

Canterbury Festival

15-29 OCTOBER 2011

Kent's International Arts Festival

www.canterburyfestival.co.uk



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Science takes centre stage at Canterbury Festival

This year the Festival ventures into the unknown and takes a look at the fascinating relationship between science and the arts. The Festival takes a journey into a world of alluring interest and countless questions to be explored by the variety of events which will offer some intriguing insights.

IVF guru, peer of the realm and broadcaster Robert Winston starts with his examination of the relationship between science, society and religion. Straight-talking, matter of fact and rational, Lord Winston provides a useful foundation for anyone who abandoned scientific study at the tender age of 16. On Tuesday 18 October at Shirley Hall he will be sharing his thought provoking insights into our world.

Saturday 22 October will offer a full day of Science and the Arts starting proceedings at 10.30am with science expert Mike Hoyland as he performs *The Delights of Chemistry*. The motivating and virtually unique presentation includes dozens of spectacular experiments and demonstrations. It has amazed and inspired audiences of all ages across the country. A show for all the family, but particularly those who like things that go bang.

In *Music: An Explanation by a Guitar Hero* rock physicist Dr Mark Lewney explores the processes that take music from the vibrations of the instrument, through the ear and then on the brain. Testing the musical ear, learn the secret of Stradivarius and discuss the ultimate question: what is the purpose of music?

Meet the Gene Machine begins with a mini drama set in the future when genetic profiles can be read in seconds by a gene machine. This event has been delivered

nationally to great acclaim and includes the opportunity to discuss the use and abuse of genetic information and to hear from Dr Peter Goodfellow FRS, one of the world's leading authorities on genetic testing. The lively event is designed to increase awareness of the ethical implications raised by advances in medical genetics.

An Evening with Albert sees the great man (or someone who looks a lot like him) perform an internationally successful show. It sets the challenge to find a physical explanation for some of the extraordinary phenomena surrounding some of the universe's minor mysteries - demonstrated using balloons, eggs, lemons and alcoholic beverages! The audience is invited to think about some of the science behind the food and drink that is consumed everyday.

Death's a funny thing, as stand-up mathematician Matt Parker and comedian Timandra Harkness will prove in *Your Days are Numbered*. Hailed as "exponentially funny", the show is an enthralling hour of mathematical comedy. A hive of well-researched entertainment, audiences can expect to emerge better educated in what not to worry about. However, the acclaimed comedy comes with a health warning; during this show audiences have a 0.000043% chance of dying. On a positive note, they will at least die laughing.

For full information on Science Centre Stage please visit the Festival website www.canterburyfestival.co.uk. Tickets are £5 - £15 and available online, from the Festival Box Office by phone 01227 787787 or in person from the Festival Box Office, in the Canterbury Visitor Information Centre.

Ends.

Canterbury Festival | 15-29 October 2011 | www.canterburyfestival.co.uk

For Festival information, interview requests & review tickets contact:

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Notes to Editors:

- Canterbury Festival 2011 runs from 15-29 October in and around Canterbury, Kent.
- Canterbury Festival is Kent's International Arts Festival, the largest festival of arts and culture in the region, and one of the most important cultural events in the South East. Revived in 1984, the annual Festival attracts an audience of over 70,000 people of all ages to free and ticketed events, drawn from across Kent, London and the South East. With over two hundred events in two weeks the Festival has something to offer to everyone from classical music to contemporary dance, comedy to world music with theatre, walks, talks, visual arts and much more.
- Full details of the programme of events are available in the Festival brochure, online at www.canterburyfestival.co.uk and from the Festival Office.
- Tickets are available online at www.canterburyfestival.co.uk or from the Festival Box Office in the Canterbury Visitor Information Centre (The Buttermarket) in person or by phone 01227 787787.
- The University of Kent is supporting Science Centre Stage at Canterbury Festival as a lead sponsor and with the expertise of their science department.
- The co-ordinator of Science Centre Stage Frank Burnet (founder of the Science Festival Cheltenham) is available for interview, please contact Stefanie Klinge-Davis at the Festival office.
- The new Festival website launched on 18 July includes an RSS feed interested members of the media can subscribe to, ensuring updates to the press section of the website reach them as they happen.