

PRESS RELEASE

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IMELDA MAY HEADLINES BIG WEEKEND SATURDAY

Following an impressive performance on BBC's Glastonbury Festival coverage, Irish Rockabilly and Blues singer Imelda May will headline the Saturday night at this year's free Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend, July 31 – August 2.

Imelda lit up the screen at Glastonbury, and her appearance will illuminate the big stage on City Hall lawn next weekend for the thousands who gather for the weekend summer date that this year also features **The Zutons**, **The Lightning Seeds**, and a Welsh bands night led by **Kids in Glass Houses**.

Dublin-born Imelda has attracted rave reviews with her unique fusion of rockabilly, blues and jazz, and her sassy burlesque-inspired performances, singing classics from the likes of Billy Holiday and Dinah Washington, and performing original material with her own contemporary sound. One of her biggest fans is Jools Holland, who managed to get Imelda onto his BBC *Later* show. With her distinctive leopard print look, Imelda has shared the stage with the likes of Van Morrison and the Scissor Sisters.

She headlines Saturday night at the Big Weekend after Third World pulled out. Saturday also features the **Cardiff MAS Carnival**, and there is a fantastic line-up of live music plus all the fun of the fair across the weekend.

Councillor Nigel Howells, Executive Member for Sport, Leisure and Culture said: "Thanks to the generous support of Admiral, who have been our title sponsor for the past six years, we have another great line-up for Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend, with fantastic live music, our very own Caribbean carnival and the ever-popular funfair again packing the streets to celebrate summer in the city."

(more)

(Big Weekend/2)

Nic Weng Kan, Head of UK Operations in Admiral Group said: "With an impressive line up of acts across many musical genres and the biggest traveling fairground in the UK, this year's event promises to be one of the biggest Big Weekends ever! As always it has something for people of all ages and we're delighted to be sponsoring it for a sixth consecutive year. It's definitely the highlight of the summer for Admiral's employees!"

Kids in Glass Houses, a support act for the Manics and Lost Prophets in the past, head up the Friday night programme, which sees a return to the theme of promoting up and coming Welsh talent in a bill that also features **Save Your Breath**, **The Joy Formidable**, and **Attack!Attack!**

Liverpool favourites, Mercury Prize and BRIT Award nominated **The Zutons** bring the weekend to a close on the Sunday night. The Zutons emerged earlier this decade, and were an instant hit with two double platinum albums. They are best known for the anthemic hit *Valerie*, taken to another level by Mark Ronson and Amy Whitehouse to become one of the biggest selling songs of the decade, spending over 100 weeks in the Top 100 Radio Airplay Charts, They enjoyed huge hits with singles *Pressure Point*, *Confusion*, *Oh Stacey (Look What You've Done)*, and *Why Won't You Give Me Your Love*, and the band released their third album, *You Can Do Anything* last summer.

The Zutons were produced by fellow Scouser Ian Broudie, and he shares the billing on Sunday night at Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend with the return of 90s favourites **The Lightning Seeds**, whose catalogue of hits includes the instantly recognizable *Lucky You*, *Perfect*, *Marvellous*, and *You Showed Me*. Broudie also boasts the Match of the Day tune *The Life of Riley*, and following on the football theme, the all time favourite World Cup song *Three Lions* with Frank Skinner and David Baddiel, a number one hit on two occasions.

Following a number of years producing other bands like The Zutons, Broudie and The Lightning Seeds' return has attracted a lot of attention, with appearances at Glastonbury and the release of their sixth studio album, the band's first in almost 10 years.

They are joined on Sunday's programme by **The Leisure Society** who were big news recently when they were in the running for a prestigious Ivor Novello Best Song award for their folk ballad *The Last of The Melting Snow*, the first unsigned band to be recognized in this way.

(more)

(Big Weekend/3)

The SWICA (South Wales Intercultural Community Arts) 20th **Cardiff MAS Carnival** on Saturday August 1 is themed *Here Be Dragons* to mark the 50th Anniversary of the official adoption of the red dragon onto our national flag. The annual procession will dance its way from Cardiff Bay via St Mary's Street, which will be turned into a riot of colour for Wales's first ever Carnival Street Jam, and onto the lawn of City Hall for revellers to enjoy the rest of the day's big stage line-up. In the run-up there will be free carnival arts workshops to design and create costumes and learn about Caribbean dance and drumming at the Butetown Youth Pavilion for three weeks from July 14.

And of course Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend would not be complete without the white knuckle rides and traditional family attractions of the UK's largest travelling funfair all weekend around the avenues of the Civic Centre.

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Editor's Notes

The full Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend line-up is:

FRI 31 JULY

9.20 - 10.20pm

Kids In Glass Houses

8.30 - 9.00pm

Attack! Attack!

7.45 - 8.15pm

The Joy Formidable

7.00 - 7.30pm

Save Your Breath

SAT 1 AUG

9.30 - 10.30pm

Imelda May

8.00-9.00pm

Edward II

6.30-7.30pm

Orquesta Cache

5.10-6.00pm

Melopark

4.10-4.50pm

Chancery Blame & The Gadgo Club

3.05-3.50pm

Peatbog Faeries

2.00-2.45pm

Soukous Koumbele

2.00pm

MAS Carnival arrives at Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend

11.30pm

MAS Carnival departs Cardiff Bay

SUN 2 AUG

9.30 - 10.30pm

The Zutons

8.10 - 9.10pm

The Lightning Seeds

7.00 - 7.50pm

Camera Obscura

6.00 - 6.40pm

Ebony Bones!

4.50 - 5.40pm

The Leisure Society

3.40 - 4.30pm

Absent Elk

2.40 - 3.20pm

Steve Appleton

Due to licensing laws, no alcohol, bottles or cans are allowed to be brought onto the site of Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend.

Now in its 23rd year, the Cardiff Festival attracts over half a million people to a variety of stunning locations in the city centre and the waterfront of Cardiff Bay. Funded and managed by Cardiff Council and the Cardiff Harbour Authority, the summer events programme has been

enhanced through the support of over 20 sponsors and partners.

Cardiff Festival Events for 2009

2 – 3 July	Cardiff Castle Open Air Theatre
8 July - 1 Aug	Everyman Open Air Theatre Festival
9-25 July	Welsh Proms Cardiff
10-12 July	Cardiff International Food & Drink Festival
17 – 26 July	Blysh
20 July	Wet Sounds, Splott Pool
21-22 July	The Fringe @ Cardiff Festival
24-25 Jul	WOW on the Waterfront
26 Jul – 29 Aug	The Sound of Music at Wales Millennium Centre
26 Jul	The Red Dragon Centre Family Festival
30 Jul-2 Aug	Horrid Henry at the New Theatre
31 Jul-2 Aug	Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend
1 Aug	MAS Carnival
16 Aug	Classic Motorboat & Car Rally
15 – 16 Aug	Grand Medieval Melee
29-31 Aug	Cardiff Harbour Festival

All events are subject to change, please check the website on www.cardiff-festival.com and www.cardiffharbour.com

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