

Science Festival call for food producers to help with Gastrofest



EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL SEEKS PARTICIPANTS FOR GASTROFEST

Edinburgh International Science Festival has launched a call for Food Producers, Chefs and Mixologists to be part of GastroFest – a mini-festival celebrating the science of food and drink. Gastro-Fest will take place over the first weekend of next year's Science Festival, which runs from Saturday 5 – Sunday 20 April 2014.

GastroFest will feature a series of innovative events exploring the science at the heart of our culinary experiences. Whether it's probing links between pleasure, taste and disgust; examining the creative science behind our favourite foods or mixing science, food and culture to create out-of-this-world dining experiences, the vibrant and varied programme will appeal to all appetites.

Highlights include a series of Gala Dinners exploring links between the psychology of food and our senses, where culinary science secrets from around the world will be shared alongside those of local food, beer and whisky producers, with leading psychologists and neuroscientists revealing the secrets of perfect flavour combinations.

The Festival will also host a one-off 'SciMart' – a day-long farmers' market with a scientific twist, pairing food

producers with researchers and chefs to reveal the fascinating science behind some of our favourite foodstuffs with cooking demos, talks, workshops and plenty of tasty treats.

These stand-out events will also be accompanied by exhibits, workshops and a discussion series exploring the science of food.

The Festival is now looking for participants from all over Scotland who would like to be involved in GastroFest, helping to create and produce events, whilst showcasing their culinary expertise. In particular, the Festival is seeking stallholders, chefs and producers to take part in SciMart, sharing their creative ideas and specialist knowledge with festival-goers.

Deputy Festival Director Amanda Tyndall said: 'Food brings people together like nothing else in the world and there's science in every mouthful. GastroFest will feature events that focus on a wide variety of Scottish produce, acting as a valuable showcase for world-class Scottish produce and celebrating the expertise of the people who grow, make and cook it.

This is where we need some help – we can bring the science but we need others to bring the food! We are keen to work with food producers, chefs and mixologists from across the country. From those who brew unique beer, grow great vegetables or create terrific cheese to who just do something fascinating with food – we'd love to hear from anyone who wants to get involved.'

Those interested in participating should contact Festival Events Developer Eilidh Dunnet by 1 December 2013, with information about what they grow, make or do, and how they'd like to be involved.

The 2014 Edinburgh International Science Festival will run from 5-20 April with the majority of GastroFest events taking place over the first weekend.

