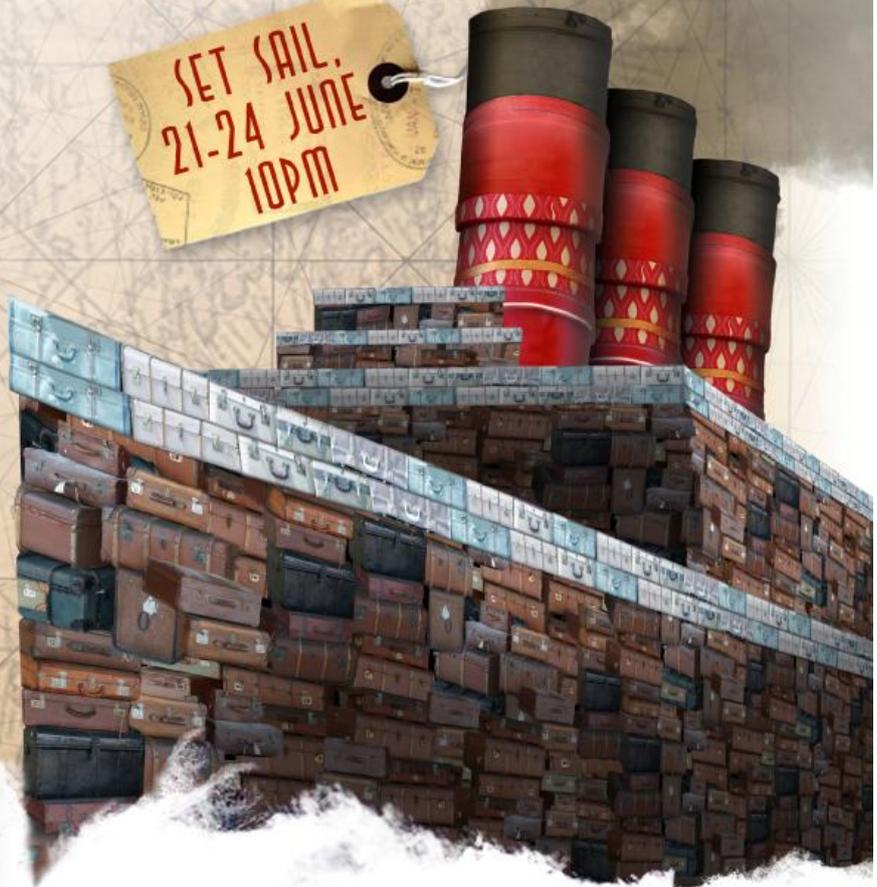


THE VOYAGE

PRODUCED BY BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME
CREATED BY MOTIONHOUSE & LEGS ON THE WALL



SET SAIL,
21-24 JUNE
10PM



FREE OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES
THU 21 - SUN 24 JUNE @ 10PM
VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM

WWW.THEVOYAGE.ORG.UK



@THEVOYAGE2012 #THEVOYAGE

Background

Victoria Square, Birmingham

21 – 24 June 2012 at 10pm

FREE

The Voyage is a major cultural project as part of the opening weekend of the London 2012 Festival. A unique global collaboration between Australia's leading physical theatre and aerial company Legs On The Wall and one of the UK's leading outdoor dance companies Motionhouse.

The Voyage marks the beginning of the London 2012 Festival, the UK's biggest ever festival, taking place in celebration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

People from all over the world will make a 'pilgrimage' to the Olympic city, carrying with them a passion and will to achieve greatness. The Voyage is a story that explores the courage and imagination that prompts us to embark on journeys in pursuit of our dreams.

An enormous passenger liner is the focal point of the performance – an icon of global transport and a powerful reminder of the significance of migration and trade in Birmingham's history. The United Kingdom and Australia are two islands whose history and identity have been shaped by the sea and the ships that travel across it.

The Voyage begins in Victoria Square several days in advance of the show with the construction of the ship. Rigged for high wire, extraordinary aerial acrobatics, massive projections, song and dance, the ship will be transformed into a live set for a cast of 170.

The Voyage is set in a time period spanning 1940 to 1960 which represents the last great age of sea travel and marks the start of the mass emigrations that have characterized and shaped the diverse nature of modern cities.

The audience are key players in the action. Starting out as the passengers on the docks, they then set sail across the seas, get swept up in a huge storm, help rescue passengers washed overboard before finally becoming the welcoming party in a new land.

