



Blackburne House Group



public relations

Launch of Liverpool Women's Festival 08



Liverpool actress Cathy Tyson will be present to launch Liverpool's 2008 Festival for Women with a showcase of some of the events that will be taking place this year.

Cathy, who will appear at the Everyman Theatre this May, will address the launch alongside other successful women from the region.

The launch, on Thursday 6th March, will feature sketches from Liverpool comedienne Amanda Meaghan and a dance showcase from the winners of the city-wide Let's Dance competition.

As well as being Liverpool's Capital of Culture year, 2008 also marks the 25th birthday of the pioneering Blackburne House Group which is hosting the festival.

Organisers are hoping this year's edition will be one of the biggest celebrations of women's achievements, drawing thousands to the city.

Speakers appearing at the launch, which runs from 10 to 12.30 at the Grade II Blackburne House near Hope Street, include the Liverpool-born actress and Sue Woodward, MD of ITV Granada.

Cathy, 42, said: "I'm delighted to be involved with such a great organisation as Blackburne House, which promotes a whole host of opportunities for Liverpool women.

"I'm delighted to be on board with The Liverpool Women's Festival - it's all very exciting!"

"I'm particularly interested in the opportunities on Construction and The Black Women's Conference.

"I'm also delighted that Blackburne House is now accessible to everyone as I think I'm right in saying, years ago it was only open to daughters of the elite - and it has been so well maintained over the years.

Claire Dove MBE, chief executive of the organisation, said they hope the festival will have a legacy far beyond 2008.

She said: "This festival will celebrate women's achievements and attract some internationally recognised female figures to the region.

"We aim to draw thousands of visitors to the city and leave our mark in the form of opportunities and celebrations that last beyond the end of 2008."

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The Festival for Women will also feature the Blackburne House 25th Birthday Party, a Women's 'Question Time' chaired by Kirsty Wark and Jenny Murray from the BBC and a Black Women's conference, among other events.

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