

<http://www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk/Thousands-join-Bollywood-dance-fever-festival/story-13004074-detail/story.html>

Thousands join in with Bollywood dance fever at festival in city park



Monday, July 25, 2011



[Derby Telegraph](#)

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THOUSANDS of people broke into dances from hit Bollywood films as a Derby park hosted the city's fourth South Asian Arts Festival.

Saturday's event – this year dubbed Popcorn in the Park – is thought to have attracted about 11,000 people to Normanton's Arboretum.



1.

Jawani dancers

And many of them excitedly joined in as groups put together by organiser Surtal Arts performed dances from Bollywood, a form of Indian musical cinema.

The groups included youngsters from workshops held at Derby schools, including Littleover Community School and Murray Park School.

Surtal Arts choreographer Nisha Nath, 24, said a crowd of 3,000 watched the performance and that most of the younger audience members joined in when they heard songs they knew.

She said: "The songs were all recognisable and popular. The crowd went berserk."

Nisha, of Sinfin, said the crowd for the dancing came from all different cultures, which showed how popular Bollywood and other forms of Indian dance had become.

Her own dance group, Jawani, performed Indian classical dancing and bhangra.

She said: "There were Asian people, white people, black people in the crowd.

"Most of our marketing was actually done outside Derby, in places like Ilkeston, Duffield and Swadlincote.

"You don't need to understand Hindi to enjoy Bollywood dancing.

"Music is a universal language."

Dances came from the films *Tyar Ke Geet*, *Dabaang*, and *Om Shanti Om* – a smash-hit musical which has taken \$40 million worldwide and was later shown in the park on a big screen.

Nisha said about 11,000 people came to the festival in total, with about 5,000 there at any one time.

This would make it the most popular South Asian Arts Festival held so far.

The event opened with a show from talented teenage drummers using dhols – Punjabi folk drums.

There was also story-telling, free workshops and food and craft stalls, including face-painting and bracelet making.

Sarita Madara volunteered to help run the stalls and said the festival was bigger than the previous South Asian Arts Festival, which took place in the city centre in 2010.

The 24-year-old, of Almond Street, Normanton, said: "There was more for kids to do – interactive workshops for drumming and dancing.

"The choreography for the dancing was also brilliant.

"I think it was a good family day out and I'd volunteer again."

Surtal Arts is an organisation based at Derby's Quad arts centre.

It promotes South Asian Arts through educational projects, school clubs and community theatre productions.

<http://www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk/Lantern-parade-shines-light-city-s-diversity/story-13894355-detail/story.html>

Lantern parade shines a light on city's diversity of cultures



Saturday, November 19, 2011



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PARENTS and children paraded with lanterns and then packed Derby's Market Place to see flame-throwers, dancers and musicians close the "best ever" Season of Light festival.

It was a vibrant and exciting finish to the month-long event, which celebrates the diversity of the city's multicultural communities.



1.

The annual Season of Light parade in Derby marched from The Spot to Cathedral Green. Pictured, top, are sisters Amber and Ashling Husband, aged ten and seven. Above, from left: Ewan Findlay and Tim Fullagher, both aged ten, of Park View Primary School, a stilt-walker and drummers.



Around 500 people of all ages and backgrounds joined in, many of them schoolchildren who made their own lanterns in class.

They gathered at The Spot clock tower, in Derby city centre, at 6pm yesterday and paraded to the Market Place, led by stilt-walkers and drummers.

People from all ages and backgrounds followed behind, while onlookers took photos or filmed the procession.

Once at the Market Place, a number of local groups and schools took to a makeshift arena beneath the big screen and entertained the crowd with a host of impressive dance and music performances.

The procession then continued to Cathedral Green for the finale entertainment of fire sculptures and fire performers, accompanied by percussionist Sandeep Raval.

The willow lanterns for the parade were created by school children during workshops with lantern artists.

Among them were Gayton Junior School pupils Amber Husband, 10, and her sister Ashling, seven.

Looking on was their mother, Shona Husband, who said: "They've enjoyed making the lanterns and bringing them here with their friends. It's a nice experience for them."

Fellow onlooker Dev Singh Dosanjh added: "It brings people together and is nice for everyone."

Among those who performed were a group of Surtal Arts drummers, who recently reunited for the event.

Member Shakila Ahmed, 43, from Long Eaton, said: "We formed in February but had to split in the summer because of the cuts.

"We've only been back together for two weeks and had three rehearsals for tonight. I've loved it. There's a nice, feel-good vibe."

Elsewhere there was Bollywood dancing, with children from the crowd invited to enter the arena and have a go themselves.

Hardyal Dhindsa, chairman of Quad-based Surtal Arts, which organises the annual event, said: "All the different communities or religions in Derby hold festivals or events that involve lights.

"This month-long programme celebrates all of them and brings all the different communities together.

"Tonight has been fantastic. Everyone from the schools have done an excellent job.

"It's getting better each year. Look at the crowds – this is the best one we've had."

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