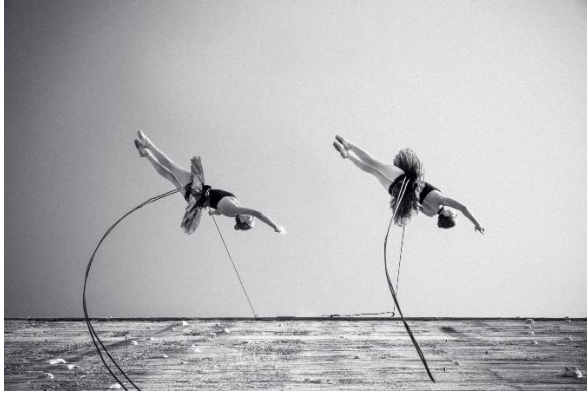




PRESS RELEASE

Issued: 05/06/2023



DELREVÉS



TOTEMS



THE WHALE

Festé announces its programme for 2023 with spectacular outdoor circus and dance, dazzling acrobatics, and the return of its iconic procession, across Derby City locations from 22-23 September.

Festé is excited to announce a programme that is packed full of immersive, innovative, and ground-breaking work showcased across the city of Derby for a whole range of audiences of all ages.

Attracting over 30,000 visitors to Derby, Festé has been a flagship outdoor arts festival for the East Midlands since its inauguration in 2007. Now in its 15th anniversary, Festé has built

a reputation for presenting work of national and international recognition for audiences to experience and delight in.

Brought together by Déda, with support from Derby's key cultural partners, Festé 23 returns with acts that dance vertically down the Silk Mill tower; 20ft high figures; giant wheels and whales; stunning visual projections; fire breakdancing, and the return of community procession, only bigger and with some surprises along the way for visitors.

In response to the ongoing cost of living crisis currently in the UK, nearly all of the performances at this year's Festé are going to be free of charge. This ensures that everyone whatever their circumstances have access to exceptional experiences across the weekend.

"Festé unfurls again this year across the city like a flower opening to the sunshine. From huge international and national acts to the return of Festé's community procession, it's a chance to engage with the arts community - an empowering way for the city and beyond to bond and celebrate the wonders of creativity. There is real collective power, strength and joy in communities coming together in difficult times through dance, movement, and creativity, making Derby's Festé a superb example of this power in motion... Take to the streets this September and spread the seeds of our creative revolution!" Steve Slater, Artistic Director and CEO, Déda.

Peter Knott, Area Director for Arts Council England, said: *"Derby Festé has built a strong reputation since it launched in 2007, bringing together an eclectic mix of arts and cultural experiences for the whole community to enjoy. The 15th anniversary programme looks particularly exciting and I'm sure there will be a real buzz across the city as communities come together to immerse themselves in a wide range of world class and participatory performances, the majority of which will be free to attend."*

"We're proud to support Derby Festé, which attracts thousands of people from across Derby and beyond and is a shining example of how creativity and culture in the community can help to make people feel happy and proud of the place that they live in."

Festé will now also extend beyond its two-day programme with two previews. First is **Dr Ann Featherstone's Fools and Horses: The Victorian Circus** on the 15 September at the Museum of Making, a talk where people can discover more about the weird, wonderful wheezy world of Victorian Circus. Then on the 21 September, Laura Murphy performs at Déda with **A Spectacle of Herself**, a circus and clowning comedy featuring lip-sync, video and aerial rope.

Friday

Festé then launches on Friday 22 September with **Illuminos**, a unique event celebrating 25 years of the twinning link between Derbyshire and Toyota City with two video projection artworks, the first created specifically for the Guildhall in Market Place and the second in Kojaku-ji temple in Toyota City. The Guildhall will come alive with the beauty and vibrancy of Toyota City, golden maple leaves blending with Obara Washi paper, shared histories of weaving and manufacturing play out, and the exchange of music, culture, education, business and sport across 25 years is revealed.

