

ALDEBURGH INTERNATIONAL

Presents:

ALIVE in the UNIVERSE

For the Venice Biennale 2019

ALIVE in the UNIVERSE invites every single person around the world to join together in an exhilarating world-wide project. Each one of us is invited to make a short (2 – 3 minute) art-film expressing how it feels to be alive in the universe.

We take our brief from Einstein. During 2018, ALDEBURGH INTERNATIONAL hosts **Einstein on Aldeburgh Beach** when, throughout the year, we study this great thinker whose insights penetrated every aspect of the universe including philosophy, creativity and religion, as well as science, for which he is best known.

As Einstein realised, the wonder of human existence as part of one universal whole, can and must be examined both as science (through logic) and as art (through the subconscious). This is why ALIVE in the UNIVERSE uses art-films as an accessible and highly engaging 21st century tool for each of us to explore our own existence. For nearly everyone from every country around the world possesses (or has access to) a mobile phone with which they can take and edit (with help) film footage, and be shown how to turn it into their own unique work of art.

The big questions concerning human existence are particularly pertinent to Aldeburgh as the hub for ALIVE in the UNIVERSE is an old lookout tower which stands on the bleak and beautiful beach, which prompted the composer Benjamin Britten and the writer E M Forster to ask each other “what is my emotional explanation of the universe?”, for they knew they

had to find it for themselves. During their lives they each explored this timeless mystery in their own original, creative ways through music and through literature.

Venice is the perfect place to screen ALIVE in the UNIVERSE, for Aldeburgh and Venice share a spirituality which arises from their intimacy with that wild and fathomless force of nature, the sea. For this reason, Benjamin Britten loved Venice as he loved Aldeburgh and his final masterpiece was the opera *Death in Venice*, with his life-long friend Peter Pears singing the lead role. The Venice Biennale is the centre for the international art world and ALDEBURGH INTERNATIONAL has the opportunity to present ALIVE in the UNIVERSE there as part of the 2019 Biennale.

As well as being fun and life enhancing, ALIVE in the UNIVERSE has a serious and profound purpose. The project is empowering because it attracts all of us who might not realise that we each have the ability to transform our unique creative energy into something to benefit humanity. ("ZEZ" is the new word to easily describe this essential evolutionary skill). The personal confidence we each gain through presenting our own art-film permits us to further activate our unique creativity and apply it to other areas of our lives - for creativity is not confined to the arts, it is the ultimate source of all human progress. Human creativity, as Einstein understood, is fundamental to human flourishing and is the most fruitful untapped resource the world has. ALIVE in the UNIVERSE demonstrates the power of art as a tool for human beings to share our sense of humanity and to bond communities divided into national, religious or social groups. It can help us unite humankind, as we each become a unique participant in one creative universe.

Every single ALIVE IN THE UNIVERSE art-film will be screened at **art-films on Aldeburgh Beach (a-fAB)** at the Aldeburgh Beach Lookout throughout 2018 and at the Aldeburgh Carnival, August 2018.

Shortlisted art-films will be screened at the Venice Biennale from May to November 2019.

Each ALIVE IN THE UNIVERSE art-film may be created by an individual or by a collaboration. Whether made by seasoned film makers or by those who have never made a film before in

their lives, the standard will be high; and so the Aldeburgh Academy will be available to tutor groups and individuals in film making, both personally and online.

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