‘old school’ Mummies style ritual, but with a new twist. Also to keep it fun and entertaining for the brigade members, the people that come to see the performances and especially the judges.”

How do you think the competition will be this year?

“The competition continues to get harder, which ultimately makes the show much better for all the brigades. Even though it is a competition, it turns out to be a very friendly one where we can count on each other for help and support. ...”



Captain: Ralph Tursi

Brigade: Downtowners

Captain: Frankie DeVito

Years as a Captain: Five

Years as a Mummer: 26

Theme: Merlin's Mystical Realm

What should Mummer fans look for in your presentation this year?

“This year is a special year for us. The Downtowners are celebrating their 55th parading year. ... It is sort of a Lord of the Rings meets the World of Warcraft all lead by the mystical Merlin. There will certainly be a lot going on at once so without giving it away, we want to make sure the audience and the judges don't blink an eye. As a matter of fact, the eyes have a lot to do with it. ...”

What was the inspiration for your theme?

“... The inspiration of this year's theme came from two of our younger ‘up-and-coming’ members. ... From the time we decided to portray “Merlin's Magical Realm,” the costume committee, as well as the creative team, has worked closely with the idea originators to make sure what they conjured up in their minds will come to life on New Year's Day.”



Captain: Frankie DeVito

How do you think the competition will be this year?

“... It does not matter how large or small your club is or how many people fill that floor, every club is a competitor. ... I expect; every club to be as aggressive as ever in putting on the best show they can.”

Brigade: Golden Crown

Captain: Bob Runowski

Years as a captain: Six

Years as a Mummer: 29

Theme: A Prince's Tale

What should Mummer fans look for in your presentation this year?

“A Prince's Tale tells the story of an Arabian Night and a wish to be Prince. Watch for the club to disappear into the Cave of Wonders in search of the magic lamp.”

What was the inspiration for your theme?

“The theme originated as a book coming to life. With ‘Aladdin’ being released on Broadway in early 2014, we decided to tie the two ideas together.”

How do you think the competition will be this year?

“Based on the themes submitted and what we've seen so far, the competition should be as strong as ever. Let's hope that each club can execute as planned and make this the best show yet.”

Brigade: Jokers

Captain: Joey Gallagher

Years as a captain: Eight

Years as a Mummer: 33

Theme: Glory of Rome: Siege of the Barbarians

What should Mummer fans look for in your presentation this year?

“Look for the beauty of the traditional Roman helmet with lots of feather and plumage, also really creative barbarian costumes. Plus, the way we utilize our props and floats, along with our strong choreography to match our powerful music.”

What was the inspiration for your theme?



Captain: Bob Runowski



Captain: Joey Gallagher

“There was actually a discussion at the club on Jan. 2 about it. Another member mentioned it and sent me a picture of a Roman helmet and the Coliseum. ... Then we thought it had the ability to be a total package [with] strong music, beautiful suits, powerful drill and well known scenery and props.”

How do you think the competition will be this year?

“... It really is so hard to win! All your chips have to fall for you that day. I’m even hoping that the judges are in the mood for Italian food Jan. 1st. Bowl of spaghetti and red wine for all! ... Let the games begin!”

Brigade: Bill McIntyre’s Shooting Stars

Captain: Michael Adams

Years as a captain: Four

Years as a Mummer: 34

Theme: The Mysterious Island

What should mummer fans look for in your presentation this year?

“The Mysterious Island is a beautiful but dangerous place where everything comes to life. ... [There are] terrifying creatures such as monstrous spiders, gigantic bumble bees and the Roc — the largest and most powerful bird of prey and protector of the island. “



Captain: Michael Adams

What was the inspiration for your theme?

“My brother and I are constantly putting our heads together to come up with something original or a way to put a twist on a theme that has been done in the past. We have been kicking around different ways to do a jungle, which seems to be our go-to theme. Then one night I was watching this movie with my twins, Michael and Mickayla, and there it was: “Journey 2 The Mysterious Island” with a Shooting Stars twist.”

How do you think the competition will be this year?

“This year’s Fancy Brigade Finale is loaded with competition from start to finish. ... It is our goal not only to outperform the competition, but to top our own performance from last year, which captured first prize.”

Brigade: Satin Slipper

Captain: John Bielec Jr.

Years as a captain: Second

Years as a Mummer: 27

Theme: Midnight at the Mansion

What should mummer fans look for in your presentation this year?

“A different spin on a traditional theme. A different style of costumes and some cool props that come to life.”

What was the inspiration for your theme?

“We pull ideas ... from TV to movies to theme parks. All that plus our members own original ideas make up our show.”

How do you think the competition will be this year?

“... Every year the brigades bring the competition to a higher level, and I am sure this year will be no different.”



Captain: John Bielec Jr.

Brigade: Saturnalian

Captain: Jack Hatty

Years as a captain: Seven

Years as a Mummer: 24

Theme: Space - A Whole New Dimension

What should Mummer fans look for in your presentation this year?

“Our goal is always to entertain Mummer fans, and we think this year we will blow them away. ... The vast amount of energy and visuals that we present will have fans on the edge of their seat.”

What was the inspiration for your theme?

“...This year we thought a space-oriented presentation would bring out our best, from within all aspects that the show may demand.”

How do you think the competition will be this year?

“Knowing all of the other organizations personally, the competition is always high. Our club is always up for the challenge and we look forward to putting on the best show possible!”



Captain: Jack Hatty

Brigade: 2nd Street Shooters

Captain: Richie Lind

Years as a captain: Two

Years as a Mummer: 46

Theme: Winter Fantasy

What should Mummer fans look for in your presentation this

year?

“Look for Eskimo tribes, ice people and winter explorers as they search for the mystical ice palace.”

What was the inspiration for your theme?

“We wanted to bring the beauty of a wintery wonderland and a mystical forest together.”

How do you think the competition will be this year?

“The competition will be as fierce as ever this year with all the brigades putting everything they have into their production.”



Captain: Richie Lind

Captain: Pete D’Amato

Years as Captain: 12

Years as a Mummer: 44

Brigade Theme: Day of the Avatar Master of the Elements

What should Mummer fans look for in your presentation this year?

“Originality within a traditional theme and the unique style of our performance.”

What was the inspiration for your theme?

“The challenge of putting together a traditional Asian theme but in an original way and a lot of back massages..”

How do you think the competition will be this year?

“Great! The marching order is good, all the brigades are well represented with dedicated Mummies, so this is really lining up to be another awesome overall show. ...”



Captain: Pete D’Amato

Brigade: Spartans

Captain: Tim Luko Jr.

Years as a captain: One

Years as a Mummer: 34

Theme: The Pharaoh’s Revenge: Quest for the Book of the Dead

What should Mummer fans look for in your presentation this

year?

“Mummer fans should look for a classic Egyptian theme mixed with 21st-century technology, and of course, a pretty good twist. Egyptian themes have been used with much success in brigade history, and we hope to continue that trend.”

What was the inspiration for your theme?

“The inspiration for the theme started off as classic Egyptian idea with some improvements and gimmicks that haven’t been done in the past. We were able to do a blend of traditional Egyptian approaches along with new takes on production and performance goals.”

How do you think the competition will be this year?

“Like every year in the brigades, the competition will be extremely tight. ... It is a tough division to be in competition-wise.”

Contact the South Philly Review at editor@southphillyreview.com.



Captain: Tim Luko Jr.

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