



Tuesday, Feb. 16
*Celebrated
throughout Italy.*



Carnevale

Carnevale in Italy, known in the U.S. as carnival or mardi gras, takes place in the weeks leading up to Easter. Think of *Carnevale* in Italy as a big final party before Ash Wednesday, the restrictions of Lent, and the more pious observances of Easter.

Italy celebrates *Carnevale* with a huge winter festival marked by parades, masquerade balls, entertainment, music, and parties. Children throw confetti at each other, and sometimes flour and raw eggs.

Mischief and pranks are common during *Carnevale* in Italy, hence the saying "*a Carnevale ogni scherzo vale*," which means "anything goes at *Carnevale*".

This year due to COVID restriction, many festivities will not be held.

History of the Venice Carnivale

The origins of carnivael and its accompanying tradition of wearing masks can be traced to Venice, Italy, starting in the 14th century.

The original carnival allowed all of the classes of society in Venice to have a celebration together, as all faces were covered by masks to shield identities. Carnival festivities were banned during the reign of Mussolini, but were reinstated during a Venetian cultural revival in the 1970's. Carnival begins before the Christian season of Lent, where fasting and prayer for 40 days, signifying Christ's 40 days in the wilderness, lead up to the days commemorating Christ's crucifixion. The final day of carnival for Christian practitioners is known as Mardi Gras, which falls on Fat Tuesday, or the final day to eat all rich and sugary foods that are banned during the Lenten season. It is possible that the carnival festivities are rooted in the need to dispose of the sumptuous foods and alcohol before entering Lent.

Famous Italian Traditional Carnevale Costumes and Masks

Harlequin, Italian **Arlecchino**, one of the principal stock characters of the Italian commedia dell'arte; often a facile and witty gentleman's valet and a capricious swain of the serving maid.

In the early years of the commedia (mid-16th century), the Harlequin was a *zanni* (a wily and covetous comic servant), and he was cowardly, superstitious, and plagued by a continual lack of money and food,



ARLECCHINO

Famous Italian Costumes and Masks

COLOMBINA



Columbina is a stock character in the commedia dell'arte. She is Harlequin's mistress, a comic servant playing the tricky slave type, and wife of Pierrot. Rudlin and Crick use the Italian spelling Colombina in *Commedia dell'arte: A Handbook for Troupes*.

Famous Italian Costumes and Masks

Pierrot is a stock character of pantomime and commedia dell'arte whose origins are in the late seventeenth-century Italian troupe of players performing in Paris and known as the Comédie-Italienne; the name is a diminutive of Pierre (Peter), via the suffix -ot. His character in contemporary popular culture—in poetry, fiction, and the visual arts—is that of the sad clown, pining for love of Columbine, who usually breaks his heart and leaves him for Harlequin. Performing unmasked, with a whitened face, he wears a loose white blouse with large buttons and wide white pantaloons. Sometimes he appears with a frilled collaret and a hat, usually with a close-fitting crown and wide round brim.

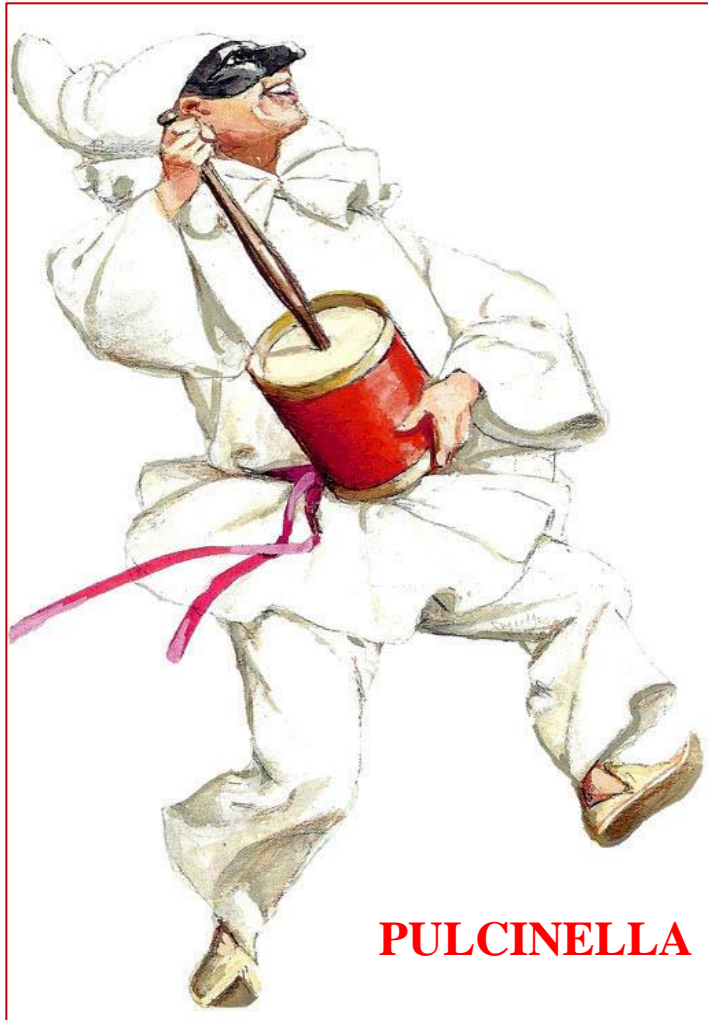


Famous Italian Costumes and Masks



Il Dottore , "the Doctor", commonly known in Italian as *Dottor Balanzzone* or simply *Balanzzone* was born in the the city of Bologna, Italy. He is comically inept. He is usually extremely rich, though the needs of the scenario might have things otherwise, and extremely pompous, loving the sound of his own voice and spouting ersatz Latin and Greek. His interaction in the play is usually mostly with Pantalone, either as a friend, mentor or competitor. He is a commedia dell'arte stock character, one of the vecchi, or "old men", whose function in a scenario is to be an obstacle to the young lovers. He has been part of the main canon of characters since the mid-16th century.

Famous Italian Costumes and Masks



PULCINELLA

Pulcinella (Italian pronunciation: [pultʃi'nella]; Neapolitan: *Pulecenella*) is a classical character that originated in commedia dell'arte of the 17th century and became a stock character in Neapolitan puppetry. Pulcinella's versatility in status and attitude has captivated audiences worldwide and kept the character popular in countless forms since his introduction to commedia dell'arte by Silvio Fiorillo.

Famous Italian Costumes and Masks

Meneghino is a traditional character of the Italian *commedia dell'arte*, associated to the city of Milan. Meneghino is in fact a witty servant; he is mostly characterized by honesty, sincerity and a strong sense of justice.- He is usually represented as wearing a cocked three-cornered hat, a pony-tailed wig, short green pants, red-white striped stockings, black shoes with buckles, a white shirt, a yellow or otherwise colorful flowered vest, a long jacket.

Meneghino's sincerity is also symbolized by the fact that, unlike most *commedia dell'arte* characters, he doesn't wear a mask. While originally a servant, Meneghino has actually taken on different roles on stage, including that of the master, the peasant, and the merchant



Famous Italian Costumes and Masks

Gianduja is one of the masks of the Italian commedia dell'arte, typically representing the town of Turin (and Piedmont in general). Gianduja also became the namesake for a Piedmontese chocolate preparation.



The mask depicts an honest peasant of Piedmontese countryland, with a certain inclination for wine (particularly Brachetto d'Acqui), gastronomy and beautiful girls, while strictly faithful to his lover Giacometta, who is usually represented by a cute girl.

Famous Italian Costumes and Masks

Stenterello is the beloved protagonist of Tuscan Florentine mask, Carnival, and represents the soul of the Florentines, generous and always have the answer ready, strictly in the vernacular, unable to stir the rice with barbed banter, but never vulgar,

