

# RENAISSANCE PLEASURE FAIRE®

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THE QUEEN INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF THE 56<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON OF THE RENAISSANCE PLEASURE FAIRE**

### **THE ORIGINAL RENAISSANCE PLEASURE FAIRE OPENS SEVEN-WEEK RUN BEGINNING APRIL 7**

**LOS ANGELES (April 2018)** – 'Tis a great and mighty wonder, this joyous feast day brings! Your trip may only take you ten minutes East of Pasadena, but you'll end up 500 years and a continent away. Step through our gate, out of the modern, weary world, and into a land of unbridled imagination, celebration, and compassion. The Original Renaissance Pleasure Faire – the world's oldest – presents its 56th anniversary season, beginning April 7th, and continuing each weekend through May 20th, at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area in Irwindale, CA.

Set in the royal shipyard city of **Deptford** during the reign of **Elizabeth**, fairgoers – many of whom dress in period costumes – are immersed in the music, language, merchant scene, and entertainment of the era. Thousands of performers roam the 23-acre lakeside shire, including Her Majesty, **Queen Elizabeth**, and **Sir Francis Drake**, as well as a bevy of knights, ladies, peasants, and more colorful characters than one could count! There are 13 stages of entertainment featuring more than 40 performance groups, such as magicians, dancers, jousters, witty comedians, musicians, storytellers, jugglers and improvisation troupes.

The town is abuzz with excitement as the grandest jousting knight in all of England has agreed to hold a Pas D'Armes for Her Majesty's visit in the hope of becoming her champion. This is a jousting tournament where select and elite challengers test their mettle in spectacular feats of equestrian skill, and noble, bone-crunching jousts of honor. Will arrogance and might take the day? Can skill and speed, or grace and beauty, win Her Majesty's favor? Or will deceit and anger overpower the best laid plans as the jousts become a fast-paced, deadly duel of cold steel and splintering lances.

The invigorating Entertainment lineup includes fun for everyone. New this year, the devilishly handsome and outrageously acrobatic Kevin Armour presents **Up in Arms**, passionately lyrical singer/songwriter **Kris Colt** showcases her ancestral Celtic music, toe-tapping world music band **Wine & Alchemy** bring original and traditional songs to get you off your hay bales and dance in the aisles, **The Jackdaws** feature driving melodies and aggressive lyrics to excite you and keep you coming back for more, **Bob Barker Marionettes** bring out the child in everyone, and **The Lynx Show** promises death-defying feats of magic, sword swallowing, and comedy with a strong positive message.

Revisit old friends such as **The Washing Well Wenches**, "Wet Dirty Women, Good Clean Fun!" Belly laugh at the antics and hijinks of the **Clan Tynker Family Circus**. **MooniE! The**

**Magnif'Cent** will tickle your funny bone with his whimsical companions. Join **Broon** for his zany vaudevillian smack down. Watch **Sky Kings Falconry** with their free-flying falconry and birds of prey, and witness **Draiku's** aerial delights. Sing along with local favorites such as the **Poxy Boggards**, and **The Merry Wives of Windsor**. And for international dance and musical flare, don't miss the world-renowned **Seraphim Arabesque**, who will share hypnotic movements and have you dancing in the aisles.

**Elizabeth I**, whose reign is noted as the start of the English Renaissance period, greets fairgoers throughout the day, and also holds audience at a royal tea. **Tea with the Queen** is at 4:00 p.m. Daily in the St. Cuthbert Guild Yard, where authentic English scones, tea sandwiches, tarts and tea are served. Reservations are required. Admission is \$26 for adults and \$13 for children and includes a commemorative teapot.

**The Unrulie Foolie Tea:** Join the Court of Misrule for tea and have a crazy MAD time! Be prepared for fun and zany antics as these fools stir a little sugar into the mix of your day. The daily Unrulie Foolie Tea is at 2:00 p.m. in the St. Cuthbert Guild Yard, where authentic English scones, tea sandwiches, tarts and tea are served. Reservations are required. Admission is \$26 for adults and \$13 for children and includes a commemorative teapot.

