

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

WEIHNACHTZEIT / CHRISTMAS SEASON

NIKOLAUSABEND—NICHOLAS EVE
der 5. Dezember

YOU'D BETTER NOT POUT—KRAMPUS IS COMING TO TOWN

indistinguishable from each other.

There's yet a third monster, the *Tschaggatta* of Switzerland, which appears during Carnival season between February and March, and is said to ward off demons and cure illnesses.

Whatever they call themselves, the performers bringing these ancient characters to life are truly dedicated, especially considering they are not paid for their activities. Though they may get free food or drink at an event, the costumes, travel expenses, lodging, and everything else comes out of their own furry pockets. But there are other, more intangible rewards.

“It's worth it when you see the people standing there saying, ‘wow, you look great,’ or you see some older people who are so happy because they remember this from their childhood and they say to you, ‘it's so great you bring back this tradition,’” Bierbaumer said. “We love being *Krampus*. People love it. Every kid wants to be there!”

Sounds like the Christmas spirit is alive and well, even if it is wearing horns.

