



an **imagineer** project

Media release: 23 July 2019

## **Imagineer's Bridge**

### **A new outdoor experience**

- **Bridge is a new outdoor experience created by artists and engineers and inspired by real life stories of bridging divides.**
- **A bridge will appear in Coventry, Grantham and Worcester and become the setting for an extraordinary and memorable outdoor performance.**
- **Ahead of the performance local people will come together to make their own bridges and share stories of bridge-building.**
- **Find out more at [www.imaginebridge.co.uk](http://www.imaginebridge.co.uk)**

**Bridge** is an ambitious new outdoor experience produced by Coventry-based **Imagineer Productions** and created by **artistic director Orit Azaz** in collaboration with a creative team that includes **choreographer Corey Baker, designer Dan Potra, writer Nick Walker, composer Peter Reynolds and circus director Paul Evans.**

A beautiful bridge appears in the centre of Coventry, Grantham and Worcester, with a gap where the keystone would be. For three days, it is host to pop-up events and happenings that bring people together in new and playful ways including a free immersive headphones experience which offers people an insight into the meaning of the divided bridge.

On the Saturday evening, the bridge becomes the setting for an extraordinary and memorable outdoor performance. Gravity-defying circus acrobatics, dance, comedy, theatre and live music, inspired by local people's stories, create a thrilling and moving montage of the courage, compassion, imagination and humour needed to bridge a divide.

Bridge is rooted in each community in which it is based. Hundreds of local people will make their own bridges and share experiences of bridge-building, in all senses. Using a specially made kit, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's design for a self-supporting bridge, people who wouldn't normally meet will come together to build a bridge in public spaces in their neighbourhood.

**Jane Hytch, Chief Executive Imagineer said:** "Bridge takes its inspiration from many different sources, from engineers and artists to people who are bridging social, spiritual and political divides. It is hugely exciting to see the project taking shape with such accomplished engineers, artists, performers and communities.

“At Imagineer we are interested in producing new and extraordinary outdoor work through creative collaborations in order to transform spaces and most importantly for us to build human connections where you might least expect them. Bridge will certainly deliver this as well as creating some unforgettable experiences along the way both for those involved and those who experience Bridge in Grantham, Coventry and Worcester.”

At the centre of the project is a surprising, beautiful and (in engineering terms) almost impossible, broken bridge structure. Sydney based designer Dan Potra (Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018 Opening Ceremony, City of Unexpected 2017) worked alongside structural engineer Neal Fletcher, circus specialist Tarn Aitken, engineers from ARUP and a skilled team of theatrical technicians and fabricators to create a workable design for the bridge.

The size, scale and specialist requirements of the bridge has resulted in Imagineer creating a pop-up Creation Space – the likes of which did not previously exist in the Midlands – to enable the development of the Bridge performance, which includes high skill aerial and acrobatic circus performed at a height of up to 12 metres. Imagineer’s pop up creation space, with training facilities in a range of unusual circus disciplines including Chinese pole and Cradle, allows the international cast of 9 circus, dance and physical theatre performers and 3 musicians to rehearse and train whatever the weather.

**Orit Azaz, Artistic Director for Bridge said:** “Bridge has been imagined by artists; created by designers and engineers and inspired by people’s stories, it really is a project for our time and is already bringing people together in unexpected and joyful ways. Bridge is about the gap between two sides – the bit that is broken or unfinished – and the effort, good humour, courage and imagination of people needed to connect across the gap.

“In order to realise the project, Imagineer have created an unprecedented environment for the creation of the final bridge performance. Bringing together a world-class team, Imagineer’s pop-up creation space is a fantastic achievement. This is hugely exciting, not just for the development of our project but Coventry as a City of Culture and the UK outdoor arts sector as a whole.”

**Councillor Matthew Lee, the Leader of South Kesteven District Council, said:** “Working in partnership with Imagineer has provided a unique opportunity for local creative artists to develop their skills and for community groups across Grantham, and the wider district, to be part of a wonderful Outdoor Arts experience.

“Bridge will add further lustre to South Kesteven’s already celebrated outdoor arts offer and is not to be missed.”

**Chenine Bhatena, Creative Director at Coventry City of Culture Trust said:** “Coventry is a city known for building connections across communities and bridging global divides. This project from Imagineer will be an opportunity for people across the city to come together, share their stories and experience a brilliant new work by this nationally renowned company. We are delighted to be supporting this project. Bridge will bring people together, demonstrate the innovation that exists in the city and throw a spotlight onto the great creativity of artists based in Coventry.”

