

28 June – 2 July 2023

Arts & Culture
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Ports Fest



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Festival Highlights



An Evening with Brian Bilston

28 JUNE 19:00-21:30
Groundlings Theatre, 42 Kent St, PO1 3BS

Age Guidance +11
£15/13 Concessions

Brian Bilston has been described as the Banksy of poetry and Twitter's unofficial Poet Laureate. With over 400,000 followers on social media, he has become truly beloved by the online community. As part of his brand-new show Brian will perform poetry from his latest collection - *Days Like These: An Alternative Guide to the Year in 366 poems*. He will also read some best-loved pieces from: *You Took the Last Bus Home*; the Costa-shortlisted novel, *Diary of a Somebody*; and *Alexa, what is there to know about love*. A rare chance to see this literary enigma live and at the top of his game.



The Crow House

1 JULY 13:00 & 15:00
Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth PO1 3TZ

Free entry.

A derelict house. The middle of a street. In a battle of wills and skills, three diverse characters appear and try to gain a room inside.

In a choreographed frenzy of acrobatics, silks trapeze, hat juggling, and slap stick they transform the battered house into a home. There's only one problem... A furiously territorial bird who has taken up residence in the chimney.

This eclectic mix of circus, puppetry, music and audience participation is a wonderful, silent-movie-inspired show from Circo Rum Ba Ba. Not to be missed.

Portsmouth Keys: An Evening with Harry the Piano

29 JUNE
19:00-19:20 (pre-concert talk)
19:30-21:15

New Theatre Royal, 20-24 Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth, PO1 2DD

£18/£15 concessions

An evening of music and improvisation with the extraordinarily talented Harry the Piano, whose breath-taking creativity has earned him the reputation as one of the most gifted improvising pianists in the world. Spontaneously reinventing Michael Jackson in the style of Mozart, recreate a night at the Groucho club through the TV themes of its actor members, and improvise a medley of audience requests ranging from James Bond to Shostakovich via West Side Story.

And don't forget you can learn all about the World of Concert Pianos in our pre-concert talk.



Ignite The Phoenix

28 JUNE - 2 JULY
Various Locations – See Festival Diary and Website

Free Ticket Required

During Ports Fest 432-Nomads will be taking you on a journey. An eclectic collective of local artists from all walks of life (Pompey born and bred to the one's here taking a new step, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers brought together with support from local schools), they come together to bring you, vibrant and expressive art, music, dance, poetry and more. Showcasing the talent within Portsmouth city. To believe in ourselves we must believe in others.



Kate Mosse's The Ship of the Dead Motion Comic World Premiere

30 JUNE
19:00-20:30
SH9, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard,
Victory Gate, HM Naval Base, PO1 3LJ

Tickets £8 (to include drink on entry)

Exclusive to Ports Fest and personally narrated by Kate Mosse OBE! Don't miss this world premiere of the motion comic adaptation of *The Ship of the Dead*. This classic ghost story has been reimaged by a local team of internationally celebrated creatives, including acclaimed author, Greg Mosse (*The Coming Darkness*), comic book legend Andy Lanning (Marvel, DC) and Emmy-nominated Producer, Lou Doye (David Attenborough's *Kingdom of Plants*). The team will share insights into how they created an adaptation fit to terrify a new generation.



Welcome to Ports Fest 2023

So glad to be back with another summer programme.

This year the Ignite theme gathers even more momentum, offering a multitude of experiences for young people, showcasing some outstanding emerging talent, and connecting our community in the joy of shared cultural encounters.

We hope this year's Ports Fest ignites your cultural appetite and look forward to seeing you there.

Festival Event Key:

- Art/Exhibition
- Dance
- Film
- Food
- Gaming
- Multimedia Presentation
- Music
- Reading
- Talk
- Theatre





Mardi Gras presents: Ignite

29 JUNE 18:00-19:30

Governor's Green, Pembroke Road, Southsea (starting point)

Free entry. (See website for the full route map of the parade)

Join hundreds of young people from schools and youth groups parading to the theme of *Ignite*. This explosive event is the culmination of a Mardi Gras project supported by Arts Council England working in partnership with leading experts from the New Carnival Company who have been developing the personal creativity of young people, teachers, and youth group leaders.

