

MEDIA CONTACT

Laurie Herbert | 504.410.7556 | kreweofgoddesses@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *Les Fous du Carnaval: Big Clown Energy, January 19, 2024, 8pm*

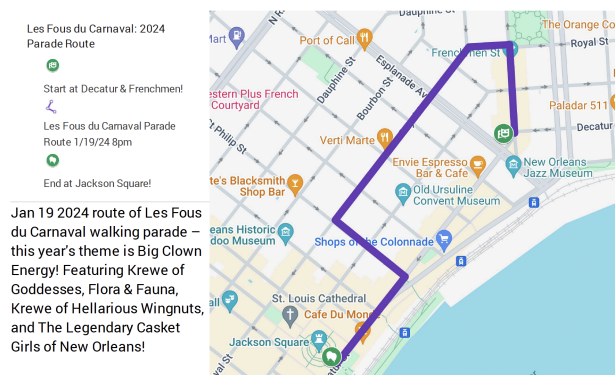
NEW ORLEANS, January 8, 2024 - Friends, Courtesans, Groundlings, and Loose Associates, *Les Fous du Carnaval* cordially invite one and all to clown around with us at our next *commedia dell'arte*! On Friday, January 19, 2024, at 8pm, *we could be your fantasy!* The streets are our stage and we present a veritable visual and auditory feast of mystery, artistry, and ribald fun with our dazzling display of “**Big Clown Energy**” as our jocular walking parade trips through the [Marigny and French Quarter](#).

Our only tricks are to guile & delight parade-goers with an array of droll costumes, hand-crafted tokens of mirth, and myriad *tableaux* of wonderment and chicanery in our annual jest as we scamp, prance, and gadabout to the brass bands, New Groove and Kings of Brass. *We got that REAL big energy!*

Exercising our jester’s privilege, we’ll make the gathered throngs *sing like a melody*. Our Carnival stroll of misrule starts at 8pm at the corner of Frenchman & Decatur Streets, then we’ll frolic through the Marigny / Quarter following [this route](#):

- Frenchman -> Royal**
- Royal -> St. Philip**
- St. Philip -> Decatur**
- Decatur -> Jackson Square**

Les Fous du Carnaval Parade Jan 19 2024 8pm



The fantastical *Les Fous du Carnaval* is a creative collaborative of inner krewes: Krewe of Goddesses, Flora & Fauna, and Krewe of Hellarious Wingnuts. If you *ain’t right, we got the remedy!* In our third year parading on this same route, our merry band of bards has expanded to include a new inner krewe, **The Legendary Order of the Casket Girls**. More about these dangerous dancing undead beauties below...

As Shakespeare said, we are wise enough to play the fool but did ol' Willy know that we're wiser still to eschew monarchs and royalty? Dynastic control and power in the hands of one (or a few!) is utterly boring. We don't require validation from the moneyhoarders or wannabe aristocracy. *Your steak ain't no hipper than our pork chop, your Cadillac ain't no hipper than our bus stop...* We choose to celebrate and lift up the underrepresented and misunderstood. (Christy Brown ain't the only clown around town...) Our power comes from within. ***The one you bitches hate, but they can't get past.*** The only "royalty" we respect are those who've put in the work and built this beautiful spectacle of community with us! WE are enough.

To that end, we recite for you a rhapsody, tell a tale, and sing a song of our triumvirate of **Haute Bienfaiteurs!**

Dartanya Lorraine Croff (she/her), a proud native of Flint, MI, is a Goddess who grew up in a household where creative expression was explored and no idea was ever turned down. In a city like Flint, being an artist comes naturally because, much like New Orleans, Flint is a fighter. At a young age, Dartanya knew that singing would always be her first love yet, like the arts, you can never have too many connections. From Fa la las to "To Be or Not To Be... That is the question" getting her BFA in Performing Arts Focused in Acting, to [single crochet double crochet](#) Banana Skirts "[Thank you Josephine](#)" and Oranges and Honey sprinkled with Cinnamon just the way Oshun likes it... [Baby we in Paris now FOREVER](#)... To just being happy with saying out loud for the world to see, feel, and hear,



Photo credit: @rhrphotography

"I AM a crochet fiber artist that highlights the memory and legacy of Women of Color in History".

