

Moving Minds VI: POWER to the PEOPLE

SCOTTISH MENTAL HEALTH ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL MOVING MINDS ON OPENING DAY

DIVERSITY in Glasgow's community will be celebrated today when one of Scotland's most iconic buildings will be transformed into a Tai Chi studio, hip hop venue and fashion show to mark the beginning of the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival 2014.

In partnership with VoX Scotland, SMHAFF will take over Kelvingrove Museum for a day of music, theatre, film screenings and workshops to open what has become one of the largest social justice festivals in the world.

There will be a number of film screenings, including the opportunity to speak to original Glasgow Girl Amal Azzudin following a special screening of Glasgow Girls; a BBC drama based on the true-life story of a group of school girls who changed the legal system while rescuing a friend caught in an immigration nightmare.

Emma Jayne Park will present excerpts from Status Anxiety & Thinking in the First Person; a physical, witty, entertaining hip hop performance exploring who we become when hidden behind a computer screen.

Maryhill Integration Network will set up a runway down the middle of the main hall for a fashion and dance show, where traditional Eastern and Western fashion will come together in a fusion of colour, and the Ho Wo Tai Chi Association will present a Fan Dance before running an open Tai Chi workshop.

There will also be a performance from Maryhill Integration Network's all-female Joyous Choir, song from Malawi, and various writing, storytelling, music and arts workshops throughout the day.

Now in its 8th year, the festival has over 300 events staged across Scotland, which will explore the theme of power.

The theatre, film, literature and music programmes will explore the nature of personal, political and social power as well as the disempowerment associated with mental ill health and the empowerment gained through the arts.

Festival Director Lee Knifton said

"Our festival was founded upon the belief that arts and film have the power to raise awareness of social injustice and to stimulate change. The result is a compelling programme which we hope will challenge, inspire and entertain."

The Moving Minds event will be followed by the Festival's opening party at Sparkle Horse featuring a music selection exploring the theme of power selected by BMX Bandit's Douglas T Stewart and live performances from Shambles Miller and Adam Ross (Randolph's Leap).

-Ends-

To arrange interviews, images and media tickets for the launch or any other Festival event, please contact Clare McBrien, Communications officer, via SMHAFFMedia@mentalhealth.org.uk, 0141 226 9846 or 07824 776 030. For more information please visit www.mhfestival.com.

Editor's Notes:

1) ABOUT SMHAFF: Now in its eighth year, the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival is one of Scotland's most striking and provocative cultural events, encompassing music, film, visual art, theatre, dance, and literature. The annual Festival takes place in venues across Scotland throughout October, aiming to support the arts and challenge preconceived ideas about mental health. By engaging artists, connecting with communities and forming collaborations, the Festival celebrates the artistic achievements of people with experience of mental health issues, exploring the relationship between creativity and the mind, and promotes positive mental health and well-being.

2) VOX is a National Mental Health Service User Led organisation, we work in partnership with mental health and related services to ensure that service users get every opportunity to contribute positively to changes in the services that serve them and wider society.

3) The MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION is a leading UK mental health charity that conducts robust research, provides practical solutions to help everyone lead mentally healthier lives, and works to raise public awareness and improve mental health services for the entire population. The Foundation is proud of the vital role it plays in hosting, developing and managing the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival www.mentalhealth.org.uk