

Plymouth's spectacular Illuminate light festival is back and bigger than ever!

Plymouth's stunning light festival, Illuminate returns to Royal William Yard, the Barbican and Mount Edgcumbe.

From 5:30 each evening from 28th November to 1st December, the free festival promises immersive visual art, spectacular projections and interactive installations set out across its festival centre, Royal William Yard. New for 2019 Illuminate welcomes you to enjoy additional installations at the Barbican and Mount Edgcumbe Country Park.

Claire Honey, Project Manager for the festival, said: *"In 2018, Illuminate stunned with incredible light installations, interactive artworks and spectacular projections from local, national and international artists. The festival was enjoyed by over 28,000 people across the four days. Now a multi-site festival we're really excited to welcome new artists creating awe-inspiring light art to inspire visitors of all ages."*

Illuminate will open the Mayflower 400 commemorations in November 2019 during Thanksgiving and close them in November 2020. The project is a signature event in the Mayflower 400 programme and connects the partner destinations across the UK and internationally.

Adrian Vinken OBE, Chair Mayflower 400 and Destination Plymouth, said: *"Growing on the back of previous years' festivals Illuminate has become a real highlight in Plymouth's annual events calendar. It's such a special event and we're thrilled that this year it will act as the opening moment of the Mayflower 400 commemorations, not just in Plymouth but across the whole country."*

This year's festival hosts a variety of installations from local, national and international artists. Illuminate is proud to welcome back Spanish artist Xavi Bové, who will headline the 2019 festival with his piece 'Tree of Memory'. The installation will transform the front of Mills Bakery through beautifully poignant projection mapping, into the centrepiece of the Yard.

Also returning to the festival is creative explorer Thomas Voillaume. Voillaume is returning for this year's festival with an even more spectacular humanoid installation 'DIVA'.

Other artists creating installations include ARCAAN Collective, Alison Pym, The Media Workshop, Mike Cobb from Highly Interactive, Illumaphonium Ltd, BLAST ART, Ace Delos Santos, Ada Krzoska, Dan Sumner, Eliza Newman, Maisie Newman & Rowan Evans.

Illuminate is a free event, open to families and people of all ages, which will run for 4 days at Royal William Yard with additional installations at the Barbican and Mount Edgcumbe Country Park.

For more information about Illuminate visit: www.illuminate-festival.co.uk

About Illuminate Light Festival

Illuminate light festival runs from the 28th November - 1st December at Royal William Yard, Plymouth with additional installations at the Barbican and Mount Edgcumbe.

The event is delivered by Made in Plymouth CIC – a collaboration between Real Ideas Organisation, Plymouth College of Art, the University of Plymouth and Plymouth Culture – with support from Plymouth City Council, Mayflower 400 and Urban Splash.

Notes to editors

Real Ideas Organisation

For more information please contact cat.edwards@realideas.org or call Cat Edwards on 07487787760

About RIO

RIO – the Real Ideas Organisation – is a pioneering social enterprise that brings imaginative and ethical business thinking to schools and education, places and regeneration and creative commercial ventures. Based in the south west but with international reach RIO develops and runs its own social enterprises, whilst offering consultancy and strategic programme delivery to a wide variety of clients and funders, from Manchester United Football Club to Arts Council England.

For more information on RIO please visit www.realideas.org

About Mayflower 400 UK

1. Mayflower 400 is the four hundred year commemoration of the voyage of this historic ship, passengers and crew, to America in 1620.
2. Starting with the Illuminate Light Festival between 28 November – 1 December, a year of Mayflower 400 activities will include everything from community events through to major exhibitions, performances and plays with the majority being free for people to attend and enjoy.
3. September 16, 2020 will see a major public commemoration event in Plymouth as part of Mayflower Week and the year will finish with Illuminate 2020.
4. National and International Connections. Prior to the Mayflower's departure from Plymouth, England, Mayflower history was written in many towns and cities - each of them detailed in the Mayflower trail. The trail includes Austerfield, Scrooby & Babworth, Gainsborough, Boston, Immingham, Worcestershire, Chorley, Dorking, Leiden, Holland, Harwich, Rotherhithe, City of London, Southampton, Dartmouth, Plymouth and Plymouth, USA. All of these locations play a collective part in the story of the Mayflower and the people involved.
5. With over 30 million people being able to trace their ancestry to the people on the ship, the Mayflower400 year will involve four nations, Netherlands, UK, USA and the Wampanoag nation.
6. Go to www.mayflower400uk.org for the latest information on events and stories around this landmark year for England.