This is Dartanya. This is Rayna. She is me.

Often times people would ask why she never followed the crowd, to which she would say,

"I dance to the beat of my own Djembe."

ASÉ



<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZT8Xr8j4e/>; <https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZT8Xre9fF/>;

<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZT8XrBACK/>; <https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZT8XrATqA/>;

<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZT8XrAdGx/>

Amira A. is a Palestinian socialist organizer in New Orleans by way of Memphis and Beit Jubreen, in addition to being a Hellarious Wingnut. Her work is at the intersection of Palestine, Southern liberation, and labor organizing. She has organized locally, regionally, and nationally within the Palestinian liberation movement, specifically within the [Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement](#). She was one of the lead organizers of the [New Orleans Palestine Solidarity Committee](#) and efforts to pass a human rights ordinance in New Orleans City Council in 2018, becoming the first US city in the South to pass a BDS ordinance. Since then, she has helped lead the [Deadly Exchange campaign](#) to end US-Israeli police exchange programs, working at the intersections of abolition, Black liberation, and Palestinian liberation.



Amira led the effort to unionize [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) in 2020, the first organization in the US-based Palestinian liberation movement to do so. She has since founded a national network of Palestinian leaders, Palestine solidarity activists, union members, and labor leaders seeking to dismantle Israeli apartheid and strengthen support & solidarity with Palestine within the US Labor Movement. She is on the steering committee of the [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#). Her family, originally from Beit Jubreen, has remained in exile in refugee camps in Gaza and Jordan. Amira was the first person in her family to return to Palestine in over 50 years. When not actively engaged in movement work, she is a Buddhist youth leader, invested deeply in her faith, all bodies of water, trash reality TV, tatrezz, reggaeton, and being surrounded by community.

“Since October 7th, I have been navigating the reality of my direct family living in Northern Gaza. It has been one of the most difficult periods of my life. One thing that New Orleans and the beautiful communities that make it what it has taught me is how to hold (collective) grief and joy simultaneously. I think Mardi Gras is a crystallization of that analogy in so many ways and I’m grateful to be able to celebrate with my people! There is a famous quote by the national Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish that states “we have on this land that which makes life worth living.” To joy and to liberation and community, from the Mississippi to the Mediterranean.”

Molly Irland A tribute to a true Wild Thing of the street, the unsinkable Molly Irland. Molly is a serious



parade veteran, a constant river of creative ideas and good vibes.

She is the patron saint of Flora and Fauna, always there to get shit done. Did you forget something? Molly probably has it in her truck. Do you need someone to pump you up? Molly has the perfect song to get you rolling.

For Molly, the answer is always YES. She throws her whole ass and heart into everything she does. She is the true wild and generous spirit of carnival.

“I understand life is complicated and the world is a difficult place, but I find with a little thought there are ways to make it simpler in some way for someone. The beast is uncomplicated. The beast reminds us of the absurdity and reality of it all. I hope to bring joy to the world like a dog that snuck into school and is running through the hallways while all the students laugh and the administration tries to shoo it out.”

Tonight, we do it your way! As always, the only way to find out is to come out! Leave all racism, misogyny, transphobia, or bigotry of any kind at home. And stay as safe from COVID as you can while out on the route~~remember Mardi Gras is for masking! Hope to see all of your beautiful faces there!! **xxoxo**

ABOUT LES FOUS DU CARNAVAL

Les Fous du Carnaval is a community of like-minded krewes with shared ideals consisting of the krewes of Flora & Fauna, Goddesses, and Hellarious Wingnuts. We organized in 2021 and launched our first parade in 2022. We are not bound by a single captain—each inner krewe has equal input and a safe space to shape our future. We are iconoclastic and inclusive and strive to represent the true diversity of our city within our membership ~~except for the local “nobility” who, in the true spirit of the origins of Mardi Gras, can all get bent~~ and keep Carnival equitable, accessible, and affordable for all. We are lovers, not fighters. We bow down to no ruler. We are Carnival of and for the masses. This year, we *might let you try it off the Hennessy...*

