



London 2012 Festival: First Commissions

List of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| A Coastal Installation by Deborah Warner in Collaboration with Fiona Shaw | 2 |
| A Major Outdoor Music Event in East London | 2 |
| Africa Express | 2 |
| Akram Khan | 2 |
| Big Dance 2012 | 3 |
| Brighton Museum & Art Gallery | 3 |
| Damon Albarn, Rufus Norris & Jamie Hewlett | 3 |
| David Hockney | 3 |
| James MacMillan | 4 |
| Lucian Freud | 4 |
| Mark Cousins | 4 |
| Martin Creed | 4 |
| Sydney Theatre Company - Martin Crimp, Luc Bondy and Cate Blanchett | 5 |
| Max Giwa and Dania Pasquini | 5 |
| Metamorphosis: Titian 2012 | 6 |
| Mike Leigh | 6 |
| Music Nation | 6 |
| Olafur Eliasson | 6 |
| Peace One Day Concert in Derry | 7 |
| Philip Glass, Robert Wilson and Lucinda Childs - Einstein on the Beach | 7 |
| Rachel Whiteread | 8 |
| River of Music | 8 |
| Southbank Centre's Poetry Parnassus with Simon Armitage | 8 |
| <i>Tanztheater Wuppertal</i> Pina Bausch | 9 |
| Tate Movie | 9 |
| Theatre Royal Stratford East | 9 |
| The Desdemona Project | 9 |
| UK Centre for Carnival Arts, Luton and Keith Khan | 10 |
| Unlimited Commissions | 11 |
| World Shakespeare Festival | 11 |

A Coastal Installation by Deborah Warner in Collaboration with Fiona Shaw

Produced by Artichoke for the London 2012 Festival

With support from Culture Company 2013, Derry~Londonderry and the Roundhouse

Deborah Warner is one of the leading theatre and opera directors working in the world today. Her productions include work for the National Theatre (*Mother Courage, Happy Days, Richard II, King Lear*); the Royal Shakespeare Company (*Titus Andronicus, King John, Electra*); The English National Opera (*Messiah, Death in Venice, St John Passion*); The Royal Opera House (*The Turn of the Screw*); Opera North (*Wozzeck, La Voix Humaine*) and Glyndebourne (*Don Giovanni, Fidelio*). She has worked extensively in Europe including work for the Salzburg Festival (*Coriolan*); The Bavarian State Opera (*The Rape of Lucrece*) the Vienna Festival (*Dido and Aeneas*) La Monnaie and L'Odeon Theatre, Paris. She is an Associate Director of the Barbican Theatre where she is currently working on a new production of *The School for Scandal*. Her many productions with actress Fiona Shaw include *Hedda Gabler* and *Medea* and their production of T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* has toured the world. Her installation projects *The St Pancras* and *The Angel Project* were commissioned by LIFT, The Perth International Arts Festival and the Lincoln Center, NYC. She was awarded L'Officier des arts et des Lettres by the French Government and made CBE in the Queens Birthday Honours list 2006.

A Major Outdoor Music Event in East London

Led by BBC Radio 1

Africa Express

Africa Express will unveil its most ambitious event yet in Summer 2012, travelling through the UK, bringing together African and Western musicians in its typically freewheeling and inventive manner. It is embarking on a musical adventure unlike anything tried before, taking some of the world's most exciting musicians in a totally new direction.

Africa Express began with a trip to Mali that brought together the likes of Salif Keita, Fatboy Slim, Amadou & Mariam, Jamie T, Toumani Diabaté and Martha Wainwright. And over the course of three more trips to Africa and a series of acclaimed concerts, it has evolved into what one national newspaper has called the most revolutionary force in popular music in two decades. The project burst into public attention at a now-legendary Glastonbury event in 2007. Since then, there have been trips to Nigeria, the Congo and Ethiopia plus shows in Liverpool, London, Paris, Lagos and, in August this year, in Galicia. The last show, on a beach in northern Spain, attracted the largest audience in recent European history for an African music event, with more than 50,000 people attending and 120 artists taking part.

