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Nobel Prize winning cosmologist Brian Schmidt, Academy Award nominated filmmaker Darren Aronofsky and Chelsea Clinton among contributors announced for Our Place Festival

Major names across science, film, music and the arts will take part in a week-long festival in Belfast this summer

Our Place in Space has announced a packed programme of free events taking place at venues across Belfast from 27 June – 3 July, including Nobel Prize winner Brian Schmidt, global health advocate Chelsea Clinton, Academy Award nominated filmmaker Darren Aronofsky and electronic producer and DJ David Holmes.

Planned to coincide with the Our Place in Space sculpture trail at Divis and the Black Mountain, the Our Place Festival will see leading names from across science, music, film and the arts converge on Belfast for a celebration of creativity.

Our Place in Space is part of UNBOXED: Creativity, and is a unique collaboration across art, science and technology – an epic scale model of the solar system designed by artist and children’s author Oliver Jeffers, incorporating a 10km three-dimensional sculpture trail. The project also includes an interactive AR app, and major learning and events programmes.

Highlights from the festival include **Space is the Place**, an evening of electronic music at Banana Block curated by **David Holmes** and featuring performances by **Space Dimension Controller, Die Hexen** and **Chris Frieze**; award-winning filmmaker **Darren Aronofsky** in conversation at the QFT; Nobel Prize winning cosmologist and discoverer of dark energy **Professor Brian Schmidt** with Professor **Professor Lucie Green**; an evening with acclaimed graphic designer **Stefan Sagmeister** at The MAC; and a **takeover of the Ulster Museum** by the Nerve Centre’s Reimagine Remake Replay project.

Other events taking place throughout the festival include a film programme in partnership with **Docs Ireland**, a live performance art event with **Mac Premo**, a series of **astrophysics talks with Queen’s University, Belfast**, a special screening of **Oliver Jeffers’ Here We Are** at The Strand Cinema, and a collaboration with the **Tenx9 storytelling programme** at the Black Box.

Away from the city, Divis and the Black Mountain will host a special event to mark the summer solstice on 21 June with **an evening of sound, film and performance** and visitors to the sculpture trail will be able to take part in **nature walks and nature circus performances**.



Outgoing Belfast Lord Mayor, Councillor Michael Long said: “We’re excited to have commissioned such an eclectic programme of cultural events for the city this summer, including some world class speakers and home grown talent like Belfast artist Oliver Jeffers and Belfast music producer David Holmes, who have achieved global acclaim. This fusion of art and science is bound to be both inspiring and entertaining and will encourage us all to explore our place in the world – and the universe – in new and enriching ways.”

David Lewis, Executive Producer with Our Place in Space, said: “Our Place in Space is engaging people in the worlds of science, technology, engineering, maths and the arts. The Our Place Festival brings iconic names from across the world to Belfast and champions the use of creativity to explore the universe and our place in it. We’re excited to work with Oliver Jeffers to programme a festival that will hopefully spark new insights and perspectives for everyone who takes part.”

Our Place in Space is Northern Ireland’s project for UNBOXED: Creativity, and commissioned by Belfast City Council. The team behind the project is led by the Nerve Centre and includes artists Oliver Jeffers and Die Hexen, award-winning scientist Professor Stephen Smartt from the Astrophysics Research Centre at Queen’s University Belfast, as well as National Museums NI, NI Science Festival, Big Motive, Taunt, Microsoft, Dumbworld and Live Music Now.

Our Place in Space sculpture trail launches at Divis and the Black Mountain in Belfast on 11 June, Cambridge in July and finally moves to the Ulster Transport Museum and North Down coastal path in September.

For more information on the sculpture trail and the Our Place Festival, visit www.ourplaceinspace.earth

The full events listings announced are:

Solstice Solar Gazing

Divis and the Black Mountain

Tuesday 21 June, 7.30pm

Join the Irish Astronomical Association to look through their special solar telescopes and get a glimpse at the surface of the sun – sun spots and all.

Summer Solstice at Divis

Divis and the Black Mountain

Tuesday 21 June, 9pm - 12am

A curated screening of film exploring space and our place in it will be accompanied by live sound performances, dance and drumming as the longest day of the year draws to a close.

Here We Are Film Screening

The Strand Cinema

Thursday 28 June, 7pm



Join Oliver Jeffers for a special screening of *Here We Are*, an animated film based on his best selling book of the same name.

Tenx9

The Black Box

Wednesday 29 June, 7.30pm

Tenx9 is a Belfast born storytelling event where nine people have up to ten minutes each to tell a true story from their own life and June's event will be themed to Our Place.

Apollo 11 Film Screening

Ulster Museum

Thursday 30 June, 3pm

Introduced by Oliver Jeffers join a family friendly screening of *Apollo 11*, telling the story of the 1969 moon landing through archival footage.

