

Find the COMEDIE UNKNOWN ...

Here you are in his day

Walk according to the itinerary told by a friend

Your goal:

Find the COMEDIE UNKNOWN and say what the consequences of his actions are still today

You're going to earn your team points:

Send your photos and answers to questions as you travel to the address

mbsjeujaune@gmail.com

Total count on 140 points

9 Steps - 90 Points - At each stage, 10 points

The team's photo - 3 points + 2 questions - 7 points

An answer to the final stage - 50 points

Responses are counted for 120 minutes, from the top start

Will you be the best team?

If you are lost, a HOT LINE phone number:

06 19 86 29 17

The starting point of your journey is:

Entry to the JARDIN DU PEYROU

Tram Peyrou

Story told by Jean-François Gaston B.:



"Our city is just like politics of our country: a real worksite! We are living a real economic depression: it is a global crisis! However, here, in Southern France, today, with vines and wine, the business is going pretty well... My friend, your MYSTERY GUEST, and I are in front of the "Place Royale du Peyrou" entrance: on our left side, the beautiful promenade, in honour of King Louis XIV, with its "Marcus

Aurelius" style statue at the center: it was melted down during the Revolution period, and this one, the new one, is half as much big that previous one... At the entrance, new statues, sculpted by Jean Antoine Injalbert, have just been inaugurated: "Love Mastering Strength" and vice-versa... cherubs and lions. At the end, the Corinthian temple is a water tower, which is fed by the Saint Clément aqueduct "The Arches" ... all these buildings were built during the eighteenth century. This is the city highest place... Since 1700, the Arc de Triomphe has replaced the Medieval gate...

Action 1 Photo of your group in front of the statue of Louis XIV

Question 1 How long is the Aqueduct of Saint Clement?

Question 1bis What is the architect of the Place Royale du Peyrou?

A: Etienne Giral

B: Henri Pitot

C: Jean Antoine Giral

Also built to the glory of Louis XIV, the 4 medallions remind us defining moments of his reign: in front of us, "Hercules hunting

an eagle (the Empire)" and "Hercules bringing a lion down" (England) as well as other cities defeated by the King"; on the city side, there are "the 2 seas canal construction" and "the Nantes Edit Revocation"... On the cartridge, all above, you can see a tribute in Latin to the King who brought peace!

You will find Straight forward the new "Rue Nationale" (National Street), formerly called the "Rue Impériale" (Imperial Street)... our very own Champs Elysées (currently the Rue Foch)... This street can lead you to "Place de la Comédie"... Our former Mayor, Jules Pagézy, inspired by Haussmann, decided to build a modern city... Besides, here is the brand new "Palais de Justice"... the main frontage is particularly impressive through its size and its ornamentation: The pediment, is composed of a fresco by the sculptor Ramus and behind the peristyle in Corinthian style, standing up, on the right side, the statue of Cambacérés very



famous Montpellier magistrate, 1st Empire Arch-Chancellor. On the left side, there is another statue representing the Cardinal de Fleury, Louis XV Minister of State. This place has always been significant: for centuries, the General

Accounting Office headquarters was here, in the former Kings of Aragon and Mallorca palace, built right side up the last Guilhems Castle, the Lords of Montpellier dynasty... the one who founded the city in 985 and ruled until 1209, when Marie de Montpellier married Pierre d'Aragon, and when the city became the second biggest one, after Paris. Did you know that under the Guilhems, a justice school was founded in 1165 and Guilhem de Montpellier approved the founding of a medical

school in his hometown in 1181, schools which would officially become universities in 1289?

(Today, the Palais de Justice, on the Rue Foch, houses the Court of Appeal, but it is no longer the High Court headquarters, which has been located to the new law court to the south of the Esplanade du Peyrou in 1996).

Action 2 Photo of your group in front of the façade of the Courthouse

Question 2 Who founded the first Roman law school in the south of France?

Question 2bis In what year are the titles of Chancellor of France and the Guard of the Seals of France gathered to become the post of Minister of Justice, keeper of the seal of the State?

A: 1790

B: 1791

C: 1848

Let's going on and stop at no. 3 in the same street: Behind us, we admire the building under construction, just around the Rue d'Albisson corner; the most beautiful atlantes statues in the city are carved here! Definitely, Atlantes and caryatids are the architectural symbols of our time!

