



PRESS RELEASE

January 2009

Designer evenings with the Stars - *at The Henley Festival!*

For many on the social scene, 2009 looks like being a quieter year than some. So it's wonderful to know that for an evening or two you can still strap on your party shoes and revel in a glorious programme of stellar performances, quirky humour and downright glamour that is The Henley Festival. Sandwiched between Wimbledon and the Henley Regatta on one side, and the Proms on the other, The Henley Festival 2009 presents, on its Floating Stage, Katherine Jenkins, Sir Michael Parkinson, John Barrowman, the Bootleg Beatles, a quartet of international opera stars in a Puccini evening presented by James Naughtie, and a UK first, Broadway magic from the rave-reviewed Three Mo' Tenors. And that's just the beginning...

A nightly Henley Festival ticket buys access to much, much more than a single brilliant performance. With prices starting at just £41, tickets allow festival-goers entry to all performances on offer. Up to 7 performances are scheduled throughout the evening on the festival's various stages, allowing festival-goers to decide on the night how many – and which combination of – performances they'd like to see. And with the sheer wealth of entertainment on hand, those who haven't been to this Festival before are encouraged to design their evening beforehand. Henley's pick'n'mix approach to performance, together with the joys of extensive art galleries, sculpture lawns and spectacle, gives festival-goers a magical spread of entertainment. This year Albert Roux will be working alongside his son Michel (Chef Patron at Le Gavroche) at the Roux on the Riverside restaurant. In addition, a plethora of bars and eating outlets – from Roux

14 Friday Street, Henley-on-Thames
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to hog roast, champagne to lager – round out the kaleidoscope of class entertainment. And as a bonus – if one were needed - celeb-spotting and top-

grade people- and fashion-watching complete this sexiest of festival's in its glorious setting by the River Thames.

In 2009, music and comedy performers in smaller venues include: writer and broadcaster **John Suchet**, the rock world's favourite maestro **Ray Gelato**, Spanish guitarist **Eduardo Niebla**, the **Radio String Quartet of Vienna**, singer/songwriter **Rebecca Poole**, and ex-Fairport Convention's **Ashley Hutchings and Rainbow Chasers**. And if this is not enough, look out for comedy from **Jan Ravens**, and 'the compère beyond compare', **Arthur Smith**, Cabaret Burlesque with **Miss Polly Rae and The Hurly Burly Girlys**, sophisticated musical comedy from **Tim Fitzhigham** and **Fascinating Aida**, **Rich Hall** brings his alter-ego Otis Lee Crenshaw and band to the Riverside Cabaret, blistering dance music from **Sheelanagig**, wonderful jazz performances, one from home-grown young and talented multi-instrumentalist **Michael Mwenso** and a second from the red-hot **Mishka Adams**, plus **Kamerunga**, an extraordinary Australian band that fuses everything from jazz to rap and rock; finally, and unforgettably, there's an affectionate tribute to Dudley Moore led by pianist **James Pearson**, Director of London's legendary Ronnie Scott's.

As an add-on – or an alternative - to stage-based shows, there are also huge **firework spectacles** and ad hoc performances. Wander round the glorious riverside enclosure and catch anything from indigenous Australian dance, and a 10-piece **Noise Ensemble**, to street theatre from the likes of giant stilt-based insects and a rickshaw airship.

Henley Festival 2009 runs from 8th-12th July. For more information visit www.henley-festival.co.uk. Many tickets have been held at 2008 prices. Generous sponsors of this year's Festival include: Invesco Perpetual, Westcoast, Laurent-Perrier champagne, Lavazza, Hotel du Vin, Southern Electric.

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Notes to Editors: Henley Festival Trust

As in previous years, all net proceeds from The Henley Festival 2009 will go direct to parent charity The Henley Festival Trust, to finance Henley Festival's charitable and community activities. Examples of this valuable, and much appreciated work include providing: visual arts workshops

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at the Chiltern Centre for Disabled Children, music therapy for brain-injured attendees at Headway day centre in Henley-on-Thames, music and arts workshops in local schools, and instruments for promising young musicians.

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