*A quiet zone will be available for anyone with sensory needs or young families wanting a full but 'noise-free' experience. See website.



Portsmouth Keys

28 JUNE - 2 JULY

Every day, see diary and website for more details.

Portsmouth Keys is a project with multiple events and workshops which all centre around our connection with the piano. There will be pianos in locations around the city for the public to go along and use and listen to others. Other events include an evening of music and improvisation with Harry the Piano.



Wednesday 28 June

Portsmouth Keys:

Online – All Day. Link via website.

Pianos for the People

International Port, PO2 8SP, Cascades, PO1 4RL, Historic dockyard, PO1 3LJ
8:00-18:00

Group Show

Aspex Gallery, PO1 3BF
11:00-16:00

Not for Sale

Jack House Gallery, PO1 2HW
12:00-16:00

Thursday 29 June

Portsmouth Keys:

Online – All Day. Link via website.

Pianos for the People

International Port, PO2 8SP, Cascades, PO1 4RL, Historic dockyard, PO1 3LJ
8:00-18:00

Group Show

Aspex Gallery, PO1 3BF
11:00-16:00

Not for Sale

Jack House Gallery, PO1 2HW
12:00-16:00

Mardi Gras presents: Ignite

Governors Green (start), PO1 2NJ
18:00-19:30

Friday 30 June

Portsmouth Keys:

Online – All Day. Link via website.

Pianos for the People

International Port, PO2 8SP, Cascades, PO1 4RL, Historic dockyard, PO1 3LJ
8:00-18:00

Group Show

Aspex Gallery, PO1 3BF
11:00-16:00

Lunchtime Brass Band

Central square Gunwharf, PO1 3TZ
12:00-13:30

Not for Sale

Jack House Gallery, PO1 2HW
12:00-16:00

Louise Morrish

Portsmouth High School, PO5 3EQ
19:00

Coast of Teeth

Eldon Building, PO5 4BG
19:00-20:30

NourishEd

Mayfield School, PO2 0RH
16:00-17:00 and 17:30-18:30

Portsmouth Keys: Piano in Focus

PGS Rotunda, PO1 2LN
19:00-21:30

An evening with Brian Bilston

Groundlings Theatre, PO1 3BS
19:00-21:30

Ignite the Phoenix: Re-birth

The Loft, PO5 2SE
19:00-21:00

Calendar Girls The Musical

Kings Theatre, PO5 2QJ
19:30-22:00

The Ballad of Jack & Poll

White Swan Building, PO1 2DT
19:30-20:30

Portsmouth Keys: Harry the Piano

New Theatre Royal, PO1 2DD
19:30-21:15

Calendar Girls The Musical

Kings Theatre, PO5 2QJ
19:30-22:00

Ignite the Phoenix: Warmth

The Royal Albert, PO5 2SQ
20:00-22:00

Ship of the Dead preview

Historic Dockyard, PO1 3LJ
19:00-20:30

Portsmouth Keys: Fabio & Alanna Freedom Concert

PGS Rotunda, PO1 2LN
19:00-21:00

Ignite the Phoenix: Strength

Bold Forester, PO4 0JW
19:00-21:00

The Book of the Old Benny Ghost Stories

Groundlings Theatre, PO1 3BS
19:30

The Tempest

Portchester Castle, PO16 9QW
19:30-22:00

Calendar Girls The Musical

Kings Theatre, PO5 2QJ
19:30-22:00

Saturday 1 July

Portsmouth Keys:

Online – All Day. Link via website.

Pianos for the People

International Port, PO2 8SP, Cascades, PO1 4RL, Historic dockyard, PO1 3LJ
8:00-18:00

A Place Between

Guildhall Studios, PO1 2AB
10:00-12:00 and 13:30-15:00

Over the Wall

Hilsea LIDO, PO2 9RP
10:00-17:00

Zine Making with Russell Olson

Lord Mayors Banqueting Room. The Guildhall, PO1 2AB
11:00-12:00 / 13:00-14:00 / 15:00-16:00

Group Show

Aspex Gallery, PO1 3BF
11:00-16:00

Open Studios

Art Space, PO5 4PA
11:00-16:00

Ship of the Dead (screenings)

Historic Dockyard, PO1 3LJ
11:00-16:30

Sunday 2 July

Portsmouth Keys:

Online – All Day. Link via website.

