

Press Release: 16 June 2009



WOMAD

WORLD OF MUSIC, ARTS & DANCE

PETER GABRIEL TO PLAY WOMAD UK ON SATURDAY
25 JULY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR WITNESS

MONGREL, CIMARRÓN, RADIOKIJADA AND RACHEL
UNTHANK AND THE WINTERSET AMONG NEW NAMES
ANNOUNCED

ACTOR PETE POSTLETHWAITE TO DELIVER 'WELCOME TO COUNTRY' ADDRESS FOR
INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN COLLECTIVE BLACK ARM BAND

WOMAD Festival announces further exciting acts for 2009

More names, more incredible talent: Paris-based Algerian chaâbi stylist Kamel El-Harrachi. Down and dirty Spanish soul funk outfit The Sweet Vandals. The all drumming-dancing-singing Creole Choir of Cuba. Gallic-fuelled, Louisiana-inspired Cajun sounds from Sarah Savoy & the Francadians. The phenomenon that is London-based Latin jazz D.J Snowboy.

More exhilarating performances: Kuwaiti-born Arabic jazz-guitarist Kamal Musallam Musical theatre from 30-strong Zimbabwean troupe Zambezi Express. Trinidadian calypso, pop, reggae and sunshine courtesy of the UK's finest steel band, Reading's very own RASPO. Live jazz and hip-hop dance moves from French company Styl'O'Styl.

Hot on the heels of his wildly successful tour of South America and Mexico, WOMAD co-founder PETER GABRIEL performs a one-off show especially for WOMAD UK. Various a champion of world music, a pioneer of digital distribution methods for music and an active humanitarian, the English musician and songwriter will donate funds raised on the day to Witness.

"I had no immediate plans to play in the UK," says Gabriel. "But when Festival Director Chris Smith heard I was looking for a suitable event for Witness.org" – the multi award-winning human rights organisation that has worked with over 300 groups in 70 countries worldwide – "he generously offered me the Saturday at WOMAD. I'm delighted that my only show in Europe this year will be for a cause so close to my heart."

MONGREL are the most talked about indie supergroup in Britain. With a nucleus comprising Babyshambles' Drew McConnell, British-Iraqi rapper Lowkey, the Arctic Monkeys' original bassist Andy Nicholson and the vertiginous, mohawked John McLure of Reverend and the Makers, this unapologetically political outfit play hip-hop flecked rock that is direct and angry, blissed-out and beautiful.

CIMARRÓN deploy the fast, fiery *loropa llanera* of the mestizo people of the Orinoco plains of eastern Colombia; cattle herders for whom music accompanies many daily tasks. Having won Grammy nominations and wowed international audiences with their 'turboflamencojazz',

the all-star team of instrumentalists and singers – including silver-fingered harpist Carlos Rojas - bring their once-heard, never-forgotten *sabor Colombiano* to WOMAD.

Female Geordie quartet RACHEL UNTHANK AND THE WINTERSET play music that sends critics stampeding to their thesauri for superlatives. Epic, intimate, magical music as tough as it is gentle and as ancient as it is modern. Mercury Music Prize-nominated music that both celebrates and reinvents the English folk genre; music from the heart, the soul and sometimes even the feet. Music, then, to swoon to.

RADIOKIJADA is a group led by two very different musicians-come-conceptualists: the Peru-born, Cuba-trained composer and percussionist Rodolfo Muñoz and the Swiss electronica exponent of the Gotan Project, Christoph H. Müller. Together, armed with percussion instruments including the *quijada* – a skeleton of the lower jaw of a donkey – they transform Afro-Peruvian traditions with the tools of modern technology. Oh, and get crowds dancing and dreaming along the way.

As he did at the South Bank Centre in June 2008 British actor PETE POSTLETHWAITE will present his English version of the 'welcome to country' address for The Black Arm Band – the collective of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists whose music symbolises resilience and hope, wrapped up in the spirit of reconciliation. In Australia 'welcome to country' is given before indigenous performances by a local elder.

