



BILLINGHAM

INTERNATIONAL

FOLKLORE FESTIVAL



BIFF NEWSLETTER No 12, JANUARY 2010

46th BILLINGHAM FESTIVAL – 7th August – 14th August 2010
THE Festival of Fun and Friendship

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that 2010 brings you all good health and happiness.



First of all I would like to apologise for the lateness of this Newsletter, but we have been holding on as we have been waiting for accommodation to be confirmed along with the confirmed dates.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Headmaster Mr David Campbell, Governors, and staff of Pentland Primary School, Pentland Avenue, Billingham, for stepping in at the last minute and allowing us to turn their school into a “Hotel” for our international guests.



When Northfield Marsh House (Ex Billingham Campus) declined to play hosts to us again for the 2nd year, because they felt it was too much trouble and hassle, and other promises made to us never coming into fruition, it left us again with a huge problem, which, now we can say, is why we have been unable to confirm the dates, as we were effectively homeless, but again thanks to everyone at Pentland School, the Festival has been saved for another year at least.

The Fire Safety Officers has voiced some concerns regarding the Fire Regulations, but with the excellent help of Councillor Alex Cunningham these problems will be sorted prior to us “moving in”.



This leads us onto the nicely onto the next announcement, we are currently in talks with the powers that be, about building a Centre of Excellence which will be a year round venture, and then will become a permanent home for the Festival, and in its turn will then guarantee the Festival's future.



A permanent Amphitheatre in John Whitehead Park has already had the stamp of approval, which will also mean a permanent place for the outside concerts, because with the Re-generation currently taking place in the Town Centre the Outside Arena could also be in jeopardy.

Due to popular demand we are extremely happy to announce that the Middlesbrough Theatre will be the venue for some of the evening concerts again, due to the excellent feedback and attendance, we have decided to extend the evening concerts to hopefully Three Nights during the course of the Festival, with a night totally dedicated to Latin America, alongside the ever popular Carousel and Gala performances.

On-line Booking will be hopefully available from Mid April with the official Box Office Opening Saturday 1st May 2010.

On writing this Newsletter we have three outstanding confirmed groups:



Czech Republic



Mexico (with a difference)



Taiwan

Plus many other groups, which have applied and waiting confirmation, but will keep you posted.

Cook Islands
Armenia
Serbia

Colombia
Peru
Russia
Macedonia
Lithuania
New Zealand
Ukraine

BILLINGHAM FESTIVAL SHOP

The Billingham Festival Shop, continues to flourish exceeding our expectations when we first began. Extended thanks must go to Teresa and Billy Forbes, Sandra Cutler and Sonya Lawson, without whose help and dedication, especially since our recent family bereavement which has taken us away from the day to day running, the shop would have had to close. So THANK YOU for all your support, dedication and extremely hard work throughout the past few months and beyond. However, we are

always still on the look out for new items of clothing, bric-a-brac, books, etc to enable us to keep the shop running and making money for our esteemed Festival. Any donation of any kind would be welcomed. Remember one mans rubbish is another mans treasure. So please as spring approaches and we all begin our spring cleaning, remember us and donate as much as you can. If you need help transporting items, large or small, we can arrange transport, just contact us on 01642 553220.

2nd CIOFF INTERNATIONAL PHOTO COMPETITION

The organisers of 2nd CIOFF International Photo Competition received the total of 468 entries from 93 Photographers from 31 Countries (170 Entries in Action-Performance Category, 120 Entries in Friendships between Nations Category and 178 Entries in Portrait in National Costume Category).

The Judging of the Photo Competition took place at the CIOFF World Congress in Havana on 10th November 2009 and was performed anonymously by the members of Festivals Commission and members of Working Group on Public Relations – an International Jury of 12 people from all over the World. Each Member of the Jury scored each Entry on a scale of 1-10. In each Category the Photographs, which will receive the biggest score from all the Jury Members combined, were pronounced as Winners.

Ten first places in each Category will receive CIOFF Diplomas, which will be handed to their respective CIOFF National Delegates. The announcement of the results and presentation ceremony took place on 14th November 2009 at the Closing Ceremony of the CIOFF World Congress in Havana.

We are delighted to tell you that 4 photographers from Billingham Festival were among the winners:



2nd Place in Portrait Category –
“Thai Dancer” by
Tracy Bullock



3rd Place in Portrait Category
“Dancer from Martinique”
By Danielle Cutler

4th Place in Friendship Category
Photo by Alex Wilson

5th Place in Freindship Category
Photo by Dmitry Choporov

The rest of the competition results and the winners can be found on the new CIOFF International Website www.cioff.org which will be launched in February 2010.

NEXT PUBLICATIONS OF BIFF NEWSLETTER

The next issue of the Billingham International Festival Newsletter will be published in June-July 2010, unless we have any major News or Updates to inform you about.

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:

info@billinghamfestival.co.uk

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.

Take Care - Lisa

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