Kent announces a major new arts festival for Canterbury

The University of Kent is pleased to announce The International Festival of Projections, a new major arts festival for everyone in Canterbury, taking place from 18-20 March 2016.

The festival, which will take place across the University’s Canterbury campus and beyond, will involve spectacular large-scale moving and still image projections, as well as intimate installations and performances on sites including ancient woodland, celebrated architecture, in public spaces and in places usually hidden from view.

Funded by the University’s Beacon Projects, which were announced during its 50th Anniversary celebrations, the Festival has been designed to showcase internationally renowned arts together with ground-breaking research at Kent. A specially curated programme will include film screenings, art installations, talks and events.

Events will include:

- drive in cinema with live music soundtrack by cult Japanese band *Night of the Stickmen* (of Bo Ningen)
- a unique art exhibition of artists’ work including rare, original magic lantern machines, and beautiful Victorian slides at the Beaney House of Art & Knowledge
- extensive programme of free cinema, and talks by Directors, from BAFTA winners and classics to brand new premieres
- a huge interactive *Test Your Own Strength* projection – bringing the fairground game right into the 21st Century!
- *The Cube*, performance including new gaming technology for storytelling

There will also be a community driven project that draws together the University, the Cathedral and the City of Canterbury via a morse code conversation using signal lamps. This will take place after sunset on Friday 18 March. For this part of the Festival, 10 public figures will be commissioned to write a one-line hope, wish or aspiration for the next half century – their projections for the future - and we will be inviting everyone in Canterbury to join in.

Liz Flynn, Festival Project Manager, said: "We are really excited to be delivering the first International Festival of Projections over the weekend of 18-20 March. This free and accessible festival will showcase creativity and research through a fantastic lineup of events. The campus will be opened up, with screenings and installations taking place in forest clearings, unusual spaces indoors, and on the sides of buildings".

The festival brochure will be available from early March and will contain full details of all the events.

For more information on the festival and how to get involved contact projections@kent.ac.uk

NOTE: images available.

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*For further information or image requests contact Gary Hughes at the University of Kent Press Office.*
Notes to editors

(1)

Beacon Projects are designed to illustrate some of the University of Kent’s distinctive strengths and provide a platform for future activities and aspirations.

As part of its 50th Anniversary celebrations, 12 projects were selected from bids across the University, with a focus on improving the student experience, strengthening Kent’s research efforts and extending its international ambitions.

All projects will reach formal completion by the end of the summer term 2016 but all are also intended to leave a legacy.

(2)

Established in 1965, the University of Kent – the UK’s European university – now has almost 20,000 students across campuses or study centres at Canterbury, Medway, Tonbridge, Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome.

It has been ranked: third for overall student satisfaction in the 2014 National Student Survey; 16th in the Guardian University Guide 2016; 23rd in the Times and Sunday Times University Guide 2016; and 22nd in the Complete University Guide 2015.

In the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2015-16, Kent is in the top 10% of the world’s leading universities for international outlook. The THE also ranked the University as 20th in its ‘Table of Tables’ 2016.

Kent is ranked 17th in the UK for research intensity (REF 2014). It has world-leading research in all subjects and 97% of its research is deemed by the REF to be of international quality.

Along with the universities of East Anglia and Essex, Kent is a member of the Eastern Arc Research Consortium (www.kent.ac.uk/about/partnerships/eastern-arc.html).

The University is worth £0.7 billion to the economy of the south east and supports more than 7,800 jobs in the region. Student off-campus spend contributes £293.3m and 2,532 full-time-equivalent jobs to those totals.

In 2014, Kent received its second Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education.