

Preview

FIRE

Get ready to set the night alight



Hosted at Harrogate's Bar Med, the night is unique, its music incorporating live percussion and brass with the deck work of guest and regular DJs, such as CloudBass and Johnnie Fredericks. Dance based all, the tunes or styles are nevertheless eclectic, often underground or experimental and are delivered with the edgy, raw energy that comes with performing live.

"We try to draw our influences from all sorts of areas," says Matt Da Conga, alias of Matt Watson, co-founder of the night, "and with people like Ben Lacey on sax and Dan Webster on trumpet, we can pull in loads of jazz and funk, mixing it up with house and some harder-edged stuff. Johnnie Fredericks usually kicks us off with some pretty chilled out, cool jazz tunes and, as each DJ does his set, the night gradually heats up until everyone gets up on the floor or on the tables and the whole place takes off until the night is totally banging."

Bar Med can fairly claim to have the biggest dance floor in Harrogate and, according to Matt, it needs it: "There's so much technical equipment in the room when we have a FIRE night that there would barely be enough room to dance if there wasn't this great big space in front of the stage. The thing is, we need all the sound stuff because we are really passionate about getting the biggest and cleanest sound possible."

It's not the music alone that

makes FIRE such a big impact night, but visual entertainment, too. The Whirly Girls are a big draw, gracefully dancing with fire, both outside — as an entertainment for the long queues of fans waiting to get in — and inside, alongside the musicians as part of the stage act.

"They got their name when Dean, our manager, first saw them swirling their fire around and said, "ooh, I like those whirly girls, and it just stuck. We also have blokes doing less



graceful but really cool sort of martial arts stuff with fire staffs, fire poi and fire breathing."

Incredibly devoted to the night, FIREheads see FIRE as the best night out of the month and you can be sure that, come 1 May, they, along with a massive gathering of veterans or newcomers, will be celebrating May Day at Harrogate's Bar Med.

1 May, Bar Med

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