Akram Khan

Co-commissioned with Northern School of Contemporary Dance and *imove*

Akram Khan is a dancer whose background is rooted in his classical kathak training, but informed by his experience and virtuosity in contemporary dance. In August 2000, he launched Akram Khan Dance Company with producer Farooq Chaudhry, which has provided him with a platform for a diverse range of work through collaboration with artists from other disciplines. He was Choreographer-in-Residence and later Associate Artist at the Southbank Centre, the first non-musician to be afforded this status, and is currently an Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells. His works include *Sacred Monsters*, featuring ballerina Sylvie Guillem; *zero degrees*, a collaboration with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Antony Gormley and Nitin Sawhney; *In-1*, a duet with Oscar-winning actress Juliette Binoche with visual design by Anish Kapoor; and *bahok*, in which he combines his classical Indian and contemporary dance roots.

Big Dance 2012

London's Legacy Trust UK programme is led by the Mayor of London and Arts Council England, Foundation for Community Dance for Dance Takes the Lead, Creative Scotland and other UK partners.

Big Dance originated by the Mayor of London in 2006 in partnership with Arts Council England, is the world's biggest and most influential dance initiative and is delivered through a network of London's leading dance organisations: East London Dance, English National Ballet, Greenwich Dance, Sadler's Wells and Siobhan Davies Dance. Its ambition is to reach 3 million people and inspire the whole of the UK to get involved in dance as a key cultural project for 2012. Big Dance is London's Legacy Trust UK programme led by the Greater London Authority in partnership with Arts Council England and supported by major organisations including: Sport England, NHS London, London Councils, Museums, Libraries & Archives, London and the British Council.

Brighton Museum & Art Gallery

Brighton Museum & Art Gallery launches its innovative new world cultures gallery to mark the London 2012 Games. Developed in partnership with young people, this new permanent gallery will explore the changing world around us, drawing on Brighton Museum's stunning collections from Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Americas, alongside newly commissioned contemporary art and artefacts.

Brighton is one of eight projects that make up the Stories of the World programme. Stories of the World involves nearly 60 museums in 35 towns and cities, working with over 1,000 young curators to remix their collections for ground breaking exhibitions and events in 2012.

Damon Albarn, Rufus Norris and Jamie Hewlett

Co-commissioned with Manchester International Festival and English National Opera

MIF, ENO and London 2012 Festival have commissioned Damon Albarn, Rufus Norris and Jamie Hewlett to create a new work to be premiered at MIF 2011 before transferring to London 2012. Full details of this new work will be announced at the MIF programme launch early next year.

David Hockney

Royal Academy of Arts

David Hockney is an English painter, draughtsman, printmaker, stage designer and photographer, and was elected as a Royal Academician in 1991. He is considered one of the most influential British artists of the twentieth century and an important contributor to the Pop Art movement of the 1960s. He spent time working in London, Paris and California, before finally settling in Los Angeles in 1977, where the light had a marked influence on his life. He won painting prizes at the John Moores Liverpool Exhibition in 1961 and 1967, and is author of *Secret Knowledge: Rediscovering the Techniques of the Old Masters* (2001). His work is held in a number of collections including Tate Gallery; The Victoria and Albert Museum; Arts Council; Art Institute of Chicago; Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

James MacMillan

Co-commissioned with Coventry Cathedral

James MacMillan is a Scottish classical composer and conductor. He first came to the attention of the classical establishment with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra's premiere of *The Confession of Isobel Gowdie* at the Proms in 1990. The work's international acclaim led to more high-profile commissions, including a percussion concerto for fellow Scot Evelyn Glennie, *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*. It was premiered in 1992 and has become his most performed work. He was also asked by Mstislav Rostropovich to compose a cello concerto, which was premiered by Rostropovich himself in 1997. His opera *Inés de Castro* was premiered by Scottish Opera and toured to Porto in 2001. His most recent successes have included his second opera *The Sacrifice*, commissioned by Welsh National Opera, Autumn 2007, which won a Royal Philharmonic Society Award, and the *St John Passion* jointly commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra and Boston Symphony Orchestra in 2008.

