

Salisbury International Arts Festival

Principal Sponsor



The 2010 Salisbury International Arts Festival presents an exciting programme for the whole family this Bank Holiday

The Salisbury International Arts Festival offers a fun-packed programme of events for the Bank Holiday weekend, Friday 28th to Monday 31st May 2010. The festival, one of the top five multi-art form festivals in the UK, includes concerts, gigs, comedy, poetry, exhibitions, extraordinary outdoor spectacles, Festival commissions and special one-off exclusives. This year's main themes are RUSSIA, STORIES, STONE & CHALK.

Launching the Bank Holiday is **The Imagined Village Project**, this year's Festival residency (Friday 28th May to Sunday 30th May). A daring mix of ancient and modern, fusing fiddles and squeezebox with dub beats and sitars, this three day residency features an extraordinary array of talent including **Martin Carthy, Eliza Carthy, Billy Bragg, Chris Wood, Simon Emmerson** and powerful footage of **Benjamin Zephaniahs'** retelling of *Tam Lyn*.

For children and families **Taffy Thomas MBE**, the newly appointed Laureate for Storytelling, will entertain both young and old with traditional tales and stories on Saturday 29th. And, award-winning outdoor theatre company **Ilyria** present their production of Roald Dahl's magical story *James and the Giant Peach* in the Wardrobe Museum Gardens on Sunday 30th.

There will be free Street Theatre on the Saturday offering light-hearted entertainment and amusement for all. Don't miss 9ft Scotsman Big Rory walking his wayward mongrel Ochie in the Market Square!

Saturday 29th also sees the UK premiere of **Stones** from award-winning Israeli theatre company **Orto-Da**. Six mime artists create a musical, surrealistic, comic living statue. Reflecting the Festival's main themes, this thought-provoking piece tells the story of a granite block that was to serve as a monument celebrating Hitler's victory in Europe and ends up as a memorial to Jewish fighters from the ghetto in Warsaw.

Taking the Festival into the countryside, the Festival presents the Globe Theatre's production of **A Midsummer Night's Dream** in the beautiful grounds of Old Wardour Castle on Thursday (27th), Friday (28th) and Saturday (29th).

In Salisbury Cathedral socio-cultural statistics will be weighed out in grains of rice by performers from Stan's Cafe in a unique performance installation entitled ***Of All The People In All The World***. Visitors will be able to interact with the performers throughout this five day residency (Thursday 27th to Monday 31st) asking them to research and present different figures (www.stanscafe.co.uk/ofallthepeople).

Festival-goers can also enjoy a double bill of two of the most influential silent films ever made : **Man with a Movie Camera** and **Battleship Potemkin** - being screened as part of the Festival's Russian themed film programme - on Saturday (29th) at the Arts Centre.

For opera fans, the London Festival Opera are performing highlights from *The Magic Flute* at Trafalgar Park on Sunday 30th and rounding-off the Bank Holiday weekend they return to the Festival on Monday 31st to present an afternoon 'Opera Gala' featuring Russian repertoire including arias from Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin.

For details of the full programme which please visit www.salisburyfestival.co.uk.

For further information please contact Rosa Corbishley on 07912 109 132 or email rosa@salisburyfestival.co.uk

Booking Information:

Tickets can be purchased in person from Salisbury Playhouse the Festival Office, Salisbury City Hall or the Salisbury Tourist Information Centre

Tickets can be purchased by phone or online:

Box Office: 0845 241 9651

To book online visit www.salisburyfestival.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

About Salisbury International Arts Festival

- The 37th Salisbury International Arts Festival runs from Friday 21 May – Saturday 5 June 2010
- The 2009 Festival featured 11 premieres and exclusives of which 9 were commissions by Salisbury International Arts Festival.
- The annual 16 day Salisbury International Arts Festival blazed into life in 1974 with a performance by Paco Peña and is a leading commissioning and producing Festival which attracts over 55,000 attendances each year and contributes £3m to the regional economy
- Salisbury International Arts Festival 2009 was named 'Tourism Event of the Year' at the South West Tourism's 'Tourism Excellence Awards'
- Salisbury International Arts Festival is supported by Principal Sponsor Friends Provident, Wiltshire Council and Arts Council England – South West.
- Salisbury International Arts Festival's Principal Sponsor, Friend Provident has been supporting the Festival for a wonderful 25 years
- The full Festival programme will be announced 1 March 2010.