

# Tether Festival

**The Tether Festival runs from the 4th to the 25th of November 2007. Staged across numerous Nottingham city centre venues it will encompass individually curated exhibitions, one-off performances and events, screenings and a publication of especially commissioned creative writing.**

## **Our Festival Aims**

With the closure of many of Nottingham's art galleries there is a need for more local, ambitious art activity in the region. Tether Festival seeks to inspire Nottingham's population into considering the city as a prosperous, supportive environment in which to be creative; raising aspiration levels in local cultural practitioners. With the impending arrival of the New Art Exchange and the Centre for Contemporary Art, the East Midlands should be undergoing something of a creative renaissance. However, advocating Nottingham as a city of cultural excellence relies as much on local artists and independent creative initiatives as it does on large-scale governmental enterprises.

## **The Artists**

The artists involved in the festival have been encouraged to create new, experimental and innovative art works, with emphasis being placed on collaboration and dialogue between two or more people. As well as achieving public exposure of their practice, artists contributing to Tether Festival will be able to establish new partnerships and networks with other creative practitioners in the region.

## **The Wider Community**

Whilst promoting the abilities of the east midland's young creative work force, the festival also seeks to help to establish Nottingham as a city to invest in, work in and visit. In particular we hope to persuade local communities and businesses to value culture's contribution to their city, in view to forming a sustainable arts infrastructure in Nottingham whereby investment and enthusiasm for the region's creative sector is forthcoming. Consequently, in addition to working with local cultural organisations such as the Broadway Arts Centre, we have allocated space within our festival publication for advertisements from local businesses, to encourage partnership between the arts and business communities. With the variety of diverse events on offer during the three weeks we hope to attract as many sections of the community to the festival as possible, and are encouraging local young people to assist in the completion of programmed events as volunteers. An area of the community we are hoping to draw volunteers from is Nottingham's student population, in particular those studying creative subjects. By working as event support staff students will gain insight into the organisation of public art events and first hand experience of show implementation/installation. In doing so we hope Nottingham is able to retain more of its talented young graduates in the future.

## **The Organisers**

For those involved in organising the project, Tether Festival offers opportunity for the development of leadership and business skills within the creative market. From funding application to community relations, understanding of tax matters to issues concerning public liability and safety, the festival's primary function is as a platform from which skills can be learnt and disseminated amongst the region's young creatives. It is but a small contribution towards the long term sustainability of the creative sector in Nottinghamshire.