



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***UNMASK YOUR SENSES AT WINNIPEG'S OWN MARDI GRAS
In Support of Participating Charities***

Winnipeg, Manitoba (December 15, 2009) -- Winnipeggers will have a chance to beat the winter blues this February without jumping on a plane. Come experience the sizzling sights, sounds and tastes of the Mardi Gras tradition right here in Winnipeg, in support of a number of participating charities:

WINNIPEG MARDI GRAS

February 12 & 13, 2010

6:00pm to 2:00am nightly

Winnipeg Convention Centre

Must be 18 years of age or older

GENERAL ADMISSION -- \$16

Available at Ticketmaster and participating charities

GENERAL ADMISSION & THREE-COURSE DINNER

Available at Winnipeg Mardi Gras hotline (957-4535) and selected participating charities

PARTICIPATING CHARITIES IN 2010

Winnipeg Mardi Gras believes in supporting the community and has partnered with a number of participating charities in 2010. Proceeds from ticket purchases and auction activities during Winnipeg Mardi Gras weekend will benefit the following charities:

- Canadian Liver Foundation
- CancerCare Manitoba Foundation
- Children's Rehabilitation Foundation
- CNIB
- Dreams Take Flight
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Macdonald Youth Services
- Society for Manitobans with Disabilities Foundation
- Southdale Recreation Centre
- The Rainbow Society

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FEEL THE BEAT!

Winnipeg Mardi Gras is proud to present live music from one of the greatest living Zydeco bands in the world. **Rockin' Dopsie, Jr. & The Zydeco Twisters** are coming straight from Louisiana to heat up Winnipeg. Rockin' Dopsie, Jr. (pronounced Doop' see) performs Zydeco with the same conviction and authenticity of his legendary father, the late Rockin' Dopsie, Sr. Considered the best 'rub board' player in the world, Dopsie, Jr. is a charismatic and electrifying stage performer. His dancing, splits, and audience participation antics make the band's performances exciting; keeping the listeners involved and dancing to the highly infectious Zydeco beat. (www.rockindopsie.com)

Other attractions include the **The Colossal Canadian Couple**, an amazing duo who entertain crowds across North America with their style of big fun. Standing nine feet tall and six feet wide, they turn heads while turning their surroundings into joyous mayhem. Up above, **The Aerial Dancers** perform acrobatics and synchronized moves upon silk scarves. They convey grace and beauty while captivating audiences with daring drops, powerful climbs, and elegant poses while suspended in the air.

SOME LIKE IT HOT!

Nothing satisfies like southern cuisine, and Winnipeg Mardi Gras serves up the best spicy, saucy and scrumptious selections. A full dinner and 'a la carte' menu is available from 6:00pm to 10:00pm, featuring jambalaya, gumbo, shrimp Creole, Cajun barbequed ribs, succotash, sausage, and other specialties. The late night menu after 10:00pm offers 'po boy' sandwiches, Cajun slow roasted beef, Louisiana grilled chicken, and more. The fresh oyster and shrimp bar serves up heaping helpings of these favourite seafood delicacies.

BEADS & BOAS ON BOURBON STREET!

You never know what you're going to see at Winnipeg Mardi Gras, and that alone is half the fun. Marvel at living statues, roving drummers, impersonators, jugglers, and dancers. Bring your own Mardi Gras mask, or purchase from one of the many vendors onsite. Saunter about the booths where you'll find hats, feathers, beads, boas, jewelry, lingerie, adult toys, and more. Put your costume on (anything goes!) and join the parade. Keep your eyes open for gorgeous showgirls decked out in spectacular feathered headdresses and dazzling beaded bikinis. Get beaded your self all night long on Winnipeg's own Bourbon Street.

GET IN ON THE AUCTION ACTION!

Winnipeg Mardi Gras offers the chance to take home fabulous auction items all weekend long. Each night will feature a silent auction put on by participating charities, with all proceeds going back to the charities. The silent auction on Friday, February 12th is hosted by Dreams Take Flight. On Saturday, February 13th the silent auction is hosted by all participating charities. Winnipeg Mardi Gras weekend will also feature a very special and exciting online auction. More info about the auctions, and everything else, is available online. (www.winnipegmardigras.com)

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