

Canterbury Festival

15-29 OCTOBER 2011

Kent's International Arts Festival

www.canterburyfestival.co.uk



NEWS RELEASE

30 March 2011

Relief at Festival House

The wait is over as Arts Council England announces funding decisions

In today's announcement from the Arts Council regarding funding levels for 2012-14, the Canterbury Festival has been successful in its bid for support for the three year period.

Festival Director Rosie Turner describes the settlement: "We are very pleased and relieved that the Arts Council has awarded us a generous amount of funding which not only endorses our position as a key arts organisation for East Kent, but actually represents an uplift of 36% on our previous core funding position. It means that the Festival will be able to continue to provide high quality international arts events during October – so thankfully it's 'Business as usual'!

Some of our artistic colleagues elsewhere in the County have not been so fortunate as there is simply less money in the pot to distribute, but I feel that the Arts Council has demonstrated great care and transparency throughout this difficult process.

There has been some confusion in the media resulting from a lack of understanding as to how to interpret the financial statistics – and to reassure our Festival friends and audiences I think we need to set the record straight. I was woken this morning by a journalist eager to secure my reaction to what they described as a "61% cut"! This figure represents the difference between the total amount of Arts Council funding the Canterbury Festival received last year (which included two large separate allocations for one-off projects) and our core annual grant. When I discovered that we'd actually secured a core grant higher than we had anticipated – naturally I was relieved and delighted. We enjoy a warm and open dialogue with the Arts Council and I feel that for the media to create a bad news story where there isn't one is disingenuous.

One of the most positive aspects to emerge from this challenging period is greater partnership working both with funders like the Arts Council and also with other arts organisations. We look forward to deepening our engagement with artists and audiences, and continuing to provide the best possible Festival each year."

Ends.

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For Festival information & interview requests contact:

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Notes to Editors:

- 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.
- Canterbury Festival 2011 runs from 15-29 October in and around Canterbury, Kent.
- Full details of the programme of events will be announced in July and will be available in the Festival brochure, online at www.canterburyfestival.co.uk and from the Festival Office.
- Booking for the general public opens on Monday 8 August, with a 2 week priority booking period for Friends of the Festival prior to that. Tickets will be available online at www.canterburyfestival.co.uk or from the Festival Box Office in the Canterbury Visitor Information Centre in person or by phone 01227 787787.
- Festival Director Rosie Turner is available for interview; please contact Stefanie Klinge-Davis at the Festival Office.