



## PRESS RELEASE

### BRANCHAGE CELEBRATES THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF BERGERAC

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**Please Do Not Release Until 12pm Friday August 12th**

The annual **Branchage International Film Festival** returns for its fourth edition from 22-25th September 2011, with films, live soundtracks, parties and performances taking place in a host of wonderful and unlikely venues across the parishes of Jersey. Branchage combines a creative, lovingly-curated programme of site-specific events and one-off performances with all the idiosyncratic charm of Jersey, making it not only the Channel Islands most unique cultural event, but one of the most desirable destination festivals in Europe.

As well as recently-announced showpiece events including Antarctic documentary **The Great White Silence** with a live score by **Simon Fisher Turner & the Elysian Quartet at the Opera House**, and many more fantastic events to be announced, one of the festival highlights will surely be the **Bergerac 30th Anniversary Black Tie Dinner, taking place on Friday 23rd September at the Barclays Wealth Spiegelent.**

Generously supported by international law firm **Walkers**, the event is in aid of local charity **Holiday For Heroes Jersey**. Featuring a live house band (of course performing the famous Bergerac theme), the dinner is a celebration of one of Jersey's most culturally significant exports. *Bergerac* ran from 1981-1990 and made **John Nettles OBE**, guest of honour on the night, one of Britain's best-loved TV stars, his depiction of the complex detective Jim Bergerac watched by millions each week.

A stellar line up, and hosted by **Sean Arnold** (Inspector Barney Crozier), who will introduce the other guest of honour, Robert Banks Stewart, Bergerac creator, original producer and writer. **Robert Banks Stewart** has over fifty years in television and also produced *The Darling Buds of May* and *Shoestring*. He was also the writer of *The Avengers*, *The Sweeney* and many other top dramas.

Sean Arnold will welcome fellow members of the star cast, including **Deborah Grant** (Debbie Bergerac), **Liza Goddard** (*The Ice Maiden* & jewel thief Phillipa Vale), **Louise Jameson** (Susan Young, Jim's long-term girlfriend) and **Mela White** (*Diamante Lil*, who ran the *Royal Barge*). Others expected to attend include **Celia Imrie**, **Cecile Paoli**, **Annette Badland** (*Charlotte of the Bureau Des Etrangers*), and other surprise guests from the series.

The evening also features BBC Radio Jersey presenter **Murray Norton**, who will help to compere and act as auctioneer on the night, and will feature a stand-up set by Jersey-born comedian **Will Smith**. As well as supporting Jonny Vegas, Ardol O'Hanlon and Ricky Gervais (on his 'Fame Tour'), Smith has written for numerous successful British comedy shows including Al Murray's *Time Gentlemen Please*, and Armando Iannucci's *Time Trumpet* and *The Thick Of It*. He is known for his encyclopaedic knowledge of *Bergerac*, and in 2007 produced the Radio 4 comedy *The Tao Of Bergerac*. The four-part programme concerns Smith's obsession with Bergerac and features cameos from John Nettles reading from a fictional audiobook. It is described in the writer's own words as:

**"a mixture of some stand up and sitcom and a bit of a chat show where I talk about an issue that's been happening to me and use John Nettles' audio book of Tao, which is an ancient book of Chinese wisdom, as my guide and it normally goes very wrong."**

He describes one of his favourite party pieces as:

**"It's called my 'six degrees trick'; I can link any book or film to a specific Bergerac episode in six moves or less."**

This very special event will be raising funds, through an auction of *Bergerac* memorabilia, for **Holidays For Heroes Jersey (H4HJ)**. H4HJ is a local charity whose aim is to provide a week's holiday in Jersey, to any past or present member of HM Forces injured, in mind or body, whilst on active duty. H4HJ was founded by Dawn & Richard Woodhouse in August 2008. They provided 170+ holidays in the first 12 months and thanks to the generous support it has received, the charity is going from strength to strength. The 500th holiday has just taken place.

