

NEWS RELEASE

Teenage Lego movie whizz unveils film for Paisley's City of Culture bid

A teenager from Kilbarchan has created a fabulous stop-motion animation film about the nearby town of Paisley, Scotland in trademark Lego bricks style.

The three-minute film, which was launched today (1st February) at St. Charles' Primary School in Paisley features the town's most striking buildings while Paisley "buddies" are depicted in their most famous roles – from David Tennant as Dr. Who and the artist and playwright, John Byrne, in his studio, to pop megastar Paolo Nutini performing at 'T in the Park'. There's even homage to kitsch 70s Paisley pop queen, Kelly-Marie.

Following his creation of '[Brick Flicks](#)' - a series of stop-motion animation films using Lego of famous movie scenes - 17 year-old Morgan Spence has been fêted by America's Jimmy Kimmel and commissioned by a Birmingham man to create a unique [marriage proposal](#) (screened before the main feature in his local cinema).

Morgan received funding for this new film from Paisley's Culture, Heritage and Events Fund, which is designed to enhance the town's cultural richness and diversity as part of its bid to become UK City of Culture 2021.

Renfrewshire Council Leader and Chair of the Paisley 2021 Bid Partnership Board, Mark Macmillan, said, "The wealth of young, creative talent in Renfrewshire is an extremely important part of our bid to become UK City of Culture 2021, and we are delighted to have Morgan in our midst.

"His film is a wonderful, affectionate tribute to Paisley, which we hope will ignite further debate about the town and its future."

Morgan Spence said, "Renfrewshire Council has supported my films for several years, involving me in Lego exhibitions back in 2013 and 2014. So it was a privilege for me to be able to promote the town in this way.

"My parents and grandparents went to school and worked in Paisley and I'm delighted to have been able to play a small part in enhancing the town's bid to become City of Culture."

As part of his funding, Morgan is also delivering digital filmmaking and animation workshops in 10 Renfrewshire schools – one of which was today's session at St Charles'. Meanwhile he is studying for a clutch of qualifications at Johnstone High School in a bid to secure a place at university to study multimedia journalism.

Lynne Hollywood, Acting Head Teacher at Johnstone High, said,

"Morgan is in his sixth year at Johnstone High School and we are incredibly proud of him. At just 17, he manages to balance his academic studies alongside his duties as Depute Head Boy, whilst also making stop-motion animation films through his own production company. Morgan has a genuine commitment to his local community and his film for the 2021 bid is a great example of how our talented, local young people can back the bid."

Morgan's film about Paisley, which took four months to make, is at <https://youtu.be/JUJ3Q859GqQ>

For further information on Morgan Spence, visit www.morgspennyproductions.co.uk

For more information on Paisley's bid for UK City of Culture visit www.paisley2021.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @Paisley 2021 or on Facebook /Paisley2021

Ends

Issued by and further information from Nancy McLardie, Renfrewshire Council, email: nancy.mclardie@renfrewshire.gov.uk; telephone: 07425 164341

Notes to Editors

Photographs from today's launch will be sent direct to Picture Desks by Mark Gibson 07792 445437.

Buddy is the term given to someone from Paisley.

Paisley's bid for UK City of Culture 2021 will use the town's unique and fascinating story to transform its future - by putting the town in the international spotlight, attracting visitors, creating jobs and using culture to make people's lives better.

The one-time global textile hub and birthplace of the Paisley Pattern is also home to stunning architecture, an internationally-significant museum collection, Glasgow Airport, University of the West of Scotland, West College Scotland, PACE Theatre Company and a thriving contemporary cultural scene.

The UK City of Culture competition is run by the UK Government. The shortlisted cities will be announced in summer 2017, and the winner at the end of the year. Find out more about our story at www.paisley2021.co.uk.

The Culture, Heritage & Events Fund (CHEF) is a significant building block in the development of Paisley's bid for UK City of Culture 2021, raising our cultural ambition, enhancing participation and unlocking creative potential in Renfrewshire.