Produced by Birmingham Hippodrome
Created by Motionhouse in collaboration with Legs On The Wall
Part of London 2012 Festival

Funded by Arts Council England, Legacy Trust UK and supported by Dancing for the Games

Supported by the Australian Government through the Cultural Development Program of the Office for the Arts, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Australia Council.

In partnership with Town Hall Symphony Hall Birmingham, Birmingham City Council, Birmingham City University, British Council, BVN Architecture, Nelson Meers Foundation, The NSW Government through Arts NSW and Australia Unlimited. The Voyage was developed with support from Advantage West Midlands and Warwick Arts Centre.

Dancing for the Games is part of the Cultural Olympiad in the West Midlands and is inspired by London 2012. It is a three year programme funded by Legacy Trust UK, an independent charity set up to help build a lasting cultural and sporting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Arts Council England West Midlands and Advantage West Midlands.

Dancing for the Games uses the inspiration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to get as many people as possible dancing across the West Midlands. The Cultural Olympiad in the West Midlands is already touching the lives of thousands of people. To date some 930,000 people in the West Midlands have been involved in the Cultural Olympiad as audiences or participants, either as part of Open Weekend, the Inspire Programme, or through specific regional programmes. For more information about the Cultural Olympiad in the West Midlands, please visit, www.wmfor2012.com/culture

Legacy Trust UK is an independent charity set up to create a lasting cultural and sporting legacy from London 2012 in communities across the UK.

The Trust is funded by a £40 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund (£29m), Department for Culture Media and Sport (£6m) and Arts Council England (£5m), and is a Principal Funder of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival.

Birmingham Hippodrome

Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre Trust Ltd is an independent, not-for-profit registered charity, established in 1979.

It is unsubsidised and does not receive revenue grants from Arts Council England or Birmingham City Council. However, it regularly applies to both these organisations for support towards special creative, education and access projects.

In 2010/11, Birmingham Hippodrome welcomed 523,219 paying visitors making it the most popular single theatre in the UK. Ticket sales totalled £15,088,265 (its best year since reopening in 2001) and presented 392 performances.

Musicals formed 46% of performances, Pantomime 19%, Ballet 14%, and Opera 3%. Other performances include drama, dance and comedy.

25% of tickets were sold at concessionary rates for education, access and audience development. 16,262 discounted tickets were issued to schools, including 1,543 free tickets for teachers. 22,324 discounted tickets were purchased by patrons with disabilities.

Birmingham Hippodrome co-produce International Dance Festival Birmingham with partners DanceXchange. The third festival which has just completed four weeks of performances was financially supported by Advantage West Midlands, Birmingham City Council, Arts Council England and the European Regional Development Fund, sponsored by Brewin Dolphin.

Resident partners are Birmingham Royal Ballet, formerly Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, who came to the city in 1990. Birmingham Hippodrome also presents all of Welsh National Opera's repertoire.

www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Motionhouse

Established in 1988 by Kevin Finnan and Louise Richards, Motionhouse creates startling, passionate dance theatre, fusing images, action and dynamism to surprise, challenge and delight. Over the years the company has seen enormous activity, growth and innovation.

Motionhouse creates new work of outstanding quality that connects with people – indoors, outdoors, across scales, live and digitally. The company tours a wide ranging repertoire across the globe, from full length works to dynamic festival performances and large scale dance events.

www.motionhouse.co.uk

Legs On The Wall

Legs On The Wall creates startling, sensuous and exciting physical theatre. Its productions are renowned for taking risks, both physically and aesthetically; weaving music, video, acrobatics, dance, circus and aerial imagery into stories that offer audiences a theatrical experience like no other.

Through an ensemble creative process, Legs On The Wall presents large scale, outdoor spectacles, and in-theatre works, built upon extraordinary physical performance skills. Since its inception in 1984, the company has evolved into a world-renowned performing arts company, invited to perform at the Sydney and Beijing Olympics.

www.legsonthewall.com.au

Logela

Logela Multimedia was set up in 2000 and is based in Elorrio in the Basque region of Spain. Logela are a collective of artists - designers, graffiti artists, musicians, digital artists - whose aim is to bring multimedia projections to the stage, creating an interaction between film and live performance. They are innovators in the field and have collaborated on several successful projects that have toured the Basque region. They have also collaborated with Motionhouse in the past, producing the film projections for *Scattered* in 2009.

