



Wednesday 25 March 2009
For immediate use

A Festival for life – not just for three weeks.

Year round programme of Edinburgh International Festival education and outreach work follows themes and inspirations of Festival 09 programme.

- **Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture**
- **University of Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities**
- **Herald Young Critics**
- **The Enlightenment**
- **Behind the Scenes**
- **Artists in Conversation**
- **Sharing the Festival**

- ***Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture***

The Edinburgh International Festival's Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture programme enters its second year with a series of theatre, dance, music and visual arts projects throughout the year reaching over 1100 pupils in 40 Edinburgh schools.

In addition, site specific projects at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and community centres offer over 10,000 adults the opportunity to take part in the Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture series.

Folding Words inspires 11 year-olds to discover the intimate art of letter writing used by Enlightenment thinkers and scholars to communicate. Pupils will be encouraged to write a special letter, communicating something they have always wished to express, containing hopes and wishes for the future or a quiet message about their lives. Instead of sending the letters they will be folded into origami cranes and installed in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in August. Visitors, inspired by the work of the children, can use a small writing room for one in which, drawing on the

contemplative atmosphere of the Botanics, they can write the letter they have always dreamed of sending.

During the week leading up to Scottish Ballet's performances at The Edinburgh Playhouse the *Scottish Ballet Dance Project* with leading dance educationalist Charles McNeal from San Francisco Ballet goes to work in Edinburgh secondary schools. The choreography featuring in Scottish Ballet's Festival performances, including that of contemporary choreographer Ian Spink will be explored by 12 and 13 year-olds.

A series of ten workshops will explore the voice and solo cello with 11 year-old children, introducing them to live performance as well as encouraging listening and engagement skills.

Rabiya Choudhry, an artist involved in Festival production *Diaspora*, works with children at Preston Street Primary School during April and May, exploring their lives and environment. Her work culminates in a mural, inspired by and including work by the children, which will permanently transform their playground and enhance their everyday lives.

Edinburgh International Festival and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh join forces with Dalry Primary School to create a multicultural garden of enlightenment that will become a permanent teaching tool for the school to further develop its outstanding work in maintaining an integrated immigrant school population.

Tying in with the Festival's visual arts strand *The Enlightenments*, four schools explore panoramas, a term coined in Edinburgh during the Enlightenment period. Australian artist Greg Creek's panoramic view of Edinburgh which explores the lofty spires and darker underbelly of the city, is being shown at the Dean Gallery, National Gallery of Scotland during the Festival. Film artist Alex Hetherington and visual artist Audrey Grant work with 16 and 17 year-olds from four Edinburgh schools to explore their surroundings, inspired by the Scottish Enlightenment, Greg Creek and their own heroes.

During the Festival 15 arts educationalists and 12 directors, producers and playwrights will take part in the *Edinburgh International Festival/National Theatre of*

Scotland/Federation of Scottish Theatre Directors' School and the EIF Arts Practitioner Summer School led by international artists including Heiner Goebbels, Anne Bogart, Charles McNeal and Lee Breuer. The Directors' School is in its second year of a three-year funding partnership with The Leverhulme Trust.

www.eif.co.uk/bankofscotlandc2c

- ***University of Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH)***

The University of Edinburgh's Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities has supported the post of Edinburgh International Festival Creative Fellow, in association with the Edinburgh International Festival, for five years. The 2008/2009 Fellow is playwright Rona Munro who used her time at the University to research Scottish witches. She has shaped her findings on the last witch burned alive in Scotland to create a new play, *The Last Witch* which receives its premiere at the Edinburgh International Festival this year in a co-production with Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre.

The Singaporean theatre director Ong Keng Sen is the Leverhulme Artist in Residence at IASH, allowing a second Festival artist to be involved in the work of the University. As someone who comes from a country which is almost entirely made up of immigrant cultures, his work at the University has engaged with artists in Scotland who find themselves here as a result of diaspora. The results can be seen as part of his theatre work *Diaspora* during the Festival, and through the work of these artists with Edinburgh's immigrant communities. The artists based in Scotland working with Keng Sen are supported by the Scottish Arts Council Lottery Fund.

