

Salisbury International Arts Festival

MEDIA RELEASE

Family Fun at the Salisbury Festival 2010

Children are promised a huge dose of fun during the Festival with a vibrant programme of family friendly events for children and families to enjoy; ranging from workshops and performances to a free Play Day during the spring half term. And with a specially produced programme sent home in children's book bags throughout Wiltshire, we hope everyone gets to hear about them.

Caroline Peacock, Festival Manager and programmer of the Children's programme says: *'this year's events are just wonderful. There are so many more opportunities to see fabulous theatre, film, literature events and to get involved in workshops. We are delighted to continue our relationship with the Big Lottery who allow us to present so much free activity for children and their families, including the loved Big Play on 1 June.'*

Theatre Shows

As always our line up of family and childrens' theatre is fabulous quality and brilliant fun **LaLaLuna** is the acclaimed international theatre sensation combining circus, theatre and film. Lyngo Theatre present a highly interactive show and music filled for ages 1-3 called **Egg and Spoon**. The ever popular Illyria Theatre company present **James and the Giant Peach** in the enchanting setting of the Wardrobe Gardens all topped off by a wonderful shadow puppet show by Puppetcraft see the powerful witch **Baba Yaga**, of Russian folklore.

Stories and Literature events for children

Stories is one of the Festival's themes and is woven through the children's programme: a highlight is **Carol Ann Duffy**, the current Poet Laureate, reading *The Princess' Blankets* - her fairy tale about a princess who always feels cold. We are also joined by the storytelling laureate **Taffy Thomas**, whose magical coat tells a thousand tales. For ages 3-7 **Whatever Next** is a wonderful show that brings the loved story by Jill Murphy to life with puppets, a bit of juggling and lots of imagination!

Every day of the Festival there will be a wonderful opportunity to come and listen to a story in Cathedral cloisters with **Noontime Stories** told by actors and professional storytellers.

For older children the creative partnership behind *The Edge Chronicles*, **Chris Riddell and James Stewart** will talk inspiringly about their work. You can also see Chris' exhibition of drawings of magical worlds on display at the Arts Centre.

Music

Music is the language of many of the Children's show but these two will have all the family tapping their feet and bouncing to the rhythms: **ECHOA** by Mitiki is a STOMP for families features great music, exhilarating dance and laugh out loud comedy. And to launch our three year project with **AfroReggae** we have **Ignite!** - the joint will be jumpin' as the Cuban drummers from AfroReggae are joined by UK based break dance group Band Taste Cru.

Workshops and Free Play

Playday: The Big Play on Friday 29 May join hundreds of children and their families at the Greencroft for a day of fabulous play, and all for free! Join us during the half term week as the Festival celebrates play with funding from the Big Lottery. Imaginative play, messy play, creative play, physical play... there will be lots of opportunities for families to spend time together and have fun. **Afro Reggae** will present some amazing **family drumming and dance workshops** that will bring out the inner beat of the whole family! Many of the workshop sessions are free but please still call and book your place in advance.

Family Events in and around Salisbury

Look out for fun and fabulous happenings around Salisbury, with our **Street Theatre Days!** Events are on 22, 25 & 29 May and 1 & 5 June. Catch up with Rory the lovable Scottish rascal, and experience a very strange Tennis game. Take part in a huge outdoor artwork with **Urban Canvas** and help take the Festival out into the streets. Full listings and times can be found online.

Outdoor Events for Families

Family Festival-goers will be able to enjoy a host of outdoor events including: **the free opening** event of internationally-acclaimed artists ZicZazou in Salisbury Market Square with their magically roaming musical bandstand; Our **Festival Finale** will be a fabulous night of music and entertainment. With three great bands, *The Destroyers*, *40 Thieves Orkestar* and *The Bagdaddies* pack a picnic, gather your friends and family and enjoy the celebrations in the beautiful Cathedral Close.

Booking Information:

Tickets can be purchased in person from Salisbury Playhouse, Salisbury City Hall, Salisbury TIC or the Festival Office.

Tickets can be purchased by phone or online:

Box Office: 0845 241 9651

To book online visit www.salisburyfestival.co.uk

Ends

For more information contact:

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Note 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' and shortlisted for the Visit Britain National 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 was announced 1 March 2010