



The
Corner Shop



PRESS RELEASE

IMAGES CAN BE DOWNLOADED [HERE](#)

[Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Vimeo](#) / [Website](#)

Daniel Brine announces full programme for NORFOLK & NORWICH FESTIVAL 2020

- THE FESTIVAL REFLECTS ON THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL THEMES OF THE PASSING OF TIME, COMMUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT AS IT APPROACHES ITS 250TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2022
- OVER 100 EVENTS, EIGHT WORLD PREMIERES, TWO UK PREMIERES, A VERY SPECIAL FESTIVAL COMMISSION FROM ROBERT MACFARLANE AND STELLAR INTERNATIONAL TALENT SUCH AS ALI SMITH, ALISON BALSOM, CAMILLE O’SULLIVAN, RICHARD GOODE AND GOB SQUAD
- 2020 LAUNCHES WITH JOHN GRANT AT THE GREAT YARMOUTH HIPPODROME, BREATH-TAKING FREERUNNING ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS OF THE CITY, A NEW RADIO STATION BROADCASTING FROM THE HIGH STREET AND A PERFORMANCE OF THE DEEPLY MOVING *QUARTET FOR THE END OF TIME* BY OLIVER PASHLEY AND THE AQUINAS TRIO
- THE FESTIVAL LAUNCHES THE BRAND NEW ADNAMS MAIN STAGE, POPPING UP FOR TWO WEEKS IN FESTIVAL GARDENS, CHAPELFIELD
- MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE KANDACE SPRINGS, NORFOLK BORN OSCAR JEROME, NOISETTES FRONTWOMAN SHINGAI, SARATHY KORWAR, AND NILS FRAHM COLLABORATORS, SHARDS
- CLASSICAL MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE THE RETURN OF VOX LUMINIS, IAN BOSTRIDGE’S WINTERREISE, BBC NEW GENERATION ARTISTS, AND I FAGIOLINI MARK 500 YEARS SINCE LEONARDO DA VINCI’S DEATH WITH AN IMMERSIVE CONCERT
- THEATRE, DANCE, CIRCUS AND CABARET INCLUDING WORLD PREMIERES FROM LOCALS FROZEN LIGHT AND FROM THE CREATORS OF *ELECTRIC HOTEL* AND *MOTORSHOW*, REQUARDT & ROSENBERG
- VISUAL ART ENCOMPASSING ANISH KAPOOR AT HOUGHTON HALL, AN ART THEMED VENDING MACHINE AND FESTIVAL COMMISSIONS – INCLUDING A VR EXPERIENCE IN KINGS LYNN AND A GIANT INTERACTIVE DEPARTURE BOARD AT THE FORUM, NORWICH

- **LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE A.C GRAYLING, ALI SMITH, MELANIE CHALLENGER, ELLA P. WAKATAMA, MAX PORTER, A POETRY EXCHANGE, A WALKING TOUR AND WRITING WORKSHOPS**
- **2020 FESTIVAL RUNS FRIDAY 8 MAY – SUNDAY 24 MAY 2020, PUBLIC BOOKING OPENS 10AM THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY**

Norfolk & Norwich Festival has today announced the full programme for its 2020 Festival (8 - 24 May). The vast and wide-ranging programme across 17 days showcases artists from around the city and county, welcoming performers from across the globe exploring whilst Norfolk's local identity. Presenting a huge variety of events including theatre, music, visual arts, literature, circus, outdoor and free and family activities, this year the Festival includes two world, and eight UK premieres. 2020 sees a brand-new Adnams Main Stage alongside the much-loved Adnams Spiegel tent in Festival Gardens, the heart and hub of the Festival will be offering street food and pop-up bars, and the beginning of a three-year programme dedicated to celebrating the festival's incredible 250th birthday in 2022.