Pio Abad, a young Bloomsbury Artist and recent graduate of Glasgow School of Art working with Ong Keng Sen, helps transform the spaces at the Swietlica Centre for Edinburgh's Polish Community, and the Multi-Cultural Family Base in Leith among other community centres.

Pamela So has been chosen by Ong Keng Sen to work with Chinese families in Edinburgh exploring the transforming and conforming challenges of diaspora communities through a photography project which will be realised online.

- ***Herald Young Critics***

The Herald Young Critics scheme enters its sixth year. The arts team at The Herald go into four schools and discuss with upper secondary students the art of criticism and their area of interest - dance, theatre or music. The students then attend a Festival performance and submit their reviews to a deadline after which the best are printed in the paper.

In addition to these year round Festival projects are public opportunities to engage further with the Festival's artists and ideas during the Festival.

- ***The Enlightenment***

The Festival, in partnership with The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Nature - the international weekly journal of science, and the Wellcome Trust presents a series of talks and discussions *The Enlightenment*, which looks at the ideas to emerge from the 18th century, often from Scotland, which are still shaping our lives today. Alongside artists from the Festival programme there will be philosophers, academics and scientists in sessions including *Islam and the Enlightenment*, *Science and Tolerance*, *Moral Universals and Moral Progress*, and *Scotland Exports the Enlightenment*.

- ***Behind the Scenes***

Behind the Scenes is a series of practical workshops and demonstrations revealing the creative processes behind the 2009 programme. Artists involved include Malthouse Melbourne, Malcolm Martineau, Royal Ballet of Flanders, Handspring Puppet Company, Charles McNeal, Mabou Mines and Giorgio Battistelli. Also appearing as part of this strand is theatre company Belt Up, winner of last year's Edinburgh International Festival Fringe Prize.

- ***Conversations with Artists***

Conversations with Artists include the chance to hear directly from Juliana Engberg, Ong Keng Sen, Silviu Purcărete, Cesc Gelabert and Lydia Azzopardi, William Kentridge, Rona Munro, Doris Dörrie, David Levin, Ashley Page and Lee Breuer about their specific contribution to this year's Festival.

- ***Sharing the Festival***

Sharing the Festival in 2009 takes Giorgio Battistelli's engaging performance piece *Experimentum Mundi* to Dundee, the City of Discovery in two performances at The Space on Tuesday 8 September. In June and July the Festival's outreach team work with Dundee's Nine Trades Associations to make music from everyday soundscapes. Audiences attending *Experimentum Mundi* both at Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre and Dundee's The Space have the opportunity to experience these new works.

Jonathan Mills, Festival Director said 'I am very proud of the extensive work the Festival carries out to engage a wide range of people with Festival artists and to introduce new people to performances. Working with the notions of home and identity intrinsic in this year's programme and bringing them to life in diverse ways creates this year round programme of activities for all ages and backgrounds. This is just one of the many ways in which the Festival engages with its local community. I'd like to thank the organisations which help to make this area of our work possible, the Bank of Scotland, the University of Edinburgh, the Leverhulme Trust, the Scottish Arts Council Lottery Fund, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Nature and the Wellcome Trust.'

ENDS

For further information on the programme, to attend a workshop or access the work for photographs please contact the **Edinburgh International Festival press office on +44 (0) 133 473 2020 / press@eif.co.uk**

Festival 2009 is the 63rd Edinburgh International Festival, three weeks of opera, dance, theatre, music and visual art, running from Friday 14 August to Sunday 6 September. Each summer Scotland's beautiful capital city is transformed by artists and visitors from around the world into what has been described as by The Daily Telegraph as 'not just the most thrilling, beguiling, preposterously enjoyable place on Earth; it is also wonderfully addictive.' Or as The Spectator said 'you can sleep in September'.

The Edinburgh International Festival is supported by The City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Arts Council.

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