

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

As three Dorset arts festivals join forces to present **DORSET MOON** in response to the fiftieth anniversary of the first lunar landing residents and visitors alike will be able to gather in three amazing locations to look to the stars and illuminate the collective imagination.

Dorset Moon is built around artist Luke Jerram's monumental *Museum of the Moon* installation, seven-metres in diameter and created from high-definition NASA imagery of the moon's surface. It is accompanied by audio composed by BAFTA winner Dan Jones and will be presented in each location with 'Under the Moon', a full supporting programme of events curated by Inside Out Dorset (produced by Activate), Arts by the Sea and b-side festivals.

'Under the Moon' will have a different feel in each location and several exciting new cultural experiences have been specially commissioned, some of which can be seen at all three locations. Others are more site-specific, but one – *A Small Dream* – will take place with a unique show at each venue.

Combining outdoor dance and projection, it is a collaboration between award-winning choreographer Hemabharathy Palani, who will be dancing in person at Bournemouth and Weymouth, and R&D the innovative interdisciplinary studio founded by artists Rachel Davis and Daniel Saul to make films for projection mapping and theatre. Their films of Hema dancing will be shown in two locations in Sherborne Abbey.

"Each part of the story is a stand-alone piece, but by viewing all three audiences will be able to track the developing story of a tiny female robot on her perilous 400,000-kilometre journey from the Earth to the Moon," explains Kate Wood, Executive & Artistic Director of Inside Out Dorset, which commissioned *A Small Dream* for Dorset Moon.

"The inspiration for the story was the feminine focus of India's ambitious space programme

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with women in several key positions in TeamIndus, a private company attempting to touch down on the Moon in a spacecraft it has identified as female. The story of *A Small Dream* connects and contrasts the giant strides being taken by women in the space programme with the very traditional, but changing, view of Indian family life. As the robot travels into space she must confront her own dreams and, on landing, make sense of a new reality.

“Hema is a wonderful performer whose work straddles the traditional and the contemporary; while R&D make films that are quite simply beautiful. This is a lovely new commission that we are so proud to be able to premiere at Dorset Moon.”

India's second mission to the moon, Chandrayaan 2, will launch in July to land in September on the moon's previously unexplored southern pole, an area that India will also be able to name. It will be the Indian Space Research Organisation's first lunar landing and follows the success of Chandrayaan 1, its 2008 mission to orbit the moon.

The other new commissions for Dorset Moon are all very different, cross discipline and from artists at varying stages of their careers, including Dorset-based Ra Zamora's sound installation *Call of the Wild*; Laura Reid's silent disco soundtrack *Celestial Bodies*; Matilda Skelton-Mace's installation *Earth Module* in which infinity mirror effects and organic lighting patterns evoke the night sky and play with scale; *This Then Is the Moon* a 150-second immersive experience by George Roberts with Natasha Salkeld and Immy Howard; *Wind and Unwind*, Helen Ottaway's ten-minute composition for musical box and voice; and *Pledge*, Carrie Mason's short performance collective drawing.

For more details on Dorset Moon and the full programme for Under the Moon visit www.dorsetmoon.com.

ENDS

Please note: Rachel Davis and Daniel Saul are available for interview.

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 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.

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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 Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

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