

PRESS RELEASE

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FREE FESTIVAL IN CARDIFF SHOWS OFF THE BEST OF THE OLD AND THE NEW

This year's free Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend (August 1-3) features two prominent names in contemporary British music, Glasvegas and Beth Rowley appearing on a bill with Ash, one of the most popular bands of the 90s, and Ska legend Prince Buster.

Scottish band **Glasvegas** have been feted by the NME, and released their debut single *Geraldine* on CD, vinyl and download on June 23. As well as appearing free at the Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend on Sunday August 3, the award-winning band are performing at festivals throughout the summer, including Leeds, Reading and iTunes in London.

Appearing on the same bill is singer / songwriter **Beth Rowley**, who fuses a vintage sound & sensibility with a contemporary edge. Beth has become essential listening for 2008, with a debut album *Little Dreamer* going straight in to the Top 10 album charts at No. 6 this Spring, and as well as numerous tv appearances, Beth can be seen at festivals throughout the summer.

These exciting new performers add to the line-up of big name bands and up-and-coming acts to get the crowd jumping in front of the magnificent City Hall at the Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend.

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.

(more)

(Big Weekend/2)

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.

Councillor Nigel Howells, Executive Member for Sport, Leisure and Culture said: "The current high profile and reputation of both Glasvegas and Beth Rowley are great news for the many thousands of fans of the Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend, who have the benefit of seeing them live and for free."

Henry Engelhardt, CEO of the Admiral Group said: "With a fantastic line up of acts, the biggest travelling fairground in the UK and the link up with the National Eisteddfod this promises to be one of the best Big Weekends ever. We're delighted to be sponsoring it for a fifth consecutive year. As always, there is something for people of all ages, in a great setting. The Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend is a highlight of the summer in South Wales!"

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

ends

Editor's Notes

Following last year's successful staging, the **Cardiff MAS Carnival** 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*, gathering together a variety of masks from around the world in an event organised by South Wales Intercultural Community Arts.

Ireland's **Ash** released their debut album, *1977*, in 1996 with an edgy brand of indie pop with sweet melodies and a summer feel that will sit perfectly on an August evening in the city. The album went to number one in the UK charts. The group continued their success with the release of *Nu-Clear Sounds* in 1998 and *Free All Angels*, which debuted at number one in 2001. The band was nominated for Best New Band in *NME's* Brat Awards, and they also had a hit with *A Life Less Ordinary* from the Ewan McGregor and Cameron Diaz film of the same name.

(more)

(Big Weekend/3)

Cecil Bustamente Campbell, O.D. is better known as **Prince Buster**, a musician from Kingston, Jamaica and an inspiration to many *reggae* and *ska* artists. A skilful young amateur boxer, Campbell earned the nickname *Prince* in an early career as a security man, and went on to write and produce scores of songs for the Blue Beat label, including two hit singles in the UK - *Al Capone*, and an updated version of *Whine And Grine*. Buster also made a cameo appearance in the acclaimed international hit movie, *The Harder They Come*. In 1979, the band Madness released its first record, a tribute to Buster called *The Prince*, which urged ska fans to remember *the man who set the beat*. His songs were covered by bands like The Specials, The Beat, and Madness, and his old records were reissued and sold well.

Editor's Notes

Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend Programme

Friday 1st August

- 7.00-7.50 Park Bench Social Club
- 8.15-9.05 Juice
- 9.30-10.30 The Men They Couldn't Hang

Saturday 2nd August

- 12.00 Mas Carnival departs Cardiff Bay
- 1.30 Mas Carnival arrives at the Big Weekend
- 2.00-3.00 Pandemonium
- 3.30 - 4.30 Natacha Atlas
- 5.00 - 6.00 Robert Maseko's Congo Beat
- 6.30-7.30 Ryland Teifi
- 8.00-9.00 Grupo Lokito
- 9.30-10.30 Prince Buster and the Delroy Williams Junction Band

Sunday 3rd August

- 2.00 - 2.30 Frizbees
- 2.50-3.30 Yoav
- 3.50- 4.35 Beth Rowley
- 4.55-5.35 Go Audio

(more)

(Big Weekend/4)

5.55-6.40	<i>Special Guests to be announced</i>
7.05-7.50	Glasvegas
8.15-9.05	Young Knives
9.30-10.30	Ash

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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