

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

CRYPTIC CELEBRATE BUMPER YEAR AND LOOK FORWARD TO 2017

THE GLASGOW-BASED COMPANY PRESENTED 11 PROJECTS IN 17 CITIES ACROSS 8 COUNTRIES TO OVER 30,000 PEOPLE

CRYPTIC'S UNIQUE SUPPORT OF SCOTTISH-BASED ARTISTS SAW MARK LYKEN'S PIONEERING SONIC AND VISUAL WORK *OSCILLON RESPONSE* IN TAIWAN AND ROBBIE THOMSON'S ELECTRIFYING *XFRMR* IN MEXICO AND INDONESIA

KATHY HINDE'S *LUMINOUS BIRDS* TOOK FLIGHT ACROSS SCOTLAND AND A SERIES OF CRYPTIC NIGHTS FEATURED EVERYTHING FROM A PACK OF AFGHAN HOUNDS TO A 360 DEGREE IMMERSIVE WORK IN GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE'S PLANETARIUM

2017 WILL SEE NEW COMMISSION *SHORELINES*, A MUSIC-THEATRE WORK EXPLORING THE BEAUTIFUL AND CATASTROPHIC POWER OF THE SEA AND THE RETURN OF MAJOR GLASGOW-WIDE SONIC ARTS FESTIVAL, SONICA

Glasgow-based Cryptic is celebrating a bumper year of events, as it toasts 11 projects presented in 17 cities across 8 countries, from Indonesia to Wales, and Australia to France, reaching over 30,000 people.

The company - which prides itself in nurturing Scottish-based artists - has seen Robbie Thomson's electrifying visual music event *XFRMR*, which uses technology to conduct a caged tesla coil, performed at the Mexican Centre for Performing Arts in Morelia and The Substation in Newport, Australia as part of Melbourne Festival and Mark Lyken's sonic and visual responses to pioneering electronic artist Ben F. Laposky, *Oscillon Response* at the OnSite Artfest in Taiwan.

The Alexander Kasser Theater in New Jersey hosted the World Premiere of "*See you later*", conceived and directed by Cryptic's Artistic Director Cathie Boyd. Inspired by recently deceased Eduardo Galeano's writings, including, "*History never really says goodbye. History says, 'See you later'*", this emotionally staged music performance explored the juxtaposition of power, truth, corruption and desperation through the contrasting work of composers Peter Garland, David T. Little and Gavin Bryars. "*See you later*" was performed by Chicago's Third Coast Percussion, with stunning visuals by Laura Colmenares Guerra.

Closer to home, Cryptic have brought Kathy Hinde's flocks of animated *Luminous Birds* to skies across Scotland and have presented five packed-out Cryptic Nights, one-off works from emerging multi-discipline artists, including Anna Lucia Nissen's eerily life-like pack of Afghan hound sculptures in *Therefore 2* and *Remote Sense*, Jonny Knox and Darien Brito's immersive 360 degree takeover of Glasgow Science Centre's new state-of-the-art digital planetarium which saw extra performances added due to public demand.

2017 looks set to be an equally packed year, with confirmed projects including *The Same Hillside*, a new Cryptic Nights event from artist John Wallace exploring the tiny area where three of Scotland's mightiest rivers begin, and the world premiere at Operadagen, Rotterdam on 19 May of new Cryptic commission *Shorelines*, composed by Oliver Coates, directed by Josh Armstrong and performed by the Ragazze Quartet. Inspired by the North Sea Flood of 1953 - which left the Netherlands devastated and took many lives in the UK and Belgium - this new music-theatre work explores the beauty and catastrophic power of the sea at a time of increased risk from climate change.

2017 also sees the return of Sonica, Cryptic's major biennial festival of visual sonic art, showcasing emerging British talent alongside exceptional international artists from over ten countries. Between 26 October and 5 November, unforgettable installations and performances will appear at an eclectic range of locations throughout Glasgow - previous venues have included mausoleums to factories and disused swimming pools. The full programme will be announced in Spring 2017.

“After a very successful year, which has seen Cryptic present 11 projects in 17 cities across 8 countries to audiences of over 30,000, 2016 has seen many new exciting partnerships develop in Australia, Indonesia and Mexico” says Artistic Director, Cathie Boyd. **“We look forward to 2017 and returning with our ten-day biennial festival, Sonica, Glasgow-wide in the autumn. Please join us for our 23rd year of ‘ravishing the senses’.”**

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About Cryptic

Cryptic presents today’s most imaginative, innovative artists whilst also nurturing the creative talent of tomorrow. We create memorable experiences that engage and inspire our audiences. Cryptic *‘ravishes the senses’* with multi-media performances that fuse music, sonic and visual art.

Founded by Cathie Boyd in 1994, the company thrives on artistic innovation and creative risk-taking, which has subsequently created an environment where artists have been encouraged to push artistic boundaries.

To date, Cryptic has presented over 160 productions (including 37 world premieres), which have been seen in 27 countries. www.cryptic.org.uk



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