

not for the likes of me commission awarded to Dante or Die

October 2015

Dante or Die set to make theatre for Surrey's Sport & Leisure Centres in 2016

- Dante or Die are the recipients of the **not for the likes of me** commission from Arts Partnership Surrey and Farnham Maltings
- The commission exists to present a tour of a new or extant piece of theatre across the county that has, at its heart, the ambition to reach people who don't normally engage with the arts
- The new production entitled *Take On Me* will be an oddball homage to fitness crazes; the lifestyle, culture and stories of people who regularly use local sports centres.

Dante or Die's *Take on Me* has been selected by a panel as the recipient of not for the likes of me, a £30,000 commission from Arts Partnership Surrey and Farnham Maltings, from over 80 applications. The project, working in collaboration with leisure centres across the county, will begin development in early 2016, with the finished production touring later in the year.

The commission set out to tour a piece of theatre across Surrey that has the ambition to reach people who don't normally engage with the arts. *Take On Me* will be directly inspired by stories of people who use and work in Surrey's leisure centres, created in collaboration with local people by Dante or Die's Artistic Directors Daphna Attias & Terry O'Donovan, alongside playwright Kelly Jones.

Katy Potter of Arts Partnership Surrey noted 'for Arts Partnership Surrey, this project is very much about the unexpected; we hope to thrill, excite, surprise and inspire our surrey communities with something they had never thought theatre could be! We are very happy to be working with Dante Or Die to create, what we are sure will be a memorable celebration and occasion in each of the 7 Surrey locations the tour visits.'

Daphna Attias & Terry O'Donovan – Dante or Die Co Artistic Directors 'We're hugely excited about being awarded the 'not for the likes of me' commission. We're particularly looking forward to collaborating with the people who use these spaces; discovering their experiences and stories to inspire and build the show. From anecdotes to starring roles, we will encourage local people to get involved and create an amazing local touring show that compliments a year of touring our distinctive brand of site specific theatre to non-arts spaces around the country'

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Farnham Maltings

Farnham Maltings is a creative organisation that works with the artists and communities of South East England to encourage the greatest number of people to make, see and enjoy the best art possible. We achieve this by developing and delivering programmes of work that encourage, develop and support artists and audiences, such as *house*, and *caravan*, an initiative to encourage England-based theatre makers to think and work internationally. www.farnhammaltings.com

Arts Partnership Surrey

The Arts Partnership Surrey (APS) is a strategic alliance of eight local authorities, with district, borough and county councils working together to shape & deliver a cultural offering for Surrey that addresses social, economic, learning and health needs.

www.artspartnershipsurrey.org.uk

Dante or Die

Dante or Die creates ambitious and striking theatre that moves audiences, physically and emotionally, through surprising spaces. The company create rewarding audience experiences inspired by contemporary stories and the 'magical in the mundane'. Their shows have strong and clear narratives and are often set in real working spaces, from hotels to department stores to ski lifts. Their projects and engagement programmes invite audiences and participants to experience unpredictable, visceral and poignant theatrical journeys.

www.danteordie.com

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