



**Don't miss it!**

**Enjoy al fresco fun as DAF 2013 gets off to a lively start**

**DAF 2013, 22 – 30 June**

Didsbury Arts Festival (22-30 June) returns this year with an eclectic mix of music, visual arts, comedy, performance and much, much more ...

Come outside for the Festival's opening weekend, kicking off with a craft and buskers' fair outside Didsbury Library (12–5 pm, Saturday 22 June). There'll be music from the Loose Change Buskers, the Gallery Choir and the Urmston Scouts & Guides Marching Band. Browse among the craft stalls and relax at the DAF pavement café.

There'll be more al fresco fun with art on the railings and live music from local bands and artists in the Creative Space in Fletcher Moss Park on Sunday afternoon (12-5pm, 23 June). Enjoy poetry of a different kind from local school pupils!

Now celebrating its fifth birthday, Didsbury's annual showcase of talent – both homegrown and from further afield – boasts more than 100 events and exhibitions taking place at 40 local venues.

Simon Armitage, Jackie Kay, Kathryn Stott and jazz star Matthew Halsall will provide some of the thrills during a packed programme, including for the first time 50 fringe events. The nine-day celebration will feature daily music performances, including classical music, jazz and rock. Comedy, drama, dance, film, visual arts, crafts and literature will provide a diverse mix, ensuring something for all ages and tastes.

As always, local schools are playing a significant role. Pupils from Parrs Wood High School will display art work in the windows of shops and venues throughout the week. And artists will conduct talks, workshops and performances in local schools and care homes as part of this year's DAF outreach programme, designed to engage all sectors of the community.

There are plenty of family-friendly events throughout the week and some surprises in store, with a gigantic pink pig taking up residence outside Didsbury Library on Saturday 29 June! If you don't believe it, just come and see for yourself! The beautiful Parsonage Gardens will be the focus for family fun on the closing day of DAF (Sunday 30 June) with an entire afternoon dedicated to puppet theatre, Punch & Judy and storytelling. Bring a picnic and blanket and get ready to meet the giant, flying Dodo and a flock of cheeky, tropical birds. Follow Mother Hen on a mystery journey ....

Organised by a group of enthusiastic local residents, the aim of DAF is to celebrate the vibrancy of Didsbury people and places and the wealth of artistic talent that make Didsbury so special. Attracting audiences of up to 10,000 people, since its launch in 2009, the festival has now become an annual fixture on the local calendar.

DAF Director, Maria Stripling, said: 'We're delighted to welcome so many new artists and events including our exciting, new fringe programme, DAFringe. There really is something for everybody this year, so pick up a programme or check online to make sure you don't miss out!

'DAF could not happen without the support of our sponsors and the many volunteers, artists, community groups and organisations who have given so much of their time and energy. Many thanks for your hard work and generosity. We look forward to an enjoyable and successful DAF 2013!'

Most events free; some ticketed. Programmes and daily listings available at the Festival Desk, now open at Didsbury Library until 29 June.

Visit the DAF website at: [www.didsburyartsfestival.org](http://www.didsburyartsfestival.org)

All enquiries to:

[info@didsburyartsfestival.org](mailto:info@didsburyartsfestival.org)

*DAF 2013 is sponsored by Aba Quality Monitoring Ltd, Manchester City Council and Siemens.*

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MEDIA CONTACTS: Deborah Grace, press officer

07979 908 871

[press@didsburyartsfestival.org](mailto:press@didsburyartsfestival.org)

Maria Stripling, Festival Director

07501 465 510