



Update – April 2010

Welcome to the Punch Update

Spring is here at last! Lighter evenings, longer days and the promise of warmer weather. Here at Punch HQ we've been busy getting geared up for a great new season of events and projects. We've also been busy planning for this year's BASS Festival which is now in its fifth year and will take place in venues across Birmingham this June. You can keep in touch with us by visiting our website www.punch-records.co.uk.

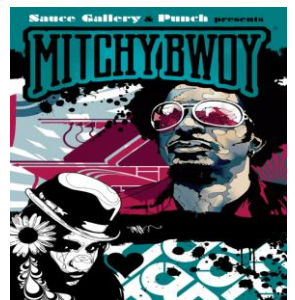


Punch News



Our next **Tuned On** seminar is on 29 March exploring the subject of A Musician's Digital Image and how online promotion can directly affect success. Confirmed speakers include **Ghetts** (pictured) and **Princess Nyah**. There are a limited number of free places still available but you must sign up. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/tuned-on2010> for all the details. We also have another seminar on 26 April exploring the topic of Islam and Women in Music.

- Our annual **BASS** festival will be back in June celebrating its fifth year. The theme this year is **DNA**, exploring what DNA means to us individually in the 21st century? Is it all about identity, test tubes, control, heritage, science, ID cards, family, databases, samples, protest? Keep your eyes out for our **pre festival flyers** that will be hitting the city very soon with a sneak peek of some of the fantastic events we have. We would also like to welcome **Hannah Wood** to the Punch team. Hannah will be working with us as our Marketing Intern for this year's BASS.
- Maverick artist and designer **Mitchy Bwoy** hits Birmingham's **Sauce Gallery** with a new exhibition that opens on 8 April 2010. Based in the Custard Factory, Sauce Gallery and Punch have got together to showcase album covers, illustrations and prints from the artist who has designed covers and branding for Chase & Status, Amp Fiddler and many others from new music and club culture. For more information go to <http://tinyurl.com/mitchybwoy> or call us on 0121 224 7444. Open Monday – Saturday from 10am – 6pm until the end of June.
- The weekend of 26, 27 and 28 March will see the launch of a printed guide introducing the sixteen organisations behind Birmingham's **We Are Eastside** project. There will also be an official unveiling of a dedicated new blog which will feature regular updates, programmes, event information, opportunities and contributions from the cluster of artists, collectives, promoters and spaces based in the Eastside area, which is ten minutes walk from Birmingham city centre. Check out the website over at www.weareeastside.com



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Other Interesting Things

- We've had word of a new funding and development opportunity for emerging artists called **Creative Leap**. There are grants of up to £2000 available as well as extensive training and development opportunities. **Creative Leap** is a collaborative project run in partnership by sampad, Ulfah Arts and the Drum, supported by Birmingham City Council. For more information on the scheme go to <http://www.sampad.org.uk/about.php?id=1255>
- **Leicester Belgrave Mela** has a call out to artists who are interested in exploring and developing ideas and themes of South Asian arts and culture at the Mela on Sunday 18 July 2010. For more information email mela.arts@yahoo.co.uk or call 0116 222 1905. The closing date for submissions is Wednesday 31 March 2010.



The **International Dance Festival Birmingham** returns in May to celebrate artistic excellence, promote international artistic exchange, and express the youthful, diverse and energetic spirit of Birmingham and the West Midlands. With a world-class programme that offers outstanding dance from across the globe; distinctive performances in unusual spaces; large-scale events for mass public participation; discovery and education, dance classes and much more. You can find information on all the events and how to get involved at <http://www.idfb.co.uk>

- We are passionate about the campaign to **save BBC Asian Network from closure**. Our Director Ammo has been involved in a number of events to highlight the importance and impact of the station. Ammo recently attended the Asian Music Awards and together with campaign group 38 degrees compiled a short video of artists and pledging their support, you can watch the video at <http://vimeo.com/10108556> . Meanwhile if you haven't already signed the petition to stop the BBC cuts then you can head over to <http://www.38degrees.org.uk/page/s/BBCcuts> and pledge your support.
- **The Drum** and **NEO** present **Furious and Kurtis Blow**, two of hip hop's legends performing on one stage in a Las Vegas style revue, on the Legend to Legend world tour. The event takes place on **Sunday 28 March at 8pm at Hare and Hounds**, Kinds Heath, Birmingham. There will also be support from live DJs. For more information go to <http://www.the-drum.org.uk/event/furious-5-and-kurtis-blow>



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