

Press Release



Listening Learning Leading

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FAMOUS FACES FEATURE IN CORNERSTONE'S PACKED AUTUMN PROGRAMME

Comedian Rich Hall and singer-songwriter/actress Hazel O'Connor are among the well-known names lined up for the autumn programme at Cornerstone - South Oxfordshire District Council's new multi-million pound arts and entertainment venue.

The stars will form part of a packed schedule of events at the Didcot venue, which will host everything from live music and stand up comedy acts to a Shakespeare play, opera, ballet and children's puppet show during the next few months.

The programme will kick-off on Friday, August 29 with a performance by the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, which has performed at sell-out concerts across the world and collaborated with the likes of 'Madness' and 'The Kaiser Chiefs'.

It will be followed by a 'welcome weekend' on August 30-31, when the public can look around Cornerstone and enjoy a wide range of entertainment from street theatre and dance demonstrations to dressing up and face painting for children.

Programme highlights in September will include a 'cartoon history of Didcot' by Cartoonist of the Year Tony Husband and poet, broadcaster and comedian Ian McMillan, on September 3. Top guitarist Juan Martin will perform on September 6 and Rich Hall on September 11.

October attractions will include, quite possibly the world's most beautiful voice, Cara Dillon on October 2; a play – 'Oleanna', written by David Mamet – one of the greatest contemporary playwrights - on October 4, and an audience participation musical - Sing-a-long-a Sound of Music on October 17. Hazel O'Connor will perform on October 31.

Comedian Ed Byrne will feature on November 1; while Crossover Dance – a unique company of dancers aged between six and 65 - will take to the stage on November 8. Opera della Luna will perform 'The Mikado' on November 9.

Entertainment in December will include a magical puppet show 'Shoe Baby' for children on 14th, Ben Waters Boogie Woogie Ten-Piece Band on December 18 and 'The Nutcracker' on December 21.

There will also be a variety of classes and workshops for adults and children throughout autumn, with taster sessions starting in September. Classes for adults will include watercolours, machine embroidery and creative writing. Children can try their hand at everything from guitar for beginners to circus skills and ballet.

Cllr Bill Service, Cabinet member with responsibility for leisure, said: “We are very proud to announce this exciting and varied programme of entertainment and activities for the first season at Cornerstone.

“We have gone to great lengths to find out what local people want to see and do at the venue. We hope this schedule offers something for everyone and we look forward to welcoming people to our centre over the next few months.”

Cornerstone comprises a seated (up to 278) auditorium for drama, music, dance and comedy, plus exhibition and studio space, and a café, bar and restaurant.

In addition to attracting top quality, national touring acts, Cornerstone, which is funded by South Oxfordshire District Council, aims to nurture and showcase the best local talent.

For more details on the autumn programme and to book tickets call the Cornerstone box office 01491 823 823.

Notes to Editors: Cornerstone is brought to you by South Oxfordshire District Council.

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