The wee ones and the young at heart will enjoy **Kids' Kingdom**, where games, crafts, storytelling, songs, interactive shows, and magic are featured in the fairytale land. Join in the fun, where you can see shows like Foolish Fractured Fairy Tales, The Witches' Apprentice, The Giant's Treasure, Beauty and the Beast, Merlin's School Of Magic, and Gwendolyn's Quest.

**Knighting Ceremony:** Be one of only 25 lucky children each day to be made a Knight or Dame of the Realm by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in person! Signups start at 2:00 p.m. for the 4:20 pm ceremony at Kids' Kingdom.

**Gnome Hunt:** Gnomes have invaded Port Deptford! Start at the Front Gate of Deptford or at the desk at Kids' Kingdom to get your special gnome hunt map. Then seek out the many gnomes hidden about the village in the guild yards, markets, and shops. When you find them, get the shopkeepers and guild members to sign your map. Then return to Kids' Kingdom to receive your Official Gnome Finder Certificate and credit towards this year's Collectible Limited Edition Medallion.

**Children's Militia:** The Guild of St. Michael (near the joust) enlists kids of all ages in a fun and educational experience. A careful history and use of weapons is explained, and the kids get to learn how each weapon is used through hands-on interaction. Placed in groups, the new soldiers are then taught drilling and advancement techniques. Upon completion of the half hour course, the kids lead the march on the tournament field during the Royal Joust (with the Queen, no less!) Parents, get your cameras ready.

While costumes are not necessary for admittance, thousands of people each year enhance their experience by donning garb from the Elizabethan era, or participate in one of our special themed weekends by dressing up as their favorite pirate, time traveler, fairy, or fantasy

character! Come dressed to the nines in your favorite costume or treat yourself to a brand-new look as you peruse a variety of clothing options available for rent or purchase in the Faire's extensive **Marketplace, which is focused on hand-made wares**. The shops of more than **125 artisans** dot the fairgrounds, offering not only a tempting selection of clothing, from authentic Renaissance looks to fantasy and contemporary choices, but so much more! Accessorize with eye-catching **hats, bags, and exquisite jewelry**. Make the look your own with a creative **mask** or indulge your inner warrior with the perfect set of **hand-crafted armor and weaponry**. Choose a **tankard, goblet, or drinking horn** to help you sample all the tantalizing tastes the Faire has to offer. And take the sights and delicious **scents** of the Faire home (or find the perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for someone) with **exotic spices and incense, fine soaps**, or unique and beautifully wrought pieces of **pottery, sculpture, blown glass, original artwork**, and other décor for the home and garden.

With so many merchants in the village, plus an ever-changing array of guest artisans, you're certain to find something you can't live without. And if the sight of so much artistry gets your creative juices flowing, why not partake of one of our **arts and crafts workshops**, such as Celtic drawing, beadwork, or basket weaving, which are offered for all ages at **Queen's College** for those who crave a DIY souvenir.

Healthy appetites will welcome a roasted turkey leg – the meaty icon of the Faire – as they quench their thirst on their favorite ale or port. Dozens of food vendors offer an array of foods, from fish and chips and sausages to salads and sorbets. Vegetarian entrees and desserts are available.

### **Pub Crawl (Every Faire Day)**

Laugh, sing, and stumble your way through the faire in a guided tour of our finest pubs! The Pub Crawl visits 6 pubs, and you receive one drink at each location – anything on tap, including cider! There are two crawls daily: 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. Meet at the Crown & Anchor Pub to begin your crawl. The cost is \$50 per person, in addition to a regular admission ticket. Each crawl is limited to 25 participants. 15 tickets are available for purchase online via ShowClix to ensure your spot. You must redeem your Pub Crawl tickets at the Crown & Anchor Pub. No refunds within 24 hours of scheduled Pub Crawl. 10 tickets will be available for day-of purchase at the Crown & Anchor Pub on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **Special themed events are planned, including:**

**Weekend 1,**  
April 7 & 8, 2018

#### **Opening Weekend Celebration**

Join Sir Francis Drake and Lord Mayor Barnabus Blyss as they Open Wide the Gates to the 2018 Renaissance Pleasure Faire's 56th anniversary season! Members of our e-newsletter receive special discounts for Opening Weekend!

