

MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 23 JUNE 2024, 10.00AM-10.30PM

Welcome to the Midsummer Festival programme where we invite everyone to join us to celebrate the summer solstice in the city's first ever, free, family-friendly Midsummer Festival.

We have a jam-packed programme with music, maypoles, magic and more. A fantastic pop-up street food market curated by Sophie etc. will be available throughout the day and into the evening. Creative making workshops, three new commissions by MK based artists, tarot cards, morris dancing and foraged drinks add even more fun into the mix.

Located on Midsummer Boulevard famously aligned with the path of the sun at summer solstice, we will be closing the road to traffic at Midsummer Boulevard East – (handy map overleaf) to transform central Milton Keynes into a summer solstice playground – with something for everyone to enjoy.



FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

The Sanctuary of the Hopeful Sun by Wild Rumpus is a newly commissioned sculpture inviting you to celebrate the sun in all its forms, a unique way to experience light and shade. An active space for tuning into the solstice and sharing your voice about the future of our planet.

Midsummer Mischief by Rost Productions and No Outcome Art sees large-scale magpie puppets roaming amongst us, gathering shiny materials to make new nest and inviting you to help them create their new home.

LITHA by Ciara Callaghan includes a naturally dyed, hand-embroidered installation where you can enter this remarkable immersive artwork and track the movement of the rising and setting sun.

Fire Leap with Me by Carole Keating invites you to join the artist in creating a live art experience inspired by fire-leaping solstice ceremonies (traditionally believed to bring good luck throughout the year). Drop-in to paint a flame, make a paper log or build the fire installation, adding your intentions for the coming year, and limber up to join us for the fire-leaping ceremony at 4.30pm.

Sophie etc. has curated a delicious selection of street food and delectable drinks which will be on offer throughout the day and evening.

Folk Dance Remixed will perform **Step Hop House** their Hip Hop genre-breaking mix of maypole, clogging, breakdance and more.

Performances: **11.00–11.30am and 3.00–3.30pm**
Creative Workshops: **11.30am–12.00pm and 3.30–4.00pm**

Natural Magic by Thomas D Gray and Effie McGuire Ward includes a visual art installation, dance and music collaboration, where through an improvised score and movement, musicians and dancers will respond to sunlight and shadow throughout the day.

Performance times: **10.40am, 12.10pm, 4.10pm**

In Ghost Caribou from Thingumajig Theatre, giant illuminated mystical creatures will roam with a wild herds person. As they gather a crowd, they'll perform other-worldly ceremonies filled with music, song, and shadow puppets.

Performance times: **12.00–12.45pm and 4.00–4.45pm**
Closing Parade: **10.00pm**

Solstice-Iced-Drinks by Katie Fields offers the chance to sample a foraged array of solstice inspired drinks.

Available between: **11.00am and 1.00pm and 3.00pm and 5.00pm**

SOLSTICE WORKSHOP TENT

Located in the **Solstice Workshop Tent**, a free programme of fun creative making workshops offers everyone the chance to get involved.

*All workshops are free and drop-in.
No booking necessary.*

10.00am–12.30pm
Make your own flower crown with **Branch Out MK**.

1.00–3.30pm
Make your own sun catcher with **Tanvi Kant**.

4.00–6.30pm
Create your own personal tarot card with **Purple Diamond Tarot**

10.00am–5.00pm
Free solstice inspired face painting.

MIDSUMMER MUSIC TENT

Music fills the day and evening with a specially curated **Midsummer Music Tent**.

Local folk duo **Drywood** offer up a fantastic selection of Midsummer folk, with a newly commissioned song written especially for the Festival.

Performance times: **12.45–1.30pm and 5.00–6.00pm**

Local collective **SLQY** take over the Music Tent in the afternoon with a fantastic programme of MK based talent.

Performance times: **Isle of CC | 2.00–2.20pm; Axel | 2.20–2.40pm; Auketteh | 2.40–3.00pm**

Into the evening, the **Outlands Network** take over the Music Tent with experimental, contemporary folk acts **Stick in the Wheel** and **Benedict Drew and Arianne Churchman**. An atmospheric spoken word performance by **Luke Pendrell/Ludd Puca** completes the **Outlands** set.

The Festival ends with a closing parade to Campbell Park, where we will come together at the city's iconic Light Pyramid to celebrate the setting sun.

Closing Parade: **10.00pm**



Image courtesy of Wild Rumpus



Image courtesy of Sophie etc.

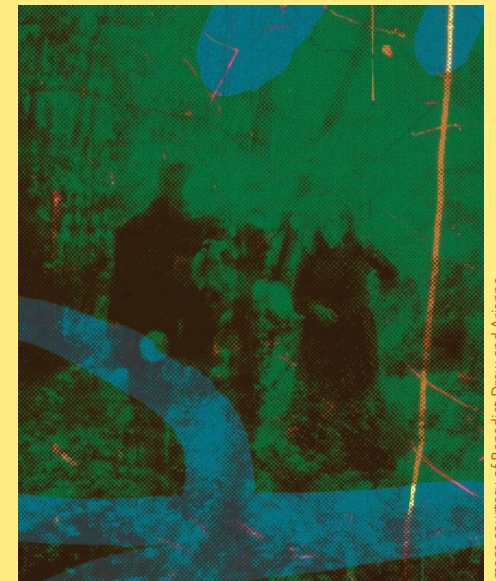


Image courtesy of Benedict Drew and Arianne



Image courtesy of Thingumajig Theatre

Find more information alongside details of the temporary changes to bus stops at: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/midsummer-fest

If you have any questions please email culture@milton-keynes.gov.uk



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