

Monobloco UK & Ireland Tour 08 - Press Release



One of Brazil's best carnival bands is heading to Britain for a 12-date tour in July that culminates with a performance at world music festival Womad.

Monobloco are so popular at home that Rio de Janeiro City Council makes them perform their post carnival parade at breakfast time - in the vain hope of drawing smaller crowds! The tactic failed this year however, with more than 150,000 people thronging the streets of Copacabana to see the band in action.

Largely unknown in this country, Monobloco's thrilling fusion of styles is rapidly earning them a worldwide profile and an army of fans from Seattle to Sydney. Drawing on some of the best musicians in Rio, they serve up a unique mix of traditional rhythms such as coco, ciranda, marcha, xote, samba-charme, samba-rock and funk. Their impressive repertoire ranges from traditional sambas to classics of Brazilian pop. Onstage they have been joined legendary Brazilian artists like Lenine, Fernanda Abreu, MC's Júnior and Leonardo and Pedro Quental.

The band has two big-selling CDs and a live DVD under their belt and there are plans underway for a new album next year.

As well as their performances, the band will be inspiring young people in Norfolk, with funding from a Clore Performance Award to work with 150 youngsters on a mass performance in Norwich.

Superior rhythms, strong melodies and hot samba funk. If you love being part of the energy of the music you must experience the infectious sounds of Monobloco.

Notes for editors

- Monobloco started in 2000 following a series of workshops given by the group Pedro Luis e a Parede.
- They run two bands, a full sized carnival bloco of 150 people drawn from all walks of life and a 24-piece show band made up of professional musicians. The show band performs regularly all over Brazil. The carnival band plays four gigs in the run up to carnival, to 5,000 each night at one of Rio's major venues, and parades on the Sunday after carnival.

- Monobloco have been at the forefront of the revival of Rio's street carnival, which had dwindled to almost nothing in the late 90's, but now stands at around 300 active carnival groups. The streets of Rio are alive at carnival time with groups getting licences to parade and filling the streets with people dancing and singing along.
- Every year Monobloco's carnival following has grown. 80,000 people joined them on the streets of Copacabana in 2007 and over 150,000 in 2008. You can see some great clips of this on You Tube.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4oX4RvVIFw>
- This year they will be bringing 8 members of the show band to the UK, where they will be joined by four of the best samba musicians from the UK and Ireland.
- This year's tour is being organised by Norwich & Norfolk Community Arts, Music Worldwide and the UK Samba Association.
- More details, fliers & pictures can be found at www.monobloco.org.

Interviews and photo opportunities available throughout the tour, **please contact** Marcus Patteson on 07737 810080 or
Email: marcus@norcaarts.co.uk
Website: www.norcaarts.co.uk/



Tour Dates:

July 05	NORWICH	Lord Mayor's Weekend, Chapel Field Gardens www.norwich.gov.uk	Monobloco Show, 9.30pm
July 07 to 09	NORWICH	Norwich Schools Workshops & Performance www.norcaarts.co.uk	Performance, Weds 9 th July, 6.30pm
July 10	NORWICH	Norwich Arts Centre www.norwichartscentre.co.uk	Pagode & Show 8pm
July 12	DRUM CAMP	Bungay www.musicworldwide.org	Monobloco Show, 10pm
July 13	HITCHIN	Rhythms of the World www.rotw.org.uk	Collaboration with Toque Tambor, Main stage, 6.30pm
July 16	LEEDS	Leeds Met www.leedsmetevents.co.uk	Monobloco Show, 8pm
July 17	LONDON	Guanabara www.guanabara.co.uk	Monobloco Show, tbc
July 18	DUBLIN	The Sugar Club www.thesugarclub.com	Monobloco Show, 9pm
July 19	SLIGO	Shake Festival www.shake.ie	Monobloco Show, 12am
July 20	COUNTY MAYO	Feile Iorras www.feileiorras.org	Monobloco Show, tbc
July 22	LONDON	Guanabara www.guanabara.co.uk	Monobloco Show, tbc
July 23	COLCHESTER	Colchester Arts Centre www.colchesterartscentre.com	Monobloco Show, 8pm
July 24	LONDON	Guanabara www.guanabara.co.uk	Monobloco Show, tbc
July 25	DORKING	The Star	Choro and Pagode evening, 8pm
July 26	WOMAD	www.womad.org	Monobloco Show, Siam Stage, 4pm

