

Warrington Mela 2024

Invitation to perform on the Community Stage, Palmyra Square



We would like to invite members of Warrington's communities that reflect the wide cultural diversity of Warrington to showcase their talents at this year's Mela Festival. Groups, duos or individuals will be selected by our panel to perform traditional dance, music, singing or spoken word.

Background

Warrington's leading multi-cultural outdoor festival of free street theatre, dance, music, food and colliding cultures, Warrington Mela will take place on Sunday 15th September, 2024 in its iconic home Palmyra Square and the newly revitalised Time Square.

Now into its 12th year, thanks to funding from Arts Council England this year's Mela will be Warrington's most ambitious yet, with some of the very best of UK's street theatre, puppetry and dance running alongside 'Warrington's Own' community stage, a showcase for homegrown talent originating from Nigeria, India, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine.

Intergenerational audiences will come together to feast in our Global Food Kitchen, learn about local health services in our Wellbeing Village, participate in Bollywood dance workouts and arts and crafts workshops and celebrate their unique heritages in a vibrant union of diversity, the very essence of the word 'Mela'.

When? Sunday 15th September 2024

Where? Queens Gardens, Palmyra Square

What we are looking for:

Since Warrington Mela began, Warrington communities have been performing on the stage in Palmyra Square. This year, we would like to open up this opportunity to even more community performers from across Warrington, representing the different cultures that make up our town. Groups, duos or individuals of any age will be selected by a panel made up of representatives of the different communities of Warrington, Warrington Ethnic Communities Association and Warrington Borough Council to perform traditional dance, music, singing or spoken word throughout the day.

You must be able to:

- Attend the festival on Sunday 15th September at your allotted time;
- Perform a rehearsed piece on a stage to a live audience (all performing art forms will be considered);
- Provide your own music, costumes, props, etc.

Support with transport may be available in some cases.

How to apply:

Please send a video of you / your group performing (it need not be the performance you will be doing on the day) to melaenquiries@warrington.gov.uk

You can:

- Email the video as an attachment.
- Send through a URL link.
- Send a link to a YouTube clip.
- Send via WeTransfer, a free file sending service. <https://wetransfer.com/>

If you are unable to provide a video, please contact **Lynn Radcliffe** at melaenquiries@warrington.gov.uk. We may be able to send someone out to watch your group perform / rehearse.

Along with your video, please email the following information:

1. Name of Individual or group
2. Number in group
3. Age ranges
4. Ethnic origins / cultural backgrounds of performers
5. Name of performance
6. Description of performance, e.g. traditional dance from Ukraine
7. Length of performance
8. Can you attend on Sunday 15th September?

Please send the above information and your video to:

melaenquiries@warrington.gov.uk by Monday 5th August.

Please note that there are a limited number of performance slots available on the community stage. We will be looking to present a varied programme with performances from a variety of cultures and artforms. Performers will also be selected according to the quality of their work and if they can commit to attending the festival at their allotted time.



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