Mdina Biennale to celebrate former capital's multicultural history

• Highly-anticipated event welcomes pieces by top international artists, including Italy's Dario Fo, Germany's von Cube and China's Adam Chang

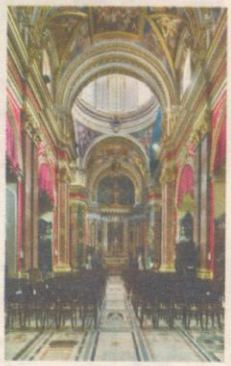
Mdina will soon step back in time to embrace its multicultural past, with the launch of the city's eagerly-anticipated Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale, which will be held between 13 November and 7 January 2016, with APS Bank as its main partner.

This rebirth edition of the Mdina Biennale will take a radically-different approach to art and religion, and is being hailed as a bridge between different cultures, faiths and, even, non-faiths.

The theme, Christianity, Spirituality and the Other, as well as the new conceptual direction for the event, has been developed by artist, art critic and academic Dr Giuseppe Schembri-Bonaci, who is the artistic director of the Biennale. Harking back to the Mdina Biennale's roots in the 1990s, it will provide a spiritual space for creativity and will feature thought-provoking and high-quality artworks by top artists from no less than 25 countries around the world.

"We are thrilled to announce that the Mdina Biennale has attracted some very high-calibre names from both the national and international art world," says Dr Schembri-Bonaci.

The long list of artists features names from across the artistic disciplines. Local artists include Richard England, Mark England,



Vince Briffa, Patrick Dalli, Paul Haber, Pierre Portelli, Anna Grima, Sina Micallef Farrugia, Anthony Micallef, Victor Spiteri and James Micallef Grimaud.

Other international works are by Dario Fo, Francesco Infante, Adam Dix, Michael von Cube, Valera Loredana Longo, Silvia Camporesi, Denis Pondruel, Christian Jaccard, Bernard Cousinier, Gildas Le Reste, Frederique Lucien, Philippe Desloubieres, Vincent Come, Patrice Pantin, Kacha Legrand, Nicola Arkell, James Alec Hardy, Richard Shields and Natala and Valerya Cherkashin.

The Biennale will also present a full calendar of musical, literary and audiovisual events, with performances by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra's chief conductor Brian Schembri, composers Karl Fiorini, Reuben Pace and Albert Garzia, actor Pino Scicluna and contemporary dance creations by Francesca Abela Tranter, as well as collaborations with Caravan and Artnaked.

Caravan is a trans-cultural initiative which organises a multitude of art events with the intention of creating peaceful dialogue between diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. Caravan will be coordinating a number of projects for the Mdina Biennale, including the *Maltese Donkey* sculptural installation and a series of concerts.

Artnaked is a London-based curatorial organisation which creates numerous events, exhibitions, performances, radio podcasts and literary and academic events. A group of contemporary artists from London and beyond will be participating in the Mdina Biennale under the management of Artnaked.

"Mdina has been a city of art for centuries. We are thrilled to showcase that history and to bring more art than ever within its fortified walls," says Dr Schembri-Bonaci. "Now, at this key moment in our own modern era, we are proud to celebrate diversity through art and encourage interfaith dialogue whenever possible. All art is spiritual, and that is the message that we want to pass on to the many visitors that we hope will enjoy this Biennale in the months to come."

For more regularly-updated information on the Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale 2015, visit http:www.mdinabiennale.org

FourPlayFour

It's been four years, but it's certainly been worth the wait because the *FourPlay* team is back and they're four times SASSIER, BRASSIER and SEXIER than before!

For this edition, Alan Montanaro, Louiselle Vassallo and Isabel Warrington are joined by Edward Mercieca and the team is preparing to rock the rafters at the Teatru Manoel with riotous laughter in the fourth edition of the show, cleverly titled *FourPlayFour*.