Also at Market Place will be **Rogue Play's Forests**, a highly visual family friendly show using acrobatics and dance.

Performing at Derby Cathedral will be the winner of the regional song contest Derbyvision, **Terrienne**, plus pyrotechnic artist and storyteller, **Nathan Gerring** and **Deep Down Brass**, a

6-piece brass and drums groups will play all your favourite hits from the genres of pop, rock, indie and dance.

A second premiere for the evening comes from award-winning company **Nikki & JD** with their camp side show, **Fireside**, performed at Cathedral Green. Following their international success of *Knot*, their first outdoor production is a participatory promenade piece, inviting the audience to share an intimate moment around a campfire.

Saturday

Saturday is packed with a full day of events and activities across city locations with highlights including **Delrevés' Finale**, **Compagnie des Quidams**, 60-foot **Circo Rum Ba Ba's The Whale**, and the hugely ambitious and colourful **Community Procession**.

Delrevés' Finale is a breathtakingly stunning aerial ballet which is set to defy gravity as they dance vertically off the side of the Silk Mill Tower. Performing in the afternoon as well as the closing show for the festival, this is a chance to see classical dance from another perspective, with a mesmerising display of exhilarating aerial international dance.

We are incredibly proud to see the return of the internationally renowned **Compagnie des Quidams** to Festé. Last here in 2018, this year they bring audiences **TOTEMS**, massive evanescent figures, dressed in long coats, which will wander through the crowds with controlled imbalances and incessant swirls. A roving performance that will amaze and astound audiences across the city.

Over at Riverlight Bank is a huge 60ft whale performance space called **The Whale**. Inside, audiences will be led by an acrobatic diver through the life and journeys of an ancient Leatherback Turtle and a whale and the threats and dangers they face to survive. **The Whale** will be ticketed and is performing at select times throughout the day. This performance is part of a larger theme at Festé, with many acts, as well as the procession, looking at environmental issues and new ways of looking and tackling them.

Weaving along a river route within the city will be the return of **Festé's Community Procession, with 2023's Riverlife**. Expect a river themed extravaganza, with carnival costumes and dancers; samba drumming; movement and creativity; river creatures and glowing insects; Fire Breakdancing, plus **Autin Dance Theatre's Giant Wheel** and **Sound Catchers** - illuminated aliens on stilts. Noise, colour and community will be the flavour of its return as the procession seeks to reignite the city's streets with community and professional arts, and festivities and performances. The procession leads into the festival's headline evening shows: **TOTEMS**, **Finale** and a fireworks display with a difference.

We are also inviting Derby communities to be part of the action by signing up to processional making and workshops, hosted at the Museum of Making over the summer. They are also invited to be part of the drumming troop that leads the procession by signing up for free Samba drumming workshops.

There are hosts of other acts at Festé this year, including **2Faced Dance's Lungs of Our City**, a contemporary, emotional and athletic three-person dance dynamic. **Def Motion**, a Midlands-based crew of d/Deaf, hard of hearing, hearing and neurodiverse artists, bring **Cog in the Wheel**, a show which infuses street dance with theatre and visual vernacular.

Farm Yard Circus is a warm and cheery, family-friendly, farm-life inspired circus spectacle, comprising of group acrobatics, juggling, theatre, and live music. **Highly Sprung's Castaway** offers audiences a stunning outdoor performance that explores the impact of

today's throwaway society on our waterways, and **Joss Arnott Dance** present **Rush**, a brand-new fast-paced, athletic and physically charged dance experience created for the streets.

Daryl & Co and **Mimbre** perform **Look Mum, No Hands**, a tender tale of friendship and growing up, whilst **Simple Cypher** throws down their unique fusion of Hip Hop choreography and contemporary circus to create an uplifting experience with the show, **Roll Model**.