Lucian Freud

National Portrait Gallery

Lucian Freud Portraits, National Portrait Gallery, will run from February 9- May 27, 2012. Lucian Freud is regarded by many as the world's greatest living realist painter. Paintings of people are central to his work and this will be the first major exhibition to focus on portraiture across the artist's work. The exhibition will be divided into broad thematic groups that concentrate on particular periods, groups of sitters and formal considerations to demonstrate Freud's stylistic development and technical virtuosity. Insightful paintings of the artist's lovers, friends and family, referred to by the artist as 'people in my life', have been selected to demonstrate the psychological drama and unrelenting observational intensity of his work.

Mark Cousins

Thanks to Northern Ireland Screen and Creative Scotland

Mark Cousins will present *The Story of Film: An Odyssey*, an epic 12 hour history of innovation in cinema, filmed over 5 years, on every continent, covering 11 decades. It will be screened at venues across the UK as part of the London 2012 Festival.

Mark Cousins is a filmmaker who won the Prix Italia in 2010 for my first feature *The First Movie*. His early career was defined by a five-year collaboration with the Edinburgh Film Festival, first as a programmer, then as Director. He then set up feature film making company called 4Way Pictures. As a curator he has worked on a number of projects including *The Ballerina Ballroom* and *A Pilgrimage*, both with Tilda Swinton. He is an author of four books, including *The Story of Film*, which was published around the world, and set up the 8½ Film Foundation with Tilda Swinton in 2009.

Martin Creed

Co-commissioned with the Heritage Alliance and The Mayor of London

Martin Creed was born in 1968 in Wakefield, England. From the age of three he lived in Glasgow, Scotland. Between 1986 and 1990 he studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, London. He won the Turner Prize in 2001 for *Work No. 227, The lights going on and off*, for which the lights in an empty gallery were continually turned on and off every five seconds. Since 1987, Creed has numbered each of his works, and most of the accompanying titles relate in a very direct way to the piece's substance. *Work No. 79, Some Blu-tack kneaded, rolled into a ball, and depressed against a wall* (1993), for example, is just what it sounds like, as is *Work No. 88, A sheet of A4 paper crumpled into a ball* (1995). One of Creed's best-

known works is *Work No. 200, Half the air in a given space* (1998), a room with enough inflated balloons for them to contain half the air within in it.

Martin Crimp, Luc Bondy & Cate Blanchett for Sydney Theatre Company – *Gross und Klein*

A Sydney Theatre Company production, co-commissioned by the Barbican, London and London 2012 Festival using funds from the National Lottery, Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen, Théâtre de la Ville Paris and Wiener Festwochen

One of Europe's most distinguished directors, Luc Bondy, directs an all-Australian cast in Martin Crimp's new adaptation of German playwright Botho Strauss' masterpiece, *Gross und Klein* (*Big and Small*).

Martin Crimp is a British playwright. Seven of his plays, and his second Ionesco translation have also been presented at the Royal Court Theatre, London, where he became writer-in-residence in 1997. His plays are also frequently performed in Europe and he has been an assiduous translator of European texts. Possibly his most highly-regarded, and certainly his boldest and most innovative play is *Attempts on Her Life*, first performed at the Royal Court in 1997 and subsequently translated into twenty languages.

Luc Bondy is a legendary director who studied pantomime and made his debut at the Paris Théâtre Universitaire International. He became an assistant at the Hamburg Thalia Theater in 1969 and co-directed the Berlin Schaubühne from 1985-1987. Since 1971, he has directed many significant productions including Schnitzler's *Das Weite Land* (Nanterre, 1984); Botho Strauss' *Time and the Room* (Berlin, 1989); Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman* (Lausanne and Vienna, 1993); Strauss's *Unerwartete Rückkehr* (Berlin, 2002); Schnitzler's *Anatol* (Vienna, 2002); Reza's *A Spanish Play* (Paris, 2004); Crimp's *Cruel and Tender* (Vienna, Chichester and London, 2004); and Strauss' *Die eine und die andere* (Berlin, 2005). Acclaimed for his brilliant opera interpretations, he has directed *Wozzeck* (Hamburg, 1976); *Così fan tutte* (Brussels, 1986); *Salomé* (Salzburg, Florence, London, and Paris, starting in 1992), *Don Carlos* (Paris, 1996); *Macbeth* (Edinburgh, 1999 and Vienna, 2000); Boesman's *Wintermarchen* (Brussels, 1999); and Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* (Aix-en-Provence, 2001 and 2005, and Vienna, 2002). He has also directed three films, published several books, and has directed the Wiener Festwochen since 2001.