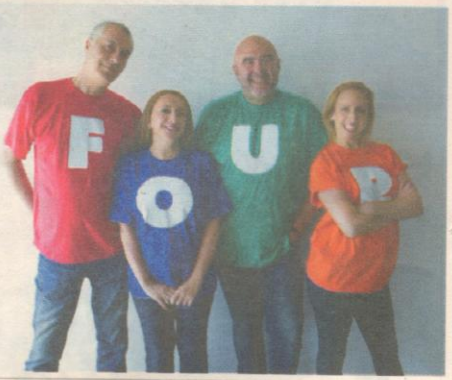
The *FourPlay* concept was created by Montanaro and was consistently dubbed the "funniest show of the year" whenever produced. *FourPlay* (2005), *More FourPlay* (2008) and *Even More FourPlay* (2011) raised the bar of local satire, music, and comedy-with-heart. Anticipation runs even higher with the participation of Edward Mercieca, whose long-standing and scintillating comedy chemistry with Montanaro is the stuff of legend.

FourPlayFour will also welcome back fan favourites Chenticienne-Marie Chetcuti and Defsa, and they will be joined by some new characters... and nobody is safe. Being equal opportunity insulters, the team's brand of satire is firmly tongue-in-cheek yet never truly offensive.

Singing, dancing, comedy and spectacle make up the varied programme of sketches written by the four writers Alan Montanaro, Malcolm Galea, Herman Grech and Chiara Hyzler, with additional material by Vikesh Godhwani and Joseph Zammit. The sketches will come together under the watchful direction of Denise Mulholland, Malcolm Galea, Herman Grech and Chiara Hyzler. Choreography is in the hands of Emma Loftus, with musical arrangements by Paul Abela. The sketches will also include some hilarious filmed sequences courtesy of the team at V-Squared Media and Entertainment.

FourPlayFour is being produced by DnA Theatre Productions at the Teatru Manoel on 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15 November 2015 at 8pm.

Ticket prices €15, €20 and €25. Bookings from the Teatru Manoel website www.teatrumanoel.com.mt; email bookings@teatrumanoel.com.mt; or telephone (+356) 2124 6389



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Privatisation Unit (PU) on behalf of the Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport, is issuing an EOI regarding a Concession for the Design, Build and Operation of Motor Recreation and Education Park.

Interested parties are invited to communicate with the PU, at the email address shown below, expressing their interest in the EOI. Following this, the PU will forward a process letter to explain the procedure to be followed for the collection of the EOI document and submission of the Proposal.

The Chairman
Privatisation Unit
Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Business

(+356) 22209573
privatisation.meib@gov.mt
www.privatisation.gov.mt

LEAP!
Building the future together: promoting social mobility
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE
EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND MALTA 2007-2013
MINISTRY FOR THE FAMILY AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

ESF 3.234 LEAP PROJECT

I, Marisa Scicluna, a fifty-six-year old Gozitan, have been out of employment for a number of years due to family commitments. Through my participation in the LEAP traineeship scheme, I helped the NGO 'Grandparents Malta', widen its reach to the Gozo region through the organisational setup and administrative as well as logistical coordination of events. On several occasions I represented the organisation during meetings and on media. This facilitated my reintegration in the community and improved my personal skills.

Genuineness is the essential element to develop and nurture a trust-based relationship that leads making a difference in people's lives.
Christine Garzia – LEAP Project Mentor

My name is Ibrahim Mohamed Muuse. During the Leap Project I followed a training programme as a cultural mediator at the Floriana Health Centre. Thanks to Leap, I am now gainfully employed with the same Centre and part of a social network within the Maltese community.

I am Chantal Catania. Thanks to this traineeship, not only did I gain new skills, but I also felt empowered and confident enough to resume my studies. The LEAP Project truly helped me to step out of my comfort zone and take a leap forward.

mfss.gov.mt/leap

Programm Operattiv II – Politika ta' Koeżjoni 2007-2013
Insahhu Ftillna ghall-Aktar Impjiegi u Kwalità ta' Hajja Ahjar
Proġett parzjalment kofinanzjat mill-Unjoni Ewropea
Fond Soċjali Ewropew (FSE)
Rata ta' Kofinanzjament: 85% Fondi mill-UE; 15% Fondi Nazzjonali
Ninvestu fil-futur tiegħek