



For Immediate Release

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### **Return of Basingstoke Festival to lift our spirits this summer**

Get the dates in your diary – Basingstoke Festival is set to return this summer with a full programme of arts in unusual places to bring some much-needed entertainment to the borough.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has been working on the long-awaited return of Basingstoke Festival – bringing you 17 days of COVID-safe outdoor theatrical productions, music and dance performances, workshops and much more from Friday 25 June to Sunday 11 July 2021.

Topping the bill will be acts such as Urban Astronaut from Highly Sprung Theatre Company that combines storytelling with stunning design and an aerial performance, using a unique travelling flying machine that suspends the performer 20 feet in the air.

Mimbre Acrobats return to the festival with their quirky show Lifted, a breathtaking and highly-skilled acrobatic piece of performance art, and children and their families will also be invited to look through the windows and doors of My House, a circus theatre experience from Apocalyptic Circus.

And there is much more being planned with local artists and organisations including Proteus, Scratchbuilt Productions, Pumpkin Pantos and Junk Jodie Arts and Crafts as well as exhibitions and installations in shop windows in the town centre.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Partnerships Cllr Simon Bound said: “After a difficult year of living with COVID restrictions and subject to the government’s COVID roadmap, I am pleased that we will be able to bring the borough to life this summer with a fantastic fortnight of street theatre, dance, art and much more.

“We are very lucky to have talented artists, performers and arts organisations so not only will the festival provide an opportunity for them to showcase their work but we hope the festival will provide a much needed boost for residents and our borough’s economic recovery.

“There really will be something for everyone at the 2021 Basingstoke Festival. As most of the events are likely to be ticketed to ensure they are COVID-safe, please keep an eye on the Basingstoke Festival website and social media to avoid disappointment.”

For more information on Basingstoke Festival and how to take part, visit [www.basingstokefestival.co.uk](http://www.basingstokefestival.co.uk) or follow @BasingstokeFestival on Facebook and @BstokeFestival on Twitter and Instagram. The website will be regularly updated as more acts are confirmed.

**ENDS**

Any questions via email to [customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk) or by phone on 01256 844844.

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