



## **Festival Highlights Revealed!**

**DAF 2015**

**Saturday 20 – Sunday 28 June**

Didsbury Arts Festival is back next month with a packed programme of cultural goodies for all – and some big surprises in store!

Novelist Patrick Gale and jazz star Stuart McCallum will provide two of the highlights during the nine-day showcase of talent, now in its seventh year, taking place from Saturday 20 June to Sunday 28 June. With more than 100 artists involved in more than 80 events and exhibitions – most of them free - at venues all over Didsbury, there will be something guaranteed to entertain festival-goers of all ages and tastes.

For the first time ever, DAF will feature a series of specially commissioned new works, embracing a diverse range of art forms: from animation to poetry; sound art to new writing and sculpture to new music. Award-winning animators, Emily and Anne, invite you to get 'Lost in the Woods'. Find out 'what the dusk-eyed fox sees' with writer, Sean Burn, and experience the Vonnegut Collective's unique sonic depiction of a lucid dream. All the works will have at their heart this year's brand new festival

theme, *In-between Places*, celebrating Didsbury's position as a vibrant suburb between town and country whilst exploring magical places of transition!

In addition, daily highlights will represent a huge range of the arts from music, theatre, dance and comedy to visual arts, crafts, writing and film. Soloists from the Hallé Orchestra will be joining forces to raise funds for the Genesis Appeal with a charity concert on Friday 26 June. Don't miss Stuart McCallum, appearing ahead of his headline slot at this year's Manchester Jazz Festival. Discover the real-life story that inspired Patrick Gale's latest novel 'A Place Called Winter'. Meet Alex Poots, artistic director of Manchester International Festival, before he heads off to new adventures in New York.

Step inside the whale's mouth (if you dare!) for a unique theatre experience! Enjoy a day of family fun at the Old Parsonage. Discover animated treasures past and present from local film company, Cosgrove Hall. Enjoy live music on the streets, lunchtime recitals and art in people's homes. Add your voice to 'Sing Didsbury!' led by choir master, Stuart Overington – Didsbury's answer to Gareth Malone!

Said DAF Director, Daniel Williamson: 'Welcome to Didsbury, an In-between Place, between river and railroad, neither city nor country; on the edge where the extraordinary is possible!

'A massive thank you to the entire festival team for their energy and hard work to get us here, and to our volunteers for their time and enthusiasm! I would also like to thank all our sponsors, funders and advertisers for their generosity.

'Finally, thank you to the people of Didsbury and beyond for all your support over the years. Long may it continue! We very much hope you enjoy this year's exciting festival offerings.'

Most events free; some ticketed. Visit the DAF website at:

[www.didsburyartsfestival.org](http://www.didsburyartsfestival.org)

All enquiries to:

[info@didsburyartsfestival.org](mailto:info@didsburyartsfestival.org)

*DAF 2015 is sponsored by Aba Quality Monitoring Ltd and Siemens.*

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