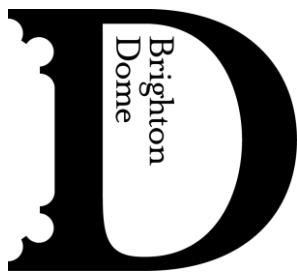


PRESS RELEASE - for immediate release



Frozen Light present

The Forest

Thursday 3 – Saturday 5 December

Brighton Dome Corn Exchange

11am & 1.30pm, £8 combined ticket for participant and carer / £5 individual ticket for friends and family

A compelling new multi-sensory show play described by audiences as “*the ultimate 3D live interactive experience*” is to head to **Brighton Dome** for three days this December.

Part love story, part mythical quest, *The Forest* places audiences at the heart of the action in a mysterious wooded glade. The immersive, hour-long performance allows everyone to experience the smell of the forest before a storm, the feel of raindrops on their palms and the sounds of birds singing overhead or twigs cracking underfoot.

Theatre company **Frozen Light** devised the accessible, inclusive production especially for teenagers and adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD). For many in the audience, says Frozen Light co-artistic director **Amber Onat Gregory**, it will be their first time in a mainstream theatre venue. She says: ‘*We want to enable people who rarely attend high street arts venues to experience the theatre. We hope to reach as many people with PMLD as possible.*’

Lucy Garland, co-artistic director, adds: ‘*Through putting accessible theatre into theatre venues we hope to increase the visibility of people with PMLD and create activities for them to access within their local community.*’

After a premiere in May at the New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, Colchester based parent **Sharon Slade**, who saw the show with her daughter Lauren, said: ‘*It was a sensory extravaganza...Lauren was totally transfixed.*’

The plot of *The Forest* involves a journey of self-discovery for the main characters, Thea (Gregory) and Robin (actor and musician **Al Watts**). Both dream of escaping their humdrum hometown existence, and a series of unexpected events, explained by caretaker of the forest and storyteller Ivy (Garland), result in an adventure into the forest, which changes their lives forever.

Performing to an intimate audience, the three-strong cast accompanies the audience from the foyer into the performance space, ensuring a smooth transition into the theatre environment. One-to-one interactions include singing directly to an audience member, or offering a prop to be explored through touch. Specially composed music is integrated throughout the performance.

Frozen Light launched in 2013 as a response to the fact that arts venues rarely cater for audiences with complex disabilities, although theatres are improving accessibility and offering relaxed performances for people who wouldn’t usually access the theatre. The Guardian recently published a good practice piece by Frozen Light on how to stage shows for people with profound disabilities.

-ENDS-

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Notes To Editors:

About Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival

- Brighton Dome is the south coast's premier multi-arts venue - a three space, Grade 1 listed building made up of the Concert Hall, Corn Exchange and Studio Theatre at the cultural heart of one of England's most creative cities.
- Each year Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival presents over 600 events spanning music, theatre, dance, comedy, literature, spoken word, visual arts, film, digital and more as part of its year round programme as well as producing the internationally-acclaimed Brighton Festival in May.
- With a rich history spanning over 200 years (starting life as the Prince Regent's stables and riding house), Brighton Dome provides an extraordinary space in which to bring the arts alive. A hub for artists across the region, Brighton Dome commissions and supports both emerging and established artists and companies, enabling them to develop, take risks and deliver work of the highest quality.
- Brighton Dome is a registered arts charity which aims to champion the power of the arts, to enrich and change lives, and inspire and enable artists to be their most creative. Each year, the work of the Creative Learning team reaches over 15,000 people in Brighton & Hove and beyond through innovative projects such as *Miss Represented* - an arts collective of vulnerable young women who have been involved with the criminal justice system; the Umbrella Club - a membership club for children and young people with life-limiting conditions and their siblings and carers; and Three Score Dance Company, created to offer contemporary dance opportunities for men and women aged 60+ in Brighton & Hove.
- Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival are working with the Royal Pavilion & Museums to realize a future vision for the Royal Pavilion Estate. For updates and news please visit www.brightondome.org