

“Bei uns ist immer was los!” Feste in Rheinland

„FASCHING IN MÜNCHEN“ / „CARNIVAL SEASON IN MUNICH“

Wann feiert man Fasching? (When is Fasching celebrated?)

- 1. All traditions and history come together beginning at 11 after 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month.**
 - It doesn't get into high gear until January (Epiphany) and reaches its climax the day after Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.
 - Outburst begins in earnest 3 or 4 weeks before Ash Wednesday and reaches explosive proportions during the last few days.
- 2. On November 11 at 11.11 Uhr, it seems each class in school becomes suddenly daring, pulling some sort of trick on teachers.**
 - Students always seem to get away with it: that's what Fasching's all about.
 - Being the "Fool's Number," 11 was seen, heard, and accepted everywhere during this time of year.
- 3. The real fun begins at the end of January.**
 - Months inbetween are left for preparing, sewing costumes, planning city balls and private parties, buying and making decorations, etc.
 - Preparing costumes is the best part, because everyone wants to make something different.
- 4. "Sitzungen" (planning sessions or meetings, presided over by the Elverat, Council of Fools)**
 - They are usually held before parties and big balls. This is done in order to really get you in mood for all the great fun that lies ahead.
 - Only grown-ups or young adults are allowed to attend a Sitzung, because performers joke about politics, sex, fashions, other countries, etc. They cover all current events, either in song, dance, or rhymed speech.
 - It's really hilarious, ridiculous, and full of sarcasm.
 - It's a time where one can take fullest advantage of the freedom of speech.
 - Those performers, who put on an "ignoramus" act in small-town dialect, are very intelligent and talented people. They sure know how to get their point across with their humorous irony.
 - Unlike the costume balls, a Sitzung is a very formal affair with evening gowns, champagne, etc. If you don't feel like going to all that trouble, you can sit comfortably at home and watch the whole thing on TV.
 - Despite the "foolish" cover-up, these Sitzungen contain much meaning and importance and hidden truth. Therefore, they are discussed later on in school, at the office, anywhere with anyone.