

Mummers' Song

Traditional Hampshire song noted by Charles Kennedy Scott.

Mummers' Plays are folk plays performed by troupes of amateur actors, traditionally all male, known as mummers or guisers (also by local names such as rhymers, pace-egggers, soulers, tipteerers, wrenboys, and galoshins).

Mumming spread from the British Isles to a number of former British colonies. It is sometimes performed in the street but more usually during visits to houses and pubs. It is generally performed seasonally or annually, often at Christmas, Easter or on Plough Monday, more rarely on Hallowe'en or All Souls' Day, and often with a collection of money, in which the practice may be compared with other customs such as those of Halloween, Bonfire Night, wassailing, pace egging and first-footing at new year.

*The roads are very dirty, my boots are very thin
I have a little pocket to put some money in.
Knock on the knocker! Ring at the bell!
Please give me a copper because I've sung so well.*