



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University lecturer plays landmark gig at Hendrix flat

It is regarded by many as a shrine to modern music.

So it was a career highlight for Leeds blues player Dr Tom Attah to perform a sold-out gig at the London flat that was once home to the legendary Jimi Hendrix.

“Playing a set in Hendrix’s London home was an incredible experience,” said Tom. “He was at the height of his powers when he lived in the UK, and the songs he wrote when he lived there changed the course of music.

“His contribution to music and culture is immeasurable - just about every musician making music today will have been influenced by Jimi Hendrix or his legacy in some way.”

Tom is well-qualified for such a gig. A practicing blues performer, he has played at venues across the globe, from Greece and the US to Russia and Germany. He’s even performed on the hallowed ground of Glastonbury Festival.

Besides his live music, Tom is also the Course Leader for a new BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance degree starting at Leeds Arts University next September. Based in a new £22m expansion, the course will offer the very latest in musical facilities alongside the chance to collaborate with animators, fashion designers and filmmakers.

Tom already had links with the music legend, having provided the background music to the permanent exhibition at Hendrix’s flat, using an acoustic guitar.

The flat, where Hendrix lived from July 1968 to March 1969, is on the upper floor of 23 Brook Street in Mayfair. The main room of the flat where he lived, rehearsed and wrote new music has been restored as a permanent exhibition of his influence and legacy.

Hendrix was at a pivotal point in his career when he moved into the Mayfair flat, with the imminent release of his Electric Ladyland LP. He died a year later in a Notting Hill hotel, aged just 27.

Tom said: “My research has focussed on the effects of technology on popular music and society, so it seems appropriate that I had the chance to play in a place that has had such a marked impact on music and society in general.”

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For further information or interviews, contact Ian Rosser, PR and Communications Officer, at ian.rosser@leeds-art.ac.uk or on 0790 5055 163/ 0113 202 8044.

Notes to editors:

- Leeds Arts University was formally recognised as the new title for Leeds College of Art in August 2017, having been granted full university status by the Privy Council. Leeds Arts University is the only specialist arts university in the North of England.
- For further details about the BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance course, [click here](#).
- To watch a clip of Tom performing his own song, Long Time, [click here](#).
- For further details about Tom, [click here](#).
- Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds Arts University has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. In 2016 the University was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers, and in 2017 was awarded full university status.
- Leeds Arts University has an impressive history of notable past students, including Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth who were students in 1919 and 1920. In later years Damien Hirst, Marcus Harvey, Eric Bainbridge, Clio Barnard and Georgina Starr all studied at the University, known then as the Jacob Kramer College. The University's recent graduates continue to win prestigious international awards year on year and enjoy successful careers in the creative industries.
- Leeds Arts University has been recognised for its industry-standard facilities at the Whatuni awards (winners in 2014 and 2016, runner up 2017), and is currently the highest ranked arts university in the UK and the highest ranked university in Yorkshire for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2017.

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