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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *Les Fous du Carnaval: Once Upon A Fou*, January 23, 2026, 8pm

NEW ORLEANS, January 7, 2026 - Les Fous du Carnaval, a community-led walking parade, returns Friday, January 23, 2026 at 8pm for its 5th year, winding through the Marigny and French Quarter with live brass bands, handcrafted throws, and eight inner krewes.

Friends, Bards, Wicked Stepmothers, Talking Animals, and Woodsmen Who've Lost the Plot, ***Les Fous du Carnaval*** is back for our **FIFTH YEAR** as a parade to cordially invite all wayward princesses, knights, and poisoned fruit to step into the storybook with us for our next enchanted chapter: ✨***Once Upon A Fou*** ✨

Gather round, lantern-lit darlings, on **Friday, January 23, 2026, at 8pm**, as we make a wish on a falling star, *skip the light fandango, listen to the miller tell his tale*, and bewitch the denizens of this moon-drunk wildwood we call home into collaboratively feral characters in our fractured fable. *You may ask yourself, well, how did I get here?* The ending may be riddle-ridden and, possibly, negotiable as our walking parade trips [through the Marigny and French Quarter](#), dragging folklore behind it like a torn hem, but we'll certainly never live quietly ever after! *"There must be some way out of here," said a joker to the thief...*

Our charms will guile & delight parade-goers with a pageant of ornate costumes, hand-crafted gifts of talismans, a series of increasingly questionable tableaux, *and the forests will echo with laughter* as we prowl, haunt, conjure, and scamper off-script to the brass bands **New Groove, Kings of Brass**, and the **Banana Peel Stompers**.

We'll rule our lives like a fine skylark and when the sky is starless, our merry band of troubadours begins our Carnival enchantment and misrule at **8pm** at the corner of **Frenchmen & Decatur Streets**, then unspools along [this route](#):

Frenchmen -> Royal

Royal -> St. Philip

St. Philip -> Decatur

Decatur -> Jackson Square



But let us not talk falsely now, the hour is getting late.

Les Fous du Carnaval is a creative collaborative of inner krewes including **Krewe of Goddesses, Flora & Fauna, The Legendary Order of the Casket Girls, Shimmy Shakti Belly Dance Goddesses, Mystical Krewe of Aziza, Bywater Crazy Cat Ladies & Gents**, and our newest inner krewes, **Mahogany Blue Baby Dolls & Queerly Beloved** — a chosen family of riotous rogues rewriting what devotion, romance, and happily-ever-after can look like when nobody asks permission. *There's a sign on the wall but she wants to be sure 'cause, you know sometimes words have two meanings...*

ABOUT LES FOUS DU CARNAVAL

Les Fous du Carnaval is a community of like-minded krewes with shared ideals founded by the Krewe of Goddesses, Flora & Fauna, the Krewe of Hilarious Wignuts, and Callie. Our membership has grown to also include The Legendary Order of the Casket Girls, Shimmy Shakti Belly Dance Goddesses, Mystical Krewe of Aziza, Bywater Crazy Cat Ladies & Gents, Queerly Beloved, and the Mahogany Blue Baby Dolls. 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.

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 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.

ABOUT SHIMMY SHAKTI BELLY DANCE GODDESSES

[Shimmy Shakti Troupe](#) is a MENAHT (Middle Eastern, North African, Hellenic, Turkish)/belly dance troupe performing in New Orleans since 2011 as part of Belly Dance Goddess Hour. In 2017, Shimmy Shakti debuted as a Dance Krewe for Gay Pride Parade, also joining Krewe of Goddesses in Southern Decadence in 2024. In 2025, Shimmy Shakti officially joined Les Fous du Carnaval as SHIMMY SHAKTI BELLY DANCE GODDESSES KREWE. SHAKTI symbolises the feminine principle, the activating power & energy. We believe in the healing power of the arts. Our mission is to create a vibrant community where dance & movement are celebrated and accessible to all. We aim to create a community that radiates love, kindness, joy, and appreciates cultural exchange while inspiring self-discovery, connection, and personal growth. We recognize that diversity & inclusivity enrich our community, and we welcome individuals with open arms, ready to embrace their unique perspectives & experiences.

ABOUT THE MYSTICAL KREWE OF AZIZA

[The Mystical Krewe of Aziza](#) is a magical group of African fairies on a mission to spread joy and magic during Mardi Gras and beyond.

ABOUT BYWATER CRAZY CAT LADIES & GENTS

The Bywater Crazy Cat Ladies and Gents started as a bi-annual barcrawl in 2022. 2025 Les Fous du Carnaval was their first parade as a Krewe.

ABOUT QUEERLY BELOVED

Queerly Beloved is a krewe devoted to queer joy, creative brilliance, and collective liberation. We gather to celebrate LGBTQ+ lives, cultivate community, and stand in fierce solidarity with other justice movements, because none of us are free until all of us are. Our story began in 2023 as a joke between friends dreaming of joining the Krewe of Red Beans as Lez Beans. The joke turned into a plan, and the plan turned into a parade when a joyful posse of Lez Beans hit the streets. Our tiny spark quickly became a flame. We evolved into Queer Beans, an official Red Beans sub-krewe, and proudly paraded on Lundi Gras in 2024 and 2025. In fall 2025, we stepped fully into our own and became Queerly Beloved — a name that speaks to care, devotion, and chosen family. This Carnival season, look for us in Les Fous Du Carnaval, wearing our hearts on our sleeves and our love out loud. Queerly Beloved welcomes all LGBTQ+ community members and allies who believe in joy as resistance, visibility as power, and community as sacred.

ABOUT MAHOGANY BLUE BABY DOLLS

The Mahogany Blue Baby Dolls were founded in the summer of 2017. They participate in charity events, volunteer at the New Orleans Mission and partner with other groups to give back to the community. It is an honor for the group to be invited to participate in parades, festivals, special events and Carnival. The tradition is said to have started around 1912 in the Black Storyville part of town where women of color had no means to support themselves so they turned to prostitution. Legend says these were the first women to parade on Mardi Gras when they crossed over Canal Street with money in their garters and razor blades in their bras to protect themselves. Paying homage to these women and serving our community in their name is at the core of our doll house.

PICS, PICS, PICS!! All photos included here by @rhrphotography

[Les Fous du Carnaval Parade Photos 2022-25](#) - Please credit @rhrphotography; [All krewe pics](#); [Video of 2025 Parade](#); Inner Krewe Pics: [BCCL&G](#); [Queerly Beloved](#); [Aziza](#); [Mahogany Blue Baby Dolls](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

PARADE FACEBOOK EVENT: <https://www.facebook.com/share/17dss23811/>

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

LEGENDARY ORDER OF THE CASKET GIRLS: [@theorderofthecasketgirls](#) <http://www.facebook.com/thelegendaryorderofthecasketgirls>

SHIMMY SHAKTI BELLY DANCE GODDESSES: [@karlamarieshimmysoul](#); <http://facebook.com/shimmyshakti>

MYSTICAL KREWE OF AZIZA: IG: [@KreweofAZIZA](#)

BYWATER CRAZY CAT LADIES & GENTS: [Article](#) re: BCCL&G; [Video 1](#); [Video 2](#)

MAHOGANY BLUE BABY DOLLS: [@mahoganybluebabydolls](#); <https://www.facebook.com/NOLATRADITIONS>



