



Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hampton Roads Convention Center Welcomes the Return of the Ninth Annual Hampton Roads Tattoo Arts Festival March 22-24

Hampton, Virginia- In less than a week, March 22-24, the Hampton Roads Convention Center welcomes the return of the Ninth annual Hampton Roads Tattoo Arts Festival. Presented by Folk City Tattoo and *Twisted Ink* magazine, this highly anticipated event will celebrate all aspects of the tattooing industry and welcome talented artists from across the country. This year the festival will once again take up two exhibit halls!

“It’s our 9th year in Hampton and this show is always our biggest and our best,” said festival organizer John Cann. “The Enigma is returning and this time, he’ll be giving a limited number of tattoos, something he’s never done before at this show.”

During the event, interested attendees have the option of speaking with tattoo artists from across the country and having the work performed on-site at the convention center. The cost of each tattoo is in addition to the entrance fee and is negotiated between customer and artist. Please note that many artists book fast and the best way to secure a tattoo at the festival is to set appointments with artists before the event.

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“This year we have roughly 300 tattoo artists,” said Cann. “If you want to meet many great custom tattoo artists all under one roof, this is the festival to attend.”

The festival will feature several new and returning contests and activities, including the Seventh annual Kids Temporary Tattoo Contest and Best Booth. The Kids Temporary Tattoo Contest (ages 12 and under) will take place on Sunday, March 24 with up to 30 participants receiving a ribbon. First, Second, and Third place winners will receive trophies.

Another big highlight of this year’s festival is the Eighth annual Miss Hampton Roads Pin-Up Girl Contest, taking place Saturday, March 23. Twenty pre-selected finalists will show in their pin-up inspired garb of the 50’s, 60’s, and 70’s to compete for top prize (\$2500 in total prizes, including \$1000 cash).

Other highlights of this year’s festival include daily categorized tattoo contests, art vendors, tattoo supply vendors, BMX Stunt Team, live mural painting, and more. Returning for their second year in a row is Tragedy, an all-metal tribute band to the Bee Gees. Team TDH will also be on-site, testing the limitations of the human body through suspension.

“The purpose of the Hampton Roads Tattoo Arts Festival is to provide a festive environment and entertainment for tattoo enthusiasts and those just curious about tattoos,” said Cann. “It is an opportunity to bring our colorful community together under one roof for a weekend of fun and camaraderie.”

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Cost

\$25 + fees Daily

\$45 + fees Weekend Pass (includes all three days)

\$35 + fees Military Weekend Pass

12 and under free

Hours

Friday, March 22 - Noon until 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 23 - 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 24 - Noon until 8:00 p.m.

All ages welcome. Some adult content.

MUST be at least 18 years old to get a tattoo.

**Hampton Roads Convention Center
1610 Coliseum Drive
Hampton, VA 23666**

For more information on the Hampton Roads Tattoo Arts Festival, call 757/484-1319, email hrtattoofest@yahoo.com, or check out www.hrtattoofest.com.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.

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