



BILLINGHAM

INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL



BIFF NEWSLETTER No 3, April 2007

43rd BILLINGHAM FESTIVAL – 28th July – 4th August 2007
Final Stages

The Preparations for the 43rd Billingham International Folklore Festival 2007 are now in the final stages and the programme of all the festival events has been completed and published in the Festival Leaflet.

The organisers have selected 8 outstanding International Dance and Music Companies to perform at this year's festival and have also started receiving requests for participation for 2008:

Top Dance Companies from all the corners of the World

**ARGENTINA • BULGARIA • FRANCE
MEXICO • NEW ZEALAND
SPAIN • THAILAND • UKRAINE**

**43RD BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL
FOLKLORE FESTIVAL**

28th July - 4th August 2007

To join our mailing list please visit
www.billinghamfestival.co.uk
or ring (01642) 553220

BALLET EL CIMARRON - ARGENTINA

This well-travelled group has tangoed in each continent of the World representing Argentina at the highest level. Their leader Omar Fierdelmondo has received a UNESCO award in 2004 for his achievements in the world of dance. It is with great pleasure we have been able to invite this group back to Billingham, Since their last tour in 1996 we have been trying for a return visit of this excellent group, however due to financial difficulties they have been unable to travel to the UK. They have asked us to say how much they are looking forward to coming back to Billingham and meeting old friends and new.



FOLK DANCE CLUB “DOBRUDJA”- BULGARIA

This group has been chosen from 150 groups by CIOFF Bulgaria to represent their country at the Billingham Festival. They attained this honour by achieving many prestigious awards for performances of great vibrancy around the World. We are sure that they will delight us with their top class performances.



“EMPI & RIAUME “ – FRANCE

This group was formed 70 years ago and has received the French CIOFF Label and full support from the French Ministry of Culture as leading ambassadors for French folklore. This group last appeared at the Festival in 1998. They are now known Worldwide as one of, if not the best French Group in the World, and are very much sort after in the CIOFF Circuit, even though France is our nearest neighbour, it has taken us NINE years to be able to bring this group back to Billingham.



BALLET FOLKLORICO DE UNIVERSIDAD DE COLIMA - MEXICO

This 60-strong company consisting of dancers, singers and the largest Mariachi band Billingham has ever had the pleasure to host, they are the very best Mexican Folklore Dance in the World, and have even danced in Vatican City for Pope John Paul II, This tremendous group is led by the President of CIOFF Mexico, National award winning artist and a great friend of the Billingham Festival – Prof. Rafael Zamarripa, who brought us the first ever Mexican Group to Billingham in 1976 from Guadalajara.



“TE AHIKAAROA” – NEW ZEALAND

We are extremely lucky about being able to bring back to Billingham a very firm favorite of the our Audience, a group from New Zealand. This group formed in 1993 and quickly developed into a dynamic and versatile group boasting members from every tribal affiliation, performing Maori War Dance – the Haka and other dances from the South Seas along with the magnificent singing voices the Maori all seem to have.



COROS Y DANZAS DE RONDA – SPAIN

Its been quite a while since Billingham has had a Spectacular Flamenco and Classical Spanish Dance Group, this highly sort after group has toured all over the world delighting audiences with traditional Flamenco and the sounds of the Classical Spanish Guitar. This group comes to Billingham highly recommended by several CIOFF Festivals, and after a wait of THREE years we are delighted that they are coming to Billingham.



“ONSON THAILAND” - THAILAND

This group was formed in 1999 since then has been to Australia (2001), Germany (2003), France (2005) and Taiwan (2006). The grace and beauty of this dance group, we know will be outstanding. They bring with them 10 Musicians who play extremely exotic instruments with skill and precision. We are also very honored to be able to welcome the President of CIOFF Dr. Udomsak Sakmunvong who because of this group will be attending the last few days of our prestigious event.



“VOLINIANKA” - UKRAINE

Outstanding group from the ancient town of Lutsk on the border with Poland, famous for their breathtaking dances, executed with great precision are on a very welcome return to Billingham after their stunning appearances in 2002 and 2004. They feel very honored to be invited back to our Festival for a third time and have promised to entertain us to the best of their ability. We can't wait.



CELEBRATING BRITISH TRADITIONS

Based on the results of the audience survey 2006, the organisers of BIFF decided to include special events featuring British Traditional Music & Dance into the Festival Programme, by inviting UK Folklore Dance and Music groups, representing English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh folklore.

The invited British Groups will not only perform on stage, but will also, take part in demonstrations of dance, music and crafts at various Festival workshops for children, youth and adults.



Participating Groups:

- **Representing Ireland -**

“Absolutely Legless” Irish Dancers, Edinburgh
A welcome return, they appeared and delighted us back in 2003.

