



## AWE-INSPIRING EXHIBITION HEADING TO NEWCASTLE FOR UK FIRST

**Tickets on sale now, exhibition opens 17 May 2014**

***BODY WORLDS Vital***, an exhibition that celebrates the wonder, complexity and fragility of the human body, is heading to Newcastle's Life Science Centre for its UK debut.

A unique and compelling exhibition, ***BODY WORLDS Vital*** brings together a collection of real human bodies, specimens and organs, willed by donors and preserved through plastination; a ground-breaking specimen preservation process invented by scientist Dr Gunther von Hagens.

Over 38 million people have experienced ***BODY WORLDS*** in over 90 cities worldwide including Tokyo, New York, Los Angeles and Mexico City. ***Vital*** features a unique set of anatomical specimens enabling visitors to learn about human anatomy by viewing real human bodies.

Linda Conlon, Chief Executive of Life, said: "We're incredibly proud to be bringing ***BODY WORLDS Vital*** to Newcastle for its UK debut. It fuses science and culture and offers a rare opportunity to experience a powerful and remarkable exhibition that helps us to understand the wonder, sophistication and fragility of our own bodies."

***BODY WORLDS Vital***, which opens at Life on 17 May 2014, shows how the body works when it is healthy and explores how best to fight life-threatening diseases. It allows visitors to explore human anatomy, physiology and health through a series of full body plastinates, individual organs and transparent body slices that give a complete picture of how the human body works. Healthy and diseased organs are shown alongside each other allowing visitors to see how lifestyle choices may affect the body, such as how smoking affects the lungs.

Dr. Angelina Whalley, Curator and Designer of the ***BODY WORLDS*** exhibitions, said: "I am struck by the synergy, symmetry and poetry of having the trailblazing science of plastination that unveils the keenly intelligent human body, presented at Life, the pioneering science village which has the co-founder of DNA, Nobel Laureate, Dr. James Watson as its patron. Our mission dovetails with that of Life - to engage visitors and ignite an interest in the life sciences."

Highlights of the exhibition include a relay runner posed mid-handover to display the muscular system and a gymnast posed mid-air in a spread-eagle jump.

Support for the exhibition coming to Newcastle has been widespread:

Chi Onwurah, Labour MP for Newcastle Central, said: "It's easy to forget that far from being abstract, science is also about finding out what it means to be human. **BODY WORLDS Vital** is an incredible exhibition that makes the study of the human body accessible to us all allowing us to gain a new appreciation and respect for our own existence. Life is to be applauded for bringing such an inspiring exhibition to the city."

Cllr Nick Forbes, leader of Newcastle City Council, said: "It's a coup for Newcastle that the International Centre for Life has managed to attract the **BODY WORLDS** Exhibition. High profile exhibitions like this bring people to the city from all over the world, as well as allowing local people the opportunity to see something completely unique."

Sarah Stewart, chief executive at destination management and marketing organisation, NewcastleGateshead Initiative, said: "**BODY WORLDS Vital** is without doubt one of NewcastleGateshead's cultural calendar highlights for 2014, and what a coup for Life to be the first UK venue to host this exhibition in the **BODY WORLDS** series of events. There's no better place to see an exhibition about the vital workings of the human body than a venue where life changing discoveries and research take place daily. Through Life, the public can learn more about the human body and the world around us."

**BODY WORLDS Vital** is at Life Science Centre on 17 May 2014 until 2 November 2014. Tickets can be booked online at [www.life.org.uk](http://www.life.org.uk)

Life will be open until 8.00pm every Thursday evening for the duration of the exhibition.

Opening times are: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat 10am-6pm (last admission 4pm)  
Thursday 10am – 8pm (last admission 7.00pm)  
Sunday 11am – 6pm (last admission 4pm)

Prices for the exhibition are: Adults: £12.00  
Concessions: £9.50  
Child (aged 2-17): £7.50  
Under 2s: Free  
Family (2 adults & 2 children or 1 adult & 3 children) £29.50

Discounts for groups are also available.

As a guideline, when visiting with children, Life suggests that **BODY WORLDS Vital** is of interest to children aged 8 and over and that all children are accompanied by an adult. A Family Information pack is available on [Life's website](http://Life's website), [life.org.uk](http://life.org.uk) and offers an introduction to the exhibition and gives answers to frequently asked questions.

**Ends:**

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## Notes to editors:

### About **BODY WORLDS**

Created by Dr Gunther von Hagens, **BODY WORLDS** is the culmination of the German scientist and physician's more than 35-year career in anatomy. **BODY WORLDS** exhibitions are the only exhibitions to rely on an established body donation programme. To date, more than 14,000 donors around the world have bequeathed their bodies to Dr von Hagens' Institute for Plastination after death.

All bodies displayed in **BODY WORLDS Vital** have been donated to be used for scientific purposes and to increase public awareness of the complexity of the human body. Donors who so generously willed their bodies for the purpose of Plastination – to educate the public about anatomy and physiology – take centre stage in this unprecedented homage to humanity. Excluding a small number of specimens acquired from anatomical collections and morphological institutes, the plastinated specimens on display in Gunther von Hagens' **BODY WORLDS** exhibitions stem from a unique body donation programme established in Heidelberg, Germany in 1982, and later managed by the Institute for Plastination (IfP) in Heidelberg, established in 1993.

The Institute for Plastination has a donor roster of over 14,000 individuals that includes over 12,500 Europeans and over 1,400 Americans. From the beginning, the donors were excited about the ground-breaking technique of Plastination and recognised that they were going to be part of something unprecedented. They wanted to make the education of future generations their enduring legacy. With the wish that their bodies be used for educational purposes, the donors have given their permission for their bodies to be displayed to the public after their death.

### About Life

The Life Science Centre is part of the Centre for Life, a science village which brings together clinicians, ethicists, educationalists and business people on one site – making it the most appropriate and fitting host venue for **BODY WORLDS** to date.

Life delivers the region's largest programme of science engagement activities and is the biggest investor in science engagement provision within the North East of England. Life's mission is to ignite and nurture a curiosity in *everyone* for science, technology, engineering and maths and to encourage the next generation of STEM professionals. Its annual programme of exciting exhibitions, events and hands-on science activities for all ages is developed by leading science communication professionals and delivered by 'science explainers', graduates trained in science communication. Life is the largest provider of school science workshops in any European museum or science centre, providing over 40,000 educational experiences to school students every year.