



PRESS RELEASE

June 2009

## The Henley Festival – ready to go!

With the Regatta now well underway, The Henley Festival, which follows hard on its heels, is gearing up for a terrific 5 days of music, art, comedy, street theatre and spectacle.

The Henley Festival runs from 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July. Last minute preparations are in full swing, even before the handover of the site and the rebuilding of stage, tentage and sound systems can begin. On order for chefs Albert and Michel Roux is a feast of fine ingredients, including, we're told, 4,000 bottles of champagne, 10,000 bread rolls and 2,000 portions of smoked salmon. The Riverside Restaurant, where the majority of these will be served, is probably the biggest a la carte restaurant in Europe, with up to 1,000 covers per night.

That, of course, is just for the guests. We talked to Suzanne Yeates, Event Manager for the Festival. She said, "Throughout the week we also serve some 1,000 meals to artists and crew. And we have to service all kinds of requests made through performers' 'riders' (the extras specified by artists in their contracts). Over the years we have found ourselves supplying 70 new towels to one band of 5 musicians, while another performer asked for clean towels that are *not* new. We source special kinds of honey (for singers' voices), pens and postcards of Henley with the stamps already on them – almost anything that's asked for."

No two riders are ever the same. Says Suzanne again, "The Henley Festival is one of the most complicated ever events to organise. This is because the performers are so varied and therefore so is the audience. People come to the Festival from all walks of life and to see a myriad of different acts. That's what makes it so exciting and keeps us on our toes!"

14 Friday Street, Henley-on-Thames  
Oxfordshire RG9 1AH

With the monthly forecast looking good, brilliant last minute news that comedian Jo Brand is joining the line up, and the thrilling prospect of rarely-seen sculptures by the great surrealist, Salvador Dali adorning the riverbank, while more of his work's in the Towpath Marquee (sponsored by Hotel du Vin), this certainly looks like a Festival to treat yourself to.

Henley Festival 2009 runs from 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July. For tickets and programme information, visit [www.henley-festival.co.uk](http://www.henley-festival.co.uk) or contact the box office on 01491 843404. Generous sponsors of this year's Festival include: Invesco Perpetual, Westcoast, Laurent-Perrier champagne, Lavazza, Hotel du Vin, Southern Electric.

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***For more press information, please contact Miranda Johnson on 01962 890208 or Rachel Shimell on 02380 732981 or email [mirandajohnson@btinternet.com](mailto:mirandajohnson@btinternet.com) / [rachel.shimell@ntlworld.com](mailto:rachel.shimell@ntlworld.com)***

**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.

**Dali Universe**

Dali Universe in London houses the largest collection of sculptural works by Salvador Dalí in the world and is permanently situated in the heart of the South Bank within County Hall. [www.thedaliuniverse.com](http://www.thedaliuniverse.com).

Salvador Dalí worked in many mediums producing many artworks that have become instantly recognisable and iconic - the melted clocks, the Mae West lips sofa, the intricate fantastical landscapes with brilliant touches of trickery and illusionism - figures and details seemingly merging into one another.

Dalí, of course, was also a master in the art of self-promotion. His grasp of the commercial possibilities that lay open to him, and his passion for making money, made him something of a forerunner to the likes of Damien Hirst. With his jet-black signature moustache Dalí became an instantly recognizable figure - a Celebrity Artist - making appearances on U.S. television, and working with the likes of the Marx Brothers, Alfred Hitchcock, Walt Disney, and Coco Chanel.

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