**Weekend 2,**  
April 14 & 15, 2018

#### **Pirate Weekend**

Dress as your inner pirate and enter our Swashbuckler Costume Contest! Sign up at the Guest Services booth at the top of the Food Court. All contestants will gather and toast in the Food Court Area from 3:30 to 4 p.m. While the Swashbucklers boast of their adventures, anonymous judging will occur. We'll close our gathering with a group photo. The winners of the Renaissance Pleasure Faire's Pirate Booty will be announced at 5 p.m.

#### **Marketplace Bonus Tickets**

Spend \$250 or more with our merchants or artisans during Marketplace Weekend and receive 2 FREE tickets to come back to the Faire. Offer does not apply to games, rides, food, beverage, or the Renaissance Collection Stores. Receipts must be presented at the Guest Services booth or Box Office by 7pm to receive tickets.

### **Children Admitted Free**

When accompanied by one adult ticket purchase. All children ages 12 and younger are admitted free. No coupon required. Children must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult.

**Weekend 3,**  
April 21 & 22, 2018

### **RennCon™**

Trying to decide whether to hit the faire or the con this weekend? Now you no longer have to choose! Join us on RennCon™, for our celebration of cosplay in all its forms. Attend a panel, take in the scenery, and enjoy some very special surprises! Whether you draw your inspiration from the sci-fi scene, anime, comics, television, fairy tales, or anywhere else... we invite you to mingle with our 16th-century townsfolk in the biggest costume party in L.A.

### **Masquerade Costume Contest**

Sign up at the Guest Services booth at the top of the Food Court before 3:15 p.m. All contestants will gather and toast in the Food Court Area from 3:30 to 4 p.m. While the contestants meet and greet, anonymous judging will occur. We'll close our gathering with a group photo. The winners of the Renaissance Pleasure Faire's Masquerade Costume Contest will be announced at 5 p.m.

### **Steam Powered Giraffe Concert**

Steam Powered Giraffe, the singing musical automatons, are proud to announce their appearance at the Renaissance Pleasure Faire during RennCon™ Weekend! This quirky act combines comedic sketches, improvised android banter, and original music fused with multimedia visuals, billowing steam effects, and robot pantomime.

The robots perform Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Autographs 7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tickets to the Faire already include the concert, no additional ticket needed for Steam Powered Giraffe concert.

### **Fools Guild Parade and Coronation (Sunday, April 22nd)**

Sunday is the Grande Fool's Parade and Coronation of the 2018 King of Fools. There will be plenty of crazy antics and festivities throughout the city... and we're not fooling around.

**Weekend 4,**  
April 28 & 29, 2018

### **Military Appreciation Weekend**

The Renaissance Pleasure Faire supports our troops and veterans by offering discounted entry at our Box Office with valid military ID. Save \$4 off adult tickets with military ID this weekend and EVERY weekend in the 2018 season! Join us this weekend for a beautiful, handmade favor for members of the US Military. Favors only available April 28 & 29. Look for parchment signs within the Faire to find this year's favor locations.

### **Scouts Weekend**

Uniformed Scouts and Leaders will receive a discount for their entire group. Discount tickets ONLY at the Box Office – not online. There will be a list of Scout-related Badge and Journey work available. All Scouts can complete a Faire Passport to earn a patch. \$5.00 per patch, and \$3 per rocker patch per year.

Meet the management team of the Renaissance Pleasure Faire at a special Girl Scouts Leadership Program on Sunday, April 29th, 2018 for Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Scouts. This VIP event includes a meet and greet with our female management team, a day at the Faire, VIP seating at the Joust with a cold beverage, and your scouts weekend patch. Program begins at 7:30 a.m. For more information, or to register for the event, please email: [KateK@renfair.com](mailto:KateK@renfair.com). Day-of Event registration is not available.

