



## Cunard's Three Queens Perform River Dance on the Mersey in Salute to Liverpool Where the Company Began 175 Years Ago

May 25, 2015

### *Red Arrows add finishing touch to extraordinary spectacle*

LIVERPOOL, United Kingdom, May 25, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- For the first time, [Cunard's](#) fleet gathered together in spectacular fashion in Liverpool, its spiritual home, as the company marked its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event culminated with the three ships - flagship [Queen Mary 2](#), [Queen Elizabeth](#) and [Queen Victoria](#) - the largest passenger ships ever to muster together on the River Mersey, lined up across the river just 426 feet apart as the Red Arrows performed a fly-past overhead to the delight of the hundreds of thousands of spectators.

To view a time lapse video of the Three Queens on the Mersey, click here: <http://we.tl/ExXzcmEGWR>.

**Queen Mary 2** sailed from the Liverpool berth up to the mouth of the Mersey this morning at 10:45 a.m. to meet her sisters, **Queen Elizabeth** and **Queen Victoria**. The three ships then sailed in close single file down the river to Liverpool's Pier Head with its iconic Three Graces: The Royal Liver Building, The Cunard Building and The Port of Liverpool Building.

**Queen Mary 2** slowed in the river opposite the Cunard Building – Cunard's headquarters for nearly 50 years until 1967 – with her sister ships stopping ahead of her to create a three ship line-up watched by spectators on both sides of the river.

Just 1,312 feet apart, the three ships then performed a graceful 180 degree synchronised turn to starboard. At the mid-point of the turn, all three ships lay across the river, creating the spectacle of the fleet's three bows dramatically set against the backdrop of Liverpool's famous Three Graces. **Queen Mary 2** then sounded '175' on her ship's whistle (foghorn) – first one, then seven short blasts, then five more.

With the full turn completed and the 150,000 ton **Queen Mary 2** now in the leading position, her two 90,000 ton sister ships then glided slowly towards either side of her to create an arrowhead formation, with the flagship just ahead of her two consort ships.

Finally, the entire fleet lined up three abreast across the river just 426 feet apart, as a salute to the Cunard Building and the City of Liverpool.

With the Three Queens in this tight formation, the Red Arrows flew in formation low over the Three Queens as they lined up on the river, a coup de grace which created a once-in-a-lifetime moment that thrilled hundreds of thousands of spectators.

Commodore of the Cunard fleet Christopher Rynd said, "It's been a privilege to bring the Cunard fleet together on the Mersey for the first time ever to mark Cunard's 175th anniversary year and our historic and ongoing partnership with Liverpool, our spiritual home."

"All of us at Cunard are moved by the incredible reception the Three Queens have received from the people of Liverpool and beyond today," remarked Richard Meadows, Cunard, President, North America. "This moment has brought the relationship between Cunard and the Mersey alive, and that together, Liverpool and Cunard have paid tribute to the people who have created our 175 years of shared history."

### **Media Assets:**

**VIDEO:** A 90 minute programme of helicopter footage of the Three Queens sailing in formation, interviews and crowd reaction from the day can be seen at <http://live.cunard.com> or on [www.cunard.co.uk](http://www.cunard.co.uk)

This programme is freely available for hosting on your website:

- URL: <http://youtu.be/r0-5fF38D40>
- To embed the code please use: `<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/r0-5fF38D40"; frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>`

**PHOTOS:** High resolution photographs including aerial stills of the Three Queens 'river dance' and of the Red Arrows flypast will be freely available to download from Cunard's official image gallery. [www.cunard3queens.com](http://www.cunard3queens.com).

To book a Cunard voyage, contact your Travel Consultant, call (800) 728-6273 or visit [www.cunard.com](http://www.cunard.com).

### **About Queen Mary 2**

Christened by Her Majesty The Queen in 2004, Cunard Line's flagship **Queen Mary 2** defines luxury travel for the 21st Century and continues an almost 175-year legacy of transatlantic travel. **Queen Mary 2** achieved her 200th Transatlantic Crossing in July 2013. Famous names who have experienced this iconic voyage since 2004 include President George H.W. Bush, Desmond Tutu, James Taylor, Wes Anderson, Tilda Swinton, George Takei, Kim Novak, Uma Thurman, Richard Dreyfuss, John Cleese and Angela Bassett.

### **About Cunard**

Cunard, operator of the luxury ocean liners **Queen Mary 2**, **Queen Victoria** and **Queen Elizabeth**, has long been synonymous with the quest for new discoveries and the epitome of British refinement since the company's first paddle-wheeled steamer, Britannia, crossed the Atlantic in 1840. Cunard voyages bring together like-minded travellers who seek a civilised adventure and relish the Cunard hallmarks of impeccable White Star Service,

gourmet dining and world-class entertainment. Today, Cunard offers the only regularly scheduled Transatlantic liner service and continues the legacy of world cruising which it began in 1922.

**World's Leading Cruise Lines**

Cunard is a proud member of World's Leading Cruise Lines. Our exclusive alliance also includes Carnival Cruise Lines, Holland America Line, Princess Cruises, Costa Cruises and Seabourn. Sharing a passion to please each guest and a commitment to quality and value, World's Leading Cruise Lines inspires people to discover their best vacation experience. Together, we offer a variety of exciting and enriching cruise vacations to the world's most desirable destinations. Visit us at [www.worldsleadingcruiselines.com](http://www.worldsleadingcruiselines.com).

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Cunard photography is available online at [www.cunardimages.com](http://www.cunardimages.com)

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**For additional information about Cunard, contact:**

Jackie Chase, Cunard Line, 661-753-1035, [jchase@cunard.com](mailto:jchase@cunard.com)

Maria Andriano, MGA Media Group, 212-251-1015, [maria@mqamediaigroup.com](mailto:maria@mqamediaigroup.com)

Cindy Adams, MGA Media Group, 917-282-2464, [cindy@mqamediaigroup.com](mailto:cindy@mqamediaigroup.com)

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