

Press Enquiries

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PRESS RELEASE

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Derby Theatre and partners launch

REIMAGINE

Derby Theatre and other city partners launch exciting project to celebrate talents and achievements of young people across the city

Following on from the hugely successful **This is Derby** Opportunity Area funded project, a unique collaboration of sport, arts and cultural activity which supported the development of essential life skills of young people, Derby Theatre and partners are now thrilled to be launching **REIMAGINE**.

The **REIMAGINE** performance project, led by Derby Theatre and leading cultural and sporting organisations from across the city, will provide a wealth of exciting arts and sports related opportunities for young people and local schools in and around the city. The project has been made possible through £1.1 million of investment from Arts Council England through the Young People's Performance Fund, with additional support from Derby's Opportunity Area, Derby County in the Community Trust and Derby City Council.

REIMAGINE is a three-year programme working with children and young people aged 8 – 18, teachers and families to join together in developing and celebrating the talents and achievements of young people across the city.

Over the next three years, the performance programme will be generated by young people in areas of highest deprivation and lowest engagement. Derby's cultural and sporting sectors will collaboratively support young people in five 'hubs' through progressive encounters both in schools and in community settings.

As new skills are nurtured, families will be invited to join as audience members, teachers will gain new knowledge and the young people will uncover routes to creative careers. They will produce their own work, reimagining everyday spaces and authoring the story of their lives and Derby's Story through innovative and extraordinary performances.

Local schools from Sinfyn, Normanton, Arboretum, Derwent, Chaddesden, Abbey and special schools from across the city will be invited to take part in the project, including the Reimagine Teachers Academy, a unique professional development programme for teachers who are interested in developing their performance-making skills in Primary, Secondary & SEND settings.



REIMAGINE will launch in September 2019. Selected schools in these areas have been approached to host the S.H.E.D in their school playgrounds. S.H.E.D is a flat pack mobile arts venue and public space, which will provide a space for young people and families to get involved with the work and share their ideas for how the project should develop. Dr Rhiannon Jones from the University of Derby's School of Arts, Humanity and Education is the Creative Director for S.H.E.D leading on this aspect of the project.

We are working with schools to identify groups of young people who will benefit the most, to participate in focused sessions throughout the week to take place in the S.H.E.D. Professional artists have been programmed to deliver an exciting range of workshops which could include; visual & digital art, music production and DJing, writing and poetry, movement and drama, as well as sporting sessions delivered by Derby County Community Trust and Derby's Sports Forum.

Caroline Barth (Creative Learning Director, Derby Theatre) said:

"This exciting project will build on the legacy of This is Derby and is the most brilliant and enriching way for us to develop the relationships and work we and our partners have already been delivering in these wards. We have already seen fantastic results where young people with fewer opportunities have had the chance to develop their skills and confidence. REIMAGINE will continue to place Derby firmly on the map as a city where culture, sport and collaboration are making a positive difference to people's lives."

For more information about the project and how to get involved, please contact Derby's Cultural Education Producer Alix Manning-Jones: a.manning-jones@derby.ac.uk

For more press information please contact **Heidi McKenzie (Head of Marketing, Derby Theatre)** at: h.mckenzie@derby.ac.uk or on 01332 593955/07527 839019.

About Derby Theatre

Derby Theatre - Inspiring Performance

Derby Theatre (previously Derby Playhouse) has a long and rich history of delivering high quality drama to audiences. Through Derby Theatre's unique partnership with University of Derby, and as an Arts Council England National Portfolio organisation, the theatre has transformed from a traditional producing house, to an organisation of training, mentorship and artistic excellence.

Led by Artistic Director and Chief Executive Sarah Brigham, Derby Theatre is bringing together creative professionals and audiences to tell compelling stories and take artistic risks. For 2018 - 2022, Derby Theatre will receive a 59% increase in its funding from Arts Council England, to enable it to continue and build upon the valuable work that it has started. This will mean more Derby Theatre productions at the theatre, more community work, more work with children and young people and deeper, more meaningful engagement with audiences.

Derby Theatre is a vibrant and thriving theatre. A producing house that combines its professional programme with an exciting suite of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, as well as an emerging talent programme aimed at developing the next generation of artists. Meanwhile its community engagement programme reaches out across our region including people of all ages and from all backgrounds in the work of the theatre.

'Increasingly the most crucial theatre in the region because of its emphasis on learning, nurturing and nourishing'

Lyn Gardner, The Guardian