

PRESS RELEASE

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STRAWBERRIES GIVE A FLAVOUR OF THE CARDIFF FESTIVAL

The Strawberry, the sign of summer and the Cardiff Festival, will be appearing throughout the city from June 15 as Cardiff lines up a fruity summer feast of mainly free entertainment and activities - with open air theatre, live performances from rock to musicals, and the finest foods throughout the venues of the city centre and the waterfront of Cardiff Bay.

Cardiff Festival starts on July 2 and runs all the way through to the August Bank Holiday on August 31, featuring 16 events over 53 days, including annual favourites such as **Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend**, the **Welsh Proms Cardiff**, **Cardiff International Food & Drink Festival** and **WOW on the Waterfront**, along with newcomers for this year, **Horrid Henry**, **Blysh**, the **Cardiff Harbour Festival**, **Grand Medieval Melee**, **Wet Sounds**, and **The Sound of Music** www.cardiff-festival.com

Councillor Nigel Howells, Executive Member for Sport, Leisure and Culture said: "The Cardiff Festival is such a popular celebration of summer in the city, providing access for all communities in Cardiff to events, many of them free, across July and August. With more people expected to stay in Cardiff, and an increasing number of visitors due into the city this summer, this is a fantastic line up of entertainment to look forward to."

The festival kicks off with **Cardiff Castle Open Air Theatre**, and the return of the ever-popular Lord Chamberlain's Men performing Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in the all-male time honoured fashion, creating magic in this lovely city centre setting. There is more open air theatre courtesy of the annual **Everyman** programme in the equally scenic location of the National History Museum, St Fagans, with productions of *King Lear*, and *Toad of Toad Hall*.

(more)

(Cardiff Festival/2)

The Zutons, The Lightning Seeds, Third World and Imelda May are just some of the big names lined up for this summer's free **Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend** July 31 – August 2 on the big stage in front of City Hall, with the Cardiff MAS Carnival and all the fun of the fair making up a fantastic weekend of entertainment.

The **Cardiff International Food & Drink Festival** takes place on the weekend of the first Ashes Test in the city July 10-12, and will provide a real flavour of Wales as well as a chance to sample some fine cuisine from around the world, including some Australian fayre at Gilby's *Aussie Zone*. On the festival menu is a Food Piazza, Producers Fayre, Craft Market and Farmer's Market, with ticketed Ice-cream Workshops and Wine Master Classes supported by UWIC across the weekend.

This summer's **Welsh Proms**, under the baton of Artistic Director Owain Arwel Hughes who recently collected his CBE from HM The Queen, covers a whole spectrum of music from Bollywood to Beethoven and from Samba to Saint Saëns.

Blysh is a 10-day festival bazaar of carnival ticketed performances at Wales Millennium Centre between July 17 and 26. **Wet Sounds** is an underwater sound festival taking the plunge in Splott Pool on July 20, while **The Fringe at Cardiff Festival** showcases four shows at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama before they transfer to the Edinburgh Festival.

This summer's free **WOW on the Waterfront** reaches for the sky over Roald Dahl Plass on July 24-25 with French theatre company Transe Express presenting the magical, Welsh premiere of *Maudits Sonnants*, a large scale, baroque, aerial performance, with a firework finale as night falls.

Within the Cardiff Festival this year is **The Sound of Music** at the Wales Millennium Centre July 26 – August 29, with Wales' own Connie Fisher solving the problem of *Maria* in the world's best loved musical. On July 26, **The Red Dragon Centre Family Festival** features *Potty About Harry* to get everyone in the mood for the summer's most anticipated blockbuster, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

(more)

(Cardiff Festival/2)

From *Harry to Henry*, and **Horrid Henry** at the New Theatre, July 30 - August 2; a **Classic Motorboat and Car Rally** in Cardiff Bay on August 16; and visitors can travel back 700 years in time in a **Grand Medieval Melee** of sword fighting, archery, field and table games, and soldier's drills at Cardiff Castle August 15 – 16.