Pianos for the People

International Port, PO2 8SP, Cascades, PO1 4RL, Historic dockyard, PO1 3LJ
8:00-18:00

Over the Wall

Hilsea LIDO, PO2 9RP
10:00-17:00

Ignite the Phoenix: Regeneration

Gunwharf Quays, PO1 3TZ
11:00-15:00

The Power of the Beat

Aspex Gallery, PO1 3BF
11:00-13:00 and 13:30-16:00

Ship of the Dead (screenings)

Historic Dockyard, PO1 3LJ
11:00-16:30

Group Show

Aspex Gallery
11:00-16:00

Taste of Pompey

John Pounds Centre, PO1 3HN
11:00-13:00

Ignite the Phoenix: Ashes

Coastguard Studios, PO4 0SA
12:00-14:00

Thomas Nash Recital

Round Tower, PO1 2JE
12:00-13:00

Not for Sale

Jack House Gallery, PO1 2HW
12:00-16:00

The Crow House

Gunwharf Quays, PO1 3TZ
13:00 and 15:00

Calendar Girls The Musical

Kings Theatre, PO5 2QJ
19:30-22:00

VJ in a Day Showcase

The Lens, PO1 2AB
19:00-22:00

The Tempest

Portchester Castle, PO16 9QW
19:30-22:00

Open Studios

Art Space, PO5 4PA
11:00-16:00

Taste of Pompey

Eastney Community Centre, PO4 9SU
11:30-13:30

Not for Sale

Jack House Gallery, PO1 2HW
12:00-16:00

The Book of the Old Benny Ghost Stories

Groundlings Theatre, PO1 3BS
15:00

The Volcano

Isambard Brunel Carpark, PO1 2BX
18:00-19:00

The Tempest

Portchester Castle, PO16 9QW
19:30-22:00

Ignite the Phoenix: Finale event

Wedgewood Rooms, PO4 0JW
19:00-21:30



Multi Story Orchestra – The Volcano

2 JULY 18:00-19:00

Isambard Brunel Car Park (Level 6), Alec Rose Ln, PO1 2BX

£12/£10 concessions

With beats bouncing off concrete car park walls, this celebration of all things percussion is a truly unmissable eruption of sound. From lava and surging to eruption and ash, this Multi-Story Orchestra performance tells the story of the life of the volcano, through an amassed percussion and vocal ensemble.

The Volcano combines the music of Philip Glass and Nebojsa Zivkovic with completely new pieces created and improvised in the performance, and featuring incredible young, local musicians.

Ports Fest is delighted to extend another warm welcome to the MSO in their second year of working in partnership on a programme of school workshops and music traineeship.



The Tempest

30 JUNE, 1 JULY & 2 JULY

19:30-22:00 (DOORS OPEN 19:00; INTERVAL 20:15)

Portchester Castle (Inner Bailey), Church Lane, PO16 9QW

£18/£16.50 Concessions

After the sell-out run of Macbeth at the Castle last year, The Theatre of Dark Encounters return with a magical re-imagining of this story about love and redemption.

On a remote island, Prospero and his daughter watch from their home in a ruined castle, as a ship is wrecked in the harbour; but this is no accident, and this is no ordinary island. As the survivors come to discover, magic does exist and those we think we have successfully cast out, may just be biding their time...

Shipwrecks, sorcerers and surprises; Shakespeare's final play is an enthralling voyage of reckoning and redemption set in the magical setting of Portchester Castle. As you settle with your picnics in the Inner Bailey, and the sun sets behind the castle walls, the magic within is revealed.

This event is outdoors. Doors open at 19:00 and the audience is required to bring blankets/seating for within the Inner Bailey. Toilets available both on site and in the car park.