

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

With the fiftieth anniversary of the first lunar landing approaching next month, there's mounting excitement in anticipation of the debut of **DORSET MOON**, an exciting summer spectacle built around Luke Jerram's internationally acclaimed *Museum of the Moon*.

Brought to Dorset for the first time in a unique collaboration between three arts festivals, this monumental moon sculpture is seven-metres in diameter, internally lit and created using NASA's high-definition lunar imagery. Each centimetre of its surface represents five kilometres of actual moonscape. A mesmerising fusion of lunar visuals, moonlight and surround sound audio during its two-week Dorset visit it will land in three unique locations that encapsulate the county's distinctive blend of coastal, rural and urban.

In each location *Museum of the Moon* is supported by a rolling programme of activities beneath it curated by Inside Out Dorset (produced by Activate), Arts by the Sea and b-side festivals. The schedule in Bournemouth runs from 9am until midnight with newly commissioned artworks and installations, while activities in Sherborne and Weymouth run from midday until midnight on all three days.

Highlights include *Pledge*, Carrie Mason's powerful invitation to participate in a collective outdoor charcoal drawing galvanised by Neil Armstrong's iconic words to take one small step to reduce our carbon footprint; Helen Ottaway's *Wind and Unwind*, a new composition for musical box and voice that works with themes of absence and the movement of tides; and *Call of the Wild*, artist Ra Zamora's unique sound installation inspired by the wolf's howl – a project that is particularly personal to the artist.

"For me the moon holds great mystery, magic and clarity," she explains. "The wolf howl has always been a sound that thrills me and awakens my spirit so there was a natural progression to put wolves howling with the moon into a soundscape collage. I've also been

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exploring binaural beats and theta brainwaves to induce feelings of relaxation and wellbeing. I hope that this soundscape, mixed with passages of poetry will reach to the core of people's primal psyche to excite and inspire them."

The supporting programme also features 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; and *A Small Dream*, the exhilarating 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.

For more details on Dorset Moon and the full programme in each location visit www.dorsetmoon.com.

ENDS

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

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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.

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

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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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