

Press Release - LaDIYfest Sheffield 2014: 29 November



Sheffield's grassroots feminist festival, LaDIYfest, returns for its fourth - and BIGGEST - year this November, hosting a whole day and night of practical activities, discussion workshops and live music. This year's festival will be on Saturday 29th November and money raised by the event will go to Women in Construction, Arts and Technology (WiCAT), a Sheffield organisation run by and for women to promote and support women in non-traditional trades.

In the daytime, festivalgoers will have the chance to participate in lively workshops and discussions run by local groups and visiting speakers. Workshops will be a mixture of serious and fun, teaching practical skills such as weight lifting, household DIY and feminist printing, alongside discussions on challenging sexism in the workplace, gender and mental health, and sexual consent.

Workshops take place from 11am-5.30pm at the Quaker Meeting House, which is central, wheelchair accessible, and close to public transport links. As well as workshops, the daytime venue will provide a supervised children's play room, a quiet room, very affordable vegetarian food to purchase, and a range of stalls. Due to the popularity of previous events, this year's all-dayer will be bigger than ever before, with more workshops, more rooms and more opportunity for practical sessions.

Saturday evening will see the city play host to an incredible line-up of bands at the Redhouse, including Mega Emotion, Bad Librarian, Fight Rosa Fight, and Petrol Girls with DJ sets until late. LaDIYfest seeks out the most exciting new bands locally and from around the country, and the atmosphere at their shows is legendary!

LaDIYfest Sheffield has been organised by a volunteer group of local feminists who decided it was time to bring the global tradition of Ladyfests to Sheffield. The first Ladyfests date back to Riot Grrrl, the early 90s underground feminist punk movement based in Washington D.C. Women-fronted bands such as Bikini Kill and Bratmobile challenged the male-dominated punk scene with their feminist lyrics and brash, energetic performances. In previous years, LaDIYfest Sheffield have raised over £1000 for the National Ugly Mugs to develop their Sheffield project, over £800 for Survivors of Depression in Transition and the Young Women's Housing Project, and over £1200 for Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service. LaDIYfest Sheffield's big November events draw people from all over the country and have inspired other UK cities to create Ladyfests of their own.

There is a suggested donation of £8 for entrance to both events, or £6 for the day-time and £4 for the evening, but people attending are welcome to pay as much or as little as they can afford. Everyone in the local community is encouraged to get involved - all are welcome, regardless of age, gender, race, class, dis/ability status or sexual orientation.

Their ethos and other event details can be found on their Facebook event pages or Wordpress site: <http://ladyfestsheffield.wordpress.com> <https://www.facebook.com/events/355012897981458>

Email ladyfestsheff@gmail.com for further information or call 07738683525.