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Thousands of people get connected during lockdown and take part in Eden Project's first virtual festival.

Thousands of people connected and enjoyed Eden Project's first virtual festival with over 10,000 session views so far and counting.

Festival-goers got fit with Mr Motivator, laughed along to comedians Jo Brand and Eddie Izzard and got creative from their own homes. Every session was recorded and posted on the festival website so now nobody needs to miss out!

On Friday and Saturday people joined the Festival of Discovery from all over the world, and took part in creative workshops, online discussions, and watched virtual gigs.

They even got the chance to take a virtual tour around the world-famous Eden Biomes and walk amongst the exotic plants whilst watching exclusive talks and workshops focusing on encouraging people to explore a better future, for themselves and their communities.

The festival was aimed at helping people connect online during lockdown, and was the Cornwall based charity's first online venture.

Eden Project ambassadors Eddie Izzard and Jo Brand headlined the Hot Topics from the Tropics stage, and hundreds of people tuned in to hear the marathon man talking about how to make humanity great again, while fellow comedian Jo Brand spoke about what she's personally discovered during her extraordinary life and career.

Derrick Errol Evans MBE – better known as Mr Motivator – got his fans pumped up and ready for the exciting weekend ahead, whilst also trying to inspire everyone to help save the planet with his workout class on Saturday morning.

On the Great Outdoors stage, Love Your Garden and This Morning's resident gardener David Domoney prescribed a number of plant and nature activities to show people how time spent outdoors can help you physically and mentally.

Harry Potter and Peter Pan actor Jason Isaacs gave a special reading of a Hans Christian Andersen classic, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, and Book Club favourite, TV presenter and the other half of Richard and Judy, Richard Madeley gave some top tips about why to pick up a book during the pandemic.

Other highlights included Guinness World Record breaking cyclist Mark Beaumont in conversation with the Eden Project's Peter Stewart, and former Olympian Greg Whyte OBE, who explained how exercise and positivity can help people to achieve their goals.

Youngsters enjoyed getting into the festive spirit with a lantern making class and were taken on an adventure through time rapping about carnivores and herbivores with Cbeebie's presenter Andy Day. Hundreds of people got behind their laptops and plugged in to listen to the inspirational Stories from The Stage, where people like Amit Patel and Yasin El Ashrafi shared their moving stories via Zoom and Facebook.

Eden Project Co-Founder Sir Tim Smit said: *"Thousands of people joined us for our first Festival of Discovery, enjoying fantastic discussions, demonstrations and acts, connecting with one another over one energising weekend."*

"At a time when ordinary life was stifled, this festival offered the opportunity to explore what a better future might look like which is so important right now."

"It was exciting to see so many people taking part, not just here in the UK but from other parts of the world too – we can't wait to do it again in 2021!"

The festival was a part of the Eden Project's Communities program, all made possible by The National Lottery, and follows the first virtual Big Lunch that took place last summer.

All of the sessions from the festival are still available to watch online, and can be viewed by going to the Festival of Discovery website (www.thefestivalofdiscovery.com).

ENDS

Contact

For more information about the Festival of Discovery please contact Liam Coleman on lc Coleman@edenproject.com or call 07817463234.

Images

Images are available to download from: <https://we.tl/t-aY0yHIMhQ2>

Jo Brand and Eddie Izzard screenshots: <https://we.tl/t-amx8fro9N8>

Captions:

Festival of Discovery (Mr Dino): Erin Snow, 4, with her dad, Tom Snow, enjoying the Mr Dino from Cbeebies workshop at the Festival of Discovery.

Festival of Discovery: Thousands of people got online and joined in with the Festival of Discovery via Zoom and Youtube.

Festival of Discovery: Festival-goers put on their lycra to get involved with Mr Motivator's workout class as part of the Festival of Discovery.

Eddie Izzard Festival: Eden Project ambassador and comedian Eddie Izzard was one of the headline acts at the Project's first online festival.

Jo Brand Festival: Comedian Jo Brand in conversation with Kevin Cahill CBE at the Eden Project's Festival of Discovery.