

23 June 2012

ALL ABOARD AS THE VOYAGE SETS SAIL

In celebration of the London 2012 Festival, last night Birmingham's Victoria Square hosted the World Premiere of **The Voyage** which embarked on its maiden journey in front of a delighted audience. An estimated audience of 4,500 people were treated to the first performances of [The Voyage](#), an epic tale that tells the dramatic story of passengers aboard the HMS Olympia, a 50ft passenger liner.

Crowds were swept away with delight as they watched incredibly physical dance and daring aerial acrobatics performed aboard the ship. This unique storytelling experience kept spectators hooked as they became part of an interactive dance and film spectacle with a talented cast of over 150.

Birmingham's prestigious Town Hall provided the perfect backdrop to the free performance, which was complemented by stunning projections, and brilliant musical performances from the Town Hall Gospel Choir, live music from the Birmingham Conservatoire and amateur performers from Birmingham Ormiston Academy, Stratford Upon Avon College, Playbox Theatre, Solihull, Nova and Coventry Youth Dance Groups and the Motionhouse Adult dance group.

Produced by Birmingham Hippodrome, The Voyage is a fantastic cultural collaboration between one of the UK's leading outdoor dance companies Motionhouse based in Leamington Spa and Australia's acclaimed physical theatre and aerial company Legs On The Wall, from Sydney. The music is specially written and composed by Sophy Smith and Tