

The Royal Variety Performance 2008
An all-star line up unveiled for the 80th anniversary show on BBC ONE.

A host of celebrities and artists from the worlds of music, comedy and theatre come together for the annual highlight of the showbiz calendar, the **Royal Variety Performance**. Celebrating its 80th anniversary, this year's show will be returning to the iconic **London Palladium** on **Thursday 11th December 2008** to be performed in the presence of **Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales** and **The Duchess of Cornwall**.

Headlining for 2008 will be pop heart throbs **Take That**, cementing their place as the UK's comeback kings, with what is promised to be a sensational performance.

Temperatures are set to soar this winter with performances to remember from the sexiest girl group around, the **Pussycat Dolls** with a medley of their sassiest hits. Ready to take a bow will be r'n'b Umbrella diva **Rihanna**, and international singing sensation **Leona Lewis** makes her Royal debut, as does glamorous Welsh soul songstress **Duffy**.

Hoping to top his now legendary **Singin' In The Rain** will be **Britain's Got Talent** winner 15 year old **George Sampson** with a brand new dance routine. Housewives' favourite and Torchwood's suave Captain Jack, **John Barrowman** will return to the stage, and American music sensation **Naturally 7** are set to amaze with their distinct acapella performance.

Pop veterans **Cliff Richard and The Shadows** will reform especially for the show as they prepare to celebrate their 50th anniversary; and performing a one-off duet will be multi Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter **Josh Groban** and **BBC Last Choir Standing** victors **Only Men Aloud**.

From the world of theatre and dance the best of the West End will come together for one night only with **Jersey Boys** taking us through the rags-to-rock-to riches tale of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. The cast of **Zorro** will be bringing to life the legend of the masked Spanish hero and celebrating their 10th year in the West End, **Disney's The Lion King** will dazzle us with the sights and sounds of the African Savanna. Also set for centre stage and currently winning rave reviews is **La Cage Aux Folles**.

There'll also be what promises to be a roof-raising live performance from legendary **Queen** guitarist **Brian May** and **Kerry Ellis** fresh from Broadway and the multi award winning **Wicked**. Completing the show's theatrical line-up is the extraordinary **Les Ballets Trockadero De Monte Carlo**, the ballet troupe with a difference.

The nation's much-loved comedian **Peter Kay** returns to the **Royal Variety Performance** after a decade away with his Irish talent show winning alter ego Geraldine McQueen.

Other top comedy at this year's performance will come from award-winning comic **Jimmy Carr**, banter merchant **Michael McIntyre** and funny man **Rhod Gilbert**. Double act **Armstrong and Miller** will also be performing a one off sketch featuring characters from their beautifully observed and completely barmy BAFTA-nominated comedy show.

The **Royal Variety Performance** is an annual charity event in aid of the **Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund** and will be shown on **BBC One** in December.

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