

## Singers are a glass apart

Liverpool's finest pub singers performed on one of the nation's most famous stages for classical music in November.

Jonathan Raisin's 'The Rightful Owners of the Song' brought together the best of Liverpool's pub singers to perform a one-off concert of pub music at the Philharmonic Hall.

After a year-long trawl of pubs and social clubs, Raisin recruited some of the most

talented acts the city's pub music scene has to offer for the sell-out concert with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Greg Francis.

It was a joyous celebration of the great tradition of Liverpool pub singing, with the acts - ranging in age from 34 to 84 - performing classic popular songs from Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Crystal Gale, Natalie Cole and many more.



## The world in one festival

May Bank Holiday weekend saw the heart of the city captivated by street theatre, circus, dance and music.

Liverpool Streets Ahead brought the world's leading international street artists to the city centre for a spectacular day and night extravaganza.

The free event was launched in Spanish style with a masqueta of firecrackers, paving

the way for a weekend of extraordinary sights and sounds.

From Japanese jugglers and Canadian clowns to African acrobats, audiences were treated to the best street theatre from around the globe.

Liverpool Streets Ahead was the perfect event to herald the start of a packed Summer programme for '08.



# Having

April saw Liverpool take a trip back to the 1830s, as hundreds of people danced the waltz at St George's Hall.

The Viennese Balls at St George's Hall were a magical community event of glitz and glamour which sold out in under two-and-a-half hours.

The Great Hall was a sight to behold as it was transformed into a glittering ballroom for the two-night extravaganza. More than 700 dancers took to the floor, joined by Strictly Come Dancing stars Erin Boag and Anton Du Beke.

Claire Sweeney compered, while The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Vasily Petrenko, played the music of Strauss.

The inspiration for the balls came from a visit by Johann Strauss to Liverpool in 1838 when he introduced the waltz to the city.

The Viennese Balls also gave 250 local people the chance to take advantage of free dance classes given by a team of professionals.

Commissioned for Liverpool's European Capital of Culture year, the balls were one of the jewels in the '08 community cultural crown.

## Bewitching botanical bonanza

More than 7,000 people descended on Calderstones Park in October for the ambitious Power Plant project, making it one of '08's most successful community events.

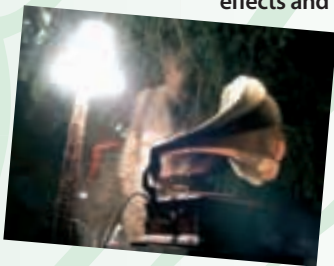
# a ball



Five-night audio visual extravaganza, Power Plant created a magical botanical experience for the whole community.

A stunning combination of light and sound transformed the park into a bewitching nocturnal world.

Light insects clustered in the trees,



accompanied by dramatic weather effects and mechanical plants, while deep rumblings captured the sound of the earth's energy.

20 different installations imbued the gardens with an otherworldly glow, while at the centre of the park, the glasshouse became a slowly pulsating beacon of light.



I have spoken to many people who have visited Liverpool during its Capital of Culture year, and the impression they have come away with is of a buzzing, cosmopolitan city. 2008 is not just something for us to look back on with pleasure, but to build on with enthusiasm and pride."



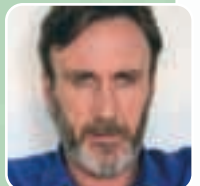
**Brian Patten, Poet**

Congratulations should go to all those involved who have worked so hard to make the last year so fantastic. The people of Liverpool rose to the challenge and got right behind it. The year has allowed us to showcase our great city nationally and internationally and now we must build on the momentum. Liverpool is in a stronger position to deal with the challenges ahead thanks to the Capital of Culture year."



**Councillor Joe Anderson  
Leader of the Opposition**

What a fantastic year! Congratulations to all concerned for the amazing events. The city looks great, feels great and I'm sure that the legacy of this year will continue to boost the unique status that Liverpool already enjoys as a pillar of the artistic and cultural heritage of this country. I'm filled with pride and great hope for the future.



**Joe McGann, Actor**

I am thrilled that '08 has been such a huge success. By bringing millions of new visitors to the city, it's raised the profile of Merseyside across the world. It's been great to see how local people have been so enthusiastic about the extraordinary opportunities this year has offered. I believe 2008 can be a tremendous springboard for the future for Merseyside.



**Cherie Blair, QC**

## Support for Young Parents in Liverpool



### Teenage parent or a pregnant teenager?

Children's Centres can offer a range of services for you including:

- Support & advice on issues such as housing, benefits & parenting skills
- Support into education & training, including help with funding suitable childcare & accessing childcare funding.
- Access to midwifery & health visitor support e.g. baby clinics
- Young Parents' drop-ins • Parent & toddler groups
- Support & activities for young fathers

Services & activities will vary at each centre, but every centre has a specialist worker for pregnant teenagers & teenage parents, who can provide one to one advice & support.

To contact your local Children's Centre, or find out what's available to you, telephone Liverpool Children's Information Service on 08000 85 20 22 or go to [www.liverpool.gov.uk/childrenscentres](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/childrenscentres)



Liverpool Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

**SureStart** The City of Liverpool

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SLS are very proud to have been part of the delivery team for the 'Look of the city' programme for Liverpool Capital of Culture '08



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