The Cardiff Festival comes to a fitting conclusion with **Cardiff Harbour Festival** on Bank Holiday weekend August 29 – 31, an ocean of nautical entertainment, including for the first time the **British Fish Craft Championships** with tips on preparing and cooking fish, and the **Welsh Oyster Opening Championships**. The event also brings to Cardiff Bay spectacular aerial and water displays, Tall Ships, sea craft displays and sea shanty singers.

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.

Information on all events is available on www.cardiff-festival.com

Ends

Editor's Notes

This year's events include:-

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
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
28-29 July	The Fringe @ Cardiff 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 and Car Rally
15 – 16 Aug	Grand Medieval Melee
29-31 Aug	Cardiff Harbour Festival

Cardiff Castle Open Air Theatre

A perfect summer's evening couldn't get any better than settling down in the grounds of historic Cardiff Castle to watch one of Shakespeare's most popular works.

Returning to Cardiff is the Lord Chamberlain's Men perform Twelfth Night, a masterpiece of disguise, deception and desire.

Tickets: 029 2087 8100
Adults £14 / Children £10

Everyman Open Air Theatre Festival

National History Museum, St Fagans
8 July – 1 August

Cardiff's renowned *Everyman Theatre Company* presents its Open Air Festival at the Museum of Welsh Life - now in its 27th year. This year's bold programme offers something for everyone this summer:

The Gondoliers by WS Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan 8-18 July

Tickets: £13-15

King Lear by William Shakespeare 22 July-1 August

Tickets: £11 - £15

Toad of Toad Hall by AA Milne based on Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in the Willows 25 July-1 August

Tickets: £7 each or £25 for four person family ticket

Box Office 0844 8700887 or online everymanfestival.co.uk

All seats are numbered and undercover.

Welsh Proms

St David's Hall

9– 25 July

Enter in to the spirit of the Welsh proms for 2009 with music from Bollywood to Beethoven and from Samba to Saint Saëns.

The Proms are conducted by their artistic Director Owain Arwel Hughes CBE who brings a combination of wonderful music –making and a festive party atmosphere.

With 19 events from top quality orchestras, conductors, soloists, performers and artists and both daytime and evening concerts, there will be something to suit everyone.

Plus the Children's Prom and Tiddly Prom are designed for the younger members of the family. In the Children's Prom children 6 years and up can don their cowboy boots for a visit to the Wild West! Pre school children can make a trip to Bert's magical kitchen in Tiddly Prom which is back by popular demand.

Tickets: 029 2087 8444

£5.50 - £24.50

Cardiff International Food & Drink Festival

Roald Dahl Plas, Cardiff Bay

10 – 12 July

Free Event (some activities ticketed)

Ice-cream workshops at the Norwegian Church (ticketed)

Wine Master Classes supported by UWIC at the Cardiff Bay Visitors Centre (ticketed)

Let us titillate your taste buds and quench your thirst at the food event of the year, bursting with the very best in farmhouse cheeses, handmade cakes, fresh meat and fish, mouth watering chocolates, speciality liqueurs and much, much more.

Prepare to shop your way around the Food Piazza, Producers Fayre, Craft Market and extended Farmer's Market before relaxing with a cool drink and catching some of the free entertainment.

Fri 10th July & Sat 11th July

12-9pm	Producers Fayre
12-9pm	Craft Fair
12-7pm	Farmers Market
12-10pm	Food Piazza
12-10pm	Walkabout and Bandstand Entertainment

Sun 12th July

12-7pm	Producers Fayre
12-7pm	Craft Fair
12-7pm	Farmers Market
12-7pm	Food Piazza
12-7pm	Walkabout and Bandstand Entertainment

Entertainment - walkabout characters and music with swing jazz, world vibes and celtic all on the menu.

Demonstration Area – with sessions for both children and adults creating exciting dishes from local produce

Blysh

Millennium Centre

17-26 July

Put some colour in your cheeks this summer with Blysh, a 10-day festival bazaar of carnival delights at Wales Millennium Centre.