Vanhulle Dance's Dovetail is a high energy dance duet, fusing elements of 'breakin' and martial arts, created within a contemporary dance theatre construct. **Handmade Theatre** offer a unique production, **Wildernests**, lovingly created for children and families with music, storytelling, puppets and colourful characters, and is inspired by the plants, insects and animals found around us.

Internationally renowned **Tom Dale Company** bring a VR delight with **Surge VR**, where audiences will get to experience, interact, and play as four stellar artists collaborate to create a brand-new staged concept album.

Added to the vast array of staged performances, Festé will include other roving artists including **Autin Dance Theatre's Giant Wheel**, the **Bicycle Ballet Company**, visually arresting and rhythmic **Soundcatchers**,

Not only this, but there will also be fixed hubs to explore at Festé, with **Furthest From the Sea** offering families a space to take part in crafts, workshops and a relax zone, at Cathedral Green, plus there's an info hub with regionally-sourced food and stalls at Market Place. Whereas Déda and Rollersnakes will turn Chapel Street into a giant, purpose-built skate park with graffiti workshops and DJs - for young people to have their own space as part of their Altered Streets programme of work.

To see the full listing, locations and timings of Festé 23, please visit <https://www.derbyfeste.com/>.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITOR:

Press Contacts

Sarah Jenkin-Jones, JJ Public Relations Ltd, Tel: 01332 515102, Mobile: 07951 945665
Email: sarah@jjpublicrelations.co.uk

Tom Jeavons, Festé Promotions Manager, Déda, Tel: 01332 374670, Email: t.jeavons@deda.uk.com

Festé 2023

22-23 September, all various locations in Derby.

Festé first came to the city centre streets in September 2007. It first marked the opening of now Derbion, with the following year marking the opening of QUAD arts centre. Since then, the festival has grown year on year and become an iconic outdoor arts festival for the East Midlands.

Attracting over 30,000 visitors, the festival brings international and nationally renowned artists to the city every year, with many of the acts free. It is one of the city's most loved annual events.

Partners

DÉDA

Derby Festé is part of Déda's NPO. Déda is the creative centre for dance movement and creativity, based in the heart of the Cathedral Quarter in Derby. With a class programme for children and adults, a theatre performance programme, and a community development programme, Déda supports and inspires a broad community of artists, participants and audiences.

www.deda.uk.com

Derby Live

Derby LIVE is part of Derby City Council. We present and produce an excellent and diverse programme of live performances, events and festivals. We are innovative, inclusive, sustainable and vital to the regeneration of Derby.

Our venues include the Derby Arena and Guildhall Theatre as well as outdoor spaces in and around Derby City Centre like the Market Place, Darley Park and Bass' Recreational Ground.

<https://www.derbylive.co.uk/>

Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £440 million of public money from Government and an estimated £93 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk>

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies responsible for administering the Government's unprecedented Culture Recovery Fund of which we delivered over £1 billion to the sector in grants and loans. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19.

Derby City Council

Derby City Council work in partnership with a number of cultural organisations across the city. This ensures the arts scene is always vibrant and encourages involvement in the arts for everyone.

<https://www.derby.gov.uk/>

Visit Derby

Derby is the UK's most central city, a great place for a cultural break and a great base to explore nearby Peak District delights. A really friendly place, great value for money, food, drink, staying over, and very easy to get around, you'll feel welcome right from the start, so visit soon and discover Derby for yourself.

<https://www.visitderby.co.uk/>

Derby College

We create world-class, accessible education opportunities that enrich lives and make bright futures a reality for all. DCG is committed to providing educational excellence, championing social mobility and driving economic prosperity.

<https://www.derby-college.ac.uk/>

Derby Museums

Founded in 2012, Derby Museums is an independent charitable trust that manages three museums in the city, the Museum and Art Gallery, Pickford's House and the Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill and holds and curates all the art and collections within them, including the world's largest collection of paintings by Joseph Wright of Derby.