Cate Blanchett is the Co Artistic Director of Sydney Theatre Company. Her roles on stage include *Hedda Gabler* for which she won the Ibsen Centennial Award, Helpmann Award and the MO Award for Best Actress; Richard II in the celebrated Sydney Theatre Company production of *The Wars of The Roses*; and Blanche Du Bois in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* which travelled to much acclaim from Sydney to Washington and New York and for which she received the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Actress in a non-resident production. Other theatre credits include Helen in the Sydney Theatre Company's *Sweet Phoebe*, Miranda in *The Tempest* and Rose in *The Blind Giant is Dancing*, both for the Belvoir Street Theatre Company. She made her feature film debut in *Paradise Road* (1997), and, in 1998, she played the title character in *Elizabeth* (1998), winning numerous awards for her performance, including the Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Drama. She was also nominated for an Academy Award for the role. She played the Elf Queen Galadriel in the *Lord Of The Rings* trilogy.

Max Giwa and Dania Pasquini

Co-commissioned with BBC Films and Film4

Max Giwa and Dania Pasquini have been a directing partnership for over ten years, garnering a slew of awards for their work in promos and commercials. James Richardson, of Vertigo Films, one of the most dynamic and innovative production companies in the UK, identified them as the perfect directors for this summer's breakout British hit, *StreetDance 3D*. BBC Films will reunite these inspired film makers to create a thrilling new 3D short film experience for the London 2012 Festival.

Metamorphosis: Titian 2012

A collaboration between the National Gallery and the Royal Opera House

Metamorphosis: Titian 2012 is a unique collaboration between the National Gallery and the Royal Opera House, which will see a range of contemporary artists – including choreographers, composers, poets and visual artists - respond to works by Renaissance master Titian in a celebration of British creativity in 2012.

Mike Leigh

Co-commissioned with BBC Films and Film4

The film is an Olympic reflection on athletics in general, and running in particular, as well as aerobics, karate, football, swimming and Pilates, not to mention taxis and dodgy second-hand cars. A healthy young cast is led by Eddie Marsan, Sam Kelly and Samantha Spiro.

Mike Leigh is a British film-maker and dramatist. His films include *Naked, Secrets & Lies* (Palme D'Or, Cannes), *Topsy-Turvy*, *All Or Nothing* (Golden Lion, Venice), *Happy-Go-Lucky* and *Another Year*. His many stage-plays include *Abigail's Party* and *Ecstasy*.

Olafur Eliasson

Co-commissioned with The Mayor's Office, London in association with Create and the Serpentine Gallery

Olafur Eliasson was born in 1967 in Copenhagen, Denmark of Icelandic parentage. He attended the Royal Academy of Arts in Copenhagen from 1989 to 1995. He has had many major solo exhibitions in leading museums and galleries around the world, including the highly successful *Weather Project* in the Unilever Series at Tate Modern in London in 2003. His work is represented in public and private collections including the Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, New York, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, the Deste Foundation, Athens and Tate. His most recent major solo exhibitions include Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo and The Menil Collection, Houston. Olafur Eliasson represented Denmark at the 2003 Venice Biennale. He has recently become more involved with museums and architecture, working on a visitor engagement and facility assessment with the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Smithsonian Institution's museum for modern and contemporary art in Washington DC. He lives and works in Berlin and Copenhagen.

