

Gabrovo, BULGARIA

International Festival of Humour and Satire



Gabrovo has the reputation of being the international Capital of Humour. The town created this unique image more than a century ago and has convincingly gained recognition over the years, particularly through culture and arts. The International Festival of Humour and Satire is the most emblematic event of Gabrovo, bringing together various kinds of arts and forms of expression. The Festival is a synthesis of music, dance, theater, vocal, visual and contemporary arts. Every year in May, the city showcases a colorful palette of events focused on humour—one of the most striking features of Gabrovo and its people, which determines the specifics of the events, forms its identity, and provides its added value, simply advertising the Gabrovo brand.

“Words cannot describe it, the eyes must see it and the heart must feel it…….”

The most notable event within the festival is the CARNIVAL. The creative interpretation of our town’s significant carnival tradition and the Carnival

movement, through meaningful upgrading and enrichment with new ideas and partnerships each year, provides a stable and strong relationship with artists and participants, while also attracting an audience open to experiments and novelties.

During the carnival procession—the most massive and attractive event, the audience outnumbered more than 30,000 spectators. This is more than a half of Gabrovo's total population. Participants range in age from 1 to 101, giving us the right to say that there is hardly any family in the town that does not take part in the parade, either as a participant or as a spectator. The organization of the Carnival involves all the schools and kindergartens in the city, community centers, the NGO sector, and other institutions. Nothing unites the town more than its most popular event.

The Carnival in Gabrovo has a strategic mission to promote and confirm the public image of the city as a place of fun and laughter, providing a unique opportunity for everyone to directly participate in the events, to express themselves, to look inside themselves, and to satirize the social and political situation in which we all live at this particular moment. The Carnival message, aimed at the participants and spectators, is and has always been to live through it, becoming its co-creator.

On the one hand, this allows the entire community to participate in an ongoing process of self-identification and, on the other hand, it creates an interrelationship of “town-personality” that brings a sense of community. The Festival and the Carnival, in particular, enable everyone to reveal their character and their own position, while presenting the city and confirming its identity, a contemporary pattern that corresponds to the European values.

Velimira Hristova
(Focal Point of Gabrovo)

Welcome to Carnival Gabrovo – 18 May 2024

Web - <https://carnival.gabrovo.bg/en/home/>

Social Media - <https://www.facebook.com/Carnival.Gabrovo/>