Dr. Carolina Ibáñez-Murphy  
Pima Community College  
Downtown Campus

Carnaval....A melhor festa do mundo

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Glossary of terms and names

Origins of the word “carnival”: In the Milanese dialect, “carnevale” means the “time when the use of meat is taken away,” which is the period before Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the seventh Wednesday before Easter and the first day of Lent, on which many Christians receive a mark of ashes on the forehead as a token of penitence and mortality.

Saturnálias: Italian Carnaval in honor of Saturn. Baco and Momo gods of Greek-Roman Mythology, shared the honors during the festivities held in November and December.

Baco (Bacchus –Roman or Dionysus-Greek): God of the Vine

Momo: God of the farce and ridicule

Entrudo: It means the introduction to Lent through an aggressive and heavy joke

Caretas: People that wore sheets, leaves, masks and abadás

Abadás: It is a kind of loose short sleeved shirt that would go as far as the knees which the Blacks used.

Ballroom Carnaval: It had the participation of whites and middle-class mulattos.
Street Carnaval: It had the participation of blacks and poor mulattos.

Bando anunciador: It is the announcing group that would go out inviting everyone to the festivities.

Teatro São João: Pioneer theater that began to organize its ball a year in advance.

Os Cavaleiros da Noite: Also called “The Night Knights” appeared in 1878 at the teatro Sao Joao causing major furor.

Zé Pereira: A club formed by Jose Nogueira de Azevedo Paredes that started the percussive tradition of Carnaval by walking around Rio beating a big bass drum.

Samba: Term used for dancing parties of enslaved and free Africans in terms of dances.

Ernesto dos Santos (Donga): Wrote Pelo Telefone (on the phone) released in 1917 as the first song title to be registered and published with the word samba as its genre.

Escolas de samba: It is a term used for the samba schools. It was at first a reference to a grade school across the street from where Deixa Falar met.

Deixa Falar (Let people talk): It was the first samba school founded in 1928 in the Estácio section of Rio de Janeiro.

Portela: Was the samba school to introduce the samba enredo.

Samba enredo: It is a samba based on a specific theme, which provides the main allegory for the “escola’s” parade.

Sambodromo: Nowadays, parades are held on the Passarela do Samba, customarily referred to as “Sambodromo” (a place for samba).

Carnavalesco: Is an Art Director who is responsible for the visual aspect of the escola. Once the enredo is approved by the board, the carnavalesco writes a synopsis of it describing the message he wants to visually convey in the parade.

Carros alegóricos: These are huge floats with a theme.

Destaque escola: These are the members of the samba school that stand on top of the huge floats.

Puxador: Is the main singer, and is responsible for keeping 5000 voices in pace with the drum section.

Bateria: Is the drum section of the samba school with 300 to 500 percussionists.
**Mestre de bateria:** Is the director of the bateria. The mestre’s baton is a whistle with which he controls the musicians.

**Cuica:** The most distinctive sounding of all samba instruments. The Cuica (pronounced queekaa) is a small drum with a stick attached to the middle of the drum head which is rubbed by the player with a piece of damp cloth or cotton. The friction on the stick causes the head of the Cuica to vibrate and “squak”. The pitch of the squeak can be changed by applying pressure to the drum head and change the tension.

**Surdo:** A bass drum used in samba. It is played in two forms, with one mallet in one hand and with the left hand hitting the drum; or with two mallets.

**Pandeiro:** A tambourine with taut skin used in samba, and it is played with the fingers and palm of the opposite hand.

**Repenique:** It is a smaller drum that one wears and is played with two thin sticks. It has a very high pitch as a snare drum.

**Tamborim:** It is a very small drum that is played with one hand holding it and placing a finger right under the skin. One plays it with a stick on the opposite hand.

### The Most Famous Samba Schools in Rio de Janeiro

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Colors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caprichosos de Pilares</td>
<td>blue and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tradição</td>
<td>blue and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mocidade Independente</td>
<td>green and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperatriz Leopoldinense</td>
<td>green and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beija-Flor</td>
<td>blue and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangueira</td>
<td>pink and green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salgueiro</td>
<td>red and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidos de Vila Isabel</td>
<td>blue and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portela</td>
<td>blue and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porto da Pedra</td>
<td>red and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grande Rio</td>
<td>green, red and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>União da Ilha do Governador</td>
<td>blue, red and white</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Viradouro

Unidos da Tijuca

colors: red and white

colors: blue and yellow

The Samba Parade: Facts

1- Fourteen special group schools march on Carnaval Sunday and Monday, seven each day.
2- The parade starts at 7:00p.m. and goes on until sunlight the next day, around 6:00am.
3- Samba schools may take to the Parade from 3,000 to 5,000 members and from 6 to 8 floats. They have to make it through the runway in a period from 60 to 80 minutes.
4- Schools are divided into sections called (alas) with people wearing the same costumes. Some alas have a special choreography, but most are spontaneous. They are divided by floats (carros alegóricos) carrying special guests named “destaques”. Together they illustrate and bring to life the school’s chosen theme.
5- The bateria (percussion band) sets the beat
6- The bateria is preceded by a queen (rainha da bateria), usually a beautiful woman from the community or a TV star or VIP.
7- The vocalist or puxador goes on a sound truck right behind the bateria.
8- Cars are pushed by men from the community wearing costumes designed to blend in.
9- Being a part of the samba parade is an honor.
10- Although complete nudity is not officially allowed, sometimes floats carry topless and naked men and women.
11- One section is called “abre-alas” usually a men-only group with elaborate Choreography that marches in front of every school. Velha guarda is the group of Men in the traditional white suit and Panama hat, representing the malandro, a Traditional Carioca character. This is the last “ala” to march
12- Alas das baiana: is a section with women dressed in big round colonial-style skirts. These positions are reserved for ladies of the community.
13- There is a special couple, the “mestre sala” and “porta-bandeiras”. The porta-bandeiras, is the lady that carries the school flag with pride and the crowds stand and cheer as she passes by. Her partner the mestre-sala has the job of drawing everybody’s attention to his princess.
14- The maximum points awarded to a Samba school is 120 points.
Império Serrano

**Carnaval 2002**
Carnavalesco: Ernesto Nascimento
Intérprete: Carlinhos da Paz
Diretor de Harmonia: Robertinho
Diretor de Bateria: Mestre Macarrão
Mestre-sala e Porta-bandeira: Claudinho e Janaína
Alas: 30
Carros: 7
Componentes: 4500
Ordem no desfile: 3ª escola do dia 11 de fevereiro de 2002

**Ensaios:**
* Sábados, às 23h, ensaios normais na quadra da escola (Avenida Ministra Edgard Romero, 114, Madureira)
* Quintas, às 20h, ensaios técnicos na quadra da escola
* Domingos, às 16h, ensaios de rua em frente à quadra

**Enredo:** Aclamação e Coroação do Imperador da Pedra do Reino: Ariano Suassuna


**Samba-enredo**
Autores: Aluizio Machado, Maurição, Lula, Carlos Sena e Elmo Caetano
Brazilian Instruments

Carnaval instruments: Surdo
                 Repenique
                 Cuica
                 Tamborim
                 Pandeiro

Bomba       Surdo       Malacacheta       Caixa

Repenique    Timbal     Repique for Hands   Rebolo

Tantan

Agogo       Pandeiro     Tamborim     Berimbau
Cuica
Stainless Steel and Wood