### **Maids of Honour in Training (for ages 6 –10)**

Be one of 20 lucky little girls of the realm! Join the Maids of Honour in the Nobles' Glade to learn how tend to the Queen. The Maids of Honour in Training will learn

how to walk, reverence and address people like a true Maid of Honour. The new Maids might even have the opportunity to meet the Queen! Sign up at the Guest Services Gazebo inside the Front Gate.

**Weekend 5,**  
May 5 & 6, 2018

**Time Traveler Weekend**

We invite all our guests to dress up in their finest time-traveling attire. No matter which century you portray, we're looking forward to celebrating a leap back (or forward) in time with you! It is, after all, a big ball of wibbly wobbly timey wimey... stuff.

**Steampunk Costume Contest**

Sign up at the Guest Services booth at the top of the Food Court. All contestants will gather and toast in the Food Court Area from 3:30 to 4pm. While the contestants meet and greet, anonymous judging will occur. We'll close our gathering with a group photo. The winners of the Renaissance Pleasure Faire's Steampunk Costume Contest will be announced at 5pm.

Saturday's Contest: Put the "punk" in Steampunk Costuming

Sunday's Contest: Epic Accessories

**Weekend 6,**  
May 12 & 13, 2018

**NEW! Heroes & Villains**

Wear your colors with pride, and help us celebrate this weekend with a brand-new twist! Step out and join the Heroes – *or* the Villains – for a weekend filled with daring deeds and diabolical schemes. Expect fandom photo opportunities and larger than life personalities, and prepare to have a good, or wicked, or just a *wicked good time!*

**Maids of Honour in Training (for ages 6 –10)**

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**Weekend 7,**  
May 19 & 20, 2018

**Craft Brew Celebration & Closing Weekend**

On our final weekend, let your taste buds experience a variety of craft brews while enjoying all that the Faire has to offer. This weekend will feature dozens of local and international craft brews throughout the shire. Come join us for a tour!

The Renaissance was a cultural movement that profoundly affected European intellectual life in the early modern period. Beginning in Italy, and spreading to the rest of Europe by the 16th century, its influence affected literature, philosophy, art, politics, science, religion, and other aspects of intellectual inquiry. In England, the Elizabethan era (1558-1603) marked the beginning of the English Renaissance with the work of writers William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, Edmund Spenser, Sir Thomas More, Francis Bacon, Sir Philip Sidney, and John Milton, as well as great artists, architects, and composers.

*The Renaissance* - to be “reborn” - A time when individuals celebrated the awakening of a new idea, when light was let into darkness. The Renaissance Pleasure Faire celebrates the spirit of this period of history, where people have the willingness to try anything and everything.

We offer the public an opportunity to experience a true Renaissance of our Renaissance, one that was introduced 56 years ago. The faire embraces a cornucopia of diversity and is unified in inviting our guests to enjoy the environment we have created – an escape from the stresses and demands of the modern day. We offer cutting edge performances, artisans, flavors, and culinary delights from the past and the future. These are the things which propel us into advanced forward thinking.

As William Shakespeare wrote, “Let the world slip, we shall ne’er be younger.”

We are historically based with a twist of modern fusion.  
We are 56 years strong and the adventure has just begun.

## **The Renaissance Pleasure Faire**

Tickets for The Renaissance Pleasure Faire are \$29.95 for adults and \$15 for children aged 5-12. Children 4 and under are always free. Adult season passes are \$155 and a child’s season pass is \$70. Tickets can be purchased at the box office, or online at [renfair.com](http://renfair.com). The seven-week Faire is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 in the morn, ‘til 7 eventide April 7 – May 20 at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, 15501 Arrow Highway, Irwindale, CA. *A Vehicle Entry fee of \$10 is charged by Los Angeles County.* For more information, visit [renfair.com](http://renfair.com).