



LEEDS WEST INDIAN CARNIVAL 2017 – 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS PROGRAMME

With humble beginnings in 1967 as an antidote to the yearning for the Caribbean culture and heritage of a group of West Indian students in Leeds, 2017 marks the milestone 50th anniversary of Leeds West Indian Carnival.

The first in the UK to incorporate all three essential elements of authentic West Indian carnival – costumes, music and a masquerade procession - it is Europe's longest running Caribbean carnival parade.

Half a century later we are proud to be one of the North's biggest and most adored annual events.

We hope you'll join us for our biggest and best celebrations yet. Until then, here's a taste of what to expect in our golden year, from us and our partners, with more to be announced in the months to come.

From Leeds West Indian Carnival – with love.

#CARNIVALHAPPY

I'M CARNIVAL HAPPY

FREE PHOTO BOOTH POPPING UP ACROSS LEEDS

MAY – AUGUST

Commissioned by Leeds Inspired, four carnival artists created headpieces reflecting on our 50 year history. From spring to summer I'm Carnival Happy will tour the city with a pop-up portrait studio collecting 500 portraits of people wearing the stunning creations. Come along, strike a pose and get Carnival Happy!

Headpieces created by Lorina Gumbs, Hughbon Condor, Renata Gordon & Melissa Simon-Hartman.
Photographs by Lizzie Coombes & Paul Floyd Blake.

VENUES For pop-up studio dates visit www.leedsinspired.co.uk

A TASTE OF CARNIVAL FAMILY WORKSHOP

TUESDAY 29th MAY

A fun-filled day of carnival arts and crafts for families with children under 16. Make your own costume headpiece, carnival-ise a t-shirt and learn to dance soca moves. (More workshops coming in October and February 2018).

VENUE Leeds West Indian Centre, Laycock Place, Leeds LS7 3AJ

INFORMATION Details and registration info participate@leedscarnvial.co.uk

REVEAL - LAUNCHING LEEDS CARNIVAL 2017 TROUPES

JUNE

A sneak peek at the city's troupe costumes taking part in Leeds Carnival 2017 and your chance to be a part of our biggest celebrations ever. Come along, fall in love with one of the costumes hitting the catwalk and sign up to wear it on Carnival Day.

INFORMATION participate@leedscarnvial.co.uk

LEEDS CARNIVAL ON DE ROAD

JUNE – AUGUST

Look out for us as we take #CarnivalHappy on the road to our UK carnival family in Preston, Derby, Leicester and Manchester.

DATES

Preston Caribbean Carnival – June 25th

Derby Caribbean Carnival – July 15th

Leicester Caribbean Carnival – August 5th

Caribbean Carnival of Manchester – August 12th

POP UP CARNIVAL

JUNE – AUGUST

We'll be popping up with the music, dance and costume spectacle of Carnival in unexpected places. Will it be a beach? Could we be brightening up your train station commute or your city centre shopping? Or will we appear in your neighbourhood?

Keep an eye out for more details!

VENUES & DATES www.leedscarnival.co.uk

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HERITAGE

Our Leeds Carnival 50 Heritage programme will proudly celebrate and showcase the heritage and history of Leeds West Indian Carnival. Made possible by an Our Heritage grant from Heritage Lottery Fund and featuring;

- LEEDS CARNIVAL 50 HERITAGE EXHIBITION • CARNIVAL CHRONICLES • RECREATING THE SUN GODDESS

LEEDS CARNIVAL 50 HERITAGE EXHIBITION

AUGUST – OCTOBER

An exploration and celebration of the dynamic cultural, visual and political legacy of Leeds West Indian Carnival curated by Sonya Dyer and captured by photography, sound, costumes, archive material, workshops and symposia and with touring to community and city locations.

VENUE The Tetley, Hunslet Rd, Leeds LS10 1JQ and touring locations across Leeds.

