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Derby Festé 2018 celebrates 250 years of Circus!

Details of this September's 12th Derby Festé programme have now been revealed.

The city's popular annual festival has been extended to three days for the first time this year – bringing a bag full of tricks and a sprinkling of magic to the city centre on Thursday 27, Friday 28 and Saturday 29 September.

This year Derby Festé is inspired by the nationwide 250 years of Circus – marking the milestone anniversary of the first circus performance near London's Waterloo in 1768 by showman Philip Astley.

The festival kicks off on Thursday night at Bass' Recreation Ground with the first of three performances of an exciting and exhilarating circus by French company, Circa Tsuica.

Presented by Crying Out Loud, 'Now or Never' will run on Thursday, Friday and Saturday early evenings and is billed as a reinvention of circus traditions for the 21st century. Tickets are limited for each show and are priced at just £10 each.

As the party begins in the Big Top, the 11 performers mingle with the crowd, making and sharing Breton crêpes, before they launch into a feast of music and circus. They fly, fling and swing across the tent on trapezes, tightropes, Cyr wheels, trick bicycles, trampolines and seesaws.

All the while, Circa Tsuica's acrobat-musicians play their thundering brass rhythms accompanied by young musicians from Derby Music Centre Circus Brass.

The city's popular Bustler Market will be having a double header, bringing street food and drinks from around the world at Riverlights and the Market Place on Friday evening, and all day on Saturday.

Friday night will see the opening of the Jon Marshall's traditional 1950's Side Shows on the Market Place alongside the virtual reality piece, 'VR Playground' by Thrill Laboratory.

The live performance will be courtesy of French company Cie Dyptik who will thrill the crowds with their energetic hip-hop dance performance 'D Construction' staged around metal scaffolding.

On Saturday the streets will burst to life from 11am with a circus procession through St Peters Quarter and the Cathedral Quarter - trumpeting the start of street entertainment performance across the city centre including live music, circus performances, dance, and some incredible characters.

The Saturday evening starts with a mesmerising parade 'FierS á Cheval' which is a company of beautiful larger than life glowing white horses winding through the Cathedral Quarter.

The parade will finish in the Market Place where visitors can then enjoy light projections dancing on the buildings in a finale to celebrate 10 years of QUAD.

Stephen is Derby Festé Artistic Lead and Artistic Director of Déda in Derby which is a nationally-renowned centre for dance, contemporary circus and outdoor performance.

He said: "Circus 250 is a UK-wide celebration of the first circus performance staged in this country which has been a popular form of family entertainment for so many generations since then.

"Performances across the Festé weekend will celebrate the many different genres of circus from dance and music to thrilling acrobatics and sideshows.

"Every year we look to bring a new aspect into the Derby Festé programme but the constant theme every year is that this weekend is something that brings everyone together to enjoy a unique atmosphere in the city centre with top quality performances by artists from across the UK and Europe.

"As well as watching and interacting with the performances, there will also be opportunities for the people of Derby to actually participate in Festé including workshops this summer at community centres across the city, run by Artcore.

“This will prepare them for joining the circus parade- funded through audience development support from the Associate Touring Network.

“We are thoroughly looking forward to this year’s Derby Festé and I would urge people to buy tickets for the ‘Now or Never’ circus show as soon as they can as numbers are limited in the Big Top over the three evenings.”

For more information about Derby Festé please head to www.derbyfeste.com and tickets are available now for ‘Now or Never’ by Circus Tscuia at www.deda.uk.com/whats-on/circa-tsuica-now-or-never.

Derby Festé is produced and presented by Déda, Derby LIVE, QUAD and Derby Theatre in association with the Without Walls Associate Touring Network. Without Walls is the UK’s largest commissioner of outdoor arts shows, taking inspiring new work to audiences all over the country and beyond.

Festé is funded by Arts Council England and Derby City Council, with sponsorship from the University of Derby, Smith Partnership, Cathedral Quarter and Intu Derby.

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Notes to editors:

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2018 marks the 12th appearance of Derby Feste in our city. Festé was founded in 2007 to mark the opening of Westfield, Derby. This was followed in September 2008 by a second Festé event to mark the launch of the Cultural Olympiad in the East Midlands and the opening of QUAD. In 2009, Derby Festé became a stand-alone festival for the East Midlands and since the first event, has had the ambition of developing into an annual event with funding from various public and private sector organisations.

In order to safeguard the future of Derby Festé, Circa Tscuia performances will be priced and ticketed. All other events and performances will be free. See www.derbyfeste.com for more details.

Without Walls

Without Walls, a consortium of the UK's leading outdoor arts festivals and organisations, brings the best in new outdoor performance to diverse audiences all over the UK. It uses its networks to provide opportunities for UK artists to develop bold new large and small-scale shows spanning all art-forms, suitable for national and international touring. Since 2007, Without Walls has commissioned and supported the development of over 100 shows, many of which have toured beyond Without Walls to 22 countries worldwide.

The Associate Touring Network is a group of festival partners who work together to support the onward touring of work commissioned by Without Walls across England. It takes high-quality outdoor arts to diverse audiences. Through community engagement and audience development activity, the Associate Touring Network has helped audiences in the most underprivileged areas of the country to become involved in the arts.

Associate Touring Network partners include: Appetite, Stoke-on-Trent; Bell Square, Hounslow, London; Derby Feste; Freedom Festival, Hull; Lancashire Encounter, Preston; Leicester City Council; Right Up Our Street, Doncaster; SO Festival, East Lincolnshire and Vivacity, Peterborough.

www.withoutwalls.uk.com | facebook.com/WithoutWallsUK | [@WWconsortium](https://twitter.com/WWconsortium)

Circa Tsuica

The UK tour of 'Now or Never' is presented by Crying Out Loud as part of Circus250, the nationwide celebration of the 250th anniversary of modern circus. The tour is supported by Ambition for Excellence using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

www.cryingoutloud.org

Circa Tsuica is part of the Cheptel Aleïkoum collective, around 20 circus artists who live, work and train together in the remote French village of St-Agil and tour the world with their feel-good shows. Most of the collective met as students at the Centre National des Arts du Cirque (CNAC) and on graduation moved to an old farmhouse where they set up a circus tent in a field. Ten years later, they have spread out around the village, where a fifth of the 250 inhabitants now have some circus connection.

Circus 250

Circus250 is the 250th anniversary of the birth of modern circus. In 1768, husband and wife Philip and Patty Astley established the first permanent circular arena on the banks of the Thames where they presented trick riding and acrobatics. 250 years later, theatres, orchestras, schools, libraries, museums, filmmakers, designers and circus across the UK will be joining in the celebrations.