Logela also set up and continues to organise an annual indoor breakdance competition where they have experimented with interactive stage projections and live breakdance performance. Break On Stage has quickly become one of the most prestigious performance events of its kind in Europe.

Other projects include Link Konzert in which a live performance of classical music was relayed to a stage where both the music and the images were mixed by a Dj and Vj with contemporary electronic music and 3D graphics and Belarritakora sartu when they worked with an established rock band from Elorrio to create live concerts that blend theatre, rock music and images.

Karlos Gomez is a musician, sound technician and a video and web editor. He directed and edited I'll be there which was awarded Best Original Film by the Scottish Further Education Unit in 2002. Imanol Garaizabal is well known as a pioneer of graffiti art in the Basque region and is the main graphic and web designer for Logela and Breakonstage; he has also worked on a wide range of advertising campaigns, most recently for Basque television station ETB3.

For more information about Logela's work check out www.logela.org

LOCOG

The Voyage forms part of the London 2012 Festival, the UK's biggest ever festival, taking place in celebration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The project is funded by Arts Council England and Legacy Trust UK.

The London 2012 Festival is a 12-week nationwide celebration bringing together leading artists from across the world with the very best from the UK, opening on Midsummer's Day, 21 June, and running until 9 September 2012.

The London 2012 Festival is the finale of the Cultural Olympiad, the series of arts events celebrating the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The London 2012 Festival will bring leading artists from all over the world together from 21 June 2012 in the UK's biggest ever festival – a chance for everyone to celebrate London 2012 through dance, music, theatre, the visual arts, film and digital innovation.

Since the Cultural Olympiad started in 2008, over 16 million people all over the UK have participated in or attended performances as part of Cultural Olympiad programmes.

In the West Midlands, people can celebrate with the London 2012 Festival and also the regional programmes Dancing for the Games and Community Games. Visit www.wmfor2012.com for more information.

Event Team

Artistic team

Artistic Directors	Kevin Finnan- Motionhouse Patrick Nolan – Legs On The Wall
Quest Participation Dance Project	Louise Richards – Motionhouse
Film Makers	Karlos Gomez Lersundi- Logela Imanol Garaizabal Pileain – Logela
Composer	Sophy Smith
Designer	Simon Dormon
Costume Designer	Sophie Layton
Lighting Designer	Mark Howett
Production Manager	Simon Byford
Production Assistant	Chris Barron

Birmingham Hippodrome Team

Executive Producer	Stuart Griffiths
Producer	Sarah Allen
Administrator	Caroline Davis

Partners

The Voyage will work in partnership with Town Hall Symphony Hall as host venue partner and Birmingham City Council.

Stuart Griffiths – Executive Producer

Stuart's first appointment in theatre was at the Beck Theatre in West London - a middle scale theatre with a mixed programme of music, drama and dance.

In 1992 he moved to open the new Swan Theatre in High Wycombe, a large scale venue with a broad and mixed programme of drama, dance and music which over the following 10 years developed a national and international reputation for its ambitious dance programme.

In 2002, he moved to take up the position of Chief Executive at Birmingham Hippodrome following its £40m redevelopment which created one of the finest theatre complexes in Europe and a revitalised home for Birmingham Royal Ballet and the national dance agency DanceXchange. In re-establishing the Hippodrome as the most popular theatre in the UK, with an annual audience of c.500,000, he has introduced a programme of international performance featuring some of the finest companies in the world to complement the residency of Birmingham Royal Ballet. The programme also features the finest lyric and musical theatre from the West End, including the full repertoire of Welsh National Opera who regard the Hippodrome as their English home.

Stuart is Founder member and Co-Chair of the Dance Consortium, an alliance of 20 leading UK theatres dedicated to the presentation of international dance. He is a board member of Birmingham's Ikon Gallery and Birmingham Opera Company.

Stuart is a representative for Birmingham Cultural Partnership, Birmingham City Centre Partnership and is an elected council member of Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

Stuart is also Co-Artistic Director of International Dance Festival Birmingham co-produced by Birmingham Hippodrome and DanceXchange.

Kevin Finnan – Artistic Director

As Motionhouse's Artistic Director Kevin has created, either alone or in collaboration with Louise, each of the company's major touring productions. This includes all of Motionhouse's middle-scale theatre productions as well as a series of shorter festival pieces and large scale outdoor spectacles.