Daniel Brine, Artistic Director said: *"For 2020 we've put together a programme reflecting, celebrating and exploring what the Festival is to our audiences, artists and communities in the city of Norwich and county of Norfolk. This year, at the start of a trio of Festivals as we celebrate our 250th anniversary in 2022 we have begun to focus on the local and international themes of time, community and environment – looking both forwards and back.*

Across this year's festival we have over 100 shows and events morning, noon and night at iconic Norwich buildings, pop-up spaces, outdoor stages, urban streets and remote countryside. We have a new stage, a Festival hub for food and drink, world premieres, international headliners, and work by and for local people. I truly think that there's something for everyone this year and we can't wait to welcome people in – whether you're passing through, a regular or it's your first visit.

The Festival includes world premieres such as contemporary sci-fi dance show **Future Cargo** from trailblazing artists **Requardt & Rosenberg** and **Fire Songs** by **Frozen Light** which presents an immersive sensory sound experience for audiences with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) that will travel the cosmos with an hour of original music. The Festival also presents a brand-new collaboration between writer **Robert Macfarlane** (*The Old Ways, Lost Worlds, Underland*) and special guest musical visionary **Cosmo Sheldrake**, created especially for the new Adnams Main Stage.

Other world premieres include **MEarth Mothers** by **Beady Eye**, **Irma-Sister** by **Damae Dance**, **Why?** by **Gravity & Levity**, **The Rascally Diner** by **LAStheatre**, **Community Chest** by **Matthew Harrison** and **Roll Play** by **Simple Cypher**, all across the Garden Party weekend in Festival Gardens.

UK premieres include a new rooftop parkour piece from the freerunners of **La Fabrique Royale - Zéro Degré** and **Benjamin Vandewalle's** contraption-filled traveling art fair **Studio Cité**.

Much of the work in the 2020 programme is concerned with The Passing of Time, as the Festival heads towards its 250th anniversary in 2022. Three projects in particular that explore this topic include – **Common Ground** will inspire new forms heritage interpretation in partnership with National Lottery Heritage Fund, **Lost & Found Films of Norfolk** sees artists and children create videos of the 'very true' history of Norfolk, and **The Two Fifty** will see artists Lone Twin create a guild of 250 volunteers over the next three years who will take part in acts of kindness and art - all culminating in three years' time. Community is key this year, in a nation that has felt divided, the Festival looks at how we come together to celebrate,

collaborate and create. From community groups across Norfolk making a radio show in Live Art Collaboration **Hunt & Darton's Radio Local** and broadcasting live from the city centre for 24 hours straight, to **Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir** coming together in Mahler's Third Symphony on the opening weekend - rarely performed, due to its sheer scale. Environment and climate change also come to the fore, from writers in the City of Literature Weekend to family theatre *Backup* at the Norwich Puppet Theatre, artists are responding to the climate crisis throughout the Festival.

Music takes centre stage in Festival Gardens and around the city: with performances from names including Noisettes' lead singer **Shingai**, **Camille O'Sullivan** singing Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, Norfolk local **Oscar Jerome** making his Festival premiere, Nils Frahm collaborators, the vocal-led **Shards**, and **Sarathy Korwar** presenting his fusion of traditional Indian folk music and electronics. **John Grant** opens the Festival with a very rare, stripped back show in a duo format playing songs from across his celebrated career in one of only two UK dates, **Kandace Springs** brings her soul-drenched vocals and unique piano style to perform a tribute to great female singers who inspired her, singer **Elaha Soroor** and award-winning music producer **Kefaya** present their take on Afghan folk music, and **Tamikrest** brings things to a close with their electronic dub-supersound on the very last day.

The **classical music** programme for 2020 includes **Oliver Pashley** and **The Aquinas Trio** performing Messiaen, **Vox Luminis'** return, **Ian Bostridge** will give a defining performance of Schubert's *Winterreise*, Britten Sinfonia perform their family piece **Billy & The Beast** as well as a concert – *Mysteries of the Macabre* – with **Alison Balsom**, internationally-acclaimed pianist **Robert Goode** performs Beethoven in his 250th year and **I Fagiolini** celebrate Leonardo Da Vinci 500 years after his death with an immersive concerts, including projections of his most iconic artworks. This year's BBC New Generations Artists, set to be generation-defining artists, are tenor **Alessandro Fisher**, one of the UK's most talented jazz guitarists **Rob Luft**, Monte Carlo World Piano Masters winner **Alexander Gadjev**, and rapidly emerging early Romantic musicians **Consone Quartet**.

