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PRESS RELEASE

DS5 – Digital Storytelling Festival 2010

16 June 2010

Aberystwyth Arts Centre is proud to host the fifth Digital Storytelling Festival on Wednesday 16th June. The Festival programme includes talks by international guest speakers, presentations and workshops by leading organisations in the field.

Digital Storytelling is an emerging movement that uses new digital tools to help people from all backgrounds tell their own 'true stories' in a compelling and emotionally engaging form. The DS5 Digital Storytelling Festival is aimed at inspiring and encouraging both individuals and groups already working in digital storytelling and those new to its exciting possibilities. People from all over the UK, and further afield, will come together to share experiences, explore new creative ideas, see the latest technological developments, and look at examples of best practise in the UK and worldwide. This year international speakers include **Diego Vidart**, **Alex Henry** from **Culture Shock** and **Joe Lambert**.

Diego Vidart is the researcher and coordinator of Historias Digitales del Uruguay (HDUY), at the Catholic University of Uruguay. Digital Stories Uruguay is a multidisciplinary project involving research, innovation and development which aims to introduce digital storytelling to Uruguay.

Alex Henry is Project Coordinator for **Culture Shock**. Alex has a particular interest in community engagement and has extensive experience of working with hard-to-reach groups on museum outreach projects. Culture Shock is an exciting two year project which aims to collect 1,000 digital stories from people across the North East of England. The project explores the diverse heritage of individuals, groups and communities living in the region by encouraging 1,000 people to create their own digital stories.

Centre for Digital Storytelling founder and Executive Director **Joe Lambert** will discuss the roots of the Digital Storytelling movement, the current accomplishments and challenges for the movement at an international level, and some of the trends to watch as we enter the third decade of Digital Storytelling practices.

There will also be presentations by representatives from leading organisations working in the field of digital storytelling. These presentations will explore and discuss a variety of themes and issues and offer a fascinating insight into the role digital storytelling can play in community development. The varied and inspirational projects include **Tales of First and Second Sight** and **Echo Archive**.



Chris Tally Evans' **Tales of First and Second Sight** explores the different ways in which we see ourselves, our families and our lives. Chris has lived half his life with 20/20 vision and the other half with a rare visual impairment: this has changed the way he sees things literally and metaphorically. His work explores family history and identity, urban and rural contrasts, obsessions, humour and disabling experiences in new and revealing ways.

David Gunn is the Director of Incidental, a cross-disciplinary creative organization, and his presentation will offer a hands-on introduction to the **Echo Archive** project. Echo Archive was commissioned by Opera North and pioneered a unique example of site-specific compositional software. This session will explore interactive, performative approaches to the construction of narrative and the sense of place and will also include a more general exploration of the theory and practice of decentralised and participatory media projects.

This is a unique opportunity to discover the work of a huge range of organizations to gain inspiration and advice from leading professionals. This year's Festival provides a fantastic forum in which to discuss new creative ideas, the latest technological advances, and the challenges and opportunities these rapid developments present the storytelling community. DS5 2010 promises to be a highly informative and inspirational day exploring the exciting possibilities of Digital Storytelling.

Tickets for the festival are £15.00 (discount available for school groups) and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

The ticket price includes all events during the day, lunch and coffee.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors:

The Festival has been organised by DS Cymru - Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Canllaw, Breaking Barriers, BBC Capture Wales, Yale College Wrexham, Coleg Sir Gar, and Monmouth Council, and is presented with the support of the Arts Council of Wales.

Press tickets are available for the conference if you would like to attend.

Further information is available from Rachel Taylor on 01970 622889 email rst@aber.ac.uk
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