



NIGHTfall

Play among the Stars

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Wednesday 29 November -
Sunday 3 December

Stewart Park, Middlesbrough

Nightfall is a family friendly interactive light art trail of beautiful artworks, live music, performance and magical moments.

Share your Nightfall experience with us on your preferred social media channel using the hashtag

#NIGHTFALL23

NIGHTFALL STARGAZERS NEAR AND FAR, YOU'RE INVITED ON AN ADVENTURE AS MAGICAL AS A SHOOTING STAR. GET READY FOR A GALAXY PLAYGROUND DESCENDING FROM THE MIDDLESBROUGH NIGHT SKY FULL OF HOPEFUL STARS BURSTING TO PLAY, DANCE AND FLY. AND ACROSS FIVE NIGHTS, A COSMIC EVENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY WILL UNFOLD, REVEALING ENCHANTING TWINKLING, SHIMMERING STARS AND THEIR STORY UNTOLD.

We hope you enjoy
your Nightfall experience

#NIGHTFALL23

PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Nightfall is an outdoor event designed to go ahead in most weathers. Make sure you wrap up warm and wear sensible shoes – we advise wellies, waterproofs, walking boots and lots of layers!

The route around #Nightfall23 is well lit, but feel free to bring a handheld torch. Please keep to the paths around the route and look out for signs for artworks that are interactive and can be touched.

Please do not arrive earlier than 10 minutes prior to your start time.

Please have your Nightfall ticket confirmation and main car park/park & walk confirmation ready for inspection – you will need them to park and also to gain entrance to #Nightfall23. Your ticket/parking confirmation can be shown on your phone or printed.

Please note that the main car park and park & walk will be very busy and there isn't capacity to book parking on slots that are full. Unfortunately, we are not able to manage last-minute parking requests.

For any event information or updates – we will email you using the email you used to book and use our social media channels.

All event information, including travel, parking and access information can be found on our website FAQs. An easy read version of this programme is also available on our website.

www.nightfallfestival.co.uk



Throughout the Nightfall route, look out for QR codes which will share more information about each of the artworks and the talented artists who created them.

Listen out for the beautiful and atmospheric 'Play Among the Stars' soundtrack which has been specially created for us by composer Roma Yagnik.

#NIGHTFALL23 ARTWORKS AND ARTISTS



BOUNCING IDEAS

by Studio Toer

From left to right, up or down, thoughts can go in any direction. They can bounce inside your mind or go from one to the other. Bouncing Ideas is an ode to imagination and the constant flow of ideas. Being able to visualize ideas and make new connections makes us human. We can imagine, get surprised and adapt, just like the dots of light jumping around, ideas can be

surprising. They bounce off objects, manoeuvre through space and create new perspectives.

Toer is a multidisciplinary design studio from the Netherlands. Their creations start with the freedom of play and are characterized by a strong exploratory and experimental approach.

FIREFLY FIELD

by Studio Toer



What is the collective noun for a group of fireflies? A swarm seems a little alarming. A twinkle? Or maybe a shimmer? Our favourite is a sparkle of fireflies – what's yours? Firefly Field is a captivating light installation that mimics the movements of nocturnal fireflies, glowing, darting and hovering above the ground. Each firefly has unpredictable and natural movements, creating a mesmerizing and dynamic light scene that triggers curiosity and awe. Firefly Field provides a magical start to Nightfall - a host of glowing fireflies welcoming you to the trail!



THE NIGHT GARDEN by Stellar Projects

The beauty of a summer garden is brought to life at night, celebrating the simple pleasure to be found in the natural world. Larger than life flowers sway and dance in the sunlight, butterflies flutter in and out of view and bees fly by, transforming the space into a peaceful garden full of life. The artwork plays with

scale and perspective by putting the viewer amongst towering blooms and transporting them to a summer's day. Film created by Ithica Films, with animation by Visual Lane and soundtrack by Paula McGough.

Stellar Projects are the creators and producers of Nightfall.

