

PRESS RELEASE

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Cerys Matthews Makes Return to Fringe

The Llangollen Fringe Festival has once again shown its prowess for fitting a quart into a pint pot by lining up a programme of top performers, TV names and international superstars!

The festival, which kicks-off on Thursday 17th July, based at its Llangollen Town Hall home, but this year incorporating as well St John's Church for acoustic music and the Hand Hotel as a Fringe Club, promises another eclectic mix of music, mayhem and comedy, especially the latter with four nights set aside for the most popular of Fringe offerings.

But the best is left until last with a triumphant return of Cerys Matthews, whose enthusiasm to play at the festival once again after her tremendous success in 2006 has meant an extra night being added on Monday 28th July.

"We're really delighted with this year's Fringe line-up and believe it promises to be the best festival yet. It was looking excellent even before Cerys' event but with her on board it's now looking pretty spectacular," said Fringe Programming Director Roger Goodman.

First up on the evening of the 17th July will be North Wales blues sensation Cherry Lee Mewis. This little powerhouse of a singer has had great success with her album Little Girl Blue which covers songs by Memphis Minnie, Robert Johnson and Jeff Buckley.

Her music covers some 80 years of Blues and her gravelly voice and performance style take its inspiration from the late, great Janice Joplin, singing with raw power, emotion, hurt and pain. Certainly one of the greats of the blues in the making and a show not to miss!

Friday night is definitely music night on the 18th July when one of the strongest forces in acoustic music will have the Town Hall buzzing!

Show of Hands have built up a huge following which has seen them thrice sell out the Albert Hall and headline at major festivals such as Glastonbury and WOMAD.

Phil Beer and Steve Knightly, who together make up the group, play a defying mix of rock, roots, blues, country, trad, and often influenced by the music of other countries, it is played out on an array of instruments from slide guitar to fiddle, mandolin to even a South American cuatro!

They supported Peter Gabriel at the Eden Project last year and are, according to The Independent 'Formidable operators in the roots arena. A class act.'

Playing with them will be Miranda Sykes, one of the few female double bass players in England and an accomplished guitarist and vocalist.

If you want tickets for this one, you'd better be very, very quick!

Saturday 19th promises to be one of the most entertaining evenings of the whole event with Misty's Big Adventure, whose infectious melodies, which are influenced by The Beatles, The Specials and Dexy's Midnight Runners, will have the Town Hall bouncing!

They're joined by New Yorker Thomas Truax whose show runs the fine line between unique and

insane! Described by 'Splendid Magazine' as 'an exceptional talent, unique and resistant to comparison' Truax plays a collection of home made instruments, combined with loop pedals, guitars and lashings of imagination to create one of the most unusual and entertaining live shows you will ever see.

There then follows four nights of some of the finest comedy you'll find anywhere with the first ever all Welsh language night of mirth at the Fringe getting it all underway, headlined by S4C's own PC Leslie Wynn (Tudur Owen), on Sunday 20th.

Other highlights over the next three nights include Reginald D Hunter, who is becoming a regular on Have I Got News for You these days, Paul Foot, often described as the new Kenneth Williams or even Frankie Howard, Hal Cruttenden, the ex Eastenders actor turned stand-up as well as Alistair Barrie, Glenn Wool and Keith Donnelly.

Jazz makes a welcome return to the Fringe line-up on Thursday 24th in the guise of a Jazz Guitar Celebration with Gary Potter and Billy Thompson.

A musical blend of all the major styles in Jazz guitar, this will be an evening to remember from musicians who play with Manfred Mann, Barbara Thompson, Kiki Dee, Helen Shapiro, Jools Holland and the Baron Knights!

The final Friday 25th, will see a band at the forefront of the British Asian fusion scene in Kissmet. The band, who are half Indian and half English, fuse the cultural traditions of both, including elements of bhangra, raags, rock and funk creating a truly unique sound.

The band performs in Punjabi, Hindi and English and blend dohl drums, tablas, guitar, keys and vocals.

What would have been the final evening of this years festival has been set aside for one of the most exciting folk rock bands to emerge for a great many years in teenage sensations Wheeler Street.

If you don't think folk of any kind is for you, think again! This collection of 17 - 19 year olds are taking festivals the length and breadth of the country by storm and are fiercely passionate about their music.

One of the most entertaining and fun bands on the live scene, this is one definitely not to be missed.....

Sunday 27th sees what promises to be an outstanding night of virtuoso guitar playing with maestro Simon Jones bringing the very best of his flamenco art to the Town Hall.

Simon is no stranger to the Fringe, having played at the Festival on a number of occasions, but this will be the first time he has had the opportunity to 'go solo.'

And last, but definitely not least, it's Cerys Matthews on Monday 28th in a specially arranged extra night to this year's Fringe.

It goes without saying this concert will sell out extremely quickly so you'll need to be quick!

Released on behalf of the Llangollen Fringe. For further information contact Nigel Davies on either 01490 412608 or 07978 228575.

Editors Note

Tickets for this years Llangollen fringe can be bought either on-line at www.llangollenfringe.co.uk or by phoning 01978 860600.