

The world-class Alnwick Garden...

in development



ARTS PROGRAMME

The arts have the power to transform lives and communities and to create opportunities for people throughout the County. They play a major part in helping to galvanise community engagement and in creating a sense of identity and place and they have the extraordinary power to deepen, broaden and transform the lives of children and young people by giving them the chance to try new things and by building their confidence. We have found from our experience so far that some children with less academic ability are able to excel themselves in an artistic way. The County's long-term aspirations as an innovative economy depend on providing opportunities now for children and young people to participate in arts and creativity, to enhance and broaden their educational success and development.

Launched in 2003 with the support of Arts Council England, the Arts Programme at The Alnwick Garden has had a very successful developmental period. The success of the programme can be attributed to the incorporation of arts into The Garden's non-traditional and public setting helping to dispel perception of the arts as being elitist and exclusive.



The opening of the Pavilion and Visitor Centre in April last year signalled the main visitor infrastructure at The Garden providing extensive covered space and excellent facilities for workshops, exhibitions and performances which enabled us to extend the range of activities on offer.

Programme content:

Music – world flavours	Puppetry
Dance	Street performance
Literary activities	Visual arts
Circus/Aerial Work	Theatre

Programme themes:

Water	Horticulture
Light	Imagination
Sound	Creativity
Nature	Science
Social Issues	Seasonality

Project objectives

- to engage people's interest in various art forms
- to utilise The Garden as a resource and stimulation to encourage active participation
- to encourage learning and development through the arts
- to have a balance between popular appeal and more challenging work
- to involve international, regional and local professional, amateur and community artists and performers
- to involve multi art-forms of visual, participatory and performance events and activities from intimate to large scale and site specific events
- to respond to seasonal variations
- to be accessible physically, socially and culturally



This summer, we will bring Puccini's romantic story, 'La Bohème' to The Garden by staging an intimate and accessible, al fresco performance. This will be the first time we have presented opera to North East audiences and the aim is to introduce opera to new audiences whilst reminding opera lovers why they liked it in the first place.

Bollywood Dance Workshop

Eastern and western dance forms were combined in this fun and exciting workshop which taught the classic moves for a simple, choreographed routine performed to music inspired by Bollywood movies.



'Compost Mentis' features a large compost heap and the gardener who looks after it. Their relationship slowly begins to break down when it's discovered that the compost heap has a life of its own.