

STEYNING FESTIVAL 2010– PRESS RELEASE

29th MAY TO 14th JUNE 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4th Year for Successful Community Arts Festival

What a great way to spend a Summer's day (or night).....Last year's Steyning Festival proved to be a great success for the c.2,000 people who experienced its fantastic and inspired mix of theatre, film, dance, literary talks, poetry, music, art and festival walks. This year's festival, the fourth, will be even better. The festival is aimed at all ages and this year's theme is 'Uniting Generations'. As well as uniting discerning audiences from the whole of Sussex, this festival attracts professional artists and amateurs alike, including big names like the poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy performing 'The Princess Blankets' (14 June). Alongside her will be best selling authors, Sophie Hannah, RJ Ellory and locally based Peter James (1 June), telling us about crime writing, these are just some of the literary highlights.

If theatre is more your interest, then you will be delighted by 'What Would Helen Mirren Do?' (1/2 June), a one-woman comedy show by Josie Melia, starring Anita Parry, about a woman needing a role model "*A masterclass in simple character drama*" *FringeReview*. One of the many musical highlights is, 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Opera' (13 June), an evening of opera performed by six professional singers who have performed at Glyndebourne and the Royal Opera House. For more popular entertainment there is the Festival's opening night concert with 'Bjorn Again – The Music of ABBA' set in the wonderful grounds of Wiston Estate (29 May).

Yet another highlight will be 'Steyning's GOT Talent' (5 June) - comedian and compere, Simon Sands, will host the Grand Final of this most popular show featuring guest star, Keith the Thief, finest pickpocket in Britain. This is family entertainment at its best – to unite generations, showcase local talent and gladden the heart – a winning combination. Heats will take place on 15th May and 5th June. To register or find out more, email: jacque.g@btinternet.com or phone 07795 186299.

Finally, the Festival would not be complete without a tour around the historic and beautiful Steyning

Village, but along the way you might like to take in the 'Steypning Scandal Walk - Not for the Easily Shocked!' on which you will hear about the people who once lived in the timber-framed houses, and whilst you are there you can pop into any of the studios, houses, shops, restaurants, pubs and the Museum to look at some of the art by nearly 50 artists on the Steypning Art Trail, as well as have a lovely meal or just a drink.

Programmes for the Festival will be available from most West Sussex Libraries from end of April, or download your copy from www.steyningfestival.co.uk BOX OFFICE: drop into Steypning Bookshop, 106 High Street, Steypning or phone 01903 812062.

ENDS

NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

Steypning Festival has been in existence since 2007. It is a voluntary-led organisation run by members of the community to explore Steypning's rich heritage, showcase local talent and create a platform for visiting artist and performers. SF'10 is our fourth and most ambitious festival yet, with a theme, 'Uniting Generations' which has resulted in us programming events which highlight and explore generational differences to create greater understanding between young and old.

Our Vision

To put Steypning on the cultural map nationally as a creatively ambitious and unique arts festival, inspiring cutting edge events that compliment the countryside and celebrate the town.

Our Mission Statement

Steypning Festival wants to benefit the local community and support local artists by offering enriched and fun opportunities for everyone. Our mission is to bring quality, cutting edge arts experiences to Steypning by commissioning national and international artists to produce original work that celebrates the town and its heritage.