**Bridge** comes to the Market Place in Grantham on Thursday 12 until Saturday 14 September 2019; Broadgate, Coventry from Thursday 26 September until Saturday 28 September 2019; and Cathedral Plaza, Worcester in July 2020.

Further information on Imagineer’s Bridge can be found at [www.imaginebridge.co.uk](http://www.imaginebridge.co.uk)

Follow us on twitter, facebook and Instagram tagging #ImagineBridge

Bridge is funded by: Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund, Coventry 2021 - UK City of Culture, Coventry City Council, Garfield Weston Foundation, Foyle Foundation, InvestSK, South Kesteven District Council and William A Cadbury Charitable Trust.

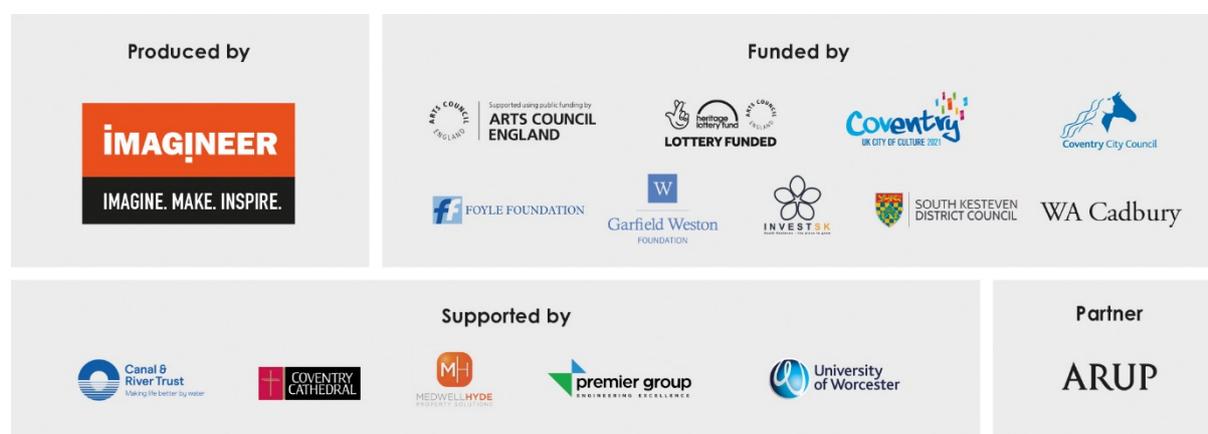
Bridge is supported by: University of Worcester, Canal & River Trust, Premier Group, Coventry Cathedral and Medwell Hyde.

Bridge is created in partnership with Arup.

## ENDS

For further information contact Helen Annetts PR on behalf of Imagineer on 07779 026720 or email [HelenLAnnetts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:HelenLAnnetts@hotmail.co.uk)

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## Notes to editors:

### About Imagineer

Imagineer is a live events production company. We specialise in making theatre and outdoor performance, education programmes, special commissions and touring work.

At the heart of our work is an exploration of the relationship between creative thinkers and innovators from the arts sector and engineers, architects, educationalists, special effects artists and designers.

Imagineer is best known for its landmark Cultural Olympiad project Godiva Awakes, in which a 20m tall puppet of Lady Godiva journeyed to London by bicycle. We also produce the Festival of Imagineers in Coventry, an annual celebration of innovation.

Find out more about Imagineer at [www.imagineer-productions.co.uk](http://www.imagineer-productions.co.uk)

### Bridge creative team

Orit Azaz Artistic Director

Dan Potra Designer

Corey Baker Choreographer

Nick Walker Writer

Paul Evans Circus Director  
Peter Reynolds Music Director  
Arnim Friess Lighting Designer  
Claire Maddocks Creative Producer

### **Bridge Cast**

Yolaine Dooms  
Tiago Fonseca  
Sean Kempton  
Mira Leonard  
Laura Moy  
Nella Niva  
Arthur Parsons  
Lucie Roux  
Rachel Schiffer  
Louiseanne Wong

### **Engineering & Fabrication**

Tarn Aitken Circus Rigging Consultant  
Neal Fletcher Structural Engineer  
Bay Productions Fabricator

### **Bridge Programme**

Jayne Hytch Chief Executive, Imagineer  
Lou Lomas Associate Producer and Project Manager, Coventry  
Simon Hollingworth Project Manager, Grantham  
Elaine Knight Project Manager, Worcester  
Steve Boffy Project Manager, Worcester  
Jess Pinson Project Manager, Press Room

### **Bursary Producers**

Martina Bussi  
Rosie Clements  
Claire Carrington  
Diandra McCalla  
Nicole Roman  
Grace Smith  
Georgina Weller