<https://www.derbymuseums.org/>

Derby Theatre

'Derby Theatre...increasingly the most crucial theatre in the region because of its emphasis on learning, nurturing and nourishing.' Lyn Gardner, The Guardian

Derby Theatre is reimagining what a regional producing theatre can be. Through its unique relationship with the University of Derby, the theatre has placed learning, mentoring and artistic excellence as its heart, bringing together creative professionals with diverse audiences, to tell compelling stories.

<https://derbytheatre.co.uk/>

Derby CAN

Derby CAN (Derby Creative Arts Network) is a project where organisations create theatre and live events in partnership with people who live in Derby and surrounding areas. We link up artists with groups of local people to co-create artistic and cultural events that really mean something to our community. Then we present the results in community spaces, on our stages, and on tour.

<https://derbytheatre.co.uk/about-us/what-we-do/project-derby-can/>

University of Derby

A University of first choice for students who want a caring, aspirational environment where they can equip themselves for the career they choose. A modern university with a modern outlook. Everything we do is driven by delivering excellence and opportunities for our students, our staff and our region.

<https://www.derby.ac.uk/>

Derby Cathedral

Derby Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Derby, and a centre for mission and worship serving the people and parishes of the Diocese of Derby.

It is also one of the oldest buildings in Derby City Centre, and as a Grade 1 listed building, it is of high historical significance Derby Cathedral aims to develop strong relationships with all its stakeholders to become a place for inspirational music and worship, learning, heritage stories, arts and culture.

www.derbycathedral.org

Artcore

Artcore is an international centre for contemporary art and creativity based in Derby, UK and home to Artcore Gallery, studios and workspaces as well as a shop and café. A vibrant hub for commissioning, production, presentation and debate, Artcore offer opportunities for diverse audiences to engage directly with creative practices through participation and discussion. We believe that contemporary art and creativity are central to the development of people and places.

<https://www.artcoreuk.com/>

QUAD

QUAD is cultural hub based in the city-centre of Derby. For almost 15 years QUAD has engaged audiences in contemporary art and film, focusing on major exhibitions, professional practice for artists, independent film and the creative use of emergent digital technologies. Attracting over 350,000 visitors a year, QUAD offers a vibrant cinema, education and creative wellbeing programme, alongside an exhibition, commissioning and artist CPD programme. QUAD is also home to the internationally renowned FORMAT International Photography Festival and is highly regarded for its work with digital and creative new media.

www.derbyquad.co.uk

Baby People

Baby People is a music and arts development organisation. The UK's first dedicated Hip Hop school which uses art and culture to engage and support the needs of the most deprived in our communities. We believe that art and music can be empowering tools and forms of expression for people in all stages of life.

<https://www.babypeople.co.uk/>

Down to Earth Derby

We seek to inspire the radical change our broken world and systems need, empower others to create collective purpose through nature, reconnect people with nature, themselves and their communities, and make living with nature a part of everyday life.

<https://www.dtederby.org/>

Marketing Derby

Marketing Derby promotes Derby and Derbyshire in order to attract and support investment. Our aim is to promote Derby city to support and attract investment – to be proactive, make a difference and think “Derby First”.

<https://www.marketingderby.co.uk/>

Cathedral Quarter Derby

Voted ‘Best City Location’ at the Great British High Street awards in 2016, Derby’s Cathedral Quarter is the perfect place to enjoy Feste. As well as award-winning shops, cafe’s, restaurants and bars, the Cathedral Quarter has a unique charm and character with a host of historic landmarks and cultural attractions for the whole family to enjoy.

<https://www.derbycathedralquarter.co.uk/>

St Peters Quarter Derby

St Peters Quarter is a busy and diverse area of Derby city centre, home to the city’s bus station and a large range of national and independent shops, eateries and leisure venues.

You will find something for everyone here, from book shops and dessert parlours, to escape rooms and indoor golf.

<https://stpetersquarter.co.uk/>