

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ninth Holloway Arts Festival programme revealed

Rowan Arts have revealed the dates for **Holloway Arts Festival 2011** (Wednesday 8 June – Friday 17 June 2011), and announced the launch of a new event, the **Mayton Street Festival** to run alongside firm festival favourites the **Big Day Out** at Whittington Park, the **Singer-Songwriter competition** and **Reel Islington Screenings**.

This is the ninth year of the Holloway Arts Festival and 2011 will bring ten days packed with eclectic music, dance and comedy, evocative theatre and poetry, retro craft activities and much more. This year's programme promises events to delight people of all ages and from all backgrounds.

The festival will open with The Jazzberries' sultry reinterpretation of classic vintage gypsy swing; having already worked with Madonna, Groove Armada, Ravi Shankar and Van Morrison, their gig is guaranteed to be stellar. Jazz Orient will celebrate their striking mix of musical influences from across the globe while Holloway-based four piece The Supernovas aim to bring their blistering indie pop home. Music-lovers can also find out why Katy Carr and the Aviators are causing such a stir this year with their quirky take on 1940's glamour and sensuality. The music continues with Claudia Georgette's playful jazz-folk, Wolf Alice's infectious pop melodies and the rousing Irish stomp of the Prics. Winners of BBC Folk Club 2010, 'The Magpie's Nest' will host an evening of contemporary folk created exclusively for Holloway Arts Festival. Rounding up the musical line-up is the riotous pairing of The Big Fibbers and Nigel Burch, both guaranteed to provide one of this year's must-see moments.

The Singer Songwriter competition has been widened to include both male and female artists and offers the chance to win recording sessions, a photo-shoot and further performance opportunities. Last year's winner, Ellie Rowsell, has since formed band Wolf Alice, who regularly perform across London and will also be playing this year's festival. Those interested should visit www.hollowayartsfestival.co.uk before Tuesday 31 May 2011 for details on how to apply.

The festival will offer the opportunity to probe into the influences and motivations behind cultural practitioners at two Connecting Conversations events. Distinguished dancer and choreographer Jasmin Vardimon, Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells will discuss her approach to dance with Joshua Cohen, Psychoanalyst and Reader at Goldsmiths University. In a separate Connecting Conversations event, Composer Nico Muhly, Librettist Craig Lucas and Director Bartlett Sher will all meet with psychoanalyst Sara Flanders to discuss the commission of their exciting new ENO opera 'Two

Boys'. Connecting Conversations is an ongoing series of events bringing together practitioners from different fields and aims to explore artistic creativity and practice.

Literary enthusiasts can discover the dark underbelly of Edwardian Islington with local author Caitlin Davies or participate in 'Poetry in the Pub', a stand up night for both experienced and novice wordsmiths. Renowned screenwriter and novelist Sheila Hayman will be screening her film 'Finding a Voice' that features the moving poems and stories from members of the writing project 'Write to Life' at the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

On Saturday 11 June, Mayton Street will be transformed into a colourful spectacle with crafts activities that include Make Bunting and Urban Craft Club, film screenings from Reel Islington, poetry readings, a cake bake-off, a special programme of dance performances and the opportunity to get involved with the Big Sing, a mass-singing workshop where members of the public can discover it's possible to sing in harmony with their neighbours.

The festival's flagship free outdoor day, the Big Day Out, takes place on Sunday 12 June at Whittington Park and will build on its strong local reputation with live music, artist workshops, film screenings and wandering performers. Make sure to come hungry and thirsty, as there will be food stalls and lots of places to relax to make a whole afternoon of this event. Instantly Theatrical will leave festival-goers out of breath with their high-energy comedy theatre piece, created exclusively for the Holloway Arts Festival.

In 2010, Rowan Arts launched the oral history project 'Plunging into History' that has been tracking the redevelopment of the Ironmonger Row Baths and unearthing stories from it's past. Malcolm Shilfrin has been researching Victorian Turkish baths since 1990 and will be divulging little-known facts about Islington's own Turkish bath, one of the very few remaining in London in a talk on Friday 17 June. To learn more about the project visit www.plungingintohistory.com

The entire festival will close with a comedy night of rising stars that include the fast-paced Kat Francois and observational musings of Matt Welcome. Performance poet Paul Lyalls will be compering the evening.

Having begun as a small scale cultural event in 2003 in Holloway, the Holloway Arts Festival has grown not only in scale, with events taking place across the north of the borough, but also in the level of cooperation with local businesses, national and international performers and Islington residents.

Ruth Robinson, coordinator of Rowan Arts says, "Despite the huge economic challenges faced in the last year, the continued success of the Holloway Arts Festival demonstrates how much the local community value it."

The full programme of events for Holloway Arts Festival 2011 is now available on www.hollowayartsfestival.co.uk

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Editor's Notes

Media Contact: Amy Smith, 07515647208, amy@therowanartsproject.com

Website: www.hollowayartsfestival.co.uk, www.therowanartsproject.com

Programme Information: is now available at www.hollowayartsfestival.co.uk

Rowan Arts is a not-for-profit organisation based in North London. It works with local organisations and groups to bring the arts into everyday life through a variety of events, activities and projects. It produces regular larger scale events, including Holloway Arts Festival and Islington Exhibits, that give the wider community a chance to come together, both as performers and as audience. www.therowanartsproject.com

Holloway Arts Festival 2011 runs from Friday 10 June to Friday 17 June and brings a range of high quality arts activities and performances to the Holloway area including theatre, dance, comedy, music, literature and arts and crafts. The festival was established in 2003. It is produced by Rowan Arts working in partnership with a range of local organisations and supporters. www.hollowayartsfestival.co.uk

Reel Islington Screenings is an annual event showcasing short films by independent filmmakers including those living in and around Islington and featuring discussions with experts in the industry. Contact Peter Devonald, pdevonald@gmail.com

Connecting Conversations, which is produced by Rowan Arts, is an ongoing series of events bringing together practitioners from different fields and aims to explore artistic creativity and practice.

For more information about the series visit www.connectingconversations.org

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