



Media Release
30 June 2010

LIVERPOOL ARABIC ARTS FESTIVAL
a celebration of Arabic arts and culture
02 – 11 July 2010
www.arabicartsfestival.co.uk

LIVERPOOL ARABIC ARTS FESTIVAL OPENS TO ALL

The award winning Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival (LAAF), sponsored by UNISON North West, opens its doors on 2 July with a weekend of activities spanning the visual arts, literature, dance, film, food and music.

The ever popular Family Day hosted at the Bluecoat building and gardens on 3 July brings the full flavour of the orient to Liverpool city centre.

There's traditional Egyptian folk dances from the group Ya Raqs and soloist Susie White as well as trance inducing music from Sudanese-Egyptian voodoo practitioners Rango which is not to be missed.

During the Family Day LAAF is delighted to present Egyptian ensemble El Minyawawi, whose musicians have played with the Middle East's finest bands and singers.

All these performances will be played out against a vibrant backdrop of story tellers, face and henna painting, workshops, stalls and food for Arab and non Arab audiences of all ages. It's free and open to all.

The festival continues with ten days of artistic events including Arabicity, an eye-popping exhibition featuring six new artists, an eclectic series film schedule including Palestinian animation Fatenah and opportunities to create Arabic-inspired poetry and textiles or learn traditional dance.

Earlier this year LAAF was recognised by the Arab British Centre which honoured it with the Arab British Culture & Society Award 2010 for an outstanding contribution to the British public's knowledge and understanding of the life, society and culture of the Arab people.

LAAF acknowledges the tremendous support provided by Liverpool City Council and Arts Council England.

Festival Manager Ngozi Ikoku said: "The Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival is designed for Arab and non-Arab audiences alike and for all ages. I'd like to welcome everyone to participate and to savour some of the rich and diverse culture the Middle East has to offer."

Frank Hont, Regional Secretary, UNISON North West said: "Just come along and have a good time – this is a great way to learn about other cultures and bring communities together."

Festival and ticket information: www.arabicartsfestival.co.uk or call 0151 702 5324. For LAAF press information please contact: Adrian Pennington e: penningtonadrian@hotmail.com or t: 07737 970 930

Notes to editors

Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival (LAAF)

Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival was co-founded by the Bluecoat and Liverpool Arabic Centre (LAC) in 1998 and the first festival took place in 2002. It has since grown rapidly in size and confidence, audience expectation and ambition. It has become a hugely popular fixture at the heart of the city's cultural calendar and remains the only one of its kind in the UK. Over the years the festival has grown to involve more partners from the city's arts and Arabic communities. Official partners include FACT, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and National Museums Liverpool. LAAF is the recipient of the Arab British Culture & Society Award 2010.

LAAF remains a key part of the Bluecoat's www.thebluecoat.org.uk activities and reflects the diverse nature of its programme. It is part of LAC's purpose to strengthen the awareness of the Arabic community within the wider society through the celebration and promotion of all aspects of Arabic history, language, cultural heritage and identity www.liverpoolarabiccentre.org.uk.

Key funding for LAAF 2009-2011 has been sourced from Liverpool City Council (Liverpool Arts and Cultural Investment Programme) and Arts Council England North West (Grants for the Arts Programme).

UNISON North West

UNISON North West organises, represents and negotiates on behalf of more than 200,000 members in the region. Our members work in Education, Health, Local Government, the Utilities and the third sector, providing essential services to the community all year round. We believe public services are a life line for communities – they keep people in work and support local economies. We believe in an expansion of those services that help people who are struggling to cope such as welfare and housing advice, health and social care and community support.

UNISON also campaigns on behalf of its members and one of our main campaigning priorities is to oppose discrimination and fight racism. Therefore we are proud to sponsor the Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival and its work to promote Community Cohesion.



with the
Bluecoat.



Thanks to the City of Liverpool for its financial support