

# Magical street festival as 50,000 revellers turn out to banish weather jinx

Carol Duffy

AN estimated 50,000 people jammed the quays of Waterford city last night to watch the finale of this year's Spraoi Street Festival.

Children of all ages were wowed by this year's parade entitled "Jinxed", in an apparent reference to the poor weather which has bedeviled but never beaten the parade in previous years.

The hour-long parade told the story of one traumatic day in the life of the unsuspecting hero, Mossey, as he is attacked by his alarm clock on waking up.

Set upon by vicious traffic cones on his way to work, the intrepid postman is forced to deliver parcels that are piled 10ft high on the front of his bike.

Poor Mossey's misfortune didn't end there as his blind date for the night "looks like the back of a bus", is forced to marry her and is attacked

by a killer shark on his honeymoon.

The floats, characters, colourful costumes and amazing sound effects left some of the young members of the audience a little scared but still wanting to see more

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Bash Street Theatre performing on the streets of Waterford!

music in various city bars and clubs.

One of the most popular events over the weekend was Cyberstein, an eight-foot robot who can talk, sing and move very fast, which attracted a crowd of over 1,000 people to Gladstone Street on Saturday evening.

Started just 10 years ago following a late-night discussion in the home of festival director TV Honan, Spraoi is now firmly established as one of the country's top street events. Each year sees it win fresh accolades from critics and - perhaps more importantly - the Waterford public, many of whom now time their summer holidays to avoid missing the event.

One of the secrets of the award-winning festival's success is the determination of the Spraoi team to constantly evaluate the festival.

And this year will be no different with a review of the three-day event to begin almost immediately.



JoJo Pickering of the Bash Street Theatre performing on the streets of Waterford yesterday during the Spraoi festival. Picture: Dylan Vaughan