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**Philadelphia Mummers
Brigade Association**

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ring in the New Year in Philadelphia at the Mummers Fancy Brigade Finale, The Fanciest New Year's Day Celebration

Two Guaranteed, Reserved Seat, Indoor performances Headline the Festivities

PHILADELPHIA (September 25, 2013) – Philadelphia is home to the fanciest New Year's Day celebration, the Mummers Fancy Brigade Finale at the Pennsylvania Convention Center on Wednesday, January 1, 2014. The indoor showcase, presented by the Mummers Fancy Brigade Association, is a highlight of the popular, longstanding Philadelphia Mummers Parade; which also takes place on New Year's Day; and the most comfortable and convenient way to enjoy the festivities.

Sometimes described as a cross between a Broadway show and Mardi Gras, the Mummers Fancy Brigade Finale, with its elaborate costumes and massive props, is a 2 1/2 hour, stunning, colorful, high-energy showcase of 11 masterfully choreographed, four-and-a-half-minute routines to high-energy music. More than 2,500 Fancy Brigade performers, divided among 11 Fancy Brigade clubs, work for one full year to create the themes, costumes, props and drills that comprise the show and dazzle the audiences. Performers, from children to seniors, volunteer their time and raise money for their clubs so, on this one day – New Year's Day – they can don bright, glittering, sequined costumes, dress up in colorful masks and make-up; and perform dance routines and drills, all in front of a backdrop of set pieces and props that soar 24-feet high.

Visitors have two chances to see the spectacle on New Year's Day; The Mummers Fancy Brigade Association presents a family show at Noon and an identical, second show at 5:00 p.m. Both shows take place in Hall B of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th Arch streets, in Philadelphia. Leading up to the event, MummersFest, a four-day, family festival from Friday, December 28 - December 31, 2013, provides a sneak peek into the making of the Mummers Fancy Brigade Finale.

The Mummers Fancy Brigade clubs represent one of five divisions – The Comics, Wenches, Fancies, Fancy Brigades, and String Bands - that take part in the annual day-long Philadelphia Mummers Parade on Broad Street on New Year's Day. While the other four divisions exclusively march outside, the Fancy Brigades only march from Oregon Ave, to Washington Ave. then bring their performances indoors; for the two guaranteed, reserved seat, shows at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Due to the intricacies of the costumes and props, the outdoor parade is weather-dependent, but the indoor shows are guaranteed rain or shine.

The 11 participating Mummers Fancy Brigade clubs are family-oriented and neighborhood based each with local clubhouses or gathering place used for practices and fundraisers. Several have two or three generations of the same family that take part in the larger-than-life show.

Tickets for the Mummers Fancy Brigade Finale at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th and Arch streets in Philadelphia, go on sale October 1, 2013. Reserved, center section tickets for the

Noon family show and the 5:00 p.m. judged show are \$25; reserved seats in the two side sections are \$20. Tickets for groups of 15 or more are \$18 and \$23. Groups greater than 45 receive two complimentary tickets. Children ages 3 and younger are admitted free. Refreshments are available for purchase at both shows. To order tickets, please visit www.comcastix.com or call 1 800-298-4200. Tickets can also be purchased at the Independent Visitors Center. For information on booking a group tour with the Mummers Fancy Brigades, contact Scott Brown by phone at 267-639-8483 or via email at tourgrouops@fancybrigade.com.

MummersFest

From Friday, December 28 through Monday, December 31, 2013, MummersFest, also at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, is a four day, interactive, family-friendly festival. For just \$4, attendees can make-n-take crafts, try on authentic Mummers costumes for picture taking, and watch the clubs rehearse their drills. Knowledge veteran Mummers, all former club captains, lead 30 minute backstage tours of the show props and floats, providing a sneak Peak at the themes that take center stage on New Year's Day and the last minute preparations for the big day.

MummersFest hours are: Saturday, December 28, Noon – 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, December 29, Noon – 7:00 p.m.; Monday, December 30, 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Tuesday, December 31, Noon – 6:00 p.m.. Tickets are available at the door of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, at the Independent Visitors Center and via ComcastTix, for \$4 per person.