



Get Creative
Family Arts Festival

LISTINGS NOW LIVE FOR THE UK'S BIGGEST CULTURAL FESTIVAL: GET CREATIVE FAMILY ARTS FESTIVAL 9 OCTOBER to 1 NOVEMBER

- Bestselling author Michael Morpurgo returns as Patron
- Exciting new partnership with BBC Arts' Get Creative
- 5000 events by over 1000 organisations all over the UK
- Interactive events map and 'eye-boggling' family portrait app

Participating in the arts as a family can be every bit as productive as spending regular meal times together. This Autumn half term families of all shapes and sizes from across the nation can get involved with a huge range of arts experiences on offer, many of which are free, as part of the Get Creative Family Arts Festival.

Building on the enormous success of the previous two years, the national Family Arts Festival has joined forces with BBC's Get Creative to form the **Get Creative Family Arts Festival 2015**.

From exploring backstage at a theatre to listening to a concert dressed as your favourite superhero or learning circus skills, families are invited to share new experiences. Every generation is welcome, with the festival embracing theatre, dance, sculpture, painting, music, classic children's stories, fine art and almost every other possible art form. The Festival aims to fire the imagination, to encourage families to take their first steps in participating in activities together and to bring families together through the arts.

The Festival runs from **9 October to 1 November** and showcases the quality, depth and diversity of talent in the UK arts scene through shows and events designed specifically with family enjoyment in mind. For listings, information and the family portrait app please visit: www.familyartsfestival.com

Former Children's Laureate and bestselling author **Michael Morpurgo** will return as Patron of the Festival for another year and said "*I am delighted to be Patron of the Get Creative Family Arts Festival again this autumn. Now in its third year, there is a huge range of events on offer: from music to theatre, dance to art. There is sure to be something to delight and share with all members of the family across the generations.*

"An early cultural experience for children in whatever form - opera, ballet, music or art is a wonderful thing because it opens the door to a life-long experience, a life-long enjoyment. I encourage families to make a day of it together - or a week - exploring the exciting events that are happening all around the UK this half-term."

Event listings are now live on www.familyartsfestival.com where families can search for events in their area by genre, age range and interest. New events are uploaded daily.

Highlights include:

Royal National Scottish Orchestra's *Magic and Monsters* - Join Owen and Olly on a mythical musical adventure this Halloween, with witches, wizards and kelpies on the loose. But never fear, they've got a trick up their sleeve with some spellbinding singing from the RSNO Junior Chorus.

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Arnolfini in Bristol Join Arnolfini, Watershed, Architecture Centre and Artrageous for an afternoon of green themed creative activities. Try your hand at animation, make a spooky plant costume or prop, take a storytelling boat trip, or help us to design ways to feed the future city.

Unicorn Theatre - The UK's leading theatre for young audiences has a range of shows and events for all the family.

Royal Albert Hall - UK premiere of *Ratatouille* in Concert. Pixar's animated comedy adventure of Remy's adventure is brought to life as composer Michael Giacchino's Grammy-winning and Oscar-nominated score is performed alongside the film by the *Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra*.

Dance Umbrella - 16 Singers. Aimed at parents with babies aged 0-18 months. This is a rare opportunity to share a beautifully crafted performance with your baby. It cleverly captures the attention of tiny spectators using breath, rhythms and song, and by blending movement with an intricate, moving set.

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra – *Superheroes*. Put on your superhero cape and mask for a fantastically superpowered afternoon of sensational superheroic themes from *Batman*, *Spiderman*, *The Incredibles* and many more.

The Mac, Belfast – *Gulliver*. Join the hilarious madcap theatrical adventure of Gulliver and his family as they come across a world ruled by horses with interactive sessions for families and a range of activities each day.

Sunderland Empire - Autism friendly backstage tours. Explore behind the scenes of the beautiful Edwardian theatre which includes dressing room, the stage and see the set and costumes up close. This event is aimed at families and individuals with ASD.

Wales Millennium Centre - *Les Misérables*. Following a nationwide search to all corners of Wales, a choir of over a hundred and twenty of the most talented young performers, all of whom are aged 13-19, to perform one of the world's most famous musicals in Welsh.

Birmingham Royal Ballet – Family Fun Day. Take a peek behind the scenes of the Ballet which includes: Make-up demonstrations from professional ballerinas, craft activities and a chance to watch a stage reset.

Darren Henley OBE, Chief Executive, Arts Council England said

"The arts have the power to change the lives of everyone in England. And there's nothing that proves this more than the Get Creative Family Arts Festival. It's particularly special because it unites every generation in shared experiences, so that everyone from toddlers to grandparents can enjoy the very best artistic creativity in cities, towns and villages across the country"

Mari O'Neill, Family Arts Campaign Co-Director said

"Building on the success of the past two Festivals, we are sure that this year's Get Creative Family Arts Festival will be bigger and better than ever before – there truly will be something for everyone this October half-term."

"You could watch a show or a concert, visit an art gallery or take a backstage tour. Or how about taking part in a craft or singing workshop? We're really pleased that the Festival is part of BBC Arts' Get Creative initiative this year, encouraging even more families to try something new together in their local area."

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Launched in 2013, the *Family Arts Festival* is an exuberant nationwide celebration. The festival is part of a wider scheme, the Family Arts Campaign, which aims to support organisations up and down the country to provide high quality family friendly events and encouraging family participation in the arts. Since it started the festival has included 9000 family arts events by over 1000 organisations.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The 2015 **Get Creative Family Arts Festival** (9 October – 1 November) is a partnership between the Family Arts Festival and BBC Arts' Get Creative initiative. Running since 2013 as the Family Arts Festival, the festival aims to increase the amount and range of high quality arts available across the country to families, and was established to foster a lifelong interest and passion for the arts. The Festival encompasses all of the visual and performing arts, and takes place during October including the half-term holiday.
2. The **Family Arts Campaign** aims to support organisations in providing high-quality activities for families and in growing and broadening the number of families taking part in the arts. It has been devised in consultation with over 1,000 professionals and 2,000 families. It is an initiative of Association of British Orchestras, UK Theatre, Society of London Theatre, Independent Theatre Council, Dance UK, Contemporary Visual Arts Network, The Audience Agency and Family and Childcare Trust. It is supported using funding through Arts Council England and activity in Wales is supported by Arts Council Wales. Visit familyarts.co.uk for more information.
3. **Get Creative** is a campaign led by the BBC and What Next? in partnership with a huge range of arts, cultural and voluntary organisations across the UK. In a year-long project that began in February 2015, the campaign will promote a range of opportunities to get inspired to do, share and talk about the arts. Visit bbc.co.uk/arts/sections/get-creative for more information.
4. **Arts Council England** champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2010 and 2015, we will invest £1.9 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1.1 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk