

Fano Carnival

The history

To enter inside the atmosphere of Fano carnival is fundamental to know its historical context, its medieval origins and its traditions, that make the celebration so great.

Start from the name of the city, Fano. It follows by the roman definition “Fanum Fortunae”. In the past, fortune was personified by Venus (God of love) and Aphrodite (God of profane love), the carnival is connected by them for freedom and transgression, overall in love.

But, the fortune, is also linked with the game and with children innocence. Another element which remanded to the historical tradition of Fano carnival is the recovery of a mosaic in where is represented Dionysius child (God of feast). He play with a panther and, for people this is the emblem of happiness and for the citizens of Fano he has became the God of Carnival.

Fano carnival was born in 1347, according to the legend it started by a reconcile of two main city families of the time, the “Del Casseros” and the “Da Carignanosi”. This date show us that Fano Carnival is the most ancient of Italy.

In 1450, the Malatesta family inserted the carnival on the city statute, they said that the carnival feast was necessary! This is a unique recognition that no other city has.

A print dated 1756, speaks about games, maskers, jokes, fun and it mentions the “Getto”. This word describe the “sweet rain” of the Fano Carnival, in fact the tradition wants that every years for this festival, hundreds and hundreds kilograms of chocolates and caramels are launched from the masked wagons and people run very fast to take them.

In 1872 has been founded the first committee for the event organization and it is still active.

Another protagonist of Fano carnival is the “Pupo”, this is the name which indicate the giant creation which represents different creatures and that opens the parade. It incarnates vices and faults of the playful atmosphere

during the carnival period. The Pupo is burned the day of Shrove Tuesday to remove every faults.

In 1923 a very funny and bizarre band has took part at carnival team, it is called “Musica Arabita”. They use daily utensils to produce an happy and funny music.

But, the main protagonist of Fano carnival is the parade of masked wagons, enormous sculptures made of “papièr-maché”. The procession is divided in three different moments; the first presents the allegorical floats, the second is the “getto” time, and the third is called “luminarie” tour, because people wait the night to admire the masked wagons illuminate. They create a wonderful games of lights and shadows that enthuse everyone.

Fano Carnival Today

Today Fano city organizes one of the most important Italian carnival festival and the biggest popular event of the Marche region.

Every year the parade reaches about 100.000 visitors in three days (the main days). The festival is organized on February and there are more than a month of festivities and every corner of the city is decorated for the event.

Recently was founded a Papière-Machè School where teachers transmits this art to the young generations.

The carnival is a mix of art, music, theater, gastronomy and it includes many areas for children.

The wagons parade cover about 2 kilometers where are lunched the sweets. Usually children and adults wait the “getto” with upside-down umbrellas to take many sweets.

Nowadays, Fano carnival represents culture, tradition, creativity and fun. It is also property of the town.