Peace One Day Concert in Derry

Co-commissioned with the Culture Company 2013 and Derry~Londonderry

Jeremy Gilley is a British filmmaker and founder of the non-profit organisation Peace One Day. He joined the Royal Shakespeare Company at 17, and following a decade of professional acting started making his own films in 1994. Gilley launched Peace One Day in 1999 to document his efforts to establish the first-ever annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence with a fixed date. The day was unanimously adopted by UN member states in 2001 as 21 September - Peace Day. With the day in place, Gilley's goal is to institutionalise Peace Day around the world, working principally in Education, instigating Life-saving activities, in film, music, sport and online. In 2007 and 2008, Gilley went to Afghanistan with POD ambassador Jude Law, to spearhead a campaign that has seen 4.5 million children vaccinated against polio as a result of Peace Day agreements in the region. Jeremy's film charting his journey, *The Day After Peace*, has been seen by millions. On September 21st, 2010, the Board of the Carnegie Foundation announced that Peace One Day and Jeremy Gilley would be the recipient of the Carnegie-Wateler Peace Prize 2010.

Jude Law is a British actor, film producer and director. He began acting with the National Youth Music Theatre in 1987, and had his first television role in 1989. After starring in films directed by Andrew Niccol, Clint Eastwood and David Cronenberg, he was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1999 for his performance in Anthony Minghella's *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. In 2003, he was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in another Minghella film, *Cold Mountain*. In 2007, he received an Honorary César and he was named a Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. Most recently, he appeared as Hamlet at the Donmar Warehouse, London in 2009 and on Broadway and was nominated for both an Olivier and a Tony Award as Best Actor. He has also worked closely with Jeremy Gilley for Peace One Day, travelling twice to Afghanistan in 2007 and 2008.

Philip Glass, Robert Wilson and Lucinda Childs - *Einstein on the Beach*

Produced by Pomegranate Arts and co-commissioned by BAM; the Barbican, London; Cal Performances University of California, Berkeley; Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity; De Nederlandse Opera/The Amsterdam Music Theatre; Opéra et Orchestre National de Montpellier Languedoc-Rousillon; University Musical Society of the University of Michigan.

Widely credited as one of the greatest artistic achievements of the 20th century, this rarely performed work launched its creators Robert Wilson and Philip Glass to international success when it was first produced at the Metropolitan Opera in 1976. Now, nearly four decades after it was first performed and twenty years since its last production, *Einstein on the Beach* will be reconstructed for a major international tour including the first performances in the United Kingdom and the first North American presentations ever held outside of New York City. The international tour of *Einstein on the Beach* will begin in the spring 2012 bringing this groundbreaking work to new audiences and an entirely new generation.

Philip Glass is an American music composer. He is considered one of the most influential composers of the late 20th century and is widely acknowledged as a composer who has brought art music to the public. He has written works for his own musical group The Philip Glass Ensemble (for which he performs on keyboards), as well as operas, musical theatre works, eight symphonies, ten concertos, solo works, string quartets, and film scores. Three of his film scores have been nominated for Academy Awards.

Robert Wilson is an American avant-garde stage director and visual artist. Over the course of his wide-ranging career, he has also worked as a choreographer, performer, painter, sculptor, video artist, and sound and lighting designer. He is best known for his collaborations with Philip Glass and with numerous other artists, including Heiner Müller, William S Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, Lou Reed, and Tom Waits.

Lucinda Childs began her career as choreographer and performer in 1963 as an original member of the Judson Dance Theater in New York. She formed her own dance company in 1973 and she has received a number of commissions from major ballet companies and more recently has worked extensively in opera. In 2004, she was appointed by the French Government to the rank of Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Rachel Whiteread

Commission in development for the Whitechapel Gallery

Rachel Whiteread is one of Britain's leading contemporary sculptors. Born in London in 1963, she studied painting at Brighton Polytechnic and sculpture at the Slade School of Fine Art. She shot to public attention in 1993 with her sculpture, *House*, a life-sized replica of the interior of a condemned terraced house in London's East End which provoked intense public debate until it was eventually demolished in 1994. She was the first woman to win the Turner Prize which she was awarded in 1993. Over the last decade she has developed a significant international reputation, creating major public works in both Europe and the United States. Her winning proposal for the Holocaust memorial at the Judenplatz in Vienna was one of the most prestigious sculptural commissions in Europe in the 1990s. This piece involved placing the cast interior of a library, including imprints from the books on their shelves, into the centre of the square. It was unveiled in October 2000. She represented the UK at the 1997 Venice Biennale and created *Monument* for the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square in 2001. Her *Water Tower* (1998) was recently installed on the roof of the Museum of Modern Art, New York. She lives and works in London and her work is represented in many private and public collections worldwide.

