



Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

Media Release

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Contact: Ryan Downey, 757/728-5328

ryan@hamptoncvb.com

John Cann, 757/619-6975

Jcann005@odu.edu

Hampton Roads Convention Center Welcomes the Return of the Eighth Annual Hampton Roads Tattoo Arts Festival March 2-4

Hampton, Virginia- In less than a month, March 2-4, the Hampton Roads Convention Center welcomes the return of the Eighth 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!

“This is our 8th year in Hampton and we are always excited for this show,” said festival organizer John Cann. “We are adding new entertainment including a professional BMX stunt team performing live, as well as a special appearance by Tragedy, an all metal tribute band to the Bee Gees.”

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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**1919 Commerce Drive, Suite 290 | Hampton, Virginia 23666
757.722.1222 | 800.487.8778 | fax 757.896.4600 | www.hamptoncvb.com**

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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 Sixth annual Kids Temporary Tattoo Contest and Best Booth. The Kids Temporary Tattoo Contest (ages 12 and under) will take place on Sunday, March 4 with up to 30 participants receiving a ribbon. First, Second, and Third place winners will receive trophies. In addition, there will be a new free game section for both adults and children.

Another big highlight of this year’s festival is the Seventh annual Miss Hampton Roads Pin-Up Girl Contest, taking place Saturday, March 3. 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).

On Sunday, March 4, Family Day returns to the Hampton Roads Tattoo Arts Festival! Attendees will enjoy an expanded family area, with plenty of activities for the little ones, including a bounce house, balloon animals, and more.

In addition to all of the scheduled activities and events, the Hampton Roads Tattoo Arts Festival is happy to welcome The Olde City Sideshow, a fully scalable immersion performance that encompasses the ‘Old City’ stylings of Vaudeville, Burlesque, and the historical sideshow acts mixed with Philadelphia’s counter-culture influences.

Other highlights of this year’s festival include daily categorized tattoo contests, art vendors, tattoo supply vendors, BMX Stunt Team, Carnival of Curiosity and Chaos, live mural painting, and more.

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“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.”

Cost

\$25 Daily

\$45 Weekend Pass (includes all three days)

\$35 Military Weekend Pass

12 and under free

Hours

Friday, March 2 - Noon until 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 3 - 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 4 – 12:00 p.m. 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. A full schedule of events and activities will be released in the coming weeks.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with

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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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