



ATTENBOROUGH
CENTRE
FOR THE
CREATIVE
ARTS



ATTENBOROUGH CENTRE FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS REVEALS PROGRAMME FOR BRIGHTON FESTIVAL 2018

Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts (ACCA) is pleased to be co-producing a series of events with Brighton Festival. The venue will host and co-produce an eclectic and engaging mix of performance, film, music, and poetry during the month of May for Brighton Festival 2018.

Highlights include a film inspired by Cuckmere Haven, East Sussex, accompanied by an original orchestral score composed by the University of Sussex's Head of Music, Professor Ed Hughes. ACCA's Brighton Festival programme also boasts a major new production by internationally acclaimed arts collective Gob Squad, which has been developed at and co-commissioned by ACCA, with a range of national and international partners.

The programme includes:

Cuckmere: a Portrait (May 5) - World premiere & Environmentalism 2.0

For centuries the Cuckmere River has inspired artists, sheltered smugglers and preserved a host of rare habitats and wildlife as it charts a course through some of the most evocative landscapes in southern England. In a work of beauty and eloquence, film maker Cesca Eaton and composer / conductor Ed Hughes trace the changing moods of the Cuckmere, from its source in the High Weald to its dramatic twists and turns as it meanders to the sea at Cuckmere Haven.

The score, specially composed by Ed Hughes, Head of Music, University of Sussex, is played live by The Orchestra of Sound and Light. Following the performance, in *Environmentalism 2.0*, Caroline Lucas MP will be in discussion with author Tony Juniper, whose new book *Rainforest* draws on his many years' experience as a frontline campaigner. Their discussion will respond to the changing landscape of the Cuckmere and consider this in relation to wider environmental questions. A schools' performance of the film and music work takes place on May 6.

Kneehigh: The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk (May 9-12)

Kneehigh's *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* traces the lives of the 20th century's most influential Jewish artist and his wife as they navigate the Pogroms, the Russian Revolution, and each other. Kneehigh is one of the UK's most beloved theatre companies, and their irresistible *Tristan & Yseult* was a hit in Brighton Festival 2017. Now, the company returns with another extraordinary love story, directed by Emma Rice. The production is drawn in a theatrical language as fluid as Chagall's paintings, together with wonderful live music and dance inspired by Russian-Jewish tradition.

Lemn Sissay MBE: *Gold from the Stone* (May 13)

Lemn Sissay's life story is nothing less than incredible. At 17, he wrote his first book of poetry, which he sold to the miners and millworkers of Wigan. He has since become one of the nation's best-loved voices - he was the first commissioned poet at the 2012 Olympics, where his poems can still be seen in The Olympic Park. Here, Lemn will read poems from his latest anthology and other favourites.

Gob Squad: *Creation (Pictures for Dorian)* (May 23-27). UK premiere

British/German arts collective Gob Squad have performed all over the world for 25 years. Now middle-aged, they have no desire to exit the stage just yet. *Creation (Pictures for Dorian)* is inspired by Oscar Wilde's iconic character Dorian Gray, who remains eternally youthful at a terrible cost to his soul. There's probably a little bit of Dorian in all of us. Joined onstage by older and younger local performers, Gob Squad peeps behind the vanity mirror to question beauty, morality and power - and asks why we so crave the eye of the beholder. An ACCA co-commission.

Laura McDermott, Creative Director, Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, said, "*The range of events taking place during Brighton Festival 2018 at Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts exemplifies the diverse and multi-disciplinary nature of our programme, and its connection to the politics of the wider world. This year, it includes a story set in the Russian Revolution, a discussion on environmentalism, and a selection of Lemn Sissay's incredible poetry, spanning 30 years.*

Commissioning new work is an important strand of what we do at ACCA, so we are delighted to be premiering Gob Squad's Creation (Pictures of Dorian) to UK audiences, a work that was partially created in our building. We are also thrilled to be hosting the world premiere of Cuckmere: a Portrait, with music composed by one of the University of Sussex's own academics."

ACCA's café-bar will be open during performance times throughout Brighton Festival. The bar serves a selection of local beers, wines, spirits and soft drinks and the café offers barista coffee, along with a selection of sandwiches and delicatessen board "sharing platters" (charcuterie, cheese board, seafood and vegetarian or vegan), with local produce sourced from ethical suppliers.

University of Sussex is a major corporate sponsor of Brighton Festival 2018, supporting the programme at Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts during Brighton Festival 2018, as well as *Belshazzar's Feast*, the Brighton Festival Chorus 50th Anniversary concert at Brighton Dome Concert Hall on Sunday 27 May.

Professor Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sussex, said "*The University of Sussex has been a longstanding sponsor of the Brighton Dome & Festival and views it as an important part of our continued commitment to the arts and the local community. The Festival gives the University an opportunity to work with leading thinkers and artists as well as a chance for us to engage with our own supporters at events"*

Tickets go on general sale on 23 February via www.attenboroughcentre.com

For priority booking and to learn more about the full Brighton Festival programme visit www.brightonfestival.org

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For images, interview requests or further information contact:

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About Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts:

- Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts is a state-of-the-art cultural hub located on the University of Sussex campus. The centre brings the university, local residents and the wider national and international arts communities together through its programme of music, film, dance, installation, performance, discussion and debate.
- The building is a Grade II* listed building designed by Sir Basil Spence and originally opened in 1969. The fully refurbished space contains a flexible 350-seat auditorium, studios for teaching/research/rehearsal, café/bar and social meeting area.
- The Centre is named after Richard Attenborough (former Chancellor at University of Sussex). The programme at the centre is guided by Lord Attenborough's values: human rights, social justice, creative education and access to the arts for all.
- Formerly known as the Gardner Arts Centre, Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts opened in May 2016, following a full refurbishment and installation of brand new lighting, sound and audio-visual equipment. The public areas are fully accessible.
- Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts is led by Creative Director Laura McDermott.

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