In February 2008, Richard & Dawn thought perhaps they would offer a holiday to possibly one or two injured boys in their home. Within a short time and after innocently mentioning what they intended to do, donations started to come in, with the suggestion, "do it properly and put the boys into a nice hotel". And so Holidays for Heroes Jersey (H4HJ) was established and launched on 28th August 2008, by the former Patron The Lieut. Governor of Jersey, His Excellency Lieut. General Sir Andrew Ridgway.

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## The event is kindly supported by Walkers.

Demand has been high for this event; there are just over a dozen tables of six available, although VIP tables are now sold out. Table bookings and individual bookings are available. Tickets are £100 per person, and the ticket price includes a three course meal, created for this event by **Jersey Potteries**. The event begins at 7.30pm on Friday 23rd September, finishing at midnight. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Lady Sylvia Gould on [Sylvia.Gould@ccventures.co.je](mailto:Sylvia.Gould@ccventures.co.je), or 01534 702706, from the [www.branchagefestival.com](http://www.branchagefestival.com) or from the Branchage Box Office, which opens at Liberty Wharf in mid-August.

## The Venue

The Barclays Wealth Spiegelent will once again be shipped across the Channel and constructed in Weighbridge Square. The structure of wood, canvas, mirrors and stained glass will be the buzzing focal point of the festival, hosting parties and social events, including the infamous Bordee d'Branchage as well as this very special event.

## Quotes:

Xanthe Hamilton, Branchage Creative Director:

“Growing up in Jersey, the legacy of Bergerac has always been present. In the fourth year of the festival, and with the thirtieth anniversary of the show, the time finally seemed right to celebrate the series. I knew it would be a very special event from the time that planning started, but even I'm overwhelmed by the entertainment and Special Guests who will be coming - not just John Nettles, but so many of the cast and even the show's creator. We're excited to be organising such a glamorous and fun evening, and in aid of such a worthwhile charity.”

Dawn & Richard Woodhouse, Holidays For Heroes Jersey:

“As great fans of Bergerac – Dawn was an extra! – we are thrilled and honoured to be part of this wonderful event. It will raise funds for and the profile of H4HJ and that helps us to find past or present service personnel who are deserving of and in need of a holiday.

We look forward to meeting up with the Bergerac team and reliving many happy memories with them and with Will Smith, who we have known since he was seven years old.”

Jonathan Heaney, Walkers Global:

“Walkers is delighted to sponsor this year's Branchage International Film Festival and we are pleased to make our contribution to supporting the arts in Jersey as well as the Holiday for Heroes charity,” said Jonathan Heaney, partner with Walkers. “Walkers has developed an interesting niche in film financing through investment funds, including the multi-Oscar-winning ‘The Kings Speech’ which we expect to become an important aspect of the international financial services industry in Jersey. We hope that everyone attending this year's festival has an excellent time.”

## Notes to Editors:

Started in 2008 by Creative Director Xanthe Hamilton, Branchage engages local audiences in Jersey as well as attracting visitors from the UK and further afield. The festival has made its names as a leader in live soundtracks, site-specific screening and unusual filmic experiences. Past live soundtracks have included: **The Memory Band** performing to **The Wicker Man** and **British Sea Power** playing to **Man of Aran**, as well as new soundtracks commissioned to the festival by **Bo Ningen (Cat Soup)**, **Amiina (Lotte Reiniger fairytales)** and **Euros Childs (Yuri Norstein animations)**.

The festival delights in turning unexpected spaces into cinemas including **Battleship Potemkin** on a tugboat; **Sleep Furiously** in the barn of an organic farm; Lindsay Anderson's **If...** in Victoria College's Great Hall; **The Vanishing of the Bees** in a polytunnel and **Lourdes** in a church. Elaborate themed parties are another staple of the Branchage experience, with past performances by **Chrome Hoof, Kitty Daisy & Lewis, Paloma Faith and Top Cats**, as well as troupes of interactive performers, aerial artists, burlesque dancers and troubadours.

Many more events and performances will be announced soon. Please visit [www.branchagefestival.com](http://www.branchagefestival.com) for further programme information.

**For more information/images/interviews, please contact press officer  
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