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Press release — For immediate release

MADE IN MANCHESTER, SHARED WITH THE WORLD

MORE THAN 1.24M PEOPLE SEE MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL SHOWS AS THEY TRAVEL THE GLOBE

From Argentina to Australia and UAE to the USA, MIF highlights Manchester's status as a world-class city for culture

With less than a year to go until Manchester International Festival next takes place, new figures reveal the global success it is having, with previously commissioned works that have premiered in the city going on to tour across the UK and around the world.

Over **1.24 million** people have now seen MIF commissions nationally and internationally, on top of more than 1.47 million attendees to the biennial Festival itself since 2007.

The first of MIF's commissions to tour outside Manchester was Damon Albarn, Jamie Hewlett and Chen Shi-Zheng's [Monkey: Journey to the West](#), which premiered at the first Festival in 2007. It went on to wow audiences at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, Spoleto Festival in the US, as well as the Royal Opera House and 02 in London.

Since then, MIF commissions have been seen by audiences in 30 countries, from Argentina to Australia, Poland to Pakistan and the UAE to the USA. This includes:

- 172 presentations of 50 commissions
- 125 international commissioning and producing partners
- 30 countries
- 5 continents

John McGrath, Artistic Director and CEO, Manchester International Festival, said:

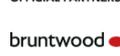
"Manchester is an incredible city, which is rich in creativity and has an exciting and diverse cultural life. MIF has been able to build on this, forging creative partnerships in Manchester, nationally and internationally. As a result, after being created and premiered here, many MIF commissions continue to have a life after the Festival and have already been seen by 1.24m people across the globe, strengthening the city's reputation as one of the world's great cultural cities."

Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, said:

"These figures show how Manchester International Festival is helping to carry the city's reputation as a place of innovation and creativity around the globe. This underlines the quality of the work which Manchester people get the chance to see first."

MIF commissioned shows touring this year include New Order and Liam Gillick's collaboration, *So it goes..*; Wayne McGregor, Olafur Eliasson and Jamie xx's *Tree of Codes*, soon to be seen at the New Vision Arts Festival in Hong Kong; the chamber

OFFICIAL PARTNERS



PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS





opera for babies, *Bambino*, is currently being staged in venues across Scotland, following a successful run in New York; and a special performance of the late Jóhann Jóhannsson's *Last and First Men* will soon take place at the Barbican.

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MIF19 takes place 4 – 21 July 2019. A number of Festival commissions will be revealed later this year, with the full programme announced in early 2019.

ENDS

Images: <https://bit.ly/2NyFE1A>

Current and upcoming touring dates

Ceremony, Fri 10 Aug – Sun 28 Oct 2018, MAC Belfast and Fri 22 Jun – Sun 30 Sept 2018, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead

10000 Gestures, 27 – 28 Sept, NYU Skirball Center, New York City, USA

Bambino, 6 – 8 Sept, The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen; 10 – 11 Sep, Eden Court, Inverness; 14 -15 Sep, Perth Theatre, Perth; 17 – 18 Sep, Motherwell Concert Hall, Motherwell; and 21-22 Sep, Mareel, Shetland

The Welcoming Party, 7-16 Sept 2018, Ruhtriennale, Zechenwerkstatt Lohberg, Dinslaken, Germany

What Is the City but the People?, 15 Sept 2018, Utrecht, Netherlands

Akram Khan's Giselle, 16-24 October, Opera Ghent, Belgium; 1-10 November, Opera Antwerpen, Antwerp, Belgium

Tree of Codes, 19-21 Oct 2018, New Vision Arts Festival, Hong Kong, China

Last and First Men, 1 Dec 2018, Barbican, London

Since the first Festival in 2007 MIF commissions have been presented in

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Argentina | Greece | Norway |
| Australia | Greenland | Pakistan |
| Austria | Holland | Poland |
| Belgium | Hong Kong | Russia |
| Brazil | Iceland | Singapore |
| Canada | Ireland | Spain |
| China | Italy | Sweden |
| Denmark | Japan | Switzerland |
| France | Mexico | United Arab Emirates |
| Germany | New Zealand | United States of America |

- 172 presentations of 50 shows in 30 countries on 5 continents
- 125 presentations in UK (outside Manchester) and Europe
- 23 presentations in North America
- 3 presentations in South America
- 15 presentations in Asia
- 6 presentations in Australasia

OFFICIAL PARTNERS



PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS





MIF17

- 32 commissions, co-productions and special events created with leading international artists
- 46 co-commissioners and co-producers, including local organisations
- 301,870 attendees
- Economic impact of £40.20m to the region

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About Manchester International Festival

Manchester International Festival (MIF) is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events, staged every two years in Manchester, UK. MIF launched in 2007 as an artist-led festival presenting new work from across the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture. The next Festival takes place from 4 – 21 July 2019.

MIF has commissioned, produced and presented world premieres by artists including Marina Abramović, Damon Albarn, Björk, Boris Charmatz, Jeremy Deller, Elbow, FKA twigs, Massive Attack, Wayne McGregor, Steve McQueen, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Thomas Ostermeier, Maxine Peake, Punchdrunk, The xx, Robert Wilson and Zaha Hadid Architects.

MIF works closely with venues, festivals and other cultural organisations around the world, whose financial and creative input helps to make many of these projects possible and ensures that work made at MIF goes on to be seen around the world. The Festival also works widely within Manchester with My Festival – a community of creative people from all backgrounds, ages and corners of the city who are forging closer connections with MIF.

MIF is a registered charity. Alongside the income we receive from Manchester City Council and Arts Council England, our principal funders, we also receive income from ticket sales and co-commissioning partners; from other public bodies, such as the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA); from private sponsorship; from charitable trusts and foundations; and from individual donations.

In 2017, MIF was confirmed as the operator of The Factory, a new world-class cultural space being developed in the heart of Manchester, which will build on the city's strengths as a centre for culture and creativity. Open year round, The Factory will commission and present the world's most exciting artists, attracting up to 850,000 visitors a year, drawn from across the city, as well as nationally and internationally. At 13,300 square metres, the building will be highly flexible, enabling artistic work of immense scale and ambition. The Factory will add 1,500 full time jobs and up to £1.1 billion to Manchester's economy over a decade and offer a programme of backstage training and skills for people living across Greater Manchester, aimed at creating the next generation of talent.

<http://mif.co.uk>