“Scoil Rince I Muir” Youth Irish Dancers, Thornaby



- **Representing Scotland –**

Newton Aycliffe Pipes & Drums
As always, outstanding

Newton Aycliffe Scottish Youth Dancers



Representing Wales –

“Cwmni Dawns Werin Caerdydd” - Cardiff



Representing England –

“Hexham Morris Dancers”



“BILLINDA” Youth Dancers



INTERNATIONAL ARTS & CRAFTS FAYRE

International Arts & Crafts Fayre will open at the BILLINGHAM ARTS GALLERY from Wednesday, 1st August till Saturday, 4th August from 10 am till 6 pm.

For the first time there will be a Photographic Exhibition "Images of the Festival 1967-2007" by Alex Wilson. Looking through the ages of the Billingham Festival and how it has grown from the small beginnings in John Whitehead Park to one of the most prestigious and well known Festivals of the world. We are sure it will bring back many happy memories for all of us.



BILLINGHAM FESTIVAL CHILDREN'S CLUB & INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DANCE WORKSHOP

Following the huge success of the European Express "England – Hungary" and the Festival Children's Club last year, the organisers decided to extend the Club activities to run from 10 am till 12:30 pm. The Club's activities will now include Slide Show & Video Presentations from participating Countries, demonstrations of costumes, crafts workshops and various presentations from local children's folklore dance groups, as well as the usual dances, games and music interactive demonstrations from the International Groups taking part in the Festival.

BILLINGHAM FESTIVAL
CHILDREN'S CLUB

Children's Club hosted by BILLINDA will be running daily from Monday, 30th July to Friday, 3rd August 2007 from 10 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. at Bede College, Billingham.

Each session will feature different International Dance Groups, Craft Workshops and presentations.



Membership for the whole week: £6.00 including the badge and the "Passport to the World".

One day attendance - £2.50



For Application Form and further details please ring:
(01642) 553220

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DANCE WORKSHOP

at BEDE COLLEGE

for dance students age from 7 to 15

INTERMEDIATE CLASS and
BEGINNERS CLASS HOSTED BY BILLINDA
(Billingham International Youth Dancers):

Monday, 30th July (2 p.m. till 5 p.m.) with
MEXICO, SPAIN and NEW ZEALAND

Tuesday, 31st July (2 p.m. till 5 p.m.) with
ARGENTINA, UKRAINE and FRANCE

Wednesday, 1st August (2 p.m. till 4 p.m.) with
BULGARIA & THAILAND

Prices : One day: £7; Three days package: £ 16



For application form and further details
please ring **01642-553220**

Our extremely popular International Youth Dance Workshop gives a unique opportunity to all the students of dance to have a first hand experience of learning dances from all over the World taught by native experts. You can't get much better tuition than that.

FESTIVAL “WORLD OF FRIENDSHIP” NIGHTS

This year “World of Friendship” Nights at Bede College promises to be as entertaining as always and gives you all a great opportunity to mix and make friends with the our international guests and get to know them like we do.



It’s a chance to come along and learn the dances from all over the World, starting from

Welsh & French mixed Night on Saturday, 28th July;

Flamenco Night on Sunday, 29th July;

Come and Dance the Argentinean Tango on Monday, 30th July;



“Travel East” Night on Tuesday, 31st July;

Mexican Mariachi Night on Wednesday, 1st August and try your hand at “La Bamba” we know you won’t last the distance;

and if you still have some energy, you can learn the “Kapa Haka” with Maori Night on Thursday, 2nd August.

There is nothing funnier than an English person trying to do the Haka.

We have had many a good night and good laugh trying, you really don’t know how difficult it is please come and join us, bring your video cameras, you never know we might be on “You’ve been Framed”



Unfortunately, due to the new Licensing Regulations The “World of Friendship” Nights are FREE but can only be exclusively attended, by Friends of the Festival, Members of BIFF Ltd, Festival Patrons, Festival Sponsors and Festival Volunteers. There will be no Casual Admittance.

If you would like to become a Patron, Member or Friend of the Festival you can download the application form from our Website:

www.billinghamfestival.co.uk

or ring (01642) 553220 and we will send you all the details by post.

BILLINGHAM FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE & BOOKINGS

The festival Box Office will open at the Forum Theatre on:

Saturday, 26th May 2007

(tel: 01642-552663).

The Festival tickets can also be booked through our Website: www.billinghamfestival.co.uk.

Our Festival Website have now been fully revamped and updated to include a lot of presentations and slide-shows of past and future Festivals. Please take a look and, maybe you might see an old friend or two or maybe leave us a message for our Message Board, we would like to hear from you all with any ideas etc or maybe just to say hi.

Friends, Members & Patrons of the Festival can book their tickets at the discount rates starting from 1st May 2007.

NEXT PUBLICATIONS OF BIFF NEWSLETTER

The new Billingham International Festival Newsletters is published **quarterly**:

The next BIFF newsletter will come out in June/July 2007.

If you would like to make any comments regarding the Newsletter, or receive the

previous edition of the Newsletter by e-mail, please contact us on:

billingham.festival@virgin.net

If you do not wish to receive our Newsletter in the future, please e-mail us back with a word “**unsubscribe**” and we will delete your e-mail address of our mailing list.

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