

DERBY – GREAT PLACE, GREAT BASE

Derby is set to welcome an Elemental Force

Following hard on the heels of the world-class Festé, Derby is getting ready to welcome an Elemental Force into the city, in March.

Building on the themes that made the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Games so memorable, Elemental Force will be a series of spectacular large-scale outdoor shows, which will now put some of Britain's most historic buildings under the spotlight.

Scheduled to take place in February and March, the performances will use light, sound and film to create an atmosphere of drama and excitement reminiscent of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Olympic Games.

Several locations in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire have been chosen to host the touring event, and four of the most significant historic buildings have been selected as the backdrops - including Derby's Silk Mill, on Thursday, March 7th.

The story of the site of England's first factory - as well as Nottingham Castle on February 8th, Chatsworth on 23rd March and Newark Castle on March 16th - will be brought to life by some of the country's leading outdoor artists in a way that audiences have never seen before, using a combination of giant digital projections with stunning visual effects and massive pyrotechnics displays.

These animations and effects will be tailored to each location drawing on the histories and sagas associated with the sites, and will draw on the rich seam of folklore, conflict, upheaval, industrialisation and technological innovation - just some of the key elements that have shaped a landscape and defined the region's character.

The premise is that audiences will find themselves in a "fire garden" surrounded by flickering trails and fire-based installations during the build-up to the event, and as the night progresses will see a huge projection appear on the surface of the landmark building as the story is told through film, music, fireworks, and aerial dancers suspended high in the evening sky.

In Derby, for example, Elemental Force will celebrate the city's Silk Mill - reflecting the way in which water power, geology and geography, an creativity and engineering feats were harnessed to create the country's first ever factory.

Best of all, entry to all four events is free of charge.

Full details can be found at www.visitderby.co.uk/elementalforce.co.uk For further tourist information, visit www.visitderby.co.uk.

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

Elemental Force dates:

Nottingham Castle, Friday 8 February

Derby's Silk Mill, Thursday 7 March

Newark Castle, Saturday 16 March

Chatsworth, Saturday 23 March

Visitors to the locations are encouraged to make a weekend of it, with visits to other local cultural attractions and events while in the region. The events are supported by Experience Nottinghamshire www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/, Visit Peak District & Derbyshire www.visitpeakdistrict.com/, Discover Derby www.visitderby.co.uk/, Nottingham City Council www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ and Newark and Sherwood District Council www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/.

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Elemental Force is funded by Arts Council England. The event is being staged by Derby-based Déda Producing, which created the Olympics-inspired Games Time events which reached an audience of 46,000 people, funded by Legacy Trust UK and Arts Council England.

Déda Producing is teaming up with some of the country's biggest names in film, lighting, pyrotechnic animation and large-scale, fantastical, outdoor events for *Elemental Force*.

Animations will be designed by Mick McNicholas - one of the Development team of the Doctor Who BBC Online Games. The soundtrack will be created by Scanner, an electronic musician who has worked with high-profile artists including Radiohead. Walk the Plank will be directing the show and be producing the fire gardens and fireworks.



Derby City Council

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