A diverse performance programme for 2020 ranges from fancy dress burlesque parties with **Neon Moon's Electric Rodeo Circus** and **Frisky & Mannish's** pop cabaret *Poplab* to a giant punning competition in **Pundemonium! Live** and a one man musical about Bon Jovi – *We've Got Each Other*. Circus has a double bill this year with the return of **Gravity & Other Myths** and **Casus Circus**, both former Festival favourites performing in Festival Gardens. **God Squad** present *Super Night Shot*, a multi-screen film where the city becomes a film set, fifteen years after it made its premiere at the Festival. **Javaad Alipoor** brings his Edinburgh Fringe hit *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran*, a play that encourages audiences to use their phones to interact and the iconic **Hot Brown Honey** makes its Norfolk premiere – a smash hit piece of comedy and theatre about dismantling stereotypes.

The City of Literature Weekend returns (22-24 May) featuring **Ali Smith**, **Olivia Laing**, **Max Porter**, **A.C Grayling**, **Preti Taneja**, **Owen Sheers** and **Syaka Murata**, and inviting audiences to reflect, connect and discuss the global issues in the turbulent twenty-first century. This year's Harriet Martineau Lecture will be from **Ella P. Wakatama**, literary critic and Editor-at-large for Cannongate Fiction. The lecture celebrates the legacy of a remarkable, pioneering woman discussing their life and work each year at Norfolk & Norwich Festival. Throughout the weekend, the National Centre for Writing will also host a poetry exchange and writing workshops.

2020 sees more visual arts commissions for the Festival than ever before, with many spread across the county focusing on the theme of environment. Kings Lynn will host an interactive immersive film projection and VR experience exploring our planet's fragility by **Michael Faulkner // D-Fuse** and an all-day retreat at GroundWork Gallery on environmental writing. Festival Gardens will receive its own art piece with *The Clunker* – an art-themed vending

machine showcasing work from over 40 artists from Norwich and around the world. The Festival also includes **Anish Kapoor** at Houghton Hall and Norwich University of the Arts, **Bugs: Beauty and Danger** at GroundWork Gallery, **Tim Sandy's Citizen** at East Gallery and more.

Norfolk & Norwich Festival takes place in Norwich and around Norfolk for 17 days each May. The programme is multi-artform, contemporary, international and audience-centred, collaborating with artists from down the road and around the world. Full information and listings for all Norfolk & Norwich Festival events at nrfestival.org.uk.

ENDS

For more information contact Maisie Lawrence at The Corner Shop PR on 020 7831 7657 or email maisie@thecornershoppr.com.

LISTINGS

Norfolk & Norwich Festival 2020 will run from 8 – 24 May.

Tickets are on sale to the public from 10am on Thursday 27 February with priority booking opening to Supporters at 10am on Friday 21 February and Friends at 10am on Tuesday 25 February.

Box Office 01603 531800, online nrfestival.org.uk, or in person The Guildhall, Guildhall Hill, Norwich, NR2 1JS (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays).

£7.50 18-25 tickets, concessions and group rates available.

NOTES TO EDITORS

www.nrfestival.org.uk

Norfolk & Norwich Festival shares exceptional arts experiences across East England. We lead and support celebration, creativity and curiosity in our community to make our part of the world a great place to live, work and play. The Festival takes place in Norwich and around Norfolk for 17 days each May. The programme is multi-artform, contemporary, international and audience-centred. The Festival is distinctive because we collaborate with artists – from down the road and around the world – to explore the unique physical and cultural identities of our place and to make art which is meaningful to the lives of our audiences. The organisation has been an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation since April 2012 and is one of 10 Bridge Organisations with a mandate to develop arts and cultural opportunities for children and young people in the East of England. Norfolk & Norwich Festival is funded and supported by Arts Council England, Norwich City Council and the generous support of other sponsors and donors. Norfolk & Norwich Festival 2020 runs from 8-24 May.

Principal Funders



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

