



PRESS RELEASE

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A Creative Island Playground - Inter-Island Artist Lock-In

This summer artists from 24 island nations will be 'locked in' a castle on a rocky outcrop off Jersey's south coast in a celebration of global culture and collaboration, to coincide with one of the world's lesser-known international sporting events.

The NatWest Island Games brings competitors from all over the world to take part in a week-long festival of top level sport. The 16th biennial Games is being held in Jersey from 27th June to 3rd July and promises to be the biggest in the event's history.

To coincide with the Games, Jersey Arts Trust is producing an 'Inter-Island Artist Lock-in' in partnership with Jersey Heritage and WildWorks Theatre Company, in which artists from islands competing at the Games, are invited to develop their ideas and stretch their practice through a spirit of collaboration.

Twenty artists from Jersey, Guernsey, Bermuda, Greenland and Rhodes, amongst others, will spend 10 days living at Elizabeth Castle where they will develop shared work around the theme of 'Islandness'. The artists come from a range of disciplines and backgrounds, including sculpture, paint, dance, music, theatre, literature, poetry, textile and film.

Set on an island itself, Elizabeth Castle is the perfect location for such exploration to take place. For up to twelve hours a day it is completely cut off from the mainland of Jersey and contains a myriad of interesting spaces and structures.

The Inter-Island Artist Lock-In is just one of many projects produced or supported by Jersey Arts Trust. Alongside its role of nurturing the local art scene, the Trust has developed a range of development programmes, which have mixed local creatives and performers with international artists and industry figureheads. Its writing residencies have brought playwrights such as Mike Bartlett and James Graham to Jersey's shores, through its partnership with Paines Plough. Through the Bedell Creative Arts Programme the Jersey Arts Trust has offered a number of emerging

artists the opportunity to undertake a unique collaborative process in the formation of new work.

Tom Dingle, Director, said: "Having developed these programmes over a period of time, working largely with local artists, we are now looking at how we can expand the offer out to creatives elsewhere. Our future aim is to give artists from all over the world access to these dynamic processes in Jersey's conducive environment, with fantastic partners such as WildWorks. In this instance, we very much look forward to welcoming our fellow Islanders to the unique playground that is Elizabeth Castle."

The Artist Lock-In will be facilitated by Sue Hill, Associate Director of WildWorks, the Cornwall-based site-specific theatre company perhaps best known for their 2011 Port Talbot production of *The Passion* in collaboration with Michael Sheen and National Theatre Wales, and more recently for their spell-binding production of *Wolf's Child* at Felbrigg Hall, co-produced with Norfolk and Norwich Festival. Sue will guide the artists through a unique process of 'play' and exploration to help them to work in a collaborative way towards a shared piece, which will be showcased to the public in the final two days of the residency.

Sue Hill said, 'I'm really looking forward to seeing how our richly talented group of international artists respond to the magical landscape of Elizabeth Castle and the fresh inspiration they will find in each other's art practice'

The inaugural NatWest Island Games was held in the Isle of Man in 1985 and since then has been hosted all over the world, including Bermuda, Gibraltar, Gotland and Shetland, each bringing to their respective events a flavour of their native character, culture and heritage. This year's event will build on this cultural heritage, with Jersey only too eager to show off its own beautiful natural scenery and rich heritage to the 4,000 international competitors, team staff, delegates and visitors descending upon the island for the Games.

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Notes to the Editor:

The NatWest Island Games

From 27th June to 4th July, 2015, Jersey will host the 16th NatWest Island Games, which comprises of 24 competing islands. The first Island Games in 1985 was created to provide an opportunity for hundreds of sportsmen and women with the chance to compete and enjoy international competition against other small island communities with similar standards of performance.

Each year competitors of the NatWest Island Games benefit from the chance for cultural exchange and interaction with international communities and to establish friendships with fellow islanders from across the globe. The success of the Island Games is merited to the opportunities it provides the participating Islanders to share and connect with others and 'bring the Islands together'.

The competing islands:

Aland / Alderney / Bermuda / Cayman Islands / Falkland Islands / Faroe Islands / Frøya / Gibraltar / Greenland / Guernsey / Hitra / Isle of Man / Isle of Wight / Jersey / Menorca / Orkney / Rhodes / Saaremaa / Sark / Shetland Islands / Saint Helena / Western Isles / Ynes Mon (Anglesey)

The Jersey Arts Trust

The Inter-Island Artist Lock-In is the third such project being delivered by the Jersey Arts Trust, which has a growing programme of developmental, cross arts initiatives. Previous Artist Lock-Ins have featured Jersey artists including twice BAFTA-nominated director Michael Pearce, John Henry Falle of celebrated sketch troupe The Beta Males, and Jonny Labey the newest addition to Albert Square, as well as artists from the UK, Aland, Iceland and Malta. The 2015 edition of the Artist Lock-In marks a step up in the scale of their ambition, however, and is a signal of Jersey Arts Trust's increasing interest in supporting the work of artists around the world, and utilising Jersey's unique setting as a refuge for artists globally as well as creating a breeding ground for artists locally.

Through partnerships with dynamic companies in France, Finland and the UK, the Jersey Arts Trust has increasingly worked to consider Jersey within a broader International context, opening its opportunities up to participants from all over the world, enabling a much broader scope of people to benefit from Jersey's unique creative offering.

Islands Participating in the Inter-Island Artist Lock-In:

Aland / Alderney / Bermuda / Cayman Islands / Faroe Islands / Gibraltar / Gotland / Greenland / Guernsey / Isle of Man / Isle of Wight / Jersey / Rhodes / Saaremaa / Shetland Islands / Saint Helena / Western Isles / Ynes Mon (Anglesey)

Elizabeth Castle

Elizabeth Castle was built in 1590 and was home to Sir Walter Raleigh for three years while he was Governor of Jersey. It also provided refuge for King Charles II during the English Civil War, and was refortified by the Nazis during the German occupation of Jersey.





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