



Warwick Arts Centre welcomes new Head of Programme and Audiences, Matt Burman

Warwick Arts Centre is delighted to announce the appointment of **Matt Burman** as **Head of Programme and Audiences**.

Matt joins Warwick Arts Centre's team from the Norfolk and Norwich Festival where he was Executive Producer working across the full artistic spectrum. Previously, Matt was General Manager for Forced Entertainment and has also worked for The Big Chill and The British Council within its Performing Arts Department.

Matt's appointment comes at a crucial time for Warwick Arts Centre as the venue benefits from ongoing Arts Council England support under the **Transform** programme.

Matt will lead on the development of Warwick Arts Centre's highly regarded contemporary programme, exploring how Warwick Arts Centre can realise its ambitions as a commissioner, producer and co-producer of new work, having already established itself as a renowned and prolific producing house. Matt will also lead on audience engagement.

Alan Rivett, Director of Warwick Arts Centre, says of the appointment:

"I'm delighted we've appointed Matt Burman. He brings with him a breadth of knowledge and experience of today's artists which will be of great benefit to us at this time of transformation"

Matt is particularly looking forward to his new position as his family hails from Warwickshire. Matt's Grandfather was a Freeman of Coventry, his Dad grew up in the city, some of his family still live here, and the Burman name goes back generations - as far back as Shakespeare!

Matt says:

"I am very excited by the challenges that are ahead in delivering on the ambitions of our Transform strategy. We are looking forward to working as a team in bringing the region, country and world's best artists and companies to perform and make new work in Coventry, and to welcoming, entertaining and moving loyal and new audiences and friends to Warwick Arts Centre over the coming years."

Look out for exciting developments at Warwick Arts Centre over the coming months.

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Date of release: Mon 16 Jan

For more information, please contact Jan McQuillan, Communications Officer on: 024 7652 3804 or j.mcquillan@warwick.ac.uk

Notes to Editors

Warwick Arts Centre

Based in Coventry in the West Midlands and sitting on the campus of the University of Warwick, Warwick Arts Centre is one of the most significant presenters and co-producers of contemporary performing and visual arts in the UK with a programme including theatre, classical music, live art, dance, music, literature, comedy, family events and visual art. Warwick Arts Centre's work is avowedly contemporary and international in scope and dimension.

Transform

Warwick Arts Centre is one of only five arts organisations in the country chosen to be part of the scheme. For Warwick Arts Centre, the Transform programme covers the following four key areas: financial sustainability; programme development; audience development and finally, organisational development.

A pilot action research programme, Transform is intended to help arts organisations "improve their resilience", which means:

- Responding to changing circumstances quickly and flexibly with innovative workable solutions
- Maintaining financial stability
- Continuing to grow and develop

To take these ambitions forward, the Arts Council awarded Warwick Arts Centre £1,365,000.

Two key strands of work have been developed under this programme: **Triggered at Warwick Arts Centre** and **This is Tomorrow**.

Triggered at Warwick Arts Centre is a bespoke way of commissioning and supporting new work. Warwick Arts Centre is working on projects from some of the UK's most exciting theatre companies and acting as the catalyst that sets them in motion. Literally 'triggering'

the process that takes new ideas and makes them a reality. Through this scheme, artists are supported and provided with: time to develop concepts; physical space to work in; an audience to reflect on the work; dramaturgical and producing support and a cash commissioning fee. Previous Triggered at Warwick Arts Centre commissions have included Mark Murphy's *Take a Deep Breath* and *Contender Charlie's Macbeth*, and in early February we look forward to *Ring* presented by Fuel and conceived and directed by David Rosenberg.

This Is Tomorrow... is a three year Arts Council 'seed funded' programme which aims to exploit Warwick Arts Centre's unique context; located in one of the world's leading academic research intensive Universities on the one hand and at the heart of a network of UK and international artists on the other. *This Is Tomorrow...* sets out to generate new artistic ideas, through unique artist/academic collaborations, ripe for exploration and production. Ideas we believe could not be conceived or realised anywhere else.

This Is Tomorrow... will link selected artists from across disciplines with leading academics and research programmes from within the University of Warwick. The aim is to explore and illuminate contemporary thinking and research about the human condition and key issues that face humanity and society in a global world across a range of science, social science and humanities subjects.