



press release

Harvest it!...a festival of autumn delights

Sunday 23 September, 2pm-5pm Free Event for All
Myatt's Fields Park, Knatchbull Road, Camberwell, London SE5

Contemporary art meets ancient rural traditions to transform and revitalise an under-used park in South London. Multi-sensory performances and interventions by leading artists and hundreds of local people will celebrate the bounty of nature in the heart of the city.

Artistic Director: Ali Zaidi. Commissioned Artists: Barby Asante, Fergus Drennan, Jan Hendrickse, Eleanor Margolies, Myriam Ojeda Patiño with ArtLAT, Shane Waltener.

Harvest it! will transform Myatt's Fields Park into a bountiful village of delights where multiple cultures are woven together to reveal new expressions. A major participatory programme, involving artists working with city farms, allotment organisations, schools, choirs and other local groups, will explore the theme of harvest, which is shared across cultures and generations.

On the day there will be collective artworks and spectacular performances: a giant sculptural figure adorned with produce grown in the park, a massive maze, live music, tango and Latin American dance, circus and carnival, collective embroidery and stitching, and much more. Audiences can join an audio descriptive and touch tour, savour food and flavours, take part in craft making activities and take home harvest keepsakes.

Harvest it! is the second in a series of annual events to celebrate the seasons in Myatt's Fields Park, leading on from last year's **Light it!**...a festival of light, which attracted over 3,000 people. Our projects are making a significant impact on the local area, feeding into its creative development, raising awareness of ecology & environment issues, and contributing to initiatives such as the Heritage Lottery Fund Regeneration Scheme of the park, the redevelopment of nearby Myatt's Fields North Estate and the newly formed Camberwell Creative Network.

The 'growing' aspect of the project is reflected in the history of the park, which was originally set up in the 18th Century in an area of orchards, and named after the tenant James Myatt, a celebrated market gardener renowned for his strawberries and rhubarb.

Notes to Editors

Artists and performances/installations

- **Barby Asante** - Sowing and growing in the park, gathering stories and recipes from gardeners and allotment users... installations will be created and the labyrinth will hold many gifts.
- **Fergus Drennan and Eleanor Margolies** – Foraging project exploring historical and contemporary perspectives on searching for and sourcing food locally.
- **Jan Hendrickse** – orchestrating choirs, rhythms of steel pan and drums, funky DJs and a host of individual artists from Camberwell.

- **Myriam Ojeda Patiño with ArtLAT and Jorge Tovar** - Pre-Columbian gods and goddesses will join in the grinding rhythms of the dancers rejoicing in a bumper sugarcane harvest.
- **Shane Waltener** – sewing and stitching the memories and experiences of different generations and cultures... the collective tapestries will hold many stories.

Notes to editors

- Touch tour and audio description of the event by Pickles Norman at 3pm. Meet at the Glass House near the Knatchbull Road entrance.
- **Harvest it!** is co-produced by **home** and **motiroti**.
- **home** is one of the leading creative production companies in the UK, based in Camberwell; specialising in innovative live events with contemporary artists and performers which explore diverse contexts and spaces, create new forms of cultural experience and emphasize interactivity, entertainment and participation. www.homeliveart.com
- For over ten years **motiroti** has made internationally acclaimed and award winning art that transforms relationships between people, communities and spaces. Learning is core to our philosophy, and we foster participation and collaboration across disciplines and between different cultures. Making multiple perspective artworks for the public realm, the projects, both artistic and educational, challenge and tease the perceptions of artists, organisations, audiences and individuals. www.motiroti.com
- **Participants:** Aid Fund for Africans, Arte y Compañía, artLAT *Tiempo de Tango*, the Barefoot Company – Martha Harrison & Dela Seward, Bengali Women’s Group of Southwark, Bramah Green Community Centre, Beats of Polynesia, Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses, Camberwell Choir School, Collectivo Mayor, Club Años Dorados, Diane Sullock, Emmanuel the Magnificent, Kakatsitsi Drummers, Lambeth Asian Centre, Loughborough Primary School, Make a Difference, McAlpine Dance School, Myatt’s Fields Park Allotment Volunteers, The Nest, Penny Walsh & Dyeworks, Roots & Shoots, Rosendale Allotments, St Johns Senior Citizens Project, South Island Workshop, DJ Eric Soul, Streatham Darby and Joan Club, Synergy Centre, Tunde Jegede & Maya Jabarteh, Vassall Voices, Vauxhall City Farm, The Watu.
- **Funded by** Arts Council England Grants for the Arts and the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Coutts Charitable Trust and the Local Network Fund.
- **Supported by** Camberwell Arts, Myatt’s Fields Park Project Group, The London Borough of Lambeth Events and Parks, Veolia and Visit London.
- **Media partner:** Southwark News
- **Production management by** JOULE
- This event and others being planned by **home** and **motiroti** in Myatt’s Fields Park, forms part of the £1.6million regeneration bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the park. This bid is a collaboration between the Myatt’s Fields Park Project Group and Lambeth Council.

Press information

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