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Luminate: Scotland's creative ageing festival

1 – 31 October 2013

What will you do?

During October, Luminate, Scotland's creative ageing festival, will be hosting an amazing array of performances, events and activities. Dance, drama, music, visual arts and community events and projects will shine a light on our creativity as we age.

The inaugural Luminate festival in 2012 was an outstanding success and this year's festival will once again embrace the length and breadth of Scotland. All over the country, every single day in October, community groups, cultural organisations, artists and performers will bring together audiences and participants from across the generations.

Luminate Director, Anne Gallacher, said: "Since Luminate launched last year, the increasingly enthusiastic response to the festival has been really inspiring. One of the great delights of my job is that I am constantly reminded that creativity has no age – from exciting new work by older artists to imaginative activities taking place in care homes; from individuals who have discovered new creative talents in later life to younger people inspired by their relationships with older family members. I hope that people across Scotland will enjoy the second Luminate programme, and I'm looking forward very much to an exciting month."

Highlights of the 2013 festival include two commissions by Luminate. **Live Music Now** is a UK wide charity that provides performing and training opportunities to outstanding young professional musicians who take their performances to a wide range of community settings. **Bill Sweeney** has been commissioned to create ***The Luminate Suite***, based on music, poems and stories remembered and shared by older people from the Western Isles. During the festival, Live Music Now musicians will premiere the new song cycle for the older people who helped create it. The charity's performers will also tour care homes and centres throughout Scotland as part of Luminate's Outreach programme.

Recount, the second Luminate commission, will incorporate three site-specific installations on Shetland. During the Cold War, the islands played an important role in NATO's Early Warning System, hosting the most northerly Royal Observer Corps bunkers designed to operate as monitoring stations in the event of nuclear attack.

Artists **Roxane Permar** and **Susan Timmins** will explore islanders' recollections of Shetland's role in the conflict to create site-specific artworks incorporating text, sound and luminescent textiles.

Other Luminare highlights around the country include ***Super Vivere***, an exhibition by photographer **Susie Rea** that uses stunning portraits, audiovisual narrative and text to explore the lives of siblings who are over the age of 90. The project is a collaboration with Dr Maeve Rea of Queen's University, Belfast and both Susie and Maeve will give a Gallery Talk at macrobert, Stirling on 1 October marking the opening of both the exhibition and Luminare. The work can be seen at macrobert from 1 – 10 October before transferring to Platform, Easterhouse from 22 October.

One of the major performances of the festival is **Theatre Ad Infinitum's** award-winning ***Translunar Paradise***, which is also part of Dance Live at The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen and tours to Eden Court, Inverness, The Beacon, Greenock and Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh. This exquisite piece of mask and movement theatre, featuring live accordion accompaniment, tells the story of William, who escapes to a paradise of memories after his wife's death but ultimately must learn to let her go.

A must-see at Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum Theatre on 2 October is the ***Curtain Raiser on Dark Road with Ian Rankin*** when the author will discuss the inspiration for his first play with Jackie McGlone. Also in Edinburgh on 25 October, **24 Carat Gold**, a choreographic group made up of members of Dance Base's over 60s group, Golden, will take on a group of young dancers for a high energy performance at Dance Base.

One of Scotland's treasures **Jackie Kay** will be at the Lochgelly Centre, Fife on 23 October, reading extracts, stories and poems from her latest book ***Reality Reality***. Other performances of her work will also take place during Luminare. macrobert, Stirling will host a reading of the play ***Mind Away*** as part of their Exploring Arts and Dementia day on 25 October and her hilarious and heartbreaking new musical comedy, ***The Maw Broon Monologues***, starring **Terry Neason** and **Suzanne Bonnar** opens on 29 October at the Tron Theatre, Glasgow as part of the Glasgay! festival.

The 2013 Luminare film tour highlights the increasing influence of older cinemagoers and older artists in this often youth-orientated business. Both the films selected – ***The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*** and ***This is Martin Bonner*** – have something to say to all of us about dealing with age and the ageing process.

In addition to the public programme, Luminare includes Outreach activities and performances that take the festival into care homes, sheltered housing communities and local groups across the country throughout October. This year's Outreach programme includes a screening from the Luminare Film Tour at Viewpoint Housing in Edinburgh, selected by residents to share with their family and friends, and performances of **Puppet State Theatre's** acclaimed production ***The Man Who Planted Trees*** in care settings across Tayside.

Luminate is funded by Creative Scotland and the Baring Foundation in partnership with Age Scotland.

Janet Archer, CEO at Creative Scotland, said:

“We are delighted to once again support Luminate with the Baring Foundation and Age Scotland, as it moves into its second year. This month long event gives older people the opportunity to enjoy high quality arts programmes, whether as artists, performers, participants or audience members and it’s wonderful to see a passion across the generations for an event that celebrates creativity as we age.”

“The time has come for arts and older people, for too long a neglected area and Luminate and Scotland are in the forefront of this new movement. The Baring Foundation is very proud to support such inspiring work”

David Cutler, Director, The Baring Foundation

Brian Sloan, Chief Executive, Age Scotland said:

“We are absolutely delighted to support Luminate as it enters its second year, with an exciting programme of events that once again sees widespread creative engagement of older people nationwide. We know that creative activity is an important aspect of active ageing, and as such it is integral to Age Scotland’s work to improve the health and wellbeing of older people across Scotland. We are grateful to Creative Scotland and The Baring Foundation for making it possible.”

Listings for all Luminate events are available online at www.luminatescotland.org.

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