



PRESS RELEASE

April 2009

Friday Night's the Night *- For John Barrowman at The Henley Festival*

With John Barrowman's new TV series for BBC1, 'Tonight's the Night', currently gaining a huge fan base across the country, the best news is he'll be performing live at this year's Henley Festival. Fans can still buy tickets for John's performance on Friday 10th July, where he'll headline a show on the Festival's Floating Stage enticingly called 'Pure Gold from the Silver Screen'. Other luminaries on the stage with John that night are presenter Sir Michael Parkinson and leading lady Kerry Ellis, currently heading the cast as Elphaba in *Wicked*. The concert will be recorded by BBC Radio 2.

Interestingly, although John Barrowman hasn't visited the Festival before, he has his finger firmly on the Henley pulse. The opening episode of 'Tonight's the Night' featured celebrity guest Katherine Jenkins - the very singer who is on the Floating Stage for the 2009 Festival's opening night.

West End star John Barrowman is a unique talent in the British entertainment industry. With a high profile on a variety of primetime TV shows on both sides of the Atlantic, his biggest breakthrough was the creation of Captain Jack Harkness in BBC's 'Dr Who'. The character was then memorably given his own show, 'Torchwood', the third series of which will return to the small screen this year.

14 Friday Street, Henley-on-Thames
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Meanwhile, 'Pure Gold from the Silver Screen' looks like being a massive hit for The Henley Festival and organisers expect all the best seats for his 10th July performance to go early. Says Stewart Collins, the Festival's Artistic Director, "I am hugely looking forward to seeing this show and I always count my lucky stars when an artist lined up for the Festival suddenly gets further catapulted into the limelight prior to his Henley performance. All in all this should be a fabulous show what with John, the concert's presenter Sir Michael Parkinson, West End star Kerry Ellis, the fabulous vocal outfit Cantabile – The London Quartet and the BBC Concert Orchestra. So buying tickets early for this evening is definitely recommended!"

Also in the Festival's smaller venues on the night of Friday 10th July are: biographer and television newscaster John Suchet with musical director Simon Mulligan on the piano in a Beethoven performance; 'A Funny Look at Impressions' with comedian Jan Ravens; world class virtuoso guitarist Eduardo Niebla; and the maestro of swing and jazz himself, Ray Gelato. And don't miss the spectacular fireworks, galleries and sculpture lawns bursting with visual art and Henley's uniquely quirky roving street artists – all included in the price of your ticket.

Henley Festival 2009 runs from 8th-12th July. For more information visit www.henley-festival.co.uk, where you can buy your ticket online. Alternatively, ring the Box Office on 01491 843404. The Friday night main stage concert is generously sponsored by Clearview Traffic. Other sponsors of this year's Henley Festival include: Invesco Perpetual, Westcoast, Laurent-Perrier champagne, Lavazza, Hotel du Vin, Southern Electric.

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Note 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 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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