

Lecture 23rd June 2026

The Ark Dunlop Hall 10.45am



'The Dancing Faun': A personal story of a masterpiece

In this lecture our speaker, Bertie, recounts the extraordinary tale of how a small bronze statue, which had sat in his grandfather's garden for 40 years, was discovered as a masterpiece and ended up in the Getty Museum, California.

Adriaen De Vries (c.1556-1626) was a Northern Mannerist sculptor born in the Netherlands. A technical virtuoso, he created spectacular bronzes for the most discerning patrons of his time, including the Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II of Prague. He excelled in refined modelling and bronze casting and in the manipulation of patina and became the most famous European sculptor of his generation.



Speaker: Bertie Pearce



Bertie has a BA (Hons) in Drama from Manchester University, and a Diploma Internationale from L'École Internationale du Théâtre, Jacques Lecoq. He is a magician and a member of the Inner Magic Circle, with Gold Star. and has toured the world with a magic cabaret show and a one man show entitled 'All Aboard'.

He has lectured and entertained on cruise ships, and presented to U3A, historical societies, festivals, schools and colleges. In addition, he has written articles for newspapers and magazines on entertainment and theatre.