

Researchers meet *art* this September

Imagine passing by the National Library of Malta in Valletta and seeing a giant brain hanging between its arches. Imagine watching five-foot tall fruit flies sitting on benches, sipping coffee, or playing the guitar. Imagine an old Maltese bus built as a circle. On 28 September, all of these ideas will become reality.

The installations are part of 'Science in the City', a festival filled with science-inspired art, music, dance, and theatre. The festival will be launched on 28 September as part of Researchers' Night, an EU-wide event that celebrates researchers, placing them on centre stage. From 18:00hrs onwards, activities will run from St James Cavalier, through Merchant's Street, past St John's Co-Cathedral, into Republic Street, and end in St George's Square. Two satellite events are located in Strait Street and Sappers Street.

The main event is a live science TV show packed with entertainment giving a memorable night for all the family. Pawlu Borg Bonnaci will host the show, guiding the audience through live experiments, comedy, and games. Families will also be treated to a science themed carnival parade. *Maskri Grotteski* will be carried, pushed, or driven down Valletta's main streets bringing robots, characters from the game Angry Birds, and Malta's own beloved Temi Zammit to life.

For the following month, St James Cavalier will be transformed into a science discovery centre. The Upper Galleries will

host a science and art exhibition by some of Malta's upcoming as well as established artists (Raphael Vella, Elisa Von Brockdorff, Norbert Francis Attard, and others). The theatre will run plays including the acclaimed *QED*, a play about a day in the life of the eccentric Nobel Prize winner Richard Feynman. This scientist wrote several novels, took part in the Manhattan project, and died of cancer in 1988, aged sixty-nine. It will also run a kids area, film festival, science cafés, and more.

Many of these activities will run during Notte Bianca, bringing science for the first time to Malta's largest all-night cultural initiative. Apart from the EU FP7 Programme, Science in the City is also supported by the Malta Arts Fund. The event is coordinated by the University of Malta with the participation of the Malta Chamber of Scientists, Valletta Local Council, PBS, AP (Architecture Project), MEUSAC, Lily Agius Gallery, and MAREs (Where's Everybody). ●

The full programme will be available nearer the date at www.scienceinthecity.org.mt and Facebook (search for Science in the City Malta).

