



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**JUNE 2015**

**Caption - the picture shows performers from Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance.**

### **INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL IS IN FULL SWING**

MEMBERS of the audience from a town festival were treated to further displays of colour and culture during the fifth day of an international extravaganza.

The Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance is in full swing with performers from across the world combining their talents to put on dazzling routines showing off their heritage to the maximum.

Yesterday, on Wednesday, August 12, the main arena in Billingham Town Centre, saw performers from Mexico, Sicily, Chile and the Philippines take to the stage.

And the weather was glorious to boot.

In the evening, from 7.30pm, at Middlesbrough Town Hall Crypt\_Balbir Singh Dance Company put on a mesmerising performance of Dhe Ki Ta – Triple Bill of Dance.

After that, at 8pm, the attention was once again turned to the festival arena in the town centre, for an International Concert featuring troupes from the Philippines, Chile and China.

Further events, which are weather dependent, include:

- Today, on Thursday, August 13, China, Serbia, Philippines, Chile and the USA, will be performing more dance routines in the festival arena from 2.30pm, and then the Edmond Beaumont Memorial World Dance Gala Concert at Middlesbrough Theatre at 7.30pm featuring all the dance companies taking part in the festival.
- Tomorrow, on Friday, August 14, China, Serbia, Sicily, USA, and Mexico will be on stage at the festival arena, ahead of the second World Gala Dance Concert at the Billingham Forum Theatre, from 7.30pm, where all the dance companies will showcase different repertoire.
- On Saturday, August 15, the final day of the festival, there will be a Farewell Gala Concert in the main arena in Billingham Town Centre at 2.30pm, and a Mini Gala Concert followed by a Closing Ceremony in the same venue at 7.30pm.

Artistic director of the festival, Olga Maloney, said: "There are still some tickets left for the shows so we would urge people to book quickly to avoid disappointment.

"We have had such great feedback from people so far, it is such a great experience for them."

So far hundreds of people have flocked to Billingham to witness the sights and sounds of the much-anticipated concerts.

And as well as the shows there are also a selection of workshops and children's clubs, to bring an international flavour to local children and young people from the North East.

The festival, which has become a highlight of the region's arts and culture calendar.

Core funding for this year's festival, which takes place until Saturday, August 15, has come from Stockton Borough Council, while Arts Council England is funding the contemporary elements of the festival and Awards for All funding a programme to take dancers into care homes in the area.

For ticket prices, to book, or for more information, visit [www.billinghamfestival.co.uk](http://www.billinghamfestival.co.uk) or call 01642 553220.

**ENDS**

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