

Press Call - Opening Night of the Salisbury International Arts Festival 2010

On Friday 21 May 2010, please join us in the Market square from 8pm for the dramatic and entertaining Opening Night spectacular of the Salisbury International Arts Festival.

Salisbury's Market Square will be transformed for the Festival's FREE opening night, featuring madcap French company **Zic Zazou** who combine comedy with theatrical street music in their incredible self-propelled "Kiosque" - a roving traditional circular bandstand complete with exhilarating party band, pyrotechnics and special effects.

On the ground a new sculpture will be unveiled, created by local company QinetiQ's engineering apprentices as part of their award-winning creative programme with the Festival and sculptor Charlotte Moreton.

On the evening, don't forget to look up, as we have other magical treats in store that will take to the skies...

Please note: If you would like to interview the artists **Zic Zazou**, **Maria Bota** the **Festival Director**, the **apprentices from QinetiQ** or **Charlotte Moreton** they will be available during the day. Please be in touch to arrange interview times.

There will be other press calls throughout the Festival so please do look out for these. Dates for your diaries will be:

Wednesday 26th May 2pm rehearsal with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment for Monteverdi Vespers
Thursday 27 May 12pm Opening moments of exhibition '*Of all the People in all the World*'
Saturday 29 May 11am Outdoor performance of Stones in the Cathedral Close, meet at the West End Doors
Friday 4 June 2.30pm rehearsal for the Russian Patriarchate Choir in Salisbury Cathedral

ENDS

For further information please contact

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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.

About QinetiQ

- The QinetiQ Engineering Training Centre has been in operation at MOD Boscombe Down since 1969. The QinetiQ apprentices complete a four year course at the Engineering Training Centre which includes extensive practical experience. On completion of the course, apprentices will graduate as Advanced Modern Apprentices in Aeronautical Engineering, which includes a City and Guilds Technical Certificate 2661 Level 3 and a NVQ level 3 in Aeronautical Engineering Maintenance
- A FTSE250 company, QinetiQ is a leading international provider of technology-based services and solutions to the defence, security and related markets. We develop and deliver services and solutions for government organisations, predominantly in the UK and US, including defence departments, intelligence services and security agencies. In addition, we provide technology insertion and consultancy services to commercial and industrial customers around the world.