

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Turn Gosport's Rubbish Into Art with The Theatre of Making

**What: Free craft workshops**

**Where: Alive and Kicking Festival, Walpole Park. Gosport**

**When: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2008, 11am to 4pm**

'Be creative with your junk!' is the message that the **Theatre of Making** brings to Gosport as it inspires residents to recycle their rubbish at the Alive and Kicking Festival. The Theatre of Making marquee will host a range of craft activities run by leading artists throughout the day. The organisation was asked to return to Gosport by the borough council after its highly successful event in the High Street last year.

Leading toy maker, **Robert Race**, will show festival-goers how to make a Japanese toy boat from recycled materials. Or they can work with **Chris Jenkins** who has sailed over from the Isle of Wight to create crazy creatures out of junk.

Fashion junkies can screen-print a unique design with **Dawn Dupree** or customise a garment with **Alison Willoughby**: they can bring an item with them or buy a T-shirt at the event. Those with an odd sock or glove can turn them into a special soft toy with **Lizzie Lee**, while local artist **Kate Aughey** will help participants to print designs on paper and then create an origami bird or plane.

People with just a few minutes to spare, can help **Tim Johnson** to create a mammoth willow structure or work with **Darcy Turner** to build a chair from old newspapers.

All the workshops are free of charge, but people should book early on the day at the Theatre of Making's marquee to be sure of a place. Anyone over the age of five can take part, but children

under twelve years must be accompanied by an adult. Each workshop lasts about 45 minutes and starts on the hour at 11am, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm.

Prior to the event, The Making has also arranged for automata/model maker, **Robert Race**, and textile artists, **Sue Riley** and **Lucy McGloughlin**, to run workshops for over 150 local school-children from a number of local schools. These include St Vincent Early Years Centre, Siskin Infants, Newtown Primary and Brune Park Community College. At The Theatre of Making marquee at the festival, you will see on display the results - fashion accessories made from recycled plastic bags by children from Newtown Primary School, fabulous flags screen-printed by children from St Vincent Early Years Centre and Brune Park Community College, and amazing model boats created by Siskin Infants School.

This high quality event and the schools education programme have been made possible thanks to generous funding from Hampshire County Council and Gosport Borough Council and assistance in kind from St Vincents College and its students.

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## Contact Details

For further information, or to request photographic images, please contact Jenny Bethell on 01256 845679 or [admin@themaking.org.uk](mailto:admin@themaking.org.uk)

## Note to Editors

**The Making** is an award-winning craft and design charity based in Hampshire. Its touring programme, the Theatre of Making, aims to inspire people of all ages to take part in the making of art. It is the only organisation in London and the south of England to specialise in the provision of participatory craft learning.

Please visit [www.themaking.org.uk](http://www.themaking.org.uk) for further information.

**The artists** involved include

**Robert Race** has been making wooden objects for nearly thirty years, starting with dolls' houses and miniature furniture. He also made moving toys for children, but these gradually developed into moving objects intended for adults and automata which incorporated simple mechanisms. 'I was interested in developing toy mechanisms to produce things that move in simple, but interesting ways', he says.

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**Alison Willoughby** is best known for making one-off, elaborately-patterned skirts. They are as much works of art as pieces of clothing. She is currently working on a limited edition collection of skirts and some one-off couture pieces.

**Lizzie Lee** was awarded the Brighton Festival Visual Arts Prize in 2004 for her handbags made from recycled plastic packaging. She currently makes and sells lighting from recycled milk bottles and vintage lace as well as the occasional sock or glove animal.

Textile artist **Dawn Dupree** creates evocative designs by building up printed layers of colour and images. 'I like to make things that are attractive, colourful and have a visual richness so that people are forced to look a bit more closely at them and see unexpected things,' she says.

Recent graduate **Kate Aughey** lives in Southampton. Her creatures inhabit a world of antlers and pine, felt and paper, fur and fabric. They are influenced by Inuit folktales in which nothing and everything happens and bizarre events are left unexplained. Her creature dolls appear like relics from a darkly magical realm. Kate A

**Tim Johnson's** work encompasses sculpture, basketmaking, photography, installation, painting and performance. Although based on the Isle of Wight, he has worked on projects throughout the UK and taken up Artist in Residence and Exhibition projects in locations as diverse as Uzbekistan, Newfoundland, Australia and Alabama. He enjoys working with natural, grown, found and recycled materials.

**Darcy Turner** is a London based artist who designs and builds a wide range of constructions from giant windmills to waterwheels using 'Stixx' his revolutionary 3D newspaper construction system. Darcy has produced work for exhibitions, TV and film companies and as private commissions.