

The More You NOLA: Krampus is coming to town

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Costumed revelers pose during a past Krampus Gras. (Photo from Krampus Gras)

When it comes to Krampus, St. Nicholas' devilish companion, "you better watch out" is quite the understatement. Locals eager to enjoy the darker side of the holiday

season can check out the third installment of [Krampus Gras](#), a party dedicated to Kris Kringle's ancient malevolent counterpart. The costumed celebration of the anti-Claus kicks off at 10 p.m. on Saturday (Dec. 5) at The Voodoo Lounge (718 N. Rampart St.).

Though the horned, goat-like figure has existed in Alpine folklore for centuries, Krampus is just surfacing in mainstream American pop culture, even starring in a new [horror film](#) debuting Friday (Dec. 4).

Clad with chains and a basket on his back, Krampus' legendary role is to take away the naughty children that Santa Claus cannot reward.

"Krampus is the Christmas demon," says Elizabeth Zibilich, creator of Krampus Gras. "It's a European tradition, and we're adding our own New Orleans spin."

Zibilich conjured up the event's name as a nod to the Austrian town of Graz, which hosts one of the world's largest Krampus-themed festivals.

A native of Innsbruck, Austria, Tulane University adjunct professor of German Dietmar Felber recalls the seasonal beast as part of his childhood.

The Krampus tale "has a huge impact on children," says Felber. "If they misbehave, Krampus will take them. The scariest part is that their parents might agree with that."

This year's Krampus Gras will commence with a few local revelers roving around the French Quarter and Marigny on a fire engine, spreading Krampus cheer before ultimately arriving at The Voodoo Lounge.

With DJ Andy Average providing the music, "expect a night of dancing and merriment," says Zibilich.

A portion of the night's proceeds will be donated to Planned Parenthood New Orleans.

Festive Krampus-themed costumes are encouraged for this event.