

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate use

An uncommon wealth of talent: Arches announce summer programme

The Arches, Glasgow is thrilled to announce their artistic programme for Culture 2014: a summer celebration of brave performance by Scotland's boldest artists and an open invitation to audiences old and new.

The performance programme, which kicks off on 25th June, presents an inspiring showcase of home-grown artistic talent, with artists Robert Softley, Lou Prendergast, Drew Taylor, A Moment's Peace and The Women's Creative Company exploring personal ideas of identity, inclusion and equality and their place in the wider world. Random Accomplice offer a tongue-in-cheek running commentary on the Games, whilst Perch- the multi-continental carnival of falling- puts everything into a rather different perspective. Rounded off with a series of surreal, yet poignant cabaret by Surge Festival, visitors to The Arches during Festival 2014 are guaranteed an unforgettable experience.

The cultural institution is also set to participate in Refugee Week Scotland 2014, which this year takes on the theme of 'welcome'. As well as photographer Sarah Roberts' exhibition 'Home' in the foyer space from next week, the Cafe Bar will receive a homely makeover by the Scottish Refugee Council for a fortnight, with a specially-themed market menu, created using recipes submitted by the public.

Jackie Wylie, Artistic Director at The Arches, said:

"In the summer that the world comes to Glasgow, The Arches is proud to present a celebration of live performance, featuring thought-provoking Scottish-based artists as they tackle themes that resonate throughout the global community.

The Arches Cafe Bar and Foyer will be a real hub during the festival, with pop-up performances, visual art exhibits, restaurant makeovers and an interactive market menu. You can also catch the Games live on-screen and make use of free wi-fi and charging facilities to keep your mobiles, laptops and tablets juiced up throughout. Tying in with the spirit of 'welcome', we'll also be hosting events as part of Refugee Week Scotland 2014 throughout June.

We are thrilled to be part of the official Glasgow 2014 Cultural programme. It's a landmark year for Glasgow and we could not be more excited to celebrate this with audiences old, new, local and international.

Game on."

For further information, interviews, photographs contact Georgia Riungu, Media & Marketing Manager at The Arches | Georgia@thearches.co.uk | 0141 565 1028 | 07760 775 722

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LISTINGS INFORMATION

The Arches presents **Culture 2014**

Thursday 5th June – Sunday 3rd August 2014 | Various Times & Prices

<http://www.thearches.co.uk/arts> | 0141 565 1000 | 253 Argyle Street, Glasgow G2 8DL

Sarah Roberts

Home

(EXHIBITION)

Sarah Roberts presents a photographic exploration of the concept of 'home', using portraits alongside images of objects that symbolise each subject's individual sense of home. Set within a 'homely' environment, visitors are welcomed into the world of the participants, through the imagery and artefacts on display.

The Arches | Thurs 5th – 28th June | 11am-late | Free

Lou Prendergast

Blood Lines

(PERFORMANCE)

Blood Lines is a new theatre project written, directed and performed by Lou Prendergast. Joined on stage by her sister, Sophie; her uncle Neil Stewart on drums; Michael Abubakar on keys; and Graham Campbell on bass and storytelling, it draws upon Scots-Caribbean experience to raise questions about Scotland's entanglement in the slave trade and explore how the Commonwealth's themes of humanity, equality and destiny interact within the contemporary realities of racism, capitalism, feminism and homophobia. The siblings explore hierarchies of power: from within their own family, to submission and dominance, and the ruling power structures at play that facilitated the Scottish-owned slave plantations in Jamaica.