Darren Aronofsky in Conversation

Queen's Film Theatre

Thursday 30 June, 8.30pm

Academy Award-nominated Darren Aronofsky will be in conversation with Joan Parsons, Head of the QFT, discussing his career and recent ten-part series *One Strange Rock*, which explores the fragility of planet Earth.

Stefan Sagmeister in Conversation with Rebecca Walsh

The Mac

Friday 1 July, 6pm

Critically acclaimed graphic designer Stefan Sagmeister, who has worked with clients as varied as The Rolling Stones and the Guggenheim Museum, will discuss his practice and new exhibition, *Beautiful Numbers*, with Rebecca Walsh from Big Motive.

Museum Takeover with Reimagine Remake Replay

Ulster Museum

Friday 1 July, 7pm - 11pm

A group of youth participants will take over the Ulster Museum, programming an evening of after-hours entertainment featuring music, performance and a host of creative activities. The takeover coincides with a major new exhibition co-curated by young people.

From the Sun to Dark Energy with Lucie Green and Brian Schmidt

Ulster Hall

Saturday 2 July, 1pm

Nobel Laureate Brian Schmidt and solar physicist Lucie Green take a tour of the universe, starting at the sun and expanding into dark matter.

Play Ball at City Hall with Mac Premo

Belfast City Hall

Saturday 2 July, 3pm



Join artist Mac Premo as he creates a unique piece of participatory art around Belfast City Hall.

Space is the Place
Banana Block, Portview
Saturday 2 July, 10pm

Acclaimed Producer and DJ David Holmes returns to his native city of Belfast for *Space is the Place*, an evening of music and performance at Banana Block in East Belfast with artists including Space Dimension Controller, Die Hexen, Chris Frieze and Ruth Bate.

Meteorite Exhibition
Ulster Museum
14 June - September

A new exhibition at the Ulster Museum will display some of the most extraordinary meteorites ever to have fallen to Earth.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

[Our Place in Space](#) is an epic scale model of the solar system designed by artist and children's author Oliver Jeffers, incorporating a 10km three-dimensional sculpture trail in Northern Ireland and Cambridge, an interactive AR app, and major learning and events programmes. From creating a star to writing a symphony for the universe, inventing a new form of transport, building a Minecraft planet or connecting with space watchers around the globe, *Our Place in Space* invites participants to consider how we might better share and protect our planet in future. It brings our solar system down to Earth and sends us soaring into the stars to find new perspectives and reconsider what it means to live life on Earth.

[UNBOXED: Creativity](#) is a celebration of creativity taking place across the UK in 2022, designed to reach millions and bring people together. It features free large-scale events, installations and globally accessible digital experiences in the UK's most ambitious showcase of creative collaboration. Produced by some of the brightest minds in science, technology, engineering, arts and maths, UNBOXED features ten major multi-site and digital creative projects that share new ideas and possibilities for the future. Events and activities take place from 1 March to 2 October 2022 – from the Outer Hebrides to Dover and from Omagh to Swansea, and across traditional and online media. UNBOXED: Creativity is funded and supported by the four governments of the UK and is commissioned and delivered in partnership with Belfast City Council, Creative Wales and EventScotland.

[Oliver Jeffers](#) is a visual artist and author working in painting, bookmaking, illustration, collage, performance, and sculpture. Curiosity and humour are underlying themes throughout Jeffers' practice as an artist and storyteller. While investigating the ways the human mind understands its world, his work also functions as comic relief in the face of



futility. Jeffers' engagements and practice are truly international in scope. His critically acclaimed picture books have been translated into over fifty languages and sold over 14 million copies worldwide. His original artwork has been exhibited at such institutions as the Brooklyn Museum in New York, the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin, the National Portrait Gallery in London, and the Palais Auersperg in Vienna. Jeffers has been the recipient of numerous awards, including a New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books Award, Bologna Rigazzi Award, An Irish Book Award, and a United Kingdom Literary Association Award. Oliver grew up in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where he currently lives.

[The Nerve Centre](#) is Northern Ireland's leading creative media arts centre with a vision of 'changing live through creative technologies and the arts'. More than 120,000 people a year benefit from a wide-ranging programme of arts events, innovative projects, creative learning, and production facilities. A successful social enterprise, the Nerve Centre employs 50 staff in Derry~Londonderry and Belfast. At an educational level, the Nerve Centre has developed the Creative Learning Centre model, empowering teachers and community learners to engage with creative technologies to unlock learning in the curriculum.

The Nerve Centre's artistic output has gained an international reputation with Oscar and BAFTA nominations, and an ongoing collaboration with visual artist Willie Doherty, twice nominated for the Turner Prize.