



## **Didsbury Arts Festival 2019**

**22 - 30 June**

**Celebrating 10 years promoting arts in the community!**

Didsbury Art Festival is 10 years old! And with more than 100 fantastic events packed into nine days, this year's landmark anniversary festival is going to be bigger and better than ever!

Poet Lemn Sissay MBE, author Nell Stevens (*Mrs Gaskell and Me*) and Manchester singer/songwriter Liam Frost will among this year's programme highlights. Also headlining is Henry Normal, best known as co-writer of award-winning film and TV shows such as *The Royle Family* and producer of *Gavin and Stacey*. Following a sell-out performance in 2017, soloists from the Hallé Orchestra are making a welcome return to join forces for a very special concert. Don't miss it!

This year's festival theme is Curiosity, so why not try something new, whether it's attending a classical concert for the first time, or having a go at stand-up comedy? With live music, dance, theatre, visual arts, comedy, spoken word and lots more happening every day at venues all over Didsbury, there's definitely something for everyone – and most of it's free.

Join in the opening revelries at Didsbury Library (22 June) as DAF kicks off with a day of family fun, drop in workshops, storytelling and creative crafts. Musical highlights are provided by Vox-pop choir with the Steel Pan band from Ladybarn

Primary School. Just down the road at Fletcher Moss Park, there'll be more live music, as well as art displayed on the railings.

This year's specially commissioned works include family-friendly outdoor theatre, *Tales from the Mesmerist*, from the acclaimed Northern Rascals. Meanwhile, award-winning Manchester theatre company, Powder Keg, will be your storytelling guides on a 'curious' journey around familiar local landmarks in *This Is Where It Happened*.

More family fun is on the cards with a fantastic party in Didsbury Park (30 June) to celebrate the end of DAF. There'll be entertainment from the fabulous Fantabulosa! - a unique family-friendly drag show - with live music from Zunzun and some truly curious surprises! Bring a picnic, blanket and the sunshine!

"Community engagement and outreach, as always, will be a huge focus of DAF," said festival director, Ella Wild.

"We look forward to working with local schools, churches, care homes and other groups to provide opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to perform, create and volunteer at DAF 2019."

In 2009 a group of arts-loving Didsbury residents came together to launch Didsbury's first ever, week-long celebration of local talent. A decade on, the thriving, community arts festival attracts 14,000 visitors and features high profile national names alongside home-grown talent.

"We'll be encouraging people to 'get curious' to help us make this 10th anniversary DAF bigger and better than ever," said Ella.

"DAF 2019 features a rich and diverse programme which will provide plenty of opportunities for people to be thrilled, challenged and intrigued. I'd like to say a big 'thank you' to the people of Didsbury, to our dedicated festival team and to all our friends, sponsors and volunteers for your support. Without you DAF 2019 would not happen."

For a full list of events, prices and booking information, pick up a free festival programme (available early May) from Didsbury Library and other local venues.

[www.didsburyartsfestival.org](http://www.didsburyartsfestival.org)

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