

Winter Wonderland

at Event City, Trafford Park
Reviewed by Katie Leicester December 2017

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... well this is certainly true at Event City in Trafford Park. Winter Wonderland is back for its fifth year with live theatre, a circus, fairground stalls, arcade attractions, gifts stalls, fairground rides and of course with the one and only Father Christmas and his glittering elf helpers there is literally something for all ages. For the thirsty adults, there is a well-stocked bar, which has a great range of wines, spirits and beers and of course the infamous hot mulled wine to enjoy whilst soaking up the Christmas atmosphere. There is also an abundance of stalls selling some fantastic foods and sweet treats to satisfy most palates This is the fourth year I have visited Winter Wonderland with my family, and this year the 'Kingpin Events' have excelled themselves with plenty of new attractions and fantastic performances.

The security at the event was reassuring and the organisation to enter the event was seamless, families were lead into a holding area where the head elf to Santa gave the crowd the details of what to expect during the evening. The holding space at Event City was glittered with Christmas sparkle and was dominated by a huge stage at the entrance of Winter Wonderland where families were entertained by some very talented local performers. The Sky High Dance troupe captivated us with their exquisite dance routines, and then 17 year old local girl **Chloe Rose**

from Warrington sang, sounding even more spectacular than she did last year, pleasing the young teenage audience with her popular pop songs.

The time came and the grand red velvet curtains opened to reveal an amazing array of colours, Christmas smells, balloons, and music. As the crowd entered Winter Wonderland snow fell adding to the children's delight; it was truly breath-taking to enter and see how many rides and attractions this venue held. Winter Wonderland is billed as the UK's largest indoor Christmas theme park, with the area set out to ensure that there is enough space for everyone especially those with prams, pushchairs or a wheelchair user and considering there were 2500 guests attending the evening it never once felt cramped or cluttered, and we didn't have to queue for a ride or an attraction for more than a few minutes. There are literally too many stalls, rides, arcade attractions to count let alone list but they all added to the fantastic experience of the event, every station was manned by friendly and happy smiley staff.

Notably the majority of the rides appear to be aimed at the younger visitors with height limits strictly enforced on attractions such as inflatables. But that is not to say there aren't any adult rides, as there are plenty and if you are feeling brave enough to ride some of the fast paced adrenaline rides, they are guaranteed to terrify and thrill.

The main stage saw Ice Princesses live on stage, Rainbow's characters Zippy and George, Jedi Training, and Daisy and Ollie's Christmas panto, so there was no shortage of live performances to keep the little ones (and some big ones) occupied.



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