POLYRHYTHMS by Axolotl Creative

Where light, sound, and rhythm come together in perfect harmony.

Polyrhythms combines mesmerizing light patterns, representing various polyrhythmic beats, with a percussive soundtrack - harmoniously blending the visual and auditory realms. Axolotl's goal is to create captivating art that

not only entertains but also encourages exploration of the underlying ideas that inspired it, bringing those concepts to life through light.

Polyrhythms has been commissioned by Light Up The North's SHINE programme, which aims to nurture and develop new talent.



FROM TEXT TO TRAIL

SKIES ABOVE DREAM

by Mark Robinson

Mark Robinson's video-poem "Skies Above Dream" is a poem in the form of 12 games of wordle. So every word has five letters, and every verse is a wordle as well as a poem. One of the words, of course, is STARS. Follow the letters as they appear and stars amass plans, make jokes, and this being Teesside, carry parmo karma. (Mark really wants you to know he doesn't often take six goes to guess the word when he's not making a poem!)

Mark Robinson lives in Eaglescliffe. Smokestack Books will publish his new book 'The Infinite Town' in February 2024. The title poem is carved on a large plinth on Stockton High Street – go at 1pm and an animatronic train comes out of it.

IF TREES COULD TALK

by Designs in Air
& Tees Women Poets

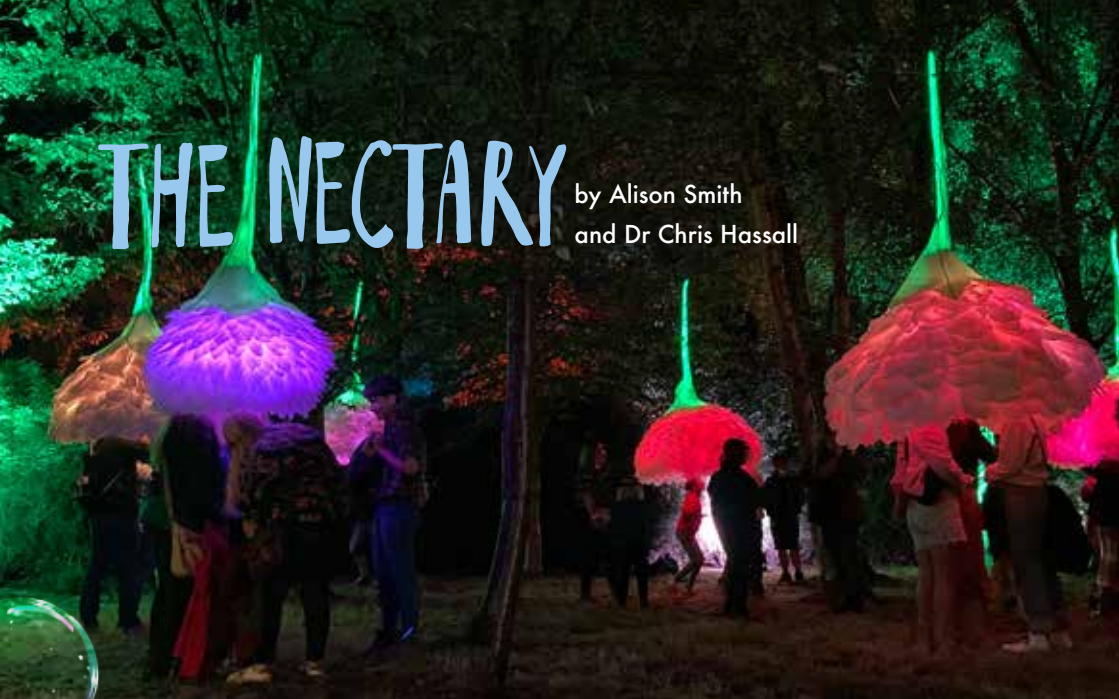
Around the park you will notice that some of the trees have acquired eyeballs... approach and you will hear the voices of the trees: a set of seven poems written and recorded by members of Tees Women Poets. The trees tell us how the world is "connected and small", how the roots of trees in Middlesbrough cover the globe, and how we might "plant a future for us all".

