

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 8am THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2009



THE NIGHT IS YOUNG

THE LEGENDARY NEIL YOUNG SET TO HEADLINE THE ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL 2009

For over forty years Neil Young has pioneered musical genres and influenced generations of fans and now rock's most intriguing chameleon will be sharing his 'Heart of Gold' in an exclusive headline performance at this year's **Isle of Wight Festival**. The cult hero will close the festival on Sunday 14th June with his deeply personal lyrics and distinctive guitar, performing a set which is sure to be another unforgettable **Isle of Wight Festival** memory.

Neil Young is one of the most significant artists of the rock and roll era. His influence, and inspiration within the music scene derives from his longevity with a career spanning more than four decades. 2009 will see the release of 'Fork in the Road', which is expected to see Young return to his country roots, and is one of the most highly anticipated records of the year.

John Giddings, Isle of Wight Festival organiser says, "I have tried every year since we restarted the event to book Neil Young., His music is part of my life and has inspired generations ever since. I'm sure that his performance will be talked about for years to come".

Neil Young's genre-spanning career has seen him put his hand to over 60 albums as a solo artist and band member. He has collaborated with other musical icons such as James Taylor and Willy Nelson. He recorded three consecutive number one albums as Crosby, Stills Nash and Young, often dubbed 'the American Beatles'. Legend's first solo number one came in 1972 when he dominated the charts with 'Harvest' and was later voted voice of the decade by Rolling Stone magazine.

The Canadian legend will join an already blistering line up which sees **The Prodigy**, **Basement Jaxx**, **The Ting Ting's** and **Pendulum** playing up a storm on Friday night. Saturday is just as impressive with **Stereophonics** and **Razorlight** rocking the Solent. Over in the Big Top **The Charlatans** front man **Tim Burgess** will be curating Sunday's line up, so expect all sorts of surprises popping up as well as a set from the band. The **Isle of Wight Festival 2009** boasts a line up every bit as stunning as its surroundings!

The Isle of Wight Festival takes place 12th – 14th June at Seaclose Park, Newport, Isle of Wight. . Tickets are now on sale, for more information check out www.isleofwightfestival.com

For further information on the Isle of Wight Festival 2008 please contact:
Jacquie, Katy or Victoria at Amazing Media on 0207 292 8860 firstname@amazingmedia.co.uk

For TV/Radio enquiries, Tony Barker / Dawn Estefan at TX Media
0208 883 4244

tony@tx-media.co.uk dawnestefan@tx-media.co.uk

Notes for Editors

The Isle of Wight Festival 2009 will be the eight festival since it's reincarnation in 2002. Over the last few years **The Who, David Bowie, Foo Fighters, REM, Coldplay, Amy Winehouse, Snow Patrol, Muse, The Rolling Stones, The Sex Pistols** and **The Police**, amongst many others, have taken to the stage in what has become one of the hottest festivals in the UK.

Absolute Radio

National radio station, Absolute Radio will be broadcasting highlights from the Isle of Wight Festival. Absolute Radio was unleashed on the airwaves on Monday 29th September 2008 with a mission to help listeners around the UK to discover real music. Formerly known as Virgin Radio, the station stays true to its rock roots – and its original frequency – by playing the very best music from the last 40 years which means we don't do manufactured pop or R&B. Absolute Radio is about U2, The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, The Police and Joy Division, Oasis and Blur as well as the latest releases from the likes of Kaiser Chiefs, The Killers and Amy Winehouse.

For more information log on to HYPERLINK "<http://www.absoluteradio.co.uk/>"www.absoluteradio.co.uk or tune in on 105.8FM in London and the South-East, nationally on DAB or 1215AM as well as on Sky, Freeview and Freesat.

ITV2

ITV2 is the exclusive TV broadcast partner for the Isle of Wight Festival - it's also the UK's number one digital channel with over 93% of the multichannel population watching it in the past 12 months; that's almost 47 million people! On a daily basis, nearly 1.6 million more people watch ITV2 than BBC3 and over 2.4 million more people than Sky One.

The channel has not only enjoyed commercial success but also critical acclaim picking up its first BAFTA and RTS awards for Entourage; Highly Acclaimed Entertainment Channel of the Year at the 2008 Broadcast Digital Awards, and the Non-terrestrial Channel of the Year at the Media Guardian Edinburgh Festival 2007. In the same year it was also named Brand of The Year by *Marketing* magazine for its successful targeting of the 16-34 demographic.