

MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Manchester International Festival returns to Manchester

Manchester International Festival (MIF) launched to great critical acclaim in the summer of 2007.

Establishing itself immediately on the international arts calendar, the Festival is entirely devoted to developing new work across arts and popular culture. MIF commissions world class artists to innovate and present new productions and events, which makes it a unique event and another first for Manchester.

MIF will run from 2 July – 19 July with a spectacular programme of new productions including 20 world premieres, all created by an extraordinary short-list of some of the world's greatest artists.

This year, Manchester International Festival's iconic Pavilion will be constructed on Albert Square, creating the centrepiece of the Festival site. The whole of the square will be transformed, with its own theatre next to the Pavilion, a box office where you can purchase tickets for the festival productions and a brightly coloured external seating area where food and drink from the café and bar can be consumed. The site will be dressed with a perimeter made up of simple and fragrant greenery.

Each evening will see performances and talks in the theatre whilst a DJ programme curated by Dave Haslam will take place in the Pavilion from 9.30pm each night.

Free events on Albert Square, and within the Town Hall, will attract up to 5000 visitors each weekend. The site will be the epicentre of the festival attracting international, national and local visitors along with the world's media. MIF are intending to close Albert Square Road to traffic on at least one weekend of the festival to create an extended pedestrian area. This will enable us to programme outdoor events for all to enjoy.

The Pavilion will be open from 11am daily throughout the festival and will be licensed until 2am. The site itself will be guarded 24 hours a day by relevant security personnel and MIF will be consulting with Greater Manchester Police and Manchester City Council to deliver a safe festival environment.

This year MIF has commissioned Turner Prize-winning artist, Jeremy Deller to create Procession along the full length of Deansgate. This will take place on Sunday 5th July commencing at 2pm for 1 hour's duration.

In addition to the prestige and profile for Manchester that these events will bring we hope that the additional visitors will have a positive effect and increase the potential business opportunities within the Albert Square area throughout the 18 days of the Festival.

Full details on the festival can be found at www.mif.co.uk but if you have any MIF related queries these can be addressed to Helen Gorton at MIF on 0161 238 7342 or if you have any business continuity enquiries the operations director at Cityco, Gary Ellis, can be contacted at gary.ellis@cityco.com.

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