

MUMMERING

Mummering, or "[jannying](#)," is a traditional Newfoundland and Labrador Christmas house-visiting custom where disguised, masked individuals visit neighbors in winter, singing, dancing, and playing instruments. Hosts guess the visitors' identities before offering drinks and food, with the goal being community merriment.



****Bowlers and guests can come prepared to dance their "best newfie jig" to a traditional Newfoundland song, if they would like to participate. Participation is not mandatory.****

Key Aspects of Mummering:

- **Disguise:** Mummers wear absurd, borrowed clothing, such as masks, veils, stuffed bras, and long underwear, often altering their voices and walk to stay unrecognizable.
- **The Visit:** Often starting with the question "Any mummers allowed in?", they fill houses with music and play instruments like the "[ugly stick](#)".
- **Tradition History:**
With roots in the UK and Ireland, it was popular in Newfoundland in the 1800s. It was briefly banned in 1860 due to incidents of violence but has made a significant comeback, with a modern [Mummers Festival](#) in St. John's.
- **Modern Context:** It is recognized as a distinctive cultural practice in Newfoundland and Labrador, often used to foster community spirit during the holiday season.