



# Event marks the countdown to this year's Hostry Festival



■ The Hostry Festival team at the launch of the event.

Picture: SIMON FINLAY PHOTOGRAPHY

The countdown has begun for this year's Hostry Festival as performers, volunteers and organisers gathered for a special launch event celebrating the Norfolk arts extravaganza.

The festival – now in its sixth year – will run from October 15 to 30, and yesterday, at Norwich Cathedral's Hostry, people enjoyed finding out about the array of events planned for the

2016 programme.

Among them is *King Lear In New York* – the festival's main house play which is inspired by the famous Shakespearean character.

Other highlights include the return of the Paint Out Norwich open air art competition, the Norfolk Arts Awards, and a performance by Total Ensemble Theatre Company.

Stash Kirkbride, the festival's artistic director, said: "I'm really excited about sharing all the work with audiences in a few weeks' time.

"We are on target for what is likely to be our highest profile festival so far."

More than 100 people are involved in the festival and preparations are now in full swing.

"We start rehearsals for *King*

*Lear In New York* on Monday and all the projects are fully under way," he said.

The main supporter for the 2016 festival is the Norfolk Community Foundation.

■ For more about the festival, visit [www.hostryfestival.org](http://www.hostryfestival.org)

■ To find out about becoming a festival volunteer, email [info@hostryfestival.org](mailto:info@hostryfestival.org)