Kevin is passionate about exploring and exploding the traditional use of space in performance and has a history of creating extraordinary dance spectacles including the acclaimed Machine Dance for JCB diggers and dancers. Equally committed to collaboration, Kevin has worked with artists from many disciplines including writer A.L.Kennedy, installation artist Rosa Sanchez, film-makers Logela Multimedia, set visionary Simon Dormon and international companies such as Legs On The Wall from Sydney and Headlines Theatre in Vancouver.

Kevin has been commissioned to make work for numerous other companies in the UK and further afield and also been invited to create bespoke performances to celebrate cultural capital celebrations in Copenhagen and Marseille-Provence. In 2012 he is creating *The Voyage* for the London 2012 Festival – an enormous outdoor performance event to be performed in the centre of Birmingham and made in collaboration with Legs On The Wall. 2012 also sees him take up the role of Choreographer and Director of Movement for the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games.

Kevin has an MA in Contemporary Performing Arts from University College Bretton Hall and a PhD in Theatre from Warwick University. He is also a visiting Fellow at the University of Warwick and Associate Artist of Greenwich+Docklands International Festival.

Patrick Nolan – Legs On The Wall

Patrick has been working as a director for over twenty years. In that time he has created numerous new Australian works, that have been performed in festivals, opera houses, theatres, showgrounds, city streets and car parks. He's had the privilege to work with highly skilled performers, horses, opera singers from across the globe, pipers, Lord Mayors, and a hundred school children dressed as the animals on Noah's ark. As a theatre maker he is driven by a process in which a performer explores the extreme of their capacity to find a way of expressing an idea, a feeling, a sound, that takes the audience to a place of enquiry and perhaps, understanding.

Companies he has directed for include: Opera Australia, New Zealand Opera, Sydney Theatre Company, Griffin Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Queensland Music Festival, Sydney Festival, Melbourne Festival, Adelaide Festival and the Perth International Arts Festival.

Some of the productions he has directed include: *My Bicycle Loves You*, *The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other* by Peter Handke, for Legs on the Wall; *A Flowering Tree* by John Adams (winner of Helpmann Award for Best Live Concert Performance), *Electric Lenin* by Barry Conygham, *Love in the Age of Therapy* by Paul Grabowsky, *Pelleas et Melisande* by Debussy, *Dido and Aeneas* by Purcell, *Acis and Galetea* by Handel, *La Boheme* by Puccini, *Eugene Onegin* by Tchaikovsky, *Così fan tutte* and *The Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart, an adaptation of *Tales from the Arabian Nights*, *bashby* Neil Labute, *Malade Imaginaire* by Moliere, *Twelfth Night* and *Macbeth* by Shakespeare.

Simon Dorman – Designer

Simon was a founder member and set and lighting designer, for visual theatre company Trickster. Since 1989 he has been a partner in London based furniture designer/makers Oblique Furniture, who undertake a wide range of bespoke commercial, domestic and exhibition projects. www.obliquefurniture.co.uk

Simon has designed and Oblique have realised the sets for previous Motionhouse shows including *Cascade, Scattered, Underground, Driven, Perfect, Volatile, Fearless, Atomic, Twisted, Faking it, Delicate, Geisha, House of Bones* and *The Ticking Man*.

SOPHY SMITH & TIM DICKINSON - COMPOSERS

Sophy and Tim have been composing together since 1997. They have collaborated on a wide range of projects from touring dance and theatre performances to TV and radio commercials, short films, TV documentaries and solo music projects. In between all this they have managed to release a number of their own tracks commercially. Sophy and Tim have worked with Motionhouse in the past, composing the soundtrack for *Perfect* in 2005 and collaborating on *Dreams and Ruin*, *Driven*, *Underground*, *Chaser*, *Scattered* and *Cascade*.

Sophy is a founder member and Artistic Director of the collaborative live art company Assault Events as well as Research Fellow at the Institute of Creative Technologies, De Montfort University, where her current research explores inter/multi/transdisciplinary collaboration. As Programme Leader for the IOCT's innovative transdisciplinary Masters in Creative Technologies (MA/MSc), Sophy works with students at the convergence of the e-sciences, digital arts and humanities.

Tim Dickinson is a professional composer, producer and sound engineer. He cut his musical teeth in some of the top recording studios of London during the 1990s where he worked with major artists including Bryan Ferry, Spice Girls, Björk and Blur amongst others, collaborating on no less than three number one albums. After 12 years in the music business Tim now manages his own audio production company A.A.P

Contact

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Or alternatively visit www.thevoyage.org.uk/press where you can download the latest press releases and images