The eyeballs were created by Designs in Air - a pioneering inflatable design company who create original inflatable sculptures and spectacular installations that have been featured at many major events and exhibitions around the world.

Tees Women Poets is a group of writers and performers based across the Tees Valley. The poets bringing the voices of trees to life are: Peggy Carl, Ann Cuthbert, Julie Easley, Eithne Longstaff, Kirsten Luckins, Carmen Marcus and Lizzie Lovejoy.
Sound recording by Grace Stubbings.

THE NECTARY

by Alison Smith
and Dr Chris Hassall



The Nectary invites you to immerse yourself in nature and hear 'the hum of the earth' as you mimic a pollinating insect, visiting six huge glowing flowers handcrafted from recycled materials. Created by Leeds based artist Alison Smith and Dr. Chris Hassall, lecturer in Animal Biology at the University of Leeds, this light and sound installation explores what we can gain from listening to nature, both for our own wellbeing and to develop an understanding of the delicate ecosystems of which we are a part.

The Nectary was developed with funding from Light Night Leeds, the University of Leeds and From the Fields.



ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

by Tom Biddulph

Don't give up on future generations.
Work together, keep the faith.

One way or another, hazards ahead
can be overcome. You can't stop hope.

Tom Biddulph's playful interpretation
of road signs lighting up the woodland
give us a positive shared direction for
the future.

One Way or Another was co-
commissioned by Wigan Council,
Lightpool and Light Up Lancaster.

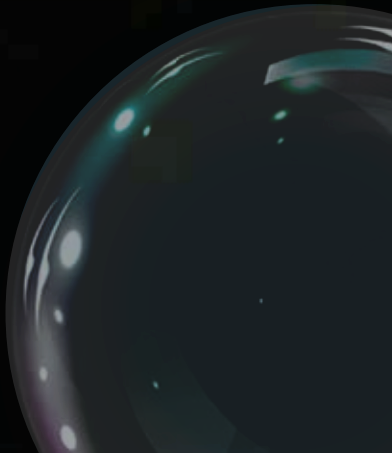


GLITTERING GROVE

by
Dan Fox



Glittering Grove is a beautiful reimagining of a woodland path. Multiple suspended mirrorballs reflect patterns of slowly moving points of light across the ground and surrounding trees, creating a magical environment, encouraging you to dance between the trees and play among the stars!



NEON NOSTALGIA



by Vishal Joshi in collaboration
with Middlesbrough residents.
Commissioned by Borderlands and
funded by Arts Council England,
Creative People and Places.

Reminiscing about their own childhood,
global majority communities come
together on one huge canvas to
make marks using paints and chalks.
Expressing themselves creatively with
words, patterns and drawings to
create the underpainting for Vishal
Joshi to unify through his own stylised
illustrations and paintings. This is a
huge collaboration between over a
hundred local people and one artist.

Watch it come to life under ultraviolet
lighting at the old Loggia at Stewart's
Park for this year's Nightfall Festival.

Huge thanks to the participants from
Creative Minds, Ubuntu, Tamil Cultural
Society, Bangladeshi Community
Group, Newport Community Hub and
Breckon Hill Community Hub.



EVANESCENT

by
Atelier Sisu

Evanescent is a larger-than-life bubble artwork which invites you to walk underneath and among the iridescent bubble structures which are illuminated internally, creating beautiful, vibrant colours. Standing at 8m tall, the artwork emulates the ethereal quality and magic of bubbles, appealing to our universal playfulness and childlike wonder. This immersive, light and sound temporary environment invites you to consider the world around you as a space of transience and fragility, like that of a bubble.

Evanescent was inspired during the Covid-19 pandemic, when the world stopped and everything we took for granted started to disappear. Atelier Sisu endeavoured to communicate this feeling of transient beauty, and the need to live in the moment through the idea of the bubble.

You can also find some of Atelier Sisu's beautiful iridescent droplets floating on the water on the large pond.

