



PRESS RELEASE

August 2010

## Cycle festival blazes a trail

Vancouver has Velopalooza, Portland has Pedalpalooza; now Bristol is joining their ranks with one of Europe's largest cycle festivals.

From September 11th-26th the city will be awash with a cultural extravaganza of over 75 DIY events - cycle theatre, cycle tours, cycle films, cycle street games, cycle fashion, cycle talks, cycle activism, cycle-powered music and more...

Bristol Cycle Festival is a creative and quirky celebration of all things bike –from cycle-in cinemas to city-wide games; urban bike fashion to rural foraging tours. Over the two-weeks you can learn how to ride, fix and customise your cycle, tour the city, go off road or saddle up for races and charity rides.

So what's your two-wheeled fancy?

**Theatre** // [Pedal Pusher](#), fresh from the Edinburgh Fringe, present their physical theatre show, taking us through the intriguing world of the Tour de France. At Tobacco Factory Theatre on 12th September (free tickets).

**UK's first bike-dedicated Carnival** // over 20 troupes will be saddled and dressed up to roll through the centre on 19th September as part of Freewheelin' Carnival. Troupes can still sign up - [carnival@bristolcyclefestival.com](mailto:carnival@bristolcyclefestival.com)

**Film** // Cycle in cinema on Bristol to Bath cycle path - showing cult classic Point Break, Bike Screen at the Cube Cinema, bike inspired film night.

**Exhibitions and installations** // [Dokumenta Ciclista](#)'s extensive collection of photographs city cyclists (and their bikes) from Warsaw to Norway // [Duelling Duchamps](#), interactive, musical art installation consisting of two replicas of Marcel Duchamp's readymade sculpture 'Bicycle Wheel' that plays Duelling Banjo's accompanied by real life hill billies...

**Cycle Central 18th Sept across the city centre** // **Colston Hall** hosts Cycling in the City, the festival's showcase of urban cycle culture with guest speaker [Robert Penn \(It's all about the Bike\)](#), independent designer Bike Fashion Show, the UK's first all-female bike dance troupe (The Spokes) and Cyclescreen shorts. Also, street game pros [lgfest](#) are back to transform the city into a playground, this time with two-wheeled adventures, and performance impresarios **Cirque Bijou** present a stunt bike/break-dancing freestyle battle.

**Rides** // The festival pushes off with [Sustrans' Cheddar Adventure](#) on September 11<sup>th</sup>, celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Cycle Network. This ride takes bikers from Bristol to Cheddar and back on minor roads and trails.

**Charity Rides** // Bristol to Amsterdam for Macmillan Cancer, John O'Groats to Lands End for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and the Malawi Education Project Sponsored Ride.

**Demos** // Life Cycle's Two's Company Tandem and All Inclusive events for visually impaired or disabled riders, offering cycling options for all.

**Games** // The BS3 Bike Ghetto Polo Tourney, Discover Bristol Treasure Hunt and bike beer-barrel carrying with The Mr Berridge Challenge.

**For kids** // Project APE bring us bike-fun sessions in Withywood and Hartcliffe, where crazy bikes and their pedal-powered spin paint machine will be out to play, free of charge for all.

**Workshops** // Jake's Bikes, Dr Bike and Life Cycle UK's bike-fixing workshops all on hand to get your bike back to its best.

Lots more information can be found at [www.bristolcyclefestival.com](http://www.bristolcyclefestival.com). Download a copy of the printed [programme](#) and visit the [Events Diary](#) for the evolving online listing.

Cllr Dr Jon Rogers, Bristol's Executive Member for Cycling City said:

"Bristol Cycle Festival is very much 'brand Bristol', celebrating the city's bicycle renaissance in the imaginative and creative way that Bristol is famous for.

"The council provided the framework for this festival and the city's vibrant and passionate cycling stakeholders have taken the reins, come at us with hundreds of ideas and set up a wonderfully engaging programme of independent activities to celebrate Bristol as a Cycling City.

"The festival fortnight is set to immerse the city in cycling, building on the bike renaissance and encouraging hundreds of new-comers back to the saddle."

### Notes

For any further information about all events and the festival please go to [www.bristolcyclefestival.com](http://www.bristolcyclefestival.com) or contact Lizzie Keates [press@bristolcyclefestival.com](mailto:press@bristolcyclefestival.com) or call 07729319945. Interviews with all event organisers can be arranged.

### Info

Bristol Cycle Festival is a celebration of all things bike from 11th-26th September. Two weeks of rides, performances, workshops, races, games and community events. For all further info or to submit an event visit [www.bristolcyclefestival.com](http://www.bristolcyclefestival.com) or email [info@bristolcyclefestival.com](mailto:info@bristolcyclefestival.com)

### Background

Bristol Cycle Festival has been funded by BCC Cycling City and organised by a coalition team comprised of Shambala Festival, Team Rubber, The Bike Forum, Bristol City Councils Neighbourhood Arts team, Sustrans, Spoke n Chain and Cycling City.

**Velopalooza** is 10 days of bikey fun that happens annually in Vancouver. With **71** events, most organized by individuals, bikers of all persuasions are likely to find many events of interest. <http://www.velopalooza.ca/>

**Shift2Bikes** organises Pedalpalooza 2 weeks of cycle fun. With **297** events, most organized by individuals, bikers of all persuasions are likely to find many events of interest. Nearly all events are free. <http://www.shift2bikes.org/cal/viewpp2010.php>