The Arches | Wed 2nd – Sat 5th July 2014 | 6.30pm (90-120mins approx.) | £12/10

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Drew Taylor
44 Stories

(PERFORMANCE)

Homosexuality is declared as illegal in forty-four of the seventy countries competing in the 2014 Commonwealth Games- in some places punishable by death. Presented by Mr Live Know – the newest Drag King on the block – and a cast of misfits, vogue walkers and tranny chasing contorted malcontents, we present a kaleidoscopic journey around the globe, exploring these places and the people that were born there. Drawing from 90s New York ballroom culture, queer hip-hop dance styles, poetry slams and cabaret – *44 Stories* is a celebration of life lost and dreams of a brighter future for life now. *44 Stories* is a dance theatre performance, written and directed by Drew Taylor, and performed by Olivia Knowles, Katie Armstrong, Tom Jackson- Greaves and Bugg Vincent.

The Arches | Wed 2nd – Sat 5th July 2014 | 9pm (75mins) | £12/10

Surge Festival
Perch

(PERFORMANCE)

A highlight of the opening weekend of Festival 2014, and part of SURGE festival, Glasgow and Campinas (Brazil) host *Perch*, a major outdoor performance, with a window to Sydney (Australia). Involving spectacular aerial performance and over 200 participants, including Scotland's leading street artists, circus performers and aerialists, a mass community choir, emerging and community performers and live video link-up to Brazil, *Perch* is a once in a lifetime experience. The 86-piece Senior Orchestra of The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland will play a new score by Stephen Deazley. Inhabiting the whole of Rottenrow Gardens and its surrounding rooftops, along with Campinas' Largo do Rosario Square, *Perch* has at its heart a desire to see the world from a different perspective.

Rottenrow Gardens, University of Strathclyde | Sat 19th & Sun 20th July 2014 | 9.15pm | £8/6

Random Accomplice
New Just In!

(PERFORMANCE/COMEDY)

Random Accomplice presents *News Just In* – a side-splitting round up of the Commonwealth Games. Beaming live from the fictional 'Tartan Tonight' studio, hear all the day's biggest stories from the most dysfunctional news team in Scotland. Featuring six of Scotland's hottest comedic talents, a team of award-winning writers, and a script finished only minutes before opening, anything can - and probably will - happen! Follow the TV-tastic, tantalizing soap opera format fused with all your nightly satire, whilst hearing all the no-holds-barred news and gossip, from Tom Daley to Tom Foolery.

The Arches | Tues 22nd July – Sat 2nd August (not 23rd/27th July) | 9pm (60mins) | £12/10

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A Moment's Peace and The Women's Creative Company
Endurance (PERFORMANCE)

Created and performed by over twenty women living in Glasgow, *Endurance* considers the changing role of women in competitive sport, examining what it takes to be the best and why 'what' you represent matters. *Endurance* has been developed under A Moment's Peace Artistic Director Catrin Evans, with Jennifer Edgar (co-creator), Janice Parker (movement), Claire Halleran (design), Scott Tynholm (sound) and Lucy Gaizely (Creative Producer). A Moment's Peace is a Glasgow-based theatre company dedicated to working with diverse community groups to create theatre productions, interactive arts events and participatory projects that explore the links between the personal and the political.

The Arches | Thurs 24th - Fri 25th July, 7pm | Sat 26th July, 2pm & 7pm | Sun 27th July, 5pm (90mins) | £7/5

Surge Festival
Embodied Theatre (CABARET)

Embodied Theatre is an annual training course for experienced physical performers led by Alex Rigg (Oceanallover), Ewan Downie (Company of Wolves), and Al Seed. For SU RGE 2014, participants on the course will be presenting a selection of exciting and accomplished short new works which touch on the bleak, bawdy and absurd. Expect ugly charm, disturbed wiggling and eerie melodies...

The Arches | Thurs 31st July | 10.30pm | £7/5

Surge Festival and Claire Willoughby
King (PERFORMANCE)

*King** is a love letter to the legendary Freddie Mercury; but the story of this enormous showman is also a tragic one, and fittingly, this new one-woman show from Claire Willoughby explores trauma through the demise of an impersonator. Investigating notions of transformation, obsession and self-obliteration, *King* questions where the boundary between private and public personas lies, and what happens when alter-ego and ego collide.