Sydney-based design studio Atelier Sisu works within the intersection of art and architecture creating large-scale site-specific works that enchant by reinventing spaces.



PEOPLE'S PALACES

by Whippet Up

"Little lives magnified.
You see what you decide.
Palaces in their grandeur filled
with people of all kinds".

Fantasy buildings and lyrics that
reimagine community, invented,
built, and decorated at Whippet Up
creative health sessions across the
South Tees area.

People's Palaces by Whippet Up is
part of 'For the People, By the people'
where people come together to create
community-built art that stands proudly
beside other artwork at festivals
and events. Every People's Palace
is a labour of love built at Whippet

Up's Creative Health workshops
across Redcar & Cleveland and
Middlesbrough. Some people find
Whippet Up when they are feeling
a bit low, others are encouraged to
come and join by health and social
care staff. Working with Whippet Up
artists people lose track of time, worries
get replaced with deadlines to build,
excitement is shared as each building
is created, decorated and lit. Every
People's Palace is a beacon of hope.

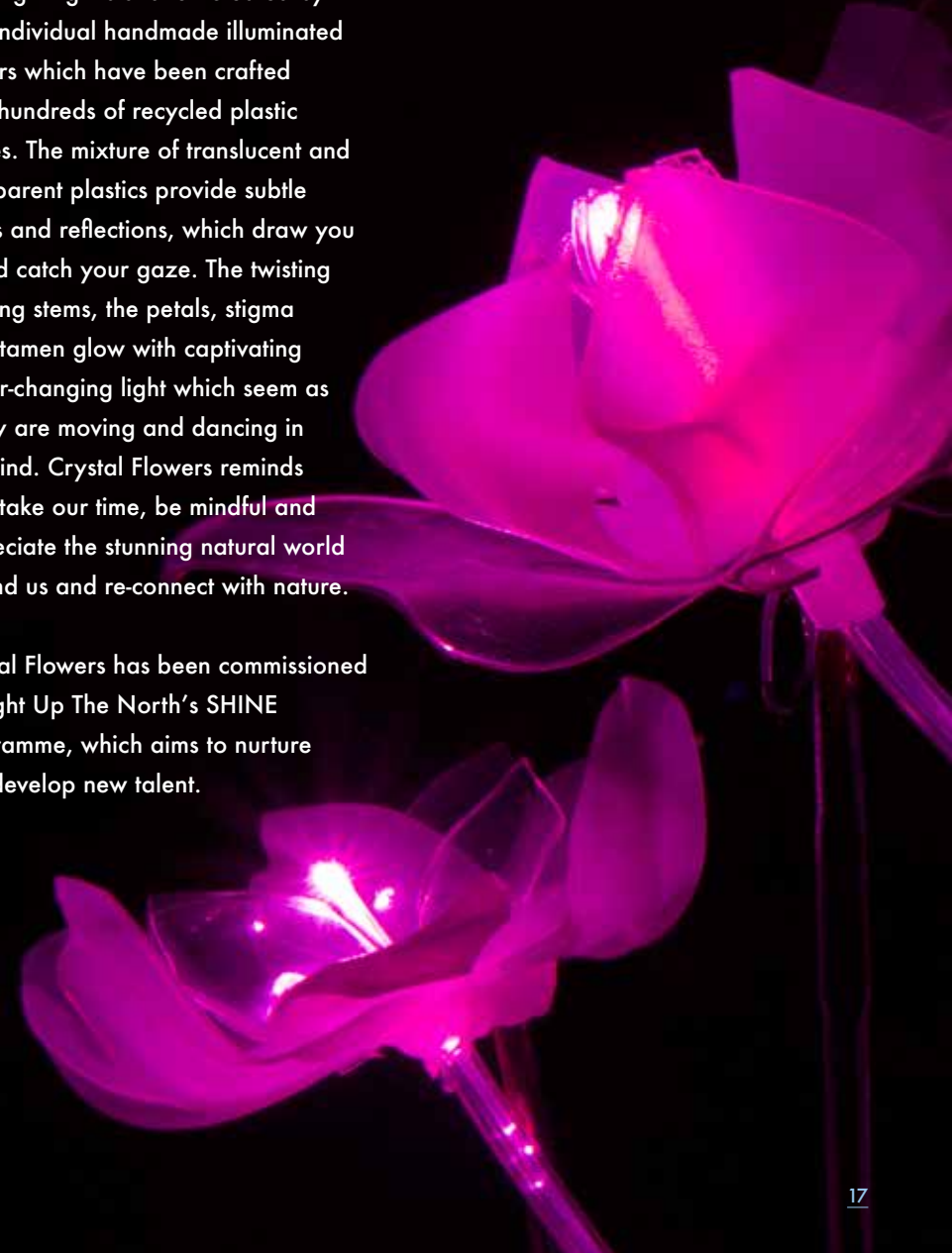
Soundtrack for the 'People's Palaces'
written with group members and
performed by Amelia Coburn. Whippet
Up are supported by the Arts Council
and the Lottery Community Fund.

