

**-Report on the visit of the Limoux Carnival for the “Opening of Carnival 2019”.**

The Town Hall of Limoux and its Carnival have joined the F.E.C.C. since 07.05.2018.

Before the Opening of the carnival, during the night, the Band «Le Pont Vieux» (that would close the carnival of this year), brought to the “Place République” with music and torches, a carnival float that will be judged and burned for the end of the carnival during the *Night of the Blanquette*.



Invited by Mr Jean-Paul Dupré, Mayor of Limoux, the «General Deputy of the FECC in France» came for the opening of the carnival which is done according to a traditional ritual.



First the Meuniers, all dressed in white with red scarf, whips and rigorously masked according to the characters that each carnival-goer wishes to embody, come walking to the Sub-prefecture followed by his musicians. This tradition was specially authorised by the State this year for having been suspended due to the risk of terrorist attacks.



Mrs the sub-prefect of Limoux-Aude -capped for the occasion with a large historical hat of the XIX century- gave a speech of welcome authorizing the Bands to make the Carnival in Limoux.



Faced with the general surprise, she sprayed us with flour, renewing the ancient gesture of the miller, which is now replaced by white paper confetti. On behalf of the Bands, the President of the Carnival thanked the representative of the French State.



(See video A and B, below)



(See video C, below)

Then, the “Meuniers” left the Court of the Sub-Prefecture in music and dancing to make the first tour of the central square in front of the general joy.



When they arrived near City Hall, we waited for them with the Mayor, who invited us to coming to the court, where he declared the opening of the Carnival that will last until April 07, 2019.

Meanwhile, each Saturday and Sunday is reserved for the exclusive release of one of the "Bandes" until the end of the carnival: *Nuit de la Blanquette*. In the program, a weekend is dedicated to the «*Carnaval du monde*» and the «*Sortie des toutes les Bandes*».



And at the end of the day, there was the exit of the *Bande des Meuniers* with torches. Magic!

AMF