My friend, appreciates nature and science and would like to walk to the Jardin des Plantes, the first botanical garden created in France. He was recently appointed as its director... We turn back, under the Arc de Triomphe, then right down to the Boulevard Henry IV, built on the old city moats. On the right side, high up, is located the new prison, built just like the Philadelphia one: prisoners are living in a complete isolation.

The plane trees replaced the original mulberry trees, which brought money to silkworm breeders. The entrance to the garden is at the end of the street; you can't miss it with its inscription "LE JARDIN DU ROY 1596". This is the date of its creation by Pierre Richer de Belleval, a passionate botanist who travelled all over Europe to supply the garden with medicinal plants of all types. Here, enthusiastic men such as Guillaume Rondelet, Pierre Magnol (hence the "Magnolia" tree) and Augustin Pyrame de Candolle, described and classified the plant world, which was previously unknown. In the last century, Mr Delagardette built a hothouse and recently, Charles Martins, built a new greenhouse. My friend, your mystery person, Doctor of Medicine and Science, who worked at the Kew Botanical Gardens in England, takes his responsibility of managing the garden very seriously. It is part of his duties as Medicine Faculty Director... It's true; this garden is a haven of peace! He would like to set up another greenhouse here...

Action 3 Photo of the entrance to the Garden of Plants, with you

Question 3 What is the name of an exotic garden tree, the oldest in France?

Question 3 bis Why the Tower of Pines?

A: because of the garden planted around the tower

B: because of a prophecy

C: because of an evolution of the term "bread"

Let's going on our walk by crossing the street towards the Tour des Pins, vestige of the past 'Commune Clôture', the city Medieval fortification. A very nice square has just been built here... providing access to the Rue Cardinal-de-Cabrières (Today in front of the Law and Economics Faculty) going around the

Cathédrale Saint Pierre. A few steps away, we admire the new portal restored in a very successful Gothic style! We walk in front of the impressive Cathédrale Saint Pierre, with its original round towers completed with pepperbox turrets... and we go back to the Rue de l'Ecole de Médecine: The Medicine Faculty moved there a long time ago, in the former monastery of Saint Benedict and Saint Germain, built by Pope Urban V, Montpellier native, in the



fourteenth century... At the entrance, two large statues of the doctors, La Peyronie and Barthez, symbolising Surgery and Medicine, have recently been installed: this is the oldest faculty of international renown, with Jewish, Christian and Arab doctors since the Middle Ages...

We go - with courage and no stop – to the Rue Sainte-Croix, walking in front of another Cathedral foundations that remain unfinished, to reach the Place de la Canourgue. This place was nicely rearranged in the last century, in order to accommodate the city's Advisors to the Court of Accounts and Finances in superb townhouses with atlantes and mascarons on their facades: we walk towards the Hôtel Cambacérès (at No. 3), on the opposite side we can see the Hôtel de Belleval where stand the City Hall (today, it is the High Court Annex); That is why the "Fontaine des 2 licornes", originally built outside the old City Hall (now the Place Jean Jaurès), moved to the north of the garden (today, it is a place for enjoyable students evenings). Let's go to the south of this place, to admire the trunk, called a

"Shell", a unique architectural element, at the corner of the Hôtel de Sarret. Following the Rue de la Coquille, exactly, we cross the Rue Nationale and then at the end of the street, we turn left into the Rue Eugène Lisbonne... and reach the brand new Eglise Sainte Anne, rebuilt on the ruins of a previous one: Imagine a 69-metre-high Gothic bell tower, it was the most visible tower in the city... inside, three naves are separated by



fine columns twelve metres high!

(Today, the church has been renamed the "Carré" Sainte Anne, it is used for contemporary art exhibitions: please have a quick look at the current exhibition...)

By the Rue du Petit Scel (on the left, in the Papadoble bar, you can enjoy a famous cocktail: The

casse-noisette [nutcracker], which won the World Championship a few years ago!) where voluntary jurisdiction, created by King Louis XIV, was a flexible and rapid form of justice, we join the city's new main artery to reach the Place de la Préfecture (now the Place des Martyrs de la résistance); on our left, recently rearranged, the building housing the State services looks great in a "classical" Louvre style. On the facade, the Napoleon III fire arms were replaced by allegories of our region, Commerce and Agriculture.

Action 4 Photo of the Prefecture, with you

Question 4 Why did the number of the Department of Herat go from "33" to "34"?