CRYSTAL FLOWERS

by
Custom Fibre Optics

Crystal flowers is a beautiful fibre
optic lighting installation created by
600 individual handmade illuminated
flowers which have been crafted
from hundreds of recycled plastic
bottles. The mixture of translucent and
transparent plastics provide subtle
glows and reflections, which draw you
in and catch your gaze. The twisting
winding stems, the petals, stigma
and stamen glow with captivating
colour-changing light which seem as
if they are moving and dancing in
the wind. Crystal Flowers reminds
us to take our time, be mindful and
appreciate the stunning natural world
around us and re-connect with nature.

Crystal Flowers has been commissioned
by Light Up The North's SHINE
programme, which aims to nurture
and develop new talent.



ONCE WE WERE WATER

by idontloveyouanymore

Once We Were Water is the second work in a series of digital water recreations by award winning art studio idontloveyouanymore. This project acts almost as the imaginings of a distant culture, an age where rivers and waterfalls no longer flow. What do we remember them as? How do we recreate the natural phenomena in a computerised world?

Built using a particle system that is reactive to your presence, Once We Were Water, flows over you like rivers of the past, and springs to vibrant life under your movements. Through play and connection, it leaves you to ponder both what we are gaining and what we are sacrificing in the digital age. Once We Were Water was commissioned by Light Up Lancaster and Quays Culture.

Photo: ©Hannah Barnes Photo



Vines, flowers and creatures take over The Captain Cook Museum as it is reclaimed by nature as a large scale, playful, sensory projection.

Bold and colourful botanical animations dance over the building's surface, taking the audience on a journey into the natural world. You will have the opportunity to play and interact with the projection, controlling insects crawling on the building with your mobile device - simply scan the QR code and your insect will appear

on the museum wall. The bold and colourful animations are inspired by the museum's collection of botanical work by Joseph Banks from Captain Cook's Endeavour voyage that circumnavigated the globe from 1768 to 1771.



The Nature Take Over was originally commissioned for Lightpool festival, Blackpool.



COLOUR ME BEAUTIFUL

by Studio Tine Bech

Colour Me Beautiful features five colourful runways leading to a large screen where you are invited to play and interact. Strike a pose and be captured in a bright maze of colour as your image is posted onto the screen – literally colouring you beautiful!

Posing for the camera is one of life's familiar social activities. It connects us and creates shared memories. The act of having a photo taken evokes a sense of play and performance for children and adults alike. Have fun and see yourself transformed by colour!

THE WORLD HAS GONE PEAR SHAPED

by Studio Tine Bech

This large-scale pear-shaped planet provokes us to think. It is a playful take on the dystopias of our time – it asks where are we now, what have we done to the earth and what possible futures do we want to create? We've all seen images of devastated forests and empty lakes and rivers. Perhaps we've become immune to them. Imagine, instead, that our actions had changed the physical shape of the globe. What we do now matters for the future. Can we change our relationship with our planet and get it back into shape?

