

April 2008

## Actor Robert Powell To Attend The Two Cities Boat Race

Jesus of Nazareth and Holby City star Robert Powell will return to his birthplace on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May as a VIP guest at the 37<sup>th</sup> Two Cities Boat Race – the annual Manchester vs. Salford University rowing contest.

The distinguished Salford-born actor has supported the boat race over the past couple of years, and the involvement of official charity SPARKS, of which he is Vice President.

Robert Powell said:

*"I'm looking forward to attending the big race on the day itself this year, but I'm keeping it secret which of my home city universities I'll be cheering for. Let's just say that I hope the best crew on the day pull it off, that the weather isn't too rough and that there's a huge crowd to enjoy the fun and raise as much money as possible for SPARKS' medical research mission. I'm also delighted that the very important research project into pre-eclampsia that SPARKS is funding in Manchester is making significant progress."*

The Two Cities Boat Race will see both university rowing clubs going head to head along the River Irwell on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008 – with thousands of spectators lining the banks of Salford Quays to watch the fiercely contested races.

A graduate of The University of Manchester and an honorary graduate of the University of Salford, Robert Powell also spoke of his pleasure at supporting both institutions, as well as the official charity:

*"I have close links with both universities and SPARKS is a charity that is extremely important to me. The money raised will make an invaluable contribution to medical research, helping give children the best start in life. I am delighted to be part of this fantastic event."*

Admission to the Two Cities Boat Race is free.

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### **Note To Editors**

If you require any further information, or would like to arrange a telephone interview with Robert Powell ahead of the Two Cities Boat Race, please contact Rachel Conway, Press and PR Manager at The University of Salford on 0161 295 5370, or email [r.conway@salford.ac.uk](mailto:r.conway@salford.ac.uk)

Robert will also be available for interviews on 10<sup>th</sup> May at the Two Cities Boat Race. For further information about the event please visit [www.twocitiesboatrace.co.uk](http://www.twocitiesboatrace.co.uk)

For further information on SPARKS please visit [www.sparks.org.uk](http://www.sparks.org.uk)

SportsTours International are the official sports travel partner of the Two Cities Boat Race 2008. For further information please visit [www.sportstoursinternational.co.uk](http://www.sportstoursinternational.co.uk)