

PRESS RELEASE

Bell Square free outdoor arts events return on 11 April with an acrobatic aerial hot air balloon spectacle

Bell Square, in the heart of Hounslow Town Centre, will reopen on Saturday 11 April 2015 with a spectacular show that's the first of a programme that will continue every other weekend until the end of the year. The launch event brings back **Dream Engine**, who last year graced the Square with acrobats and giant cone, with a new show **Heliosphere** in which an acrobat uses a hot air balloon to soar and swoop above the crowds.

The programme continues every other weekend, bringing top international and national acts to Hounslow Town Centre, and creating a vibrant space where all are welcome. On **25 April**, **Kamchatka** bring their surreal and engaging street theatre all the way from Barcelona, while on **9 May**, **Stefano di Renzo** tells a story of a man on a journey with acrobatics on a slack rope. **23 May** brings **Akademi** to Bell Square with a showcase of spectacular Kathak dance.



Bell Square is the new cultural hub in Hounslow and London's newest outdoor performance space, unmatched by any other purpose-built space in London. It is a key part of the re-generation plan for Hounslow Town Centre which seeks to deliver a vision of turning Hounslow into a Colourful and Creative place to live, visit and work.

Events take place every other Saturday throughout the year and over 25,000 people saw an event at Bell Square in 2015, more than meeting the ambitious vision for the space in its first year.

The space provides a scale and level of resource that makes it possible to attract stand-out performers and productions from all over Europe, many of which will have had no other exposure in the UK. Performances of this calibre will establish Hounslow as a leading destination for outdoor arts performances in the UK which in turn will attract visitors from all over London.

Bell Square audiences have consistently given exceptionally positive feedback with 'thrilling', 'fantastic' and 'special' being words that frequently crop up. Many comment that it's great to see something different and exciting happening in Hounslow. Many return time and again to see new events.

Bell Square opened with a major event in June 2014 as French outdoor artists **Bilbobasso** took to the square in a fiery, passionate dance theatre piece. Since then, events have been as diverse as circus, dance and shadow theatre, and have come from Turkey, Spain and the UK. Audiences have seen a man balance on top of a pole in **Circ Panic**, a double decker bus turn Bell Square into a pop up ballroom with **Big Dance Bus** and stunning **Giant Tulips** grow far above shoppers' heads in December.

Communities have come together too to make their own events, such as **Winter Lights** where communities from across the borough made an event from scratch that attracted hundreds of people to Bell Square on a cold winter's evening, and **Spellbound** where school children processed through the streets carrying beautiful lanterns of their own making.

Watch out for more great events as they are announced and find out more at www.bellsquarelondon.com

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<http://www.bellsquarelondon.com/#about>

Twitter: @BellSquareLon #bellsquare

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR MAY AND JUNE

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE

11 April : Dream Engine – Heliosphere (12pm, 2pm & 3.30pm)

An aerial show that will enchant and amaze as an acrobat explores the area from a hot air balloon.

25 April : Kamchatka (12pm & 3pm)

Exciting, experimental and interactive street theatre that will open up a dialogue with spectators.

9 May : Stefano di Renzo – On My Way (1pm & 3.30pm)

The journey of a man seeking normality in a new place is told with wit, humour and acrobatics on a slack rope.

23 May : Akademi – Showcase (2pm & 4pm)

A spectacular showcase of classical Kathak dance with a modern edge that'll bring life and colour to Bell Square.

Notes to editors

Watermans

Watermans is the major arts centre in West London. It delivers a high quality programme designed to appeal to all communities incorporating independent cinema, children's theatre, new media arts and more. It also presents an outdoor arts programme and recently opened Bell Square, a new permanent outdoor arts space in Hounslow town centre which will host a regular, year-round programme of events. Watermans delivers an extensive learning and participation programme for young people which offers over 2000 sessions per year with attendances of over 50,000. Programmes are typically focused on creative skills development, raising aspirations and introducing young people to creative employment opportunities.

Watermans is a registered charity and is primarily funded by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation and by London Borough of Hounslow.

www.watermans.org.uk