Co-commissioned by Stellar Projects,
Leeds Light Night and Illuminate Oldham.



NOVA

by
Studio Vertigo

See the ponds transformed by light with this beautiful artwork which will hover above the water, reflecting patterns on the water's surface and creating a magical environment full of stars.

A Nova is a transient astronomical event which causes a star to quickly increase the strength of the light it

emits. This dramatic process takes place when a star reignites after lying dormant for many years. The Nova artwork is based on the mythical Star of the East which astronomers now believe was actually a nova. As a spectator, you will feel like you are experiencing a nova, or 'new' star - mighty and dazzling. The artwork is a bold sculptural form, a visually complex lantern that also comes to life with smoke effects.



Photo: Richard Kenworthy



IN A CITY OF FLOWERS

by
Lou Chapelle

A beautiful holographic and interactive video installation, inviting viewers to gently place their hand within small wooden shelters and hold a butterfly. Each house hosts a different British butterfly - some thriving, some vulnerable or extinct in the UK and some migrating species.

Butterflies are closely linked to plants and some will solely feed on specific species; this artwork is a reminder of how important it is to keep our urban and rural spaces packed with local plants and wildflowers.

Photo: ©Rob Battersby

LIVING LIGHT

by Amelia Kosminsky

For Nightfall 2023, international artist Amelia Kosminsky has designed a beautiful quiet space away from the hustle and bustle of this cosmic event. Made especially for those who crave a relaxed environment, Living Light, transports the public into a liminal space where the ebb and flow of the natural world creates a mesmerising, tranquil experience.

Living Light is located inside the Captain Cook Museum and will provide a safe, low-level stimulation and recalibration zone for our neurodivergent visitors who may find the festival experience overwhelming. Please note that capacity is limited.

Amelia Kosminsky is an artist whose work focuses on slowing life down to have time to catch the beauty around us. Using elements drawn from nature – wind, water, waves, starlight, moonbeams and phosphorescence – her work captures the slow dreamlike quality of the planet’s evolution and the rhythms of the natural world, hoping to reset our frantic overcharged minds. Her work is predominantly peaceful using light to design striking images that contrast with the harshness of urban living.



by Stuart Langley

A carnivalesque sign dazzles with hypnotic colour and the suggestion of pay-per-play enjoyment which seems at odds with its natural setting. The sign toys with familiar fairground iconography and invites audiences to think about the meaning of its presence when removed from its usual environment - is it still as much fun? 'Amusements' is an illuminated text work born from a collaboration between Stuart Langley and Dave O'Donnell.

Stuart's output includes light art, interactive installations and public sculpture. He plays with light, colour and form to offer audiences otherworldly experiences set amongst everyday environments, materials and objects. Motivated to ignite sensations of awe and magic associated with the naivety of childhood, his work is dressed with fantastical utopian ideals as an antidote to the anxiety inducing nature of our days.

A large, glowing bubble in the top left corner contains two young boys. One boy is holding a small white cat figurine. The background of the entire page is a dark blue space with stars and other smaller bubbles.

MAKING MAGIC AT NIGHTFALL

Get crafty in our special workshop area for kids and families. Throughout the night there will be a range of creative workshops where you can drop in and work with an artist to make something lovely to take home as a memento of your Nightfall experience.

All workshops are drop in across the evening from 4.30pm until 10.30pm. Activities are free, with all materials provided. Workshops are suitable for children and their adults (children must be accompanied by an adult at all times).

Workshop artists are: Adele Catchpole, Morwenna Catt, Peg Creations, Lottie Smith, Amanda White and BloomInArt.

A smaller bubble in the top center shows a group of people sitting at a table outdoors at night, illuminated by string lights.

RELAX AND REFUEL

At the end of the Nightfall light trail, take a well-earned break in our lovely dwell space where you will be able to listen to live music and have a drink or snack in our street food area.

