

Majors' News

Celebrations during pandemic times



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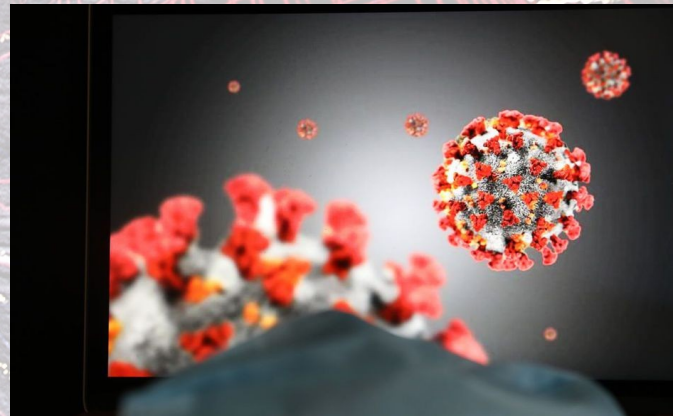
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It is been over a year now since COVID-19 appeared in our lives. We can all agree that, 2020 was a complete mess. Indeed, during this particular time, traditions will be celebrated in a different way. We will see how the anglophone countries as South Africa, Australia and the USA deal with the pandemic during celebrations time.



Independence Day (USA)

in the United States, Independence Day is extremely important to all American citizens, it is celebrated each July 4th. It is the National Day of the country and a very patriotic celebration since it commemorates the Declaration of Independence of the United States voted on July 4th, 1776. It became a federal paid holiday in 1870. Nowadays, the Americans celebrate this event with several patriotic displays and festivities. They organize huge outdoor barbecues or picnics, usually on the beach or near a lake while gathering with their friends and family. The places are decorated with flags, streamers and balloons and the people are dressed in blue, white and red to recall the colours of the American flag. In the morning, cities usually organize big parades,

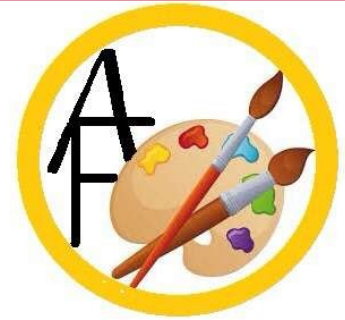


which attract many spectators especially in big metropolises such as Washington. They sing patriotic songs in the streets while fireworks are organized by the city. However this year Independence Day was different from the other years because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Indeed, the parades had been cancelled, and a lot of events were organized online. For instance concerts, parties with music and artistic performances were broadcast through virtual platforms. Moreover many public spaces such as beaches were closed to the public. It is true to say that the cancellation of July, 4th events represented a big disappointment for all the American citizens who waited during the whole year to celebrate it. Nonetheless, it was unthinkable to maintain the events, because social distancing could not have been respected, there would have been a lot of contagions and protecting the weakest is also a patriotic duty. But we can also guess that it was fortunate that alternatives to still celebrate this day were found because it is so important to keep joyful moments in those hard pandemic times. (B.L.N AMC Gr1)

Cape Town Minstrel



Usually, it is celebrated at the Green Point Stadium with more than 10,000 costumed persons. At this event, there are also musicians and especially the Dixie's Band, an Irish band from the 90s. Most people paint their faces with white to contest the original black face. For the inhabitants, this festival has lost a little of its aspect "Day of break for the slaves " because most of those are 3rd or 4th generation and has become a traditional event not to be missed. Music and dance are associated to freedom and the minstrel's troupes give a sense of community to the group members. In South Africa, the lock down is very light, people are confined in the interior of the country. With the current situation, we believe that there will be no tourists at the Cape Town Minstrel because the borders will surely be closed. People will probably have masks too which will hide part of their faces and one of the key elements of this carnival is make-up ! For us it is a good thing that the Cape Town Minstrel will be maintained, because it's an important event for South Africa, as long as the restrictions related to coronavirus are put in place. However, we don't know how the pandemic will evolve... Indeed, if the number of cases increases a lot, it would be better to cancel the event, the government will have to be careful. (I.E.S.S AMC grp1)



The Festival Adelaide Fringe

It is a tradition which happens every year in South-Australia from February 14th to March 15th. It was created in 1960 and it is the world's second-largest annual arts festival. Nowadays, it brings together 7000 artists each year from all Australia and the world. Over 1,300 amazing events are planned. Unfortunately, COVID 19 had an impact on this celebration. Even if the last week-end of the 2020's festival took place before the lock down on March 15th, many shows were cancelled or rescheduled to 2021. However, the 2021 organisation festival is still uncertain. Therefore, a range of public health measures were put in place. 1.5 meters distance has to be kept between artists, we should wear a mask in the theatres, the seats are spaced apart... The SA Health also planned to clean the sanitizers and doors handles more often. In our opinion, the festival is a lot of entertainment but during pandemic times, even with all these measures, it is not safe because there are too many people. This is why the next 2021 festival will be able to welcome only 50 percent of the visitors and will propose 800 shows instead of a 100. This is unheard of in the festival's history. To Miss Croal, the director of the festival, it is a lot of pressure, so it is for all the performers. We spare a thought for all the artists who couldn't do their shows. Nevertheless, we all hope that the show must go on. (L.M.R AMC Grp1)