River of Music

Produced by Serious

River of Music is a four-year project led by music producers Serious which includes participatory projects all over Britain culminating on the eve of the Olympics in July 2012 with a weekend of free performances for over 500,000 people by musicians from all 205 Olympic and Paralympic nations at landmark sites along the River Thames. It will also feature presentations outside London at the Sage Gateshead and Celtic Connections in Glasgow. River of Music is supported by the Olympic Lottery Distributor and is receiving additional financial investment from Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, British Council and City Bridge Trust.

Serious is one of the UK's leading producers and curators of live international music events, which range from major concerts, festivals, international collaborations and national tours through to learning and participation programmes, professional development for artists, conferences and specially-commissioned bespoke events. Serious created and produces the London Jazz Festival in association with BBC Radio 3 (the largest pan-London music festival) and works as the creative producer of Youth Music Voices.

Southbank Centre's Poetry Parnassus with Simon Armitage

This is an ambitious, poetic response to the 2012 Olympic Games. Inspired by the Greek mountain home of the Lyricist Orpheus and the mythical dwelling place of the poetic Muses, this unprecedented poetry summit – led by Artistic Director Jude Kelly and Artist in Residence Simon Armitage – will see Southbank Centre invite poets from all of the participating Olympic nations to take part in a festival of readings, performances and debate.

Simon Armitage's first full collection *Zoom!* was published in 1989. He won a Forward Prize in 1992 and in the following year he won the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award. His collections include *Kid*, *Book of Matches*, *The Dead Sea Poems*, *CloudCuckooLand*,

The Universal Home Doctor and *Tyrannosaurus Rex Versus the Cordury Kid*. His latest collection *Seeing Stars* has been shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize. He has also written novels, non-fiction and writes for radio, television, film and stage. He is the author of four stage plays, including *Mister Heracles*, a version of Euripedes' *The Madness of Heracles*.

Tanztheater Wuppertal

Pina Bausch

Commissioned by Sadler's Wells in association with Cultural Industry and The Barbican
Thanks to Wuppertal, North Rhine Westphalia and Arts Council England

Pina Bausch was born in Solingen, 1940 and died in Wuppertal, 2009. She received her dance training at the Folkwang School in Essen under Kurt Jooss, where she achieved technical excellence. Soon after, the director of Wuppertal's theatres Arno Wüstenhöfer engaged her as choreographer, and from autumn 1973 she renamed the ensemble Tanztheater Wuppertal. Under this name, although controversial at the beginning, the company gradually achieved international recognition. Its combination of poetic and everyday elements influenced the international development of dance decisively. Awarded some of the greatest prizes and honours world-wide, Pina Bausch is one of the most significant choreographers of our time.

Tate Movie

Part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, the Tate Movie Project is a specially commissioned animated film made and inspired by children in collaboration with Tate and Aardman Animations.

Tate Movie Project is the first of its kind – an animated film made by and for children across the UK. This uniquely ambitious project uses great artworks to inspire 5-13 year olds nationwide to contribute their ideas to an animated movie. Thousands of children will create every aspect of the film, from the hand-drawn characters and plot twists, to costumes and sound effects. Children can upload their pictures and ideas to an online film studio, or join in at one of the hundreds of production workshops that Tate and Aardman are running around the country, where they explore art and animation as well as generating ideas and drawings for the film. The movie will be screened in cinemas across the UK in 2011 and shown on BBC television. The project has been made possible through £3million of funding from Legacy Trust UK as well as further sponsorship from BP. CBBC is also a key partner.
www.tatemovie.co.uk

