

Sydenham Arts.

May 2015

Press Release

Sydenham Arts is delighted to announce that we are now a **registered charity** and being acknowledged as a year round provider of quality arts in South East London. What better way to celebrate than our seventh annual **Summer Festival!**

Following our very successful Word Fair, join us 4-12 July for the nine day celebration of the arts giving you the opportunity to 'Discover the Arts on your Doorstep'.

Events will kick off with a american themed **Fourth of July Street Celebration** on the high street. Music and dance will be provided by local artists and some special guests including the marvellous students of Forest Hill School with a brilliant Gramophone DJ. The american celebration will continue with the **South London Jazz Orchestras Big Band Night**, as they perform big band classics alongside more modern numbers at St Barts Church. This will be followed by a free **Open Air Screening** of one of America's screen classics **The Wizard of Oz** in Mayou Park.

Brilliant music events will continue through the week with **Festival in the Forest** an unforgettable summer's day filled with music as the best of Folk, Irish, Country Rock and Bluegrass fill two stages in the tranquil setting of the Devonshire Road Nature Reserve; **Coco Boheme Cabaret** with the fabulous Alex Carter taking us on a musical journey through France, Italy and Spain with a hint audience participation; acclaimed a capella group **The Queen's Six** will be concert supporting St Bart's Church restoration campaign; and Sydenham Arts favourite **The Incredible Sax Band** will be back with a new set. Our second weekend of music will be headed by local power pop band **Itchy Teeth** who will curate **Itchy Toothpicks** a showcase of bands on the Friday night at Livesey Hall.

Comedy events start this festival with the comedy night **Here for Good Laughs** featuring acclaimed comic **Tony Vino** for mid week, Wednesday night laughs. Comedy appetite duly wetted Saturday 11 we host **Sydenham Comedy Festival** an all-day, eclectic line-up of the funniest sketch, character and stand up comedians around, previewing their full hour shows at the Golden Lion before they head up to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Drama and spoken word continue to feature and we are very excited to have in the programme **The Bag of Wonders**, stories by **Xanthe Gresham** and a double bill of one women-shows **Long Night of the Cheese Puffs** and **Comfort me with Apples**.

This year we will continue to give you an opportunity to get involved and flex your artistic fingers with free singing, photography and creative writing workshops. For those feeling more adventurous we are thrilled that there will be a **Sydenham Community** production of **The Magic Flute**. With casting entirely from the Sydenham Arts area this will give aspiring performers an

amazing opportunity to work alongside professional touring opera company **New London Opera Players**.

We hope you will join us for these events and much more including our renowned artists trail, dance and film screening.

YOUR FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU! Would you like to offer your time as a **Festival Maker** to help make the Summer Festival a roaring success? Be part of the team, learn new skills and receive a free festival maker t-shirt! If you have some time to spare during the festival dates (4-12) and before the festival and would like to help out, please contact Claire or Oliver at volunteersmanager@sydenhamartsfestival.co.uk.

Other specialisms we always look out for are event stewards, box office staff, general helpers and volunteer photographers.