ICE WORLDS FESTIVAL AT ROYAL MUSEUMS GREENWICH

The UK’s new polar research ship, the RRS Sir David Attenborough will be visiting Greenwich between 28 and 30 October. The state-of-the-art ship, operated by British Antarctic Survey, will enable world-leading research in Antarctica and the Arctic for the next 25-30 years. It is the latest highlight in the UK’s long tradition of polar exploration and world leadership in polar science.

On the eve of the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, British Antarctic Survey is partnering with Royal Museums Greenwich to host a three-day public festival from 28 to 30 October. A dazzling showcase of environmental science, engineering and technology, Ice Worlds will enthral families and inspire current and next generation of scientists, technicians, engineers and citizens.

Highlights of the festival include live talks and virtual tours of the RRS Sir David Attenborough, Ice Worlds – a chance to meet polar scientists and experts in the National Maritime Museum and learn what it’s like to work in the polar regions and the opportunity to explore what it really means to do extreme polar science and engineering. Visitors will also discover how robots unravel the mystery of the oceans and catch a glimpse of the infamous ship Boaty McBoatface.

For further information and listings, visit the website at www.rmg.co.uk

HALLOWEEN AT WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR

From 24 September to 7 November, the Dark Arts feature at Warner Bros. Studio Tour: The Making of Harry Potter will focus on the symbol of Lord Voldemort and his Death Eaters as the Dark Mark is projected throughout the Studio Tour for fans to follow on their visit. Between the imposing trees of the Forbidden Forest or the turrets of the Hogwarts Castle model, visitors can collect a Studio Tour passport on arrival and go on the hunt for the Dark Mark.

In celebration of Halloween, a fan-favourite returning this year will be the 100 floating pumpkins in the magnificent Great Hall, as seen in Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone. Each uniquely carved pumpkin was handcrafted by Head Propmaker on the Harry Potter film series, Pierre Bohanna and his team as well as much of the Hallowe’en feast which will laden the tables of the Great Hall.

Visitors to the Studio Tour are also invited to learn the moves behind a wand combat scene, just like the Battle of Hogwarts, in a live duel with Death Eaters. The Wand Choreographer from Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix to Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2, Paul Harris, described the importance of wand combat as a ‘physical element to casting a spell, because otherwise what makes one wizard better than another?’ Fans will learn a sequence from the famous battle scene and practise their spells on Death Eaters during their visit.

www.wbstudiotour.co.uk

THE ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER EXHIBITION

The 253rd Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy will be a unique celebration of contemporary art and architecture, providing a vital platform and support for the artistic community. Yinka Shonibare RA is the co-ordinator of the Summer Exhibition and, working with the rest of the Summer Exhibition Committee, will explore the theme of ‘Reclaiming Magic’ to celebrate the joy of creating art. Shonibare said ‘This exhibition seeks a return to the visceral aspects and the sheer joy of art making. It will celebrate the transformative powers of the magical in art and transcend the Western canon which formed the foundations of the Royal Academy, seeking to restore value to marginalised practice as equally valid forms of enlightenment.’

This year, the Summer Exhibition will expand beyond the spatial and visual with a sound programme. The programme, which is intended to be played through personal headphones to enhance the experience of the exhibition, will include soundscapes and poetry by six artists. It will be available for visitors to download in advance of their visit via a QR code on the RA website as well as at the entrance to the exhibition.

The Summer Exhibition is the world’s largest open submission contemporary art show and has taken place every year without interruption since 1769. Works from all over the world are judged democratically on merit and the final selection is made during the eight-day hang in the galleries.