Theatre Royal Stratford East

Co-production with One Step At A Time Like This and Richard Jordan Productions Ltd

Stratford Rising and Create presents *en route* by Suzanne Kersten, Clair Korobacz, Paul Moir, Julian Rickert. With an ipod and a mobile phone, participants are encouraged to discover the choreography of Stratford as streetscapes become the set and passers-by the performers. Winner of the 2010 Adelaide Fringe Award for best production and two of Melbourne's Green Room Awards, *en route* combines a broken narrative and atmospheric soundtrack, created for the city it inhabits.

The Desdemona Project

Co-commission with the Barbican, London, Vienna Festival and others to be confirmed.

In response to Peter Sellars' 2009 production of *Othello*, Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison and singer/song-writer Rokia Traoré collaborate to create an intimate and profound conversation between Desdemona and her African nurse, Barbary, from beyond the grave. After centuries of colonialism and racism, two women share stories, songs and hope for a better future.

Toni Morrison is a Nobel Prize-winning American novelist, editor, and professor. Among her best-known novels are *The Bluest Eye*, *Song of Solomon* and *Beloved*. Her academic career has included posts at Texas Southern University, Howard University, Yale, and since 1989, a chair at Princeton University. A member since 1981 of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, she has been awarded a number of literary distinctions, among them the Pulitzer Prize in 1988.

Rokia Traoré is an award-winning Malian singer, songwriter and guitarist. She won the Radio France Internationale prize for "African Discovery" in 1997 and her first album *Mouneïssa* was released the same year. In July 2000, her second album *Wanita* was released with The New York Times nominating it as one of its critics' albums of the year. Her 2003 album *Bowmboï* has two tracks recorded with the Kronos Quartet but still sung in the Bamana language, and was awarded the prestigious BBC Radio 3 World Music Award. Her latest album, *Tchamantché*, was released in 2008.

Peter Sellars is one of the world's leading theatre, opera and festival directors. He is particularly well-known for his groundbreaking interpretations of classic works. Whether it is by Mozart, Handel, Shakespeare, Sophocles and the 16th-century Chinese playwright Tang Xianzu, he seeks to strike a chord with audiences, engaging and illuminating contemporary social and political issues.

UK Centre for Carnival Arts, Luton with Keith Khan as Artistic Facilitator

Supported by Arts Council England and Legacy Trust UK

The Carnival Crossroad project is a regional project taking place in 5 towns across the East of England – Cambridge, Norwich, Southend, Luton and Ipswich – over the next two years as part of the Cultural Olympiad. It has been developed to encourage East of England community groups, artists and educational establishments to get involved in Carnival and to experience the parades, the costumes and the culture. All of the groups will come together to showcase their costumes and perform in East of England regional parades in 2011. The project will culminate in all the groups joining together in 2012 to take part in the biggest one day Carnival in Europe – Luton International Carnival – as part of the Cultural Olympiad celebrations.

The UK Centre for Carnival Arts (UKCCA) opened in Luton, home of Europe's biggest one-day carnival, in 2009. It is a national centre of excellence for the unique artform, pioneering accredited training for the carnival community, working with its international artists and providing incubation space for its business start-ups. UKCCA celebrated the launch of its new £7.3 million capital building in 2009 with a carnival parade featuring over 250 participants, aerial circus artists and a pyrotechnics display. The new state-of-the-art centre houses a Mas Camp band training and rehearsal studio, a welding and casting facility, a costume-making workshop, café and social area; and crèche.

Keith Khan is an artist, director and designer. Ten years of creating carnival in Notting Hill and Trinidad taught him the value of working from within a community to generate spectacle. These "mas camp" skills have been scaled up and applied to the delivery of major later works, including the Commonwealth Parade for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002, and his 3D and costume design for the Central Show in the Millennium Dome. His major projects include *Coming of Age* and *Escapade* with Akademi, *Alladeen* with New York based company The Builders Association, and his work as Director of Design for the Manchester Commonwealth Games. He created the company motiroti, with Ali Zaidi, which was successful in delivering numerous early projects. Later roles include Chief Executive of Rich Mix, a multi-million pound new build arts venue in East London, which he opened in 2004, and Head of Culture for the London 2012 Olympic Games from 2006 - 2008. He currently leads Keith Khan Associates, a creative company which connects public organisations, commercial partners and participant communities.