NIGHTFALL LATES MUSIC PROGRAMME

For the third year, we have been working with the awesome BaseCamp Industries who have created a fantastic programme of live music for us across each evening of Nightfall. You can enjoy some amazing local talent to get you in the mood for celebrating. Get yourself a drink and a snack, relax and enjoy the music under the stars.

Please note our music programme will be different each evening, with different performers and bands each night.

A bubble in the top right corner shows a person in a light-colored jacket looking down at something in their hands.

STREET FOOD UNDER THE STARS

At the end of the trail, warm up with some delicious food from a range of brilliant businesses from across Teesside and the North East including Spud Gun Loaded Fries, Smash Burgers, GRK Greek Street Food, Cook's Pizzeria, Falafel Fella (Sat/Sun), Flying Pigz, Gouda for the Soul (Weds-Fri), Henry's Café, Twisted Chick, Doughvine Desserts and Best Bits Bakery.

Veggie, vegan and gluten free options available. There will also be delicious coffee and hot drinks every evening from Tribe Coffee (start of trail) and Barista Sisters (end of trail in Courtyard). Alcoholic drinks including mulled wine, winter cocktails and draught beers will be available from Sip and Saddle, The Hive Bar and Mr Bentley's.

All traders will accept cash and card payment.

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, cosmic-themed illustration. It features a dark blue and purple space filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes. Several large, translucent, iridescent bubbles are scattered throughout, some containing silhouettes of people. One bubble in the upper center shows three people standing together, while a larger bubble in the lower center shows a group of people gathered around a bright, glowing light source. The overall aesthetic is dreamlike and celebratory.

NIGHTfall

Play among the Stars

Nightfall is brought to you by

stellar projects

Based in Teesside, Stellar Projects are producers of creative projects and imaginative events. Working across the region to create amazing collective experiences, bringing people together in celebration to share those 'you just had to be there' moments.

www.stellarprojects.co.uk

Stellar Projects is proud to be a member of:

**LIGHT
UP THE
NORTH**

Light up the North (LUTN) is a network of northern light festivals which have come together to share their collective expertise to support both the development of the partner festivals and the wider sector. Through regional, national and international networking and collaboration LUTN nurtures artistic ambition through artist and producer development, co-commissioning and joint fundraising.

www.lightupthenorth.com


**Tees Valley
Festivals**

Tees Valley Festivals Network is a network of cultural festivals working to raise the profile of festivals in the area and enhance the social and economic wellbeing of the Tees Valley.

Sustainability

Stellar Projects is committed to reducing the environmental impact of our events. For the second year, we have been working with charity ecolibrium as part of our sustainability plans to tackle the impact of travel to Nightfall. We included a small charge on all parking tickets which will be donated to ecolibrium's Trees+ programme. The programme supports tree planting, ecosystem restoration and preservation and communities already feeling the worst effects of the climate crisis.

Visit www.ecolibrium.earth to find out more.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO...

Arts Council England, Middlesbrough Borough Council, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Askham Bryan College, Captain Cook Museum, Middlesbrough Sports Village and Tees Valley Festivals for supporting the event.

Our commissioning partners
Light Up The North, Borderlands CPP and Theatre Hullabaloo.

All the wonderful artists, technicians, staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to make Nightfall possible.

NIGHTfall

stellar projects



TEES VALLEY



TUCA | Tees Valley Mayor

LIGHT UP THE NORTH

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

TREATED
Hullabaloo

MIDDLESBROUGH SPORTS VILLAGE

Tees Valley Festivals

BECOME A NIGHTFALL SPONSOR

If you would like to play a part in supporting Nightfall, please consider becoming a sponsor. Nightfall sponsors will help us to continue to showcase amazing light artworks and support the work of local, national and international artists. It also enables us to deliver community engagement projects with audiences across the Tees Valley.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor and supporting future Nightfall events, we would love to hear from you! To find out how you can get involved with Nightfall and discuss partnership opportunities available, please contact lyndsey@stellar-projects.co.uk

www.nightfallfestival.co.uk