



What is a Lumpenball?

In German, Lumpen is translated as “rags” or “Ragamuffin.” A Lumpenball can be thought of as a Ragamuffin ball or a Hobo ball. This event is always held *AFTER* Fasching, because you’ve spent your money on costumes, drinking and partying...so all you have left is just enough cash to dress like a bum. Or in some cases, just your worn out and torn costume. Decorations for the event are modest...or downright tacky.

History of the Lumpenball

The Lumpenball tradition is quite common during Karneval/Fasching season in Germany. The first Lumpeball in the Rhine-Necker region was hosted by Karl Schewnder in 1872 at the Colosseum at Brauhirschengrun in the Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus district. Despite being a way out of town, and off the beaten path for the polite society, it became quite popular. Herr Schwender even organized a shuttle service to bring his guests to the Ball. And many people showed up to see the spectacle.

What to Wear to a Lumpenball

Making a costume for the Lumpenball is EASY! and does not have to cost much money at all. You can, for starters, simply wear worn old clothes... the more “ruined” the better. This is not the time to pull on a designer look! Ruined and patched jeans, frayed hats and torn shirts are perfect.