The Arches | Fri 1st August, 7.45pm | Sun 3rd August, 6pm | £7/5

Surge Festival and Tina Hofman
Lucid Interval (PERFORMANCE)

You've met someone. Someone perfect. What happens when that someone suddenly disappears? That division of a life in two – with and without them – underpins this work, inspired by our most private places and the way we deal with sudden change in our reality. *Lucid Interval** uses physical theatre, film and photography to investigate the space we inhabit between normality and chaos when shocking loss occurs.

The Arches | Fri 1st & Sat 2nd August | 6pm | £7/5

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Surge Festival and Lee Shannon

This Is Faruchio Peru (PERFORMANCE)

An extraordinary man in ordinary times; or a very ordinary man in extraordinarily absurd times? Faruchio Peru* is an enigma wrapped in an ego, surrounded by an unpronounceable name. A self-proclaimed 'showman', skilled in the art of deluding himself with visions of grandeur, with plenty of experience climbing back on that tightrope between success and failure. Is there anything unique he cannot do?

The Arches | Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd August 2014 | 7.45pm | £7/5

Surge Festival

Late Night Anatomy Fish Fry (CABARET)

A music hall variety show taken in new directions, with risk-taking, breathtaking performances from artists, dancers, music makers and destroyers, puppeteers, film-makers, clowns, poets, mimes, weirdos and burlesques. Acts from around the UK offer their bodies and hearts for your deep-fried enjoyment. Gamblers with perception and reaction will test your taste buds with new physical live-art in a cabaret to excite, terrify, titillate and intrigue.

The Arches | Fri 1st August | 10.30pm | £7/5

Surge Festival

Curio Cabaret (CABARET)

Curio Cabaret returns for another evening of frivolity, curated by performer and musician Sita Pieraccini. Local artists, bands and performance groups will present short theatrical acts with a musical focus as part of a kaleidoscopic collection of circus flavoured majesty. Expect odd instruments, crazy costumes and plenty of fun. A sparkling, sensational Sunday night to round off the Festival!

The Arches | Sun 3rd August | 9.30pm | £7/5

Robert Softley

Tell Me What Giving Up Looks Like (PERFORMANCE)

Two real people – one disabled athlete and one disabled artist – tell you the stories of how they became the people they are, with the careers they have. Joined on stage by BSL interpreter Siobhan Rocks and audio describer Christopher McKiddie, Robert Softley and disabled athlete Joe Brown will share their stories and put their 'sporting' skills to the test.

The Arches | Wed 6th – Sat 9th June 2014 | 7.30pm (55mins) | £12/10

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

For details of the full *Culture 2014 at The Arches* programme, visit www.thearches.co.uk.

For details about the artists showcased in the programme, visit:

- Sarah Roberts (*Home*) | sarahrobertsphoto.wordpress.com
- Refugee Week | refugeeweekscotland.com
- Drew Taylor (*44 Stories*) | drewtaylorartist.com
- Robert Softley (*Tell Me What Giving Up Looks Like*) | softley.co.uk
- Lou Prendergast (*Blood Lines*) | louprendergast.blog.com/biography
- A Moment's Peace & The Women's Creative Company (*Endurance*) | amomentspeace.co.uk
- Random Accomplice (*News Just In!*) | randomaccomplice.com
- SURGE Festival (*Perch & various*) | conflux.co.uk/surge-festival

About The Arches

The Arches breaks down traditional notions of what an arts venue should be. One of Europe's leading cultural venues, this buzzing Victorian space promotes some of the UK's biggest club nights, an eclectic range of gigs, innovative theatre, visual art exhibitions and imaginative corporate events.

For further details, see www.thearches.co.uk/about-us.

About Culture 2014

Culture 2014 is a nationwide programme of events and projects inspired by the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. A huge range of new and well-known artistic talent is responding to the context of the Games, inspired by the multicultural gathering of the Commonwealth, and reflecting on the many unique aspects of the Host City and nation.

For further details, see www.glasgow2014.com/feature/culture-2014.

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