ADMISSION FREE

INFORMATION curator@leedscarnival.co.uk www.leedscarnival.co.uk

CARNIVAL CHRONICLES

Carnival Chronicles will gather the inspirational real life stories of the pioneers, contributors and communities that brought Europe's first Caribbean Carnival to Leeds. Their stories will be brought to life on stage by acclaimed writer **Zodwa Nyoni**.

VENUES September 11th @ West Yorkshire Playhouse, Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UP and in community venues in October

INFORMATION www.leedscarnival.co.uk

RECREATING THE SUN GODDESS

Leeds costume design supremo Hughbon Condor recreates **The Sun Goddess** - the very first Leeds Carnival Queen costume, on display at the Leeds Carnival 50 Heritage Exhibition from August to October.

CARNIVAL PRINCE AND PRINCESS SHOW

SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST

Junior Kings and Queens kick off the Carnival season in rainbow creations. Who will be Leeds Carnival Prince & Princess 2017? Find out at this fun-filled, entertainment packed family show.

VENUE Leeds West Indian Centre, Laycock Place, Leeds LS7 3AJ

INFORMATION www.leedscarnival.co.uk

CARNIVAL KING AND QUEEN SHOW

FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST

For the incredible costumes from across the UK competing to be Leeds Carnival King & Queen 2017, the stakes have never been higher in this our 50th year. With maximum wow-factor, introducing the stunning Carnival Choir, acclaimed artist Clary Salandy's modern version of The Sun Goddess (our first Carnival Queen) and a special guest international performance courtesy of Leeds 2023, this is a golden anniversary must-do. Suitable for age 16 plus with parental guidance.

VENUE West Yorkshire Playhouse

INFORMATION Keep an eye on our website and www.wyp.org.uk for ticket release date.

SOCA MONARCH SHOW

SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST

A favourite with fans of Carnival and authentic Caribbean music and rhymes, contestants pit their songs, lyrical skills and razor sharp humour for the Soca Monarch 2017 crown. Suitable for age 18+.

VENUE Leeds West Indian Centre

INFORMATION www.leedscarnival.co.uk

J'OUVERT MORNING

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 28TH AUGUST

Set your alarm and start Carnival Day the Caribbean way with this traditional early morning soca music jam and mini parade. PS It's never too early to jam!

VENUE Mini procession leaves from Leeds West Indian Centre

TIME 6am

INFORMATION www.leedscarnival.co.uk

THE 50th ANNIVERSARY LEEDS WEST INDIAN CARNIVAL PARADE

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 28TH AUGUST

It's been 50 years in the making! With dazzling costumes and Caribbean beats, amazing stalls, fun fair rides and delicious world cuisine our 2017 Carnival parade is all set to bring joy to the streets of Leeds. The burst of colour, unbelievable creations, infectious rhythms and an unrivalled welcoming atmosphere make this is the perfect family day out. Look out for news of special guest international performances on the main stage courtesy of Leeds 2023.

PARADE START AND FINISH Potternewton Park, Leeds 7

ADMISSION FREE for all the family

INFORMATION www.leedscarnival.co.uk for updates and parade route details

We're not the only ones marking our 50th Anniversary! Our friends at Light Night Leeds and West Yorkshire Playhouse will be celebrating too.

WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE

SEPTEMBER 11 – 15

West Yorkshire Playhouse will mark our 50th birthday with a major week of artistic activity including new plays commemorating Carnival's history and a screening of the celebrated Carnival Messiah originally created by the late Geraldine Connor.

VENUE West Yorkshire Playhouse Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UP

INFORMATION www.wyp.org.uk

THE NIGHT CARNIVAL AT LIGHT NIGHT LEEDS 2017

THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER

Join us as we kick off Light Night Leeds 2017 in style with a spectacular illuminated Night Carnival. Experience the glow of carnival as the parade weaves its way through Leeds City Centre in an explosion of phenomenal costumes, music and light!

VENUE Leeds City Centre

SHOW TIME 7.30pm

ADMISSION FREE for all the family

INFORMATION www.lightnightleeds.co.uk