Question 4Bis In 1850, a Frenchman took an average bath:

A: every year,

B: every 2 years,

C: every 6 months

To the south of the Place is a construction site for a covered market: this place has always been a market area – for food and other things - but as the Fish and Meat buildings from the last century had become too unhealthy, they were demolished... Marshal Castellane decided to build, on the model of Baltard in Paris, an iron structure; what a novelty! You can't stop progress! (These Halles were restored in 2001). Bypassing Les Halles and crossing the small Place, we can see, on the corner, the Rue du Bras de fer, passing under the 2-storey arch (There are now only three of them left in Montpellier. In this street, the famous English-language café-bookstore) and then at the end, we turn right onto the Rue de l'Ancien courrier then immediately left onto the Rue des Sœurs noires and the Rue Saint Paul: here we are in front of the facade of the Eglise Saint Roch: This church has a history. As the Eglise Saint Paul was destroyed during the wars of religion, the City Council voted to build a church for the city's patron, Saint Roch, following a cholera epidemic. The Mayor, Jules Pagésy, obtained authorisation from Napoleon III to set up a national lottery (with 1,200,000 tickets costing 1 Franc), but the purchase of the land, demolition of the houses, advertising and the laying of the 1st stone cost more than the 300,000 Francs that the lottery raised! Thus, despite the additional grant from the city, our church is still incomplete... hence the empty niches and the towers without spires. (Admire the beautiful trompe-l'œil behind you...)

Action 5 Photo of the façade of The Church of Saint Roch, with you

Question 5 Who saved Saint Roch on his return to Montpellier?

Question 5bis The construction of St. Anne's Church lasted 3 years because

A: from the stonemasons' strike

B: lack of materials

C: from a source found during the foundations

Leaving by the Rue Saint Côme, we reach the very lively Place of



the same name, with, at the end of the former Saint Côme anatomical amphitheatre, an "hospital" financed by Montpellier native, François de La Peyronie, Louis XV surgeon; it is a beautiful octagonal building in Baroque style! Since 1801, it has been the Montpellier's Chamber of Commerce and Industry headquarters).

Action 6 Photo from the Hotel Saint Como, with you

Question 6 When was the first bill for the creation of the "Houses of Agriculture"?

Question 6bis Who said: "There are two things in a building: its use and its beauty. Its use belongs to the owner, its beauty to everyone, to you, to me, to all of us."

A: Victor Hugo

B: Alexandre Dumas

C: Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Through the Rue du Cygne, across from us, we are back to Grand Théâtre ruins, which burned down for 2nd time 4 years ago... let's continue to the Place via the Rue Richelieu (currently the Rue des Etuves). There again, it's a building site: the Hôtel du Gouvernement (Government House), to the left of the

Théâtre, (currently the bar of the Théâtre and Yam's bar at the corner of the Rue de la Loge) is being demolished... as well as several houses for the construction of the future Opera House (in place of the old Théâtre)... it should take place in a few years' time in the large worked hole that we can see! The people of Montpellier who have a great sense of humour say that the "prompter didn't need such a big hole!". Our new Mayor, Alexandre Laissac, laid its 1st stone last year... We look forward to assist, just like in Paris to Jacques Offenbach comic operas, and plays by the famous writer, Eugène Labiche. Our Place "de la Comédie" will be magnificent with these beautiful classical buildings... currently under construction, heavily ornamented with mascarons, pilasters, festoons, turrets; the nicest one is the new shop "that sells everything": Nouvelles Galeries (currently the Cinéma Gaumont) and the one facing it where the roof looks like a small head... (now it is called the 'scaphandrier' [deep-sea diver]). On the other side of the Place, the building is decorated with four caryatids representing the four business sectors of our city: the university, agriculture, trade and crafts. Everything will be perfectly complemented by the Fontaine des trois grâces: currently on the corner, it would be better placed at the center of the place. It represents the daughters of Zeus: Aglaia, Euphrosyne and Thalia... It seems that they took almost 20 years to get there!



Action 7 Photo of the Fountain of 3 Graces, with you

Question 7 What do the three graces symbolize?

