

Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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NEW EUROPEAN COLLABORATION EXPLORES AND CELEBRATES FREEDOM THROUGH ART

UK cultural development agency **ArtReach** (artreach.biz), is leading an ambitious partnership of European organisations to deliver the EU Creative Europe funded **Voices of Solidarity (VOICES)** project. **VOICES** is a new artistic collaboration that explores and celebrates freedom, providing a voice for those who go unheard.

Partners with **ArtReach** are the major street arts festival **altonale** (Hamburg, Germany), children's museum **Explora - Il Museo Dei Bambini di Roma** (Rome, Italy), community development agency **CESIE** (Palermo, Italy) and international theatre and Festival organisation **Teatrul National Radu Stanca** (Sibiu, Romania).

VOICES comprise:

- **Four new commissions of site specific outdoor theatre** created in each of the UK, Germany, Italy and Romania, and presented together in each partner country. ArtReach has committed the UK commission to Parrabbola, who will be creating *Wheeze – The Wind of Change* with UK performances in London (July) and Leicester (26 August).
- **Five processional performance events** created and delivered in each of Palermo, Hamburg, London and Leicester. The events will involve hundreds of local people and newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers in each location, creating a colourful parade, based on the theme of "*Welcome*".

The two elements of the project will maximise engagement of audiences by being performed free in public spaces. **VOICES** will be presented in the spring to autumn 2018 (Please see Timeline below).

David Hill, Director of **ArtReach** said “**VOICES** is a further development of our inspiring European partnership work, exploring new artistic collaboration and with a strong element of audience development including the integration of refugees and asylum seekers.”

ENDS

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VOICES TIMELINE:

Host location	Dates
Explora, Rome	20-22 April
Sibiu International Theatre Festival	8-17 June
STAMP Festival, Hamburg	1-3 June
CESIE, Palermo	6-8 July (Dates TBC)
Night of Festivals, London	21-22 July (Dates TBC)
Journeys Festival International, Leicester	13-26 August

EDITORS NOTES

ArtReach

ArtReach (www.artreach.biz) is a dynamic cultural development agency and creative producer with a twenty year track record of helping to drive and support high quality arts initiatives. **ArtReach** makes great art possible and accessible, connecting art with grass roots and diverse communities to forge creative engagement. Founded by current Director, David Hill, **ArtReach** is based in Leicester and works across the UK and internationally. **ArtReach** delivers festivals, performance commissions, public art, capital arts projects, strategic development and organisational support to the arts.

In 2017, **ArtReach** delivered Journeys Festival International (www.journeysfestival.com) in three UK cities with specific activity delivered through the JOURNEYS European project to Rome, Palermo, Hamburg and Budapest, funded by Creative Europe. **ArtReach** also produces Night of Festivals (www.nightoffestivals.com) and presented Night of Festivals in Hounslow and a special Night of Festivals South Asia in Leicester, August 2017.

In 2018, **ArtReach** will become one of Arts Council England’s National Portfolio Organisation (2018 – 2022). **ArtReach** will continue to deliver Journeys Festival International to three UK cities and Night of Festivals in Hounslow and a special edition in London in July 2018. Both Festivals will incorporate the VOICES of Solidarity European project.

altonale

The **altonale** (altonale.de) GmbH is a non-profit cultural organization with the aim to make visible the local and international diversity in the district, to promote the mutual acceptance as well as to develop sustainable and open networks for art and culture.

The events of the altonale GmbH with the altonale (Northern Germany's largest cultural and district festival), the international street art festival STAMP and the art and design gift market annually visit more than 700,000 people. With the participation of the 38 shareholders, altonale GmbH has established itself as a solid player in Hamburg's cultural landscape. Every year, around 2,000 artists, 180 organizations and numerous business people and companies put on an extraordinary cultural program from the district for the district and far beyond.

The festivals of altonale GmbH combine the local anchoring in the district with international orientation. Annually changing partner cities and numerous artists from all over the world enrich the festivals of the altonale GmbH. Bringing culture to unusual places, creating low-threshold offers and offering highquality culture - this combination of street festival, cultural program and art make the altonale GmbH's festivals unique.

Explora - Il Museo Dei Bambini di Roma

Established in 1998, Explora (<https://www.mabr.it/>) is registered with the Chamber of Commerce, the Register of Social Cooperatives and managed by Museum of Children Social Cooperative Society Onlus.

It is a non-profit cooperative, with a majority of women, born with the aim of creating and managing this particular permanent structure dedicated to children, schools and families. Explora's mission:

- to encourage and help the natural desire for learning that is in every child with stimulating and entertaining proposals and exhibitions for the different age groups. ☒
- offer parents and children the opportunity to live together this particular and fascinating experience, which will allow the child to grow up and the adult to be a child; ☒
- offer to the teachers and the school rich, innovative, non-disciplinary experiences, on which one can continue to work in class; ☒
- to raise awareness and positive attitudes towards cultural interaction, cooperation, respect for others and for the environment in children and their carers; ☒
- to bring children and adults closer to the topics of science and research, promoting culture, knowledge and new technologies.

CESIE

CESIE is a non-governmental organisation, established in 2001, inspired by the work and theories of the Italian sociologist Danilo Dolci (1924-1997).

CESIE works primarily in one of the most disadvantaged zones in the historical centre of Palermo (Sicily) and, among other activities, implements socio-cultural actions to include refugees, asylum seekers, settled immigrants, people with disabilities, women, people who are socially or culturally marginalized. It is committed to stimulating development and change in cultural, educational and economic spheres through the creation and use of innovative tools and methods. Active learning as one of the working approaches of CESIE is supported by the use of primarily non-formal methods: Reciprocal Maieutic Approach, Creative Thinking, Theatre of the Oppressed, plus dance and other artistic and creative techniques

Teatrul National Radu Stanca

The "Radu Stanca" National Theater (<http://www.tnrs.ro>) has created, together with the International Theater Festival, the Sibiu Spectacle Show (the only one in Central and South-Eastern Europe), the theater school of "Lucian Blaga" University Sibiu and the cultural management school in

Sibiu within the same university, becoming one of the most important platforms for creativity, dialogue and mobility of artists around the world.

Responding to all the contemporary challenges, the performances of the "Radu Stanca" National Theater are trying to capture the diversity of trends in performing arts, starting from tradition, word and image, and reaching performances, theater, dance, music, etc.

Partners:



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