

PRESS RELEASE

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CARDIFF MAS CARNIVAL GETS ON THE ROAD

The colour and spirit of carnival will be back on the streets of Cardiff this year (Aug 2) as part of the Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend, and work starts next week, July 15 with the launch of the Cardiff MAS Carnival 2008 workshops, and an invitation for the people of Cardiff to come along to create the amazing costumes and dance to the hot rhythms that will feature in this year's procession.

Following last year's successful staging, the 19th **Cardiff MAS Carnival** (MAS as in *masquerade*) returns to The Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend, coming along St. Mary St. and Castle St. on Saturday August 2 with the exciting rhythm of the Caribbean and colourful flamboyant costumes in this year's theme of *Behind The Mask*. A variety of masks will gather from around the world to explore the idea of identity, in an event organised by South Wales Intercultural Community Arts (SWICA).

Putting the carnival together takes a lot of work, and that work starts on Tuesday (6.30 – 8.30pm) with the launch of workshops at the Butetown Youth Pavilion in Dumballs Rd. Caribbean designer and artist Amaru Chatawa is the Artistic Coordinator of Cardiff MAS Carnival 2008, and said: "The free workshops are a lot of fun to be involved in through the school holidays, you don't need any experience, and I know we will get a great reaction from the big crowds around the city centre when we show them a cavalcade of spectacular Giant Masks as the masqueraders reveal their true selves on August 2. "

Councillor Nigel Howells, Executive Member for Sport, Leisure and Culture said: "The carnival is a great way to bring together communities from across Cardiff in celebration. Last year's procession through the city centre was a great success, and we are delighted to bring it back to the heart of Cardiff as part of the Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend." **(more)**

(MAS Carnival/2)

Tuesday's launch event will give people the chance to meet SWICA's intercultural team of artists and tutors, preview the costume designs and enjoy an informal cabaret of samba drumming, circus arts and Caribbean dance from local groups.

One young carnival reveller is particularly excited. Liberty Fletcher (aged 7 from Ely) said: "I danced all the way from Butetown to the Big Weekend on City Hall Lawn last summer. It was so great that I have invited all my friends from school to take part in my section this year which I have named *We are all made from Stars*, and I am going to build a sun costume and my stepsister Amy is going to be the moon!"

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Editor's Notes

The Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend August 1-3 features the Cardiff MAS Carnival on August 2 and the customary array of big name bands and up-and-coming acts to get the crowd jumping in front of the magnificent City Hall.

To complement Cardiff staging the National Eisteddfod in the city, Friday night will be one big *twmpath* or *ceiliidh*, with **The Men They Couldn't Hang** bringing their mix of *folk* and *punk* to headline a dance fest. Saturday features the second year of the **Cardiff MAS Carnival** along with a programme of music topped by the legendary figure of **Prince Buster**, one of the best known names in the history of *ska* and *rocksteady* music, and **Ash**, one of the most popular pop bands of the 90s, with a string of hits including *Oh Yeah*, *Girl from Mars* and *Kung Fu*, headline the finale night on Sunday.

And of course throughout The Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend visitors get the chance to enjoy the white knuckle rides and traditional family attractions of the UK's largest travelling funfair around the avenues of the Civic Centre.

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

(more)

Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend Programme

Fri 1 Aug

5.00pm - 10.30pm **Fairground**

7.30pm - 11.00pm **Main Stage Entertainment**

The Men They Couldn't Hang plus Juice and The Park Bench Social Club

Sat 2 Aug

12noon - 10.45pm **Fairground**

2.00pm **MAS Carnival Parade**

2.00pm - 11.00pm **Main Stage Entertainment**

Prince Buster plus Grupo Lokito, Ryland Teifi, Robert Maseko's Congobeat, Pandemonium

Sun 3 Aug

12noon - 10.45pm **Fairground**

2.00pm - 10.30pm **Main Stage Entertainment**

Ash plus The Young Knives, Glasvegas, Beth Rowley, Go Audio, Yoav, Frizbees

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

Now in its 22nd 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 2008

Date	Event	Location
2 – 4 July	Cardiff Castle Open Air Theatre	Cardiff Castle
3 July – 30 Aug	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	WMC
11-13 July	Cardiff International Food & Drink Festival	Roald Dahl Plass
17-26 Jul	Lloyds TSB Welsh Proms Cardiff	St David's Hall
19-20 Jul	Tesco Children's Festival	Cooper's Field
22-23 July	The Fringe @ Cardiff Festival	RWCMD
23 Jul – 16 Aug	Everyman Open Air Theatre Festival	National History Museum St Fagan's

25-26 Jul	WOW on the Waterfront	Roald Dahl Plass
27 Jul	The Red Dragon Centre Family Festival	The Red Dragon Centre
1-3 Aug	The Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend & MAS Carnival	Civic Centre
2 Aug	MAS Carnival	Bay to Civic Centre
1-9 Aug	National Eisteddfod of Wales	Pontcanna Fields

Cardiff Festival takes place throughout the summer, offering the very best of sport, street theatre, live music, youth and children's entertainment, funfairs and drama, and features special events for this year such as the **National Eisteddfod**, along with annual favourites like the **Lloyds TSB Welsh Proms Cardiff**; the **Cardiff International Food & Drink Festival**; the **Tesco Children's Festival**; and **WOW On the Waterfront**.

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