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With the vaccine’s passport, batteries are rehearsing again with an eye on the 2022 Carnival – 09/27/2021 – São Paulo

With an eye on the 2022 Carnival parades at the Sambódromo do Anhembi, in the north of the city of São Paulo, the samba schools in São Paulo are returning to the drum rehearsals in their courts, in person and with mandatory proof of vaccination against Covid- 19.

All 14 groups of the Special Group have already defined their samba-plots for Carnival, which has already been authorized by the City of São Paulo, under the administration of Ricardo Nunes (MDB), to start preparations for the parades on the avenue. Despite this, the final realization of the event still depends on authorization from Organs municipal health agencies and that at least 70% of São Paulo citizens are already fully vaccinated.

Rosas de Ouro, from Freguesia do Ó (north of São Paulo), started the battery rehearsals last Monday night (20th), following safety protocols.

“Our battery is very concerned about safety and health protocols. Everyone is required to present proof of vaccination to rehearse, in addition to the mandatory use of masks and respect for distance,” says master Rafa Oliveira, commander of the Rosas battery.

The school will have as plot “Sanitatem”, a Latin word that means cure. According to the association, the rituals and paths to healing will be presented at the Sambódromo.

“Samba comforts and relieves. The expectation is that vaccination increases and cases decrease so that Carnival is wonderful. We already have four arrangements prepared and we’re going to take down Anhembi [risos]”, highlights Rafa, who also commanded the drums at Carnaval 2020.

For Soraya Smaili, a pharmacologist at Unifesp and coordinator of the Global Health Center and the SOU Science Center, it is still too early to talk about Carnival. “I think it’s not time to talk about it yet, but in a situation like the sambódromo, the parades can be planned as a test event or something like that,” he says.

Mocidade Alegre, from the neighborhood of Limão (northern zone), began testing the battery on September 15, and also requires the vaccine’s passport from its members.

“We asked for the digital vaccination card for all members of the battery”, highlights Mestre Sombra, responsible for the battery at Mocidade. “We lost friends who were resistant to the vaccine and got the disease, we don’t want that. We want life to continue. We root for joy and prosperity”, he adds.

The samba school chose the plot “Quelémentina, Cadê Você?”, a tribute to Clementina de Jesus (1901-1987), a samba player from Rio de Janeiro and who could only start her professional career as a singer at the age of 63.

“It is an honor to honor Clementina. It’s a very rich story of a struggling and winning person, who worked a lot for our culture,” says Sombra.

Current Carnival champion, Águia de Ouro, from Pompeia (western zone), returned with the drums last Sunday (19), also with mandatory proof of vaccination.

“The rehearsal was closed only to the percussionists and to a few people, all of whom had to prove their vaccination. We were careful with detachment, masks and the use of alcohol gel”, says Sidnei França, a carnival artist from Águia and who participated in the association’s unprecedented title.

The samba school is preparing to enter the avenue with the plot “Afoxé de Oxalá — In the ‘Cortejo de Babá’, A Song of Light in Time of Darkness”, which, according to the school, brings a message of peace, faith, love , respect and hope.

“The president [Sidnei Carriuolo] he asked for a plot that dealt with positivity and peace. All of this was translated into the theme, which brings a very particular African personality through Oxalá”, emphasizes França.

Dragões da Real, from Vila Anastácio (western part of the city of São Paulo), started the specific test of the battery on the 4th of this month and has already held three meetings, with the obligation of the vaccination card.

“Our expectation is that the general rehearsals will start in November, but we value the care with the health protocols”, says Renato Remondini Rodrigues, Tomate, president of Dragões da Real.

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The samba school changed the original plot, which would talk about the song “O Dia em que a Terra Parou”, by Raul Seixas, and now it will have “Adoniran”, a tribute to the São Paulo singer and composer Adoniran Barbosa (1912-1982).

“We understand that the subject was talked about a lot and could be tiring. So our carnival artist Jorge Silveira suggested talking about Adoniran. We got in touch with the family and they loved the idea. It’s the first samba-plot in our history that nobody made a song. not even critical [risos]”, highlights the agent.

