

THE
PANTILES
The Jewel in the Town

PRESS RELEASE

Issued: 9/4/10

Unfest

Local music label announce Pantiles Fringe Festival

Tunbridge Wells music label Unlabel are to hold a music festival during this year's Spring Bank Holiday. Teaming up with sister venues the Ragged Trousers, the Forum, the Sussex Arms and the Duke of York – as well as the Pantiles owners, Targetfollow - organisers hope to provide two days of alternative music on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th May.

Billed as UNFEST, the event will feature around 100 acts spread across seven stages. From headlining bands at the Forum, acoustic at the Duke of York, electronica at the Ragged Trousers, to DJs and folk at the Sussex Arms. Several artists will also play the Pantiles' bandstand.

The two days are being jointly curated by the venues' management, local promoters The Music Box, Peter Taylor and Fishbowl Acoustic, as well as Unlabel founders Jason Dormon and John Banfield.

Branching out to the Pantiles' mainland, the Forum sees the event similar to that of a fringe festival, providing an artistic compliment to what is already provided within the local area.

Founder of Unlabel and the Forum, Jason Dormon, says: "We want to create a regional music festival that will alongside the long tradition of a thriving local music community, really pushes the area into a hotbed for the arts. We aim to showcase the variety of talent on the label and some of the more original artists from all over the south east region. We want to spread the net a little further afield, artistically as well as geographically."

Fellow curators John Banfield and Chris Pritchard: "This is very much an urban music festival as opposed to one centred around a main or single stage. We've got some great acts booked for the Pantiles' bandstand, to create a snapshot and introduce what is happening at the Forum and the Sussex Arms, not only this weekend but throughout the year."

"We very much look forward to growing this as an event. It's essentially a music festival because that's what we specialise in. But in later years hope local film makers, theatre groups, photographers, artists and poets may wish to become involved. There are definitely enough DIY venues around the Pantiles to fit them in."

Richard Simm, manager of the Ragged Trousers, says: "It's great to be able to host bands from this great local label and highlight the Pantiles has much more to offer than just brass bands."