

King Pleasure? King Wonderful!

**04 April 2009
PRESS RELEASE**

**King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys
8 pm, 23 May 2009**

King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys perform at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Saturday 23rd May, 8pm.



King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys are more than just the world's greatest swing band, they are an institution! The band have been on the road for two decades playing every European country as well as the USA and Russia, and recording ten CDs. Dazzling musicianship, riveting stage performances, more than 50 TV appearances (including, somewhat bizarrely, five episodes of Teletubbies) and 75 radio broadcasts have established them as the Kings of Swing. Paul Jones on BBC Radio 2 called them "the hardest act to follow since the parting of The Red Sea".

But what kind of music is it? When the great Swing Era ended, in the mid 1940s, it broke apart and the various bits started growing into styles of their own. One of these was dance-hall rhythm and blues, as performed by the likes of Lucky Millinder, Buddy Johnson and Louis Jordan, at places like Harlem's Savoy Ballroom. This is the root of the Biscuit Boys' style, although their own distinctive approach has by now developed quite a long way from there.

They're the genuine article, in full working order, dedicated to shaking you up and swinging you into the middle of next week. They've got King Pleasure's bourbon voice, they've got a roaring band sound that comes at you like the Wabash Cannonball, and above all they've got that beat. In the words of the immortal Lord Buckley 'Rhythm is the key to everything - runs the whole swingin' thing'.

So much pop music nowadays is full of anger and violence on the one hand, and slack-jawed stupidity on the other that we are in urgent need of music that comes with a cheer-up guarantee. That is exactly what King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys unfailingly deliver. Sounds easy when put like that, but it isn't - not to do it properly at any rate. Any bunch of fools can don zoot suits and pointy shoes that you could climb a chain-link fence in. It doesn't take a lot to learn a few riffs and strike a few poses. But to create the kind of easy swing you hear on *The Wrong Door*, the precision and attack of *Big Girl*, the blend in *Bring It On Baby* takes talent, focus and a lot of working together. And when you experience it live you discover what a real show can be - wholehearted, full-on, exhausting and unforgettable.

Resistance is futile. Surrender to having a good time.

Tickets for this production are £12 (£10) and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

Notes to editors:

Further information is available from Rachel Taylor on 01970 622889 email rst@aber.ac.uk

Further Aberystwyth Arts Centre press releases can be found at www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/press.shtml.