

PRESS RELEASE



July 2010

Immediate release

Arts & Disability Forum presents

The World of Crippen

satirical cartoons on disability issues

**“... acknowledged as the UK’s leading disabled cartoonist”
Disability Arts Magazine**

**“He takes no prisoners when confronting the hypocrisy
that often permeates the world of disability ...” Kit Wells,
NUJ Disabled Members’ Council**

On 20th July 2010, a new exhibition at the Arts & Disability Forum on Royal Avenue will reveal satirical cartoons by Dave Lupton, aka Crippen. The show opens to the public at 11am on 20th July and continues until 12th August within the ADF’s regular public opening times, Tuesday to Friday, 11am-3pm. On 22nd July there will be an artist’s talk by Crippen, who is flying in from Barcelona for the occasion. The talk, which is part of the ADF’s ‘Conversations’ series, will be followed by an early evening reception from 5pm until 7pm. Monica Wilson from Disability Action will introduce the event and then there will be a chance for Crippen to mingle with other invited guests and ADF members.

Margaret Mann, Chair of the Arts & Disability Forum says: “The content of this exhibition is challenging and informative but it also is enjoyable. Audio description is integral – I have a strong sense of the work now and other visually impaired people will have too. The tour will reach disabled people throughout Northern Ireland and, as well as the ADF’s usual target audience, this show is attracting interest from other socially excluded groups - it’s a prime example of the Arts & Disability Forum’s genuinely inclusive approach”.

Disabled cartoonist, Crippen’s mission is to expose the barriers that continue to exclude disabled people from many aspects of everyday life. His cartoons challenge discrimination and prejudice with an impudence and irreverence which frequently make his work controversial.

The show includes pieces that have only very recently been produced and the Arts & Disability Forum has received congratulatory messages from people living as far afield as Spain, India and the USA, all of whom would like to see the work. Following this ADF premiere, *The World of Crippen* will live on in Northern Ireland for at least another year, touring to disability accessible venues, including day centres, libraries, colleges and small-scale arts exhibition spaces. For ADF member organisations the show will be available free of charge with venues just covering transport, insurance and publicity. Chris Ledger, the Arts & Disability Forum’s Chief Executive says: “This work irreverently expresses ideas stemming from disability politics – as differentiated from the usual NI political concerns. Disability is a leveller, it doesn’t discriminate and it can affect people from any background. In the current general atmosphere of cuts, where there are particular fears about potential cuts to disability services, *The World of Crippen* is especially pertinent. The ADF is delighted to have had the support of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council to originate this exciting exhibition for Northern Ireland.”

An empty frame hanging in the exhibition will symbolise Crippen’s agreement to produce a new piece of work for Northern Ireland. Over the next few months disabled people living in Northern Ireland are invited to identify the disability issue that most warrants a cartoon and

Crippen will then draw a new piece representing the issue with the most nominations. The Arts & Disability Forum will present this cartoon to key politicians as part of celebrations for International Day of Disabled People.

... Ends

The World of Crippen - Editor's Notes

1) Further information on the artist

Dave Lupton, aka Crippen, has been producing cartoons about disability related issues for the past 20 years. A disabled person himself, all of his work is rooted in the Social Model of disability and tackles the barriers in society that disable people who have impairments (including physical, sensory and intellectual impairments and mental health difficulties). His mission is to expose those barriers which continue to exclude Disabled people. His cartoons challenge discrimination, preconception and prejudice. Thanks to the internet, Dave is involved with an extensive network of disabled people across the world. His work therefore reflects not only a wide impairment focus but also introduces aspects of different cultures and their approaches to disability and disabled people.

Dave produces a weekly cartoon blog on the UK Disability Arts On-Line (DAO) web site. He also generates regular work for film, television, national and local newspapers, magazines and web sites. Much of his work is produced to support the activities of many groups and organisations of disabled people who use his cartoons for Disability Equality Training and information purposes.

For more details, you can contact Dave at:

Email: daveluptoncartoons@live.co.uk

Web site: www.crippencartoons.co.uk/

Disability Arts Online blog: <http://www.disabilityartsonline.org/crippen-blog>

2) Interviews and photo opportunities

Exhibition dates: 20 July -12 August 2010

Artist's talk: Thursday 22 July 3pm (book in advance)

Evening reception: Thursday 22 July 5pm–7pm (informal)

Dave Lupton and Arts & Disability Forum staff/Board members will be available at the above for interviews and photographs.

Individual arrangements can be made on request.

3) Information on Arts & Disability Forum

The ADF was formed in 1993 by a group of people who aspired to create a forum for people with disabilities in the arts. It is a proactive Arts & Disability development agency working towards cultural equity:

- The lead organisation for Arts & Disability in Northern Ireland, with strong partnerships in NI, the ROI and throughout the UK.
- The driving force towards a culture where disabled people can be involved in the arts in the manner and at the level of their choice.
- An advocate and artistic catalyst at the heart of Arts & Disability in Northern Ireland, encouraging a flow towards positive change.

All full Board members of the ADF are disabled, including the Chair, and so are the majority of staff members, including the CEO. The Arts & Disability Forum gallery space is on the ground floor at the Cathedral Quarter Workspaces, 109-113 Royal Avenue in Belfast (opposite the Mace shop/Central Library and next door to the Belfast Coffee Company).

We do our best to meet all reasonable requests for disability access: our space is accessible for wheelchair users, most of our events have BSL interpretation and Braille; and we arrange other types of support for our events provided this is requested in advance. During The World of Crippen exhibition, audio described tours are available for visually impaired visitors and we are happy to accommodate group

bookings with talks about the ADF's work or about the exhibition
(book in advance).

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