

DORSET MOON

FEATURING LUKE JERRAM'S MUSEUM OF THE MOON

PRESS RELEASE

DORSET MOON

Friday 28 – Sunday 30 June, War Memorial, Central Gardens, Bournemouth

Friday 5 – Sunday 7 July, Sherborne Abbey

Friday 12 – Sunday 14 July, Nothe Fort, Weymouth

Free

www.dorsetmoon.com

DORSET MOON, the summer season spectacle produced by three Dorset arts festivals in three amazing locations starring installation artist Luke Jerram's renowned Museum of the Moon sculpture, is delighted to announce it has commissioned seven new pieces for the supporting programme, Under the Moon.

All are by artists based in the South West, four of which are from Dorset and one a graduate of Arts University Bournemouth.

Five of the new works emerged as a result of the Outdoor Arts Development Course earlier this year in which emerging and mid-career artists participated in workshops to explore how their practice could be taken from indoor spaces into the wider public arena. At the end of the course artists were invited to pitch for small commissions for Under the Moon.

"Dorset Moon has presented a wonderful opportunity to commission new work from homegrown artists that will bring exciting new cultural experiences for residents and visitors alike," says Kate Wood, Executive & Artistic Director of Inside Out Dorset that is curating Dorset Moon in collaboration with Bournemouth Arts By the Sea and b-side.

"The new commissions are all very different, cross discipline and from artists at varying stages of their careers. We are delighted that several Dorset-based artists are presenting work in the programme that will help create a different feel to each of the three locations."

The new commissions are:

Ra Zamora – *Call of the Wild*. Bournemouth, Sherborne, Weymouth. A sound installation experimenting with the acoustics of each location that uses the calls of wild wolves, played intermittently as the audience contemplates Oriah Mountain Dreamer poem, 'The Invitation'.

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Laura Reid – *Celestial Bodies*. Bournemouth, Weymouth. Heard through silent disco-style headsets, *Celestial Bodies* has been editing together from pre-recorded sounds that create a journey from ethereal soundscapes and words to more beat-driven electronica as people respond to questions about the moon landing, memories and future plans.

R&D Studio with Hemabharathy Palani – *Chandini the Astronaut*. Bournemouth, Sherborne, Weymouth. As India emerges as a frontrunner in the new race for the moon, R&D Studio has worked with dancer choreographer Hemabharathy Palani who uses a unique blend of Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and contemporary dance to explore a woman's relationship with the moon and the parallels that a lunar journey may have with her life on Earth.

Matilda Skelton-Mace – *Earth Module*. Bournemouth, Sherborne, Weymouth. A multi-faceted dome structure inside an otherwise non-descript tent with room for one or two people. Using infinity mirror effects and subtle, organic lighting patterns to evoke the night sky, its form is inspired by the interior of the Apollo 11 lunar module. The work plays with scale in a way which complements the Museum of the Moon.

George Roberts – *Title tbc*. Bournemouth, Sherborne, Weymouth. Mounted on a steel plinth a battered VR headset inspired by Eugene Cernan's Apollo 17 helmet – the last to view to view the Moon – houses a 150-second immersive digital experience that chronicles our ever-changing relationship with space.

Helen Ottaway – *Title tbc*. Sherborne. A 10-minute composition for musical box and voice inspired by watching the waves of the Indian Ocean pulled back and forward by the tides. The work will draw parallels between the rotation of the musical box and rotations of different scales.

Carrie Mason – *Pledge*. Bournemouth, Weymouth. A short performance collective drawing made by audience participation, *Pledge* is inspired by Neil Armstrong's iconic words as the artist wearing hobnail boots takes repetitive small steps to crush Dorset lump charcoal into fine dust then pledging to reduce their carbon footprint before taking a giant leap onto an adjacent canvas and inviting the audience to follow suit. The total performance lasts one hour 57 minutes, the duration of the first moonwalk.

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For further information, copy, images, interviews please contact

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Dorset Moon is produced by the Dorset Festivals Consortium: Inside Out Dorset (produced by Activate), b-side and Bournemouth Arts by the Sea. Commissioned by the Arts Development Company with funding from European Regional Development Fund and Arts Council England.

Museum of the Moon is a touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram. Measuring seven metres in diameter, the moon features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface. Museum of the Moon allows us to observe and contemplate cultural similarities and differences around the world and consider the latest moon science. Depending on where the artwork is presented, its meaning and interpretation will shift. Through local research at each location of the artwork, new stories and meanings will be collected and compared from one presentation to the next.

LOCATIONS AND DATES

Friday 28 – Sunday 30 June **Central Gardens, Bournemouth**

The Upper, Central and Lower Gardens have all been Green Flag winners since 1999 and run from Bournemouth Pier to the boundary with Poole. The gardens are 3km long. They are all part of the Bourne Valley Greenway and are Listed Grade II in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens. DORSET MOON will be in Central Gardens, near the War Memorial.

Friday 5 July – Sunday 7 July **Sherborne Abbey, Sherborne**

Founded by St Aldhelm in AD705, the Abbey has developed from Saxon cathedral to the worshipping heart of a monastic community, and finally, to one of the most beautiful of England's parish churches. For many it is still the 'Cathedral of Dorset' and its Benedictine heritage lives on in the daily offering of prayer and praise.

Friday 12 July – Sunday 14 July **Nothe Fort, Weymouth**

Nothe Fort is now one of Weymouth's major attractions and a venue for a wide range of public events. You don't have to be a military enthusiast to enjoy your visit. It's a great day

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out for all the family with lots to see and explore. This weekend also sees the Nyetimber Dorset Seafood Festival return to this picturesque harbour town.

EVENT PARTNERS

The Arts Development Company

ADC believe the arts can transform and change people's lives for the better. They deliver creative projects with cross-sector partners, lobbying and influencing policy and strategy in the arts and supporting and developing the cultural infrastructure. Based in Dorset, they work nationally and across Dorset and the South West of England. They also work with UK networks and partnerships.

Activate and Inside Out Dorset

Inside Out Dorset is recognised across Europe for producing high quality international outdoor arts and specialising in siting work in the landscape as well as in its more urban locations in the programme. Produced by Dorset-based Activate Performing Arts, the festival seeks out and commissions extraordinary events in extraordinary places, transforming some of the county's most remarkable landscapes with exceptional experiences – most of which are free to attend.

Bournemouth Arts by the Sea

The Arts by the Sea festival is Bournemouth's annual celebration of culture, bringing an intriguing, exciting and carnivalesque mix of the arts to Bournemouth's unique and beautiful locations. The festival aims to increase opportunities for people to participate in the arts and enhance a sense of community, while supporting talented artists creating work that makes a real impact on the audience and the town. Diverse music, art and dance, site-specific installations and large-scale spectacles are all key to this festival. Most events are family friendly and free to attend.

b-side

b-side is an internationally recognised and locally loved arts organisation, producing unique, innovative and pioneering projects that connect artists with people and place. b-side supports artists to make site-responsive artwork in collaboration with communities encouraging artists and audiences to be playful, curious and open-minded. There is a b-side festival every two years on Portland bringing new, unique art to audiences from Dorset and beyond and sharing incredible stories about the Isle of Portland with the rest of the world. As well as the festival b-side co-ordinates a year-round programme of projects for artists, young people and Dorset residents to help empower communities and individuals to experience and value creativity and its vital role within well-being, education, place making and the local economy. b-side is part of Art Council England's National Portfolio.

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