

BIG Weekends Line Up at Arundel Festival will showcase the very best of local talent – for free!

Two **BIG Weekends** of live music and performance from some of the very best local talent will be held in Arundel's Jubilee Gardens on the weekends of 23rd-24th and 30th-31st August as part of the Arundel Town Festival. All performances are free so all the audience needs to bring is a blanket and a picnic for some perfect summer entertainment!

Highlights include **Chris Simmons** who has been described by The Times as “*A breath of fresh air, this young man is going to be very big indeed*”. Chris busked his way around the world with nothing but his guitar and £200 then came home and beat 400 other acts to win Southern FM's Battle of the Bands, followed by gigs around the UK supporting acts such as The Kooks, Squeeze, The Von Bondies & Suede. A singer/songwriter of soaring harmonies and melodies, Chris is currently recording his debut EP for release this summer - 2008 is set to be his year. He'll be performing between 3pm & 4pm on Sunday 24th August.

Also taking part are **The Sextones**, an up and coming three piece Brighton band with both classic & contemporary influences producing a distinctive acoustic soul. Their effortlessly rich tones will both move and uplift. There are two chances to see them: 4pm-5pm on Sunday 24th August and 2pm-3pm on Saturday 30th August.

Glenda Harkess-Cowlyn, Artistic Director of Theatre Akimbo and organiser of the **BIG Weekends** says: “*The weekend programme presents a diverse range of music that, thanks to collaborations and goodwill, are free to watch – a celebration of the local area and the rich diversity of talent on our doorstep. I'm particularly excited about the Northbrook Showcase – education was a key motivator for me and the talent of the graduate students and the programme they have put together is nothing short of genius.*”

Fourkm Physical Theatre who are students from the foundation degree in Physical Theatre at Northbrook College will present the **Arundel Wolf Trail** on Bank Holiday Monday 25th August. Meet at Arundel Cathedral forecourt for a promenade through the streets to Arundel Castle gates where you are invited to find out why Granny has such big teeth and why not all fairytales should have a happy ending! A spectacular visual performance filled with high energy physical theatre. Join the trail for a family-friendly version at 2pm or a darker take on the tale at 9.30pm.

On Sunday 31st August, Northbrook College Southern Theatre Arts Centre are presenting a range of graduate performances from students and recent ex-students now working professionally in the industry. Each of the performances has been developed and devised by the theatre companies formed during the students' final year, many of whom will continue to work together professionally to create and present performances in the future.

Performances include:

Louder than Words by Musical Theatre Showcase presents a compilation of songs from a variety of new and classic musicals such as Spring Awakening & West Side Story, also including dance pieces and their own choreographed works. (Sunday 31st at 1.30pm)

Greeks by Plain Sailing Theatre Company brings a fresh new treatment of an ancient myth – Theseus, Ariadne and the fearsome Minotaur – will they survive? (Sunday 31st at 3.10pm)

The First Supper by Mallum Theatre Company is based on John Milton's epic poem "Paradise Lost". You are invited to dine at the dawn of the world where the creation story is explored in a way you may never have imagined. What could have happened after that first bite....? (Sunday 31st at 4pm)

Adrian Court, Course Leader, Southern Arts Centre at Northbrook College says *"I am so pleased to have the opportunity to be working with the Arundel Festival this year. It provides invaluable professional experience of touring and festival performance for our students. Small scale festivals such as this are tremendously important in maintaining our cultural heritage and give a particular identity to the region. Many now well-known companies have begun their career at such festivals that are accessible and affordable."*

Events start at 2pm on the 23rd, 24th & 30th August and at 12 noon on the 31st. A full events listing is in the Festival Programme, available from 26th July at Zimmer Stewart Gallery, Tarrant Street, Arundel (Tel: 01903 885867) and from Tourist Information Centres, libraries & retail outlets around the county.

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For further information contact:

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