

Giants Dancing

What would you say if you saw enormous giants come dancing through the street? Of course you would get out of the way.

The sound of a band tells the people that something exciting is coming, and the people gather along the edge of the road to watch. The happy sound of the band announces the arrival of the Giants that follow behind in a lively procession, jumping and twirling.

The Giants are figures with a height of three meters, carried by people inside that make the Giant dance and jump to the rhythm of the music of the band.

Sometimes a giant stops and dances before a child and someone takes a photo. For the giants it is fun to run up to the crowd and spin until the hands on their long arms hit the faces of some that are watching and laughing. Sometimes a giant runs after a young man chasing him.

Types of Giants

Each giant has a head made with layers of newspaper and on top there is paper of many colors. In addition they paint the faces.

The body of the giant is mounted on a structure of wire to support it. Inside of each Giant is a youth carrying the structure, hopping and spinning to the rhythm of the music. The dancer can see through a hole below the neck of the giant. Many times the dancer is a boy, but now a girl can carry a giant as well.

Each giant has a costume that is special, according to the character represented. Sometimes they come in pairs—a giant with a giantess.

You can find giants through all Latin America and in the south of Europe. In all these countries the giants dance for the feast of the saint of the town and for other events as well. The giants are very tall, but in Mexico there are short ones also, that are called “dwarves,” carried by boys and girls.