A whole other world of discovery awaits at the BBC RADIO 3 STAGE over in Charlton Park's stunning arboretum. Here is charismatic Malagasy singer/songwriter Nogabe Randriaharimalala. Award-laden English folk hipster Jim Moray and his shimmering experiments in sound. Belgium/Slovakia's Mec Yek and their passionate Balkan beats. UK legend Dennis Bovell and his expansive, big-bottomed dub.

World music radio guru Charlie Gillett will feature three special recording sessions to be aired on his celebrated radio show *World on 3*, BBC Radio 3's dedicated Friday night world music programme. Confirmed so far are Berlin folk-rockers 17 Hippies and members of indigenous Australian collective The Black Arm Band.

Here, too, is Deaf Shepherd (UK); Malick Pathé Sow (Senegal); Gochag Askerov (Azerbaijan); Hindi Zahra (France/Morocco); Channi Singh Bhangra Band (India), Mamer (China), Ba Cissoko (Guinea); Victor Démé (Burkina Faso) and the Dhoad Gypsies of Rajasthan (India).

More acts will be announced in the next weeks.

WOMAD is so much more than just a first class world music festival and returning this year will be the popular 'Taste the World' tent where artists show off their cooking prowess and, more often than not, turns into a impromptu gig. The Drum and Dance Tent makes a welcome return: think everything from early-bird yoga sessions and salsa lessons to night owl happenings. And for those who fancy a luxurious moment to themselves the WOMAD spa - complete with cocktail bar - is the place to go.

WOMAD promises to be bigger and better for kids and young people than ever before. The World of Kids will have the usual comprehensive programme of workshops, entertainment and activities; the magnificent Children's Parade is always a festival highlight. WOMAD continues its well-established place as the best festival for the whole family: all children aged 13 and under get in for free.

WOMAD returns this summer to Charlton Park in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, from 24 to 26 July 2009. Tickets are on sale now.

The WOMAD Festival experience is not about the familiar, the tried and tested; its essence is in the discovery and enjoyment of a totally unexpected artist or a style of music which would never otherwise have been encountered. It's a magical, musical melting pot, enriching all who experience it.

Official WOMAD Website – www.womad.org
WOMAD on Facebook - <http://tinyurl.com/dm3vun>

WOMAD on Twitter - [@WOMADCHARLTONPK](#)

LISTINGS AND TICKET INFORMATION

WOMAD FESTIVAL 2009 - Charlton Park, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9DG

24 – 26 July 2009

BOOKING LINE: 0845 146 1735

ONLINE: www.womadshop.com

Adult Weekend Ticket: £122

Teenager (14-17 Year Olds) Weekend Ticket: £59

Disabled Weekend Ticket: £122

Day Ticket: £60

All Children (13 and under): FREE

FOR MORE TICKETS OPTIONS PLEASE SEE WEBSITE

Please note that all minors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult

Notes for Editors

A Brief History of WOMAD

The WOMAD (World of Music, Arts and Dance) Organisation was founded in 1980 by Peter Gabriel and Thomas Brooman, with the first festival being held in 1982 in Shepton Mallet in Somerset. WOMAD was created in an effort to introduce and combine little heard music from international cultures to better known Western music, such as Rock, Rap and Jazz.

The festival is now hosted across the world in countries including; Australia, New Zealand, Sicily and Spain. In 2009 there will be WOMAD festivals held in 5 countries around the world, including for the first time ever, the capital city of UAE, Abu Dhabi.

The WOMAD Foundation, created in 1983, has also developed its key role within the history of the festival, reaching 'beyond the festival gates' working with local communities and their discovery of new music and artists.

WOMAD is the premiere world music and arts festival and has always prided itself is a very family orientated experience and a safe space for children.

It has had a couple of major changes in the last two years; it moved from Reading to Charlton Park in 2007 and this year Chris Smith, WOMAD Festival director, took over from co-founder Thomas Brooman, after his departure.

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(WOMAD PHOTOGRAPHIC PRESS ACCREDITATION

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