

ARTIST SHAPES DREAMS DURING GALLERY SLEEPOVER

Creativity and science come together to explore nature of dreaming

3 July 2007: Artist Luke Jerram is inviting members of the public to let him steer their dreams during a sleepover at Arnolfini in Bristol as part of his on-going project **The Dream Director**. There will be also an opportunity to meet the artist and hear from composer Dan Jones and sleep psychologist Chris Alford about their collaboration on the project during a panel discussion before the event begins.

Participants in **The Dream Director** are invited to sleep in a specially designed “pod”, wearing an eye-mask that detects rapid eye movement indicating dreaming sleep. This automatically triggers sounds, via a computer, which are played into small speakers mounted into the pod, affecting the nature and content of dreaming. Participants will be asked to record their dreams before and after the event and provide feedback over breakfast, giving them the opportunity to influence the future development of the project.

Public Events: The Dream Director Sleepover will take place on **Sat 21 July** from 2000hrs until 0900hrs the following morning at Arnolfini, Bristol. Ticket price £5.00 full / £3.00 concessions. Presentations by the artist and guest speakers will take place on **Sat 21 July** from 1400hrs – 1700hrs. Ticket price £7.00 full / £5.00 concessions. Tel: 0117 917 2300/01 (see notes for further details).

The Dream Director was previously tested on an invited audience including curators, scientists and researchers on 15 June in At-Bristol. The project has made possible through the Clark Bursary, a unique opportunity for artists working with new technologies, to experiment and develop their ideas, and to encourage audiences to engage and participate in this creative process through live testing.

Luke Jerram is the recipient of the Clark Bursary - 6th UK Digital Art Award from Watershed in Bristol, which has enabled him to develop the project over the last six months. The Clark Bursary is funded by JA Clark Charitable Trust, Arts Council England South West, Watershed, and University of the West of England.

The Dream Director explores the sleep space as a creative location for artistic experience – a space where imagination seems less constrained. The project also explores clinical and scientific possibilities. Jerram has collaborated with Chris Alford, Sleep Psychologist at the University of the West of England to look at the ways in which the technology could be used to help those who suffer from nightmares and disturbed sleep patterns. Jerram has also worked with Dan Jones since 2003, an award-winning composer who shares his interest in the effects of sound on the visual imagination.

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Further Press Information:

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EVENT DETAILS

Presentations and discussion

Session One:

1400hrs – 1530hrs

Luke Jerram will present **The Dream Director** and discuss its artistic and scientific aspects with Chris Alford, Sleep Psychologist at UWE and composer Dan Jones who have both been involved in the project's development. The event will be chaired by Claire Doherty, Curator and Senior Research Fellow in Fine Art at University of the West of England.

Session Two:

1545hrs – 1700hrs

A presentation by artist, curator and new Director of FACT Mike Stubbs, alongside filmmaker and researcher Gina Czarnecki, which will respond to and discuss the work within a wider contemporary art context.

Combined fee for both sessions: £7.00 full / £5.00 concessions.

Sleepover

Saturday 21 July at 2000hrs

The evening will include a briefing by Luke, a screening, and a chance for participants to meet prior to getting into their allocated 'pods' where they will sleep overnight in the auditorium experiencing an individual soundscape to their dreams. Participants wear an eyemask that detects REM and via a computer, sound is played back into the sleep pod. Participants will be required to write down their dreams before and after the event and provide feedback over breakfast (which will be provided). Please telephone Arnolfini Box Office 0117 9172300/01 for further information on how to book.

Fee: £5.00 full / £3.00 concessions

Luke Jerram

Luke Jerram (b. 1974) designs artworks that deliver an experience to unusual perceptual territories. *Retinal Memory Volume* makes sculpture work using retinal after images, whilst *Sky Orchestra* involves lifting people into the creative space on the edge of sleep using surround sound played from hot air balloons flown over a city at dawn. *Sky Orchestra* launched the Sydney Festival in January 2007, and was commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company over Stratford-upon-Avon to mark its Complete Works Festival in June 2006. As well as the Clark Bursary, he has previously been awarded a NESTA fellowship and completed an AHRC Arts and Science Fellowship at UWE.

www.lukejerram.com

Clark Bursary – 6th UK Digital Art Award

Clark Bursary – 6th UK Digital Art Award is supported and managed by Watershed in Bristol, and is in association with the Situations programme at UWE, which investigates the significance of place and context in the commissioning of new artworks. Luke's development within this critical framework is a key focus of this unique opportunity, and is published online at www.dshed.net/clarkbursary. This Bursary is also supported by Arnolfini and At-Bristol with sponsorship from Custom Audio Designs Ltd.

Watershed

Watershed, Britain's first dedicated media centre is at the heart of Bristol UK: promoting creativity, innovation and talent. Watershed's programme is delivered with the support of a wide range of funders including; Arts Council England South West, Bristol City Council and South West Screen, and is created through a network of collaborators. Creativity and difference are the cornerstones of the Watershed brand – extending choice, diversity and participation. For more information visit www.watershed.co.uk

Arnolfini

Arnolfini is one of Europe's leading centres for the contemporary arts with a programme including film, live art, dance, music, literature, exhibitions and many other events. It is supported by Arts Council England, South West and Bristol City Council. For more information visit www.arnolfini.org.uk

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