Question 7 bis Why this fountain took almost 20 years to be installed in the square:

A: Transportation problem

B: Dispute between the comedian and the sculptor

C: Repair because defective marble

(Today, the statues are made of resin mouldings; the original statues are in the theatre lobby)

But my friend, your mystery person, has stopped in front of the grand cafés. (Currently, Monoprix, after before there was here the Grand Café de Montpellier and the Grand Café Riche). Actually, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 am, the Réunion de Vin [Wine Meeting] takes place (Wine Market premises from the early twentieth century) ... You can meet here all the local wine-growers, traders and buyers... and in our vine-growing region, wine is important, it's the wealth of all! The conversations are going well... Everybody is talking about the phylloxera epidemic! French agriculture had never experienced such a disaster! Five years ago, three quarters of French vineyards disappeared! The "Americanists", (those who thought that to fight against the aphids eating vines roots, we needed American plants to graft to French vine varieties), won! My friend, your mystery person, and I, experts in the field, are delighted with the turn of events... it is exactly the thesis we defended in the "Revue des Deux Mondes!" But enough compliments: we want to see the "Grande Esplanade" work, the city largest green area. Work is still in progress, the long avenue initially planned will finally link the Arc de Triomphe with the Esplanade! On the right side, next to the "Jardin du Champ de Mars", a former military parade ground in front of the Citadel, built in the seventeenth century by order of Louis XIII to monitor the city after various revolts

(currently the Lycée Joffre), there is the "Café de la Rotonde", or the "Chinese Pavilion". This building was extended to become the meeting place for army officers (currently, it is the home of the Montpellier Tourist Office). Here is also located the famous "Gare du Petit Train de Palavas", which has been very popular with Montpellier inhabitants when taking a bath in the sea became fashionable...

Action 8 Photo of the Tourist Office, with you

Question 8 When did Palavas -the -flots become a commune?

Question 8bis What is the length of the Esplanade?

A: 400 metres

B: 500 metres

C: 600 metres



A pool is under construction and many rare exotic trees are being planted... A little further on is the "Cercle des Etudiants" which will be housed in a new very modern building to get a function room, a library, a conference hall, gyms, a billiard room... enough to become a student again! (Currently, this 'Pavillon Populaire' is dedicated to photography). On the other side of the Esplanade is the magnificent Musée Fabre in the former Jesuit lycée: Fifty years ago, the painter François-Xavier Fabre donated all his collections of paintings and books. There are considered as the starting point of a museum, the Musée Fabre. François-Xavier

Fabre had the permission to live in this museum. Painting is living a real revolution!

(You absolutely must visit this museum's beautiful collections later. On the left, you can see the Hôtel de Cabrières-Sabatier d'Espeyran, dedicated to the decorative arts. Finally, at the end of the Esplanade, you can see Le Corum, the Opera House and Conference Centre, opened in 1990).

Action 9 Photo of the Fabre Museum, with your group

Question 9 Who is the Montpellier philosopher, forerunner of sociology?

Question 9bis Which Montpellier painter is buried in the Pantheon:

A: Alexandre Cabanel

B: Jacques-Louis David

C: Marie- Joseph Vien

We retrace our steps through the garden... to take the new street (now the Rue Maguelone) that goes to the recent train station. To our right, the new "Paris-Montpellier" dry goods store, that will revolutionise retailing, will move to the old Théâtre des Variétés... We already know this from the description by Emile Zola in "Au Bonheur des Dames" [The Ladies' Delight]. Behind, in the Rue d'Obilion, we can see the fencing and fitness hall belonging to Mr Muller, the founder of the modern French school of fencing (currently, this is the famous pub-restaurant, La Chistera 10). Going down the street, to the left, we can see the Protestant Temple, in the Romanesque-Byzantine style, also by Jules Pagézy, a Protestant, allowing this growing community since the arrival of people from the Cevennes following the economic crisis, to have its very own place of worship... In front, a garden (currently, the

Square Planchon with a monument in his likeness) allows travellers from the Gare Saint Roch, to rest before a rock fountain. The Bülher Brothers, who were landscapers, planted rare exotic trees there: Lebanese Cedar, Ginkgo Biloba, bamboo... what a whole trip!

By railway, we were able to go to Cette (Sète) and Nîmes, but especially to Paris... This was how Montpellier - and its region – distributed its wine throughout the country!

Action 10 Photo of your group

Question 10 Who is the COMEDIE UNKNOWN?

Question 10bis What has it implemented? What's left?



Will you be the most insightful team?