The samba-enredo, led by composer Thiago SP, had partnerships with Alfredo Rubinato, Adoniran’s grandson, and comedian Marcelo Adnet, among others.

“I won last year’s samba-enredo contest and, as the theme was changed, the school was very respectful and invited me again. It was a year of making samba virtually”, says the comedian.

“It is an honor to honor Adoniran, who is a character of João Rubinato, a huge artist, radio broadcaster, musician, singer, composer and comedian. He is a figure that represents Brazil very well, as he does not have formal education, but he has immense popular wisdom”, celebrates Marcelo Adnet.

The biggest champion of the São Paulo carnival with 15 titles, Vai-Vai, from Bexiga (central region of the city), will enter the square with the plot “Sankofa”, an African sacred bird that symbolizes the teaching of the Axante mythology that “it is never late to go back and look for what was lost”.

“In this pandemic, the samba school was very concerned with the social side of those who work with Carnival”, says Claricio Gonçalves, president of Vai-Vai.

Carlinhos de Jesus celebrates first Carnival in São Paulo

A national reference in ballroom dancing and one of the main names of Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Carlinhos de Jesus will be at the São Paulo parades in 2022 for the first time as the new choreographer of the front commission of Barroca Zona Sul, in Jabaquara (Southern Zone) .

“In the last Carnival, I had decided to stop, because it’s a lot of work and I totally surrender. Then I received an invitation from my root school, which is ‘Em Cima da Hora’, in Rio de Janeiro, and, as one thing calls the other, Barroca invited me to a meeting”, says Carlinhos, to Now.

“As soon as I arrived I had the pleasant surprise of the school being green and pink, the same colors as my beloved [Estação Primeira de] Hose, and I saw everyone with open arms. So I thought: ‘I’m not leaving here’ [risos]. I even went against the wishes of my family, who wanted me to stop. I’m very happy to make the São Paulo Carnival”, celebrates the dancer and choreographer with more than 30 years of career.

In the next parade, Barroca chose the plot “Evolution comes from your Faith… Saravá Seu Zé!”, which will tell the story and the particularities of Zé Pilintra, one of the most important entities in African-based religions.

“The theme caught my attention a lot. This orixá is very significant for Carnival, in its religious syncretism and everything it represents”, highlights the choreographer.

“I will want to dare. I still don’t have in mind how I’m going to do it, but I want to do something significant within the plot, elegant and at the height of São Paulo”, emphasizes Carlinhos de Jesus.

The carioca da gema has built a trajectory as a choreographer for front commissions in Rio de Janeiro schools such as Portela, Estação Primeira de Mangueira, Beija-Flor and Unidos de Vila Isabel, but he also served as artistic director, awards jury, allegory highlight, dancer, room master and even in the honored position.

“Despite being from Rio, I have a very strong connection with São Paulo since I was a child. I even have an apartment in the city, where I usually spend some periods. Now, my cachaça and my oxygen, which is Carnival, is in São Paulo. So I’m going to happy people [risos]”, celebrates.

Doctors adopt caution

The Carnival format is still being discussed by the City of São Paulo, which created commissions to discuss the festivity, and by representatives of the Independent League of Samba Schools of São Paulo. In addition, the party depends on a final endorsement to be evaluated according to the epidemiological conditions related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Sanitarist doctor and former president of Anvisa (National Health Surveillance Agency), Gonzalo Vecina, said that the parades can happen, but with strict vaccination control.

“I think there may even be something, but only vaccinated people can participate, both in the stands and in the samba schools”, says Vecina.

Hélio Bacha, infectious disease physician and consultant to the Brazilian Society of Infectology, spoke about the unpredictability of the disease. “There is a possibility of a modified Carnival, but I’m not sure that in February we will be calm for life to have returned to normal”, he says.

Jorge Kayano, a public health physician and researcher at the Pólis and Mauri Bezerra Institute, is cautious. “It is important to prioritize vaccination before thinking about Carnival”, he emphasizes.

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