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## Masking and Madness: Mardi Gras in New Orleans

*Kerri McCaffety, Cynthia Reece McCaffety*  
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#2935422 in Books Vissi D'arte Books 2001-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.25 x 10.00 x .751, 2.62  
#File Name: 0970933614176 pages | File size: 40.Mb

**Kerri McCaffety, Cynthia Reece McCaffety : Masking and Madness: Mardi Gras in New Orleans** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Masking and Madness: Mardi Gras in New Orleans:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good insight into a cultural happening. By Turtle helper Exactly as advertised. It is informative and the photos are revealing. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Catch a glorious eyeful of Mardi Gras with the McCaffetys. By Raye Schwarz Get a front row seat at Mardi Gras with Kerri McCaffety's MASKING AND MADNESS. This vivid collection of photographs is centered around portraits taken during Mardi Gras 2001, peppered with mixed shots from other years visits. The beauty of Mardi Gras is that it is all about showing off and being seen, a perfect natural subject for photography. The calm muted portrait background of McCaffety's photo booth provides a blessed quiet space where all manner of characters can shine in all their secret-persona-glory-revealed! Makeup, masks, sequins, glitter, tulle, stripes, spots, spangles, and beads, beads, and more beads! From whimsical to "what the heck?", McCaffety catches it for the just needed moment of capture so it can be shared here. If you'd rather skip the crowds, pull up a chair and relax with the masking and the madness in this book.

Winner of the 2003 GOLD Benjamin Franklin Award from Publisher's Marketing Association, MASKING AND MADNESS: MARDI GRAS IN NEW ORLEANS is the only book devoted to the costumes of Carnival, a luminous portrait of the celebration that defines America's most profanely spiritual city, by New Orleans preeminent

photographer. More than 170 photographs capture the stunning spectrum of Mardi Gras, New Orleans style.

...Masking and Madness reveals Carnival's essence. McCaffety has captured not only the look but the spirit of Mardi Gras. -- Reid Mitchell, writer, October 2001...a profound sense of beauty, ...a true apprehension of the social, historical, and even mythological context of everything she sees. -- Tom Piazza , authorAnother great, spirited book. Of all the books I saw this year, Masking had the most life, the most humanity. -- Independent Publisher's Association President Jim BarnesHumorous, telling, and resplendent, Masking and Madness readily captures the memorable (and sometimes haunting) whimsy of Mardi Gras costumes. -- Rodney Stevens, Charleston Daily News Online, March 2002Kerri's work is lush with natural light ... sensual and rich, transforms the places she photographs into poems. -- Francis Ford Coppola , director and writerMASKING is a rich mix of pictures ... a wonderful array of portraits that convey humanity's deep-seated need for frivolity. -- John Sledge, Mobile Register, March 2002Through her pen and camera, McCaffety has captured the essence of the diversity ... that makes New Orleans so unique. -- Bloomsbury , 2002[I consider] McCaffety a genius. Her works are destined to become pillars of Louisiana's cultural record. Indeed already are. -- Eric J. Brock, Forum News, Spring 2003From the PublisherThe dazzling masquerade of New Orleans Mardi Gras opens its arms wide, dances, and flaunts, full color and full page, in Kerri McCaffety's MASKING AND MADNESS. McCaffety takes the art of portrait photography to North America's biggest costume party. A photographer with an anthropology degree who has recorded cultures all over the world, she returns to her hometown to capture the spirit of New Orleans masquerade with a sharp wit, fresh vision, and profound sensitivity. The celebration in the streets, with a backdrop of lace-iron balconies and old oaks, combines with stark portraits of costumed citizens photographed in a Royal Street courtyard-turned-studio on Fat Tuesday. Accompanying the parade of images, a wry introduction by Cynthia Reece McCaffety explains the history behind this tradition of costuming and indulgence that goes back thousands of years. Think "Jane Goodall goes to Mardi Gras and Annie Leibovitz takes the pictures" The result is a grand documentary of humanity at its liveliest.About the AuthorKerri McCaffety was born in Texas and educated at Tulane University, where she earned a degree in anthropology. Combining writing, research, and photography, she has published four books for Pelican Publishing Company. She also founded her own publishing house, Vissi d'Arte Books, in 2000, which released OBITUARY COCKTAIL and MASKING AND MADNESS. She has homes in New Orleans and Mykonos, Greece.