



## **INTERNATIONAL MASQUERADE FESTIVAL**

### **«KUKERLAND» - YAMBOL - 2019**

#### **When the festival is life!**

In 2019, in Yambol will be held the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the International Masquerade Festival "Kukerland" organized by Yambol Municipality. This is the first in the country annual festival of masquerade games that continuously has been taking place since 2000.

The festival "Kukerland" is an emblem of Yambol as a festival city. The event gathers thousands of participants and guests of the city who came to experience the colorful and loud spectacle. The motto of "Kukerland", "When the festival is life", reflects both the vivid spirit of the ancient kukeri traditions in this part of the country and the festive mood that everyone who has become part of the celebration can experience.

"Kukerland" is held every year at the end of February or the first days of March. Kukeri games are inevitably related to the approaching of Sirni Zagovezni /Lent/ and the customs of banishing evil forces, welcoming spring and waking up the earth. That is why the representation of the groups emphasizes the rituals depicting activities such as sowing, giving birth to people and animals and include spells that will bring health and fertility.

The festival in Yambol is one of the largest and most spectacular events in the country. Thousands of mummies, babugeri, sourvakari and various people literally from all over Bulgaria take part in this spectacle. The color of the holiday is complemented by the participation of many international groups.

The culmination event of the festival is the two-day Masquerade parade. In the spectacular event "Kukerland 2018" took part nearly 80 groups.

Among the hallmarks of the Yambol Festival are the giant Kukeri masks - creepy 3-meter high installations that add a unique color to the holiday. The main event is the International Photography Competition of the same name featuring an exhibition presenting unique photographs of Bulgarian masquerade traditions and European carnivals.

The venue of the festival is the Yambol City Park, turned into Kukergrad. The four-day event is celebrated with many concerts, exhibitions, competitions, outdoor workshops, defiles, grills and appetizers.

In 2019, the International Masquerade Festival "Kukerland" will be held from February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Free entry!