Unlimited Commissions

Unlimited is the UK's largest programme celebrating arts, culture and sport by disabled and deaf people. Applications for the second round of commissions are now welcomed from disabled and deaf artists or disability arts groups wishing to create high quality work to form part of high profile showcase events across the UK. Funding has been awarded to 10 commissions for the programme that encourages collaborations and partnerships between disability arts organisations, disabled and deaf artists, producers, and mainstream organisations to celebrate the inspiration of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and produce work like never before.

Further information on the application process and the first 10 commissions can be found at www.london2012.com/culture.

In January 2011 we will announce the next commissions.

Unlimited is principally funded by the Olympic Lottery Distributor, and is delivered in partnership between London 2012, Arts Council England, the Scottish Arts Council, Arts Council of Wales, Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the British Council.

World Shakespeare Festival

Celebrating Shakespeare as the world's playwright

Produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company in collaboration with UK and international partners

The World Shakespeare Festival, produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company, runs from 23 April to 9 September 2012, and celebrates how the world performs, teaches and engages with Shakespeare.

In a collaboration with many partners, including the Roundhouse, the Barbican, the National Theatre, and the BBC (whose BBC Learning team are working with the RSC to develop online education resources as well as opportunities for wider participation in Shakespeare's work as part of the London 2012 Festival), we will welcome the world and celebrate Shakespeare as the world's playwright, showcasing the best of UK and international creative talent, exploring Shakespeare's place in the lives of young people and harnessing the energy and creativity of emerging artists and amateur companies.

The full programme will be announced in 2011, but productions and events will take place across the UK, in London, Stratford-upon-Avon, Newcastle/Gateshead, Wales and Scotland as well as online, with opportunities for everyone to get involved.

The RSC's own contribution includes *What Country, friends, is this?*, a cycle of plays where Shakespeare shipwrecks his protagonists on hostile shores and brave new worlds. Directors include Artistic Director, Michael Boyd, and RSC Associate Directors, Rupert Goold and David Farr.

Three of the new World Shakespeare Festival commissions:

Two Roses for Richard III (working title), directed by Claudio Baltar and Fabio Ferreira
COMPANHIA BUFOMECANICA from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

A grand spectacle of circus and theatre fused together in a unique performance from Companhia Bufomecanica, which takes Shakespeare's text as the inspiration for a glorious black carnival of villainy, corruption and seduction.

Image: *Misterio Bufo*. Photographer: Sergio Martins

Romeo and Juliet, directed by Monadhil Daood
IRAQI THEATRE COMPANY, Baghdad, Iraq

Shakespeare's great love story, set against a backdrop of conflict between families, communities and generations, finds new purchase in the soil of contemporary Iraq, where sectarian strife between Sunni and Shia, ignited and fuelled from outside, has left its population exhausted by a cycle of violence and revenge. Baghdad's Iraqi Theatre Company will create a Romeo and Juliet for a new generation, infused with Iraq's rich traditions of poetry, music and ritual.

Image: Baghdad scene. Photographer: Mukdad Abid Alreda

Coriolanus, directed by Mike Pearson, concept by Mike Pearson and Mike Brookes

NATIONAL THEATRE WALES

From the National Theatre Wales team that created Aeschylus's *The Persians* on the military training range of mid-Wales, the story of Caius Martius – Coriolanus – is re-imagined in the era of 24-hour news, celebrity culture, and a new global polity. Outside broadcasts from the battlefield, popular grievances straight to camera and audience participants as the body politic provide a 'mash up' of previous attempts to get to grips with a figure contrary and perplexing, ever contemporary and ever challenging of our beliefs.

Image: *The Persians*. Photographer David Hurn