

8th May 2014

Countdown begins for Cosford sci-fi weekend

**Cosford Flights of Fantasy - 17th & 18th May FREE entry
Special guest talks - advance tickets only**

With just over a week to go until the Cosford Flights of Fantasy weekend, final preparations are now well underway. Taking place on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th May at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, visitors will be transported back to the 60's and 70's with a weekend devoted to classic British sci-fi.

During this nostalgic event, puppets and memorabilia from iconic science fiction shows created by Gerry and Sylvia Anderson will be on display, including puppets of much loved characters from the shows Thunderbirds, Joe 90, Steve Zodiac, the heroic pilot of Fireball XL5, Captain Scarlet and his evil nemesis Captain Black, and the Terrahawks, to name but a few.

Many of the well-known puppets on display are original studio puppets and will be shown exclusively for the very first time at Cosford. Also on display are models, costumes, full sized vehicles and sets from the classic live action shows Space 1999 and UFO. For anyone wishing to take home a piece of memorabilia, trade stands will also be present with associated merchandise from these legendary shows.

Co-creator, Producer and the voice of Lady Penelope, Sylvia Anderson will be making a rare public appearance at the event holding exclusive talks with question and answer sessions both days between 10.30am and 4.00pm for a limited number of visitors. Other special guests include; Brian Johnson, Alan Shubrook, Tony Day, Mary Turner and Judith Shutt. Together these pioneering creators, model makers, producers, puppeteers and special effects designers brought to life many of the world's most popular sci-fi shows. Guests will talk about their outstanding careers and give people an insight into what it was really like to make these iconic shows before answering questions from the audience.

Any visitors wishing to attend the special guest's talks are urged to purchase their tickets in advance as spaces are limited. Admission to the talks and Q&A sessions both days is strictly by advance ticket only and a limited number of spaces are available. One day Q&A session tickets with multiple guest talks including Sylvia Anderson cost just £25.00, weekend tickets cost £40.00 and can be purchased from the Museum's website www.rafmuseum.org/cosford. Ticket price also includes a free parking pass. (The talks are not suitable for children under 5).

The 'Cosford Flights of Fantasy' event will be open to the public on 17th and 18th May from 10:00am. The event will take place in the Museum's National Cold War Exhibition and viewing the sci-fi exhibition is free of charge and suitable for all ages. For further details about the 'Cosford Flights of Fantasy' exhibition please call 01902 376200.

Keep up to date with the latest news and event information by following us on Facebook – The Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford or on Twitter @RAFMUSEUM. The Museum is open daily from 10am and admission is FREE of charge.

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Special Guests:

Saturday 17th May 2014 - Sylvia Anderson, Brian Johnson, Alan Perry, Alan Shubbrook, Tony Day (provisional)

Sunday 18th May 2014 - Sylvia Anderson, Brian Johnson, Alan Perry, Alan Shubbrook, Mary Turner, Judith Shutt

- Sylvia Anderson** - Co-creator, producer and the voice of Lady Penelope
- Brian Johnson** - Special effects Thunderbirds and Space 1999, 2001, Oscar winner for The Empire Strikes Back
- Alan Perry** - Director Captain Scarlet, Joe 90, UFO
- Alan Shubbrook** - Model maker Thunderbirds, Captain Scarlet, Joe 90, The Secret Service, UFO. Alan will be providing an exclusive presentation of his own collection of backstage photos from his days working on the shows
- Tony Day** - Model maker Thunderbird 6 and Doppelganger. (provisional)
- Mary Turner** - Puppeteer, puppet designer, Supercar through to Secret Service. Mary sculpted characters such as Steve Zodiac, Troy Tempest, Captain Scarlet and Lady Penelope
- Judith Shutt** - Puppet operator Stingray through to Secret Service

Notes to Editors:

- Follow us on Facebook – The Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford
- Follow us on Twitter – @RAFMUSEUM
- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- Open daily from 10am
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge.
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at:
<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Morgans on 01902 376212 or email michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org
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