ABOUT KREWE OF GODDESSES

[Krewe of Goddesses](#) is a social aid & pleasure club that works towards the empowerment of the female identity, body positivity and sex positivity through outreach and activism in our community. Founded in 2011, the mission of the Krewe of Goddesses is to create a safe space where all members feel valued and have the support and encouragement to be their creative and authentic selves. We acknowledge that we have continual work to do in order to be strong allies as we strive to be truly anti-racist and anti-sexist and fight for a just society. Our roots lie in taking back our sexuality and bodies from a culture that is often more fearful of sexuality than violence. We work to change that perception and have a lot of fun along the way. Our krewe is woman-centric, but we have grown to include not only women but also men and trans persons from all class, religious and diverse backgrounds. We believe in the Universal Whole and respect those who are multi-sexual and all that are in touch with the Divine Feminine and Divine Masculine.

ABOUT KREWE OF HELLARIOUS WINGNUTS

The Krewe of Hellarious Wingnuts celebrates all the wingnuts out there! From your baby cousin to the girl down the block, from yo' mama to your ownself.

ABOUT FLORA & FAUNA

Flora and Fauna brings a resplendent biome, honoring the beasts and beauty of nature through carnival magic. From the icy tundra to the steamy jungle, our krewe embraces individual expression of animal and plant spirits, joining together to revel in the wild streets of New Orleans. Flora and Fauna was formed in 2018, evolving from the Krewe of Muumuu and Krewe du Krakatoa. After deep soul searching, a choice was made to abandon the colonizer glorification of Polynesian culture and instead glorify the beauty of the natural world.

ABOUT THE LEGENDARY ORDER OF THE CASKET GIRLS

The [Order](#) was created in the summer of 2023. The original members, otherwise known as The High Council, consist of six women dedicated to The Order's mission. The Legendary Order of the Casket Girls' mission is to create a structured environment of support, empowerment, inclusion, and transparency to promote the inherent worth and value of all individuals. The Order's pillars of empowerment are self-expression, self-development, community service, and paying homage to New Orleans history and legends.

PICS, PICS, PICS!!

[Les Fous du Carnaval Parade Photos 2022-23](#) - Please credit @rhrphotography

SOCIAL MEDIA

PARADE FACEBOOK EVENT: <https://fb.me/e/1z34IEKcQ>

KREWE OF GODDESSES: IG: [@KreweofGoddesses](#) ; FB <https://www.facebook.com/KreweOfGoddesses>

KREWE OF HELLARIOUS WINGNUTS: FB: <https://www.facebook.com/thekreweofhellariouswingnuts>

LEGENDARY ORDER OF THE CASKET GIRLS: IG: [@theorderofthecasketgirls](#) ;

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/thelegendaryorderofthecasketgirls/>

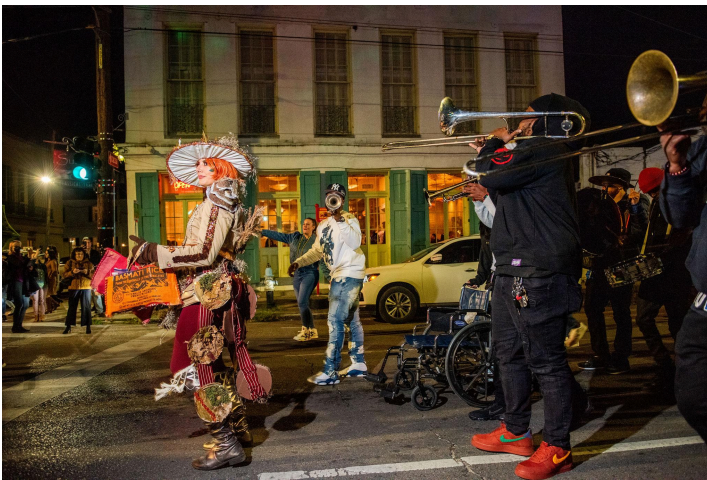


Photo credits: @rhrphotography

####