Select from a stunning programme of ticketed first-class performances in the Weston Studio – a world of circus and vaudeville. With all this, plus a host of free street circus and theatre performances and events in and around the Centre, the hardest decision will be deciding what to miss!

Tel: Tickets and Information 08700 402000

Wet Sounds

Splott Pool, Cardiff

20 July

Come along and be part of the UK's only underwater sound festival!!

Wet Sounds is a mobile gallery for sound art, it is curated by Joel Cahen each year from work submitted by artists worldwide.

With only 13 dates across the country, Wet Sounds is proud to be part of the Cardiff Festival and has chosen Splott Pool as it's destination in Wales.

You are invited to dive in the pool and float in the water immersed in sounds and music. The session includes work by international sound artists. You will hear sounds which are composed for listening and for your imagination.

This truly is a unique experience and an opportunity to go to an art show in your bathing costume!

Regular pool admission – no need to book!!!!!!

The Fringe at Cardiff Festival

Bute Theatre, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

28-29 July

The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama returns this year to present The Fringe at Cardiff Festival. Your only chance to see this preview showcase of 4 shows before it transfers to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival later this summer.

Tues 28 July

7.30pm

Science made Simple presents "Visualise : reloaded"

Written by Debbie Syrop

8.30pm

Miles Productions presents "Burton"

Written by Gwynne Edwards Burton

Weds 29 July

7.30pm

Lisa Wells Turner presents "The Opposite of Waiting"

9.00pm

Found Reality presents "Soft Murders"

tickets £5

Box office 029 2039 1391

boxoffice@rwcmd.ac.uk

WOW on the Waterfront

Roald Dahl Plass, Cardiff Bay

24-25 July

Free Event

European street theatre hits dizzying heights during Cardiff Festival. The internationally acclaimed French theatre company Transe Express provide this year's WOW on the Waterfront, presenting Maudits Sonnants, a large scale, baroque, aerial performance in its Welsh Premiere

One by one the musicians arrive each dreaming on their own tiny stage. Somewhere a bell tolls. The musicians are gradually drawn together by the sound until finally a breathtaking musical chandelier is suspended in the night sky playing music that will evoke childhood memories of both a secret musical box and the dazzling vertigo of the fairground.

Pre-show entertainment from 9pm.

Food & Bar facilities available on site

Entertainment from 9pm

Performance 9.30pm

Firework finish 10.30pm

The Sound of Music

Wales Millennium Centre

26 July – 29 August

Connie Fisher returns as Maria in the world's bestloved musical, The Sound of Music along with Michael Praed (Robin in the 1980's tv series Robin of Sherwood) who will co-star as Captain Von Trapp. This lavish and critically acclaimed production, direct from the London Palladium, tells the story of the Von Trapp family's flight across the mountains and works its magic once again, for young and old alike.

Tel: Ticket and Information 08700402000

PLEASE NOTE:

Connie Fisher is currently scheduled to appear in all performances apart from Sat 8 Aug, Tue eves and Thur mats - with the exception of Tue 4 and Thu 6 Aug.

The Red Dragon Centre Family Festival

The Red Dragon Centre

26 July

Free Event

The Red Dragon Centre, Cardiff's premier entertainment destination, will be entering into the spirit of the Cardiff Festival this year with a 'Potty about Harry' event to celebrate this summer's most anticipated blockbuster, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.

If you're Potty about Harry Potter then a magical time is guaranteed for the whole family with a whole host of free activities to keep mini muggles enchanted and thrilled throughout the afternoon.

There will be look-a-like appearances from Harry Potter, Hagrid, Dumbledore, Mad-Eye Moody and Lucius Malfoy, a mystical hall of mirrors, a chance for little ones to try on the magical sorting hat and meet real life owls, as well as a fancy dress competition at 3pm.

12- 5pm

Tel: 029 2025 6261

Horrid Henry

The New Theatre

30 July – 2 August

Based on the books by Francesca Simon and for the first time ever on stage, Henry takes his rightful place in the spotlight! Along with Mum, Dad, Perfect Peter, Moody Margaret, Rude Ralph and all your favourite Characters. Only they're not going to be in the spotlight, of course, not if Henry's got anything to do with it.

Show times Thursday 11.00am & 2.30pm; Friday & Saturday 2.30pm & 6.00pm; Sunday 1.00pm & 4.30pm

Tickets from £6

Box office number 029 2087 8889

Online bookings carry a small additional transaction charge

Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend

Civic Centre

31 July – 2 August

Free Event

Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend gets better and better with some of the summer's top festival acts lining up over three days on the FREE live music stage and the UK's largest travelling funfair filling Cardiff's civic centre with traditional family attractions and mind-blowing white knuckle rides.

We've got three incredible headline acts with Kids in Glass Houses, Third World and The Zutons and the ladies are also firmly centre stage this year with dazzling performances from Camera Obscura, Ebony Bones, Karima Francis and the award winning Imelda May.

Friday 31st July

5pm-10pm Fairground

7pm – 10pm Music Stage – KIDS IN GLASS HOUSES, Attack! Attack!, The Joy Formidable and more

Saturday 1st August

Midday – 11pm Fairground

1.30pm MAS Carnival arrives on site

2pm-11pm Music Stage – THIRD WORLD, Imelda May, Edward II, Chancery Blane and the Gadjo Club, Melo Park, Soukous Koumbele, and more

Sunday 2nd August

Midday – 11pm Fairground

2pm – 11pm Music Stage – THE ZUTONS, The Lightning Seeds, Camera Obscura, Ebony Bones, The Leisure Society, Absent Elk and more

Please note you cannot bring your own alcohol to site. Food & Drink will be sold onsite.

Cardiff MAS Carnival

Civic Centre

1 Aug

Free Event

It's the 20th ANNIVERSARY of the annual Cardiff MAS Carnival which brings Cardiff City Centre alive with hundreds of flamboyant costumes and carnival creations, masks and headpieces, giant puppets on backpacks and mobile sculptures – all dancing dynamically through the streets of Cardiff with a finale presentation at The Big Weekend on City Hall lawn.

Plus NEW for 2009 : join the reveller up close for Cardiff's first ever STREET JAM in St Mary's Street as the parade stops for a half hour of high-energy street performances.

Saturday 1st August – Cardiff MAS Carnival 2009 City Centre Parade.

Leaves Canal Path Park in Butetown at 12 noon, parading up Bute Street , St Mary's Street and Castle Street and on to The Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend on City Hall lawn by 2pm

Classic Motorboat and Car Rally

Cardiff Bay

Sunday 16 Aug

The increasingly popular Classic Car and Motorboat Rally is back and part of the Cardiff Festival this year featuring vintage cars and boats.

Enthusiasts will welcome visitors to view their vintage boats and cars from across the ages, when they will be sited in Oval Basin and the Inner Harbour.

12 – 4pm

Grand Medieval Melee

Cardiff Castle

15-16 August

Enter the magical setting of Cardiff Castle for some serious time-travelling, in fact 700 years ! Stroll around the colourful encampment on the Castle Green and enter a medieval world - a world of sword fighting, archery, field and table games and soldier's drills.

10.30am – 5.30pm

Special event ticket*: Adults £3.50; Seniors £2.75; Children £2.00

* This ticket allows you access to the grounds of the Castle to view the Medieval M  lee only

Cardiff Harbour Festival

Cardiff Bay

29-31 Aug

Free Event – some activities may involve charges

What better way to celebrate the end of the Summer with "Fish n Ships" in Cardiff Bay, a long bank holiday weekend of nautical entertainment for all the family.

With spectacular aerial and water displays, Tall ships including the Tangaroa, the Ruth and the Matthew, sea craft displays, sea shanty singers, walkabout entertainers, a continental market plus a superb music- line-up.

Plus come along and be amazed at the **British Fish Craft Championships** being held for the first time in Cardiff plus fish displays, tips on preparing and cooking and selling fish plus the **'Welsh Oyster Opening Championships'**.

For press information, please contact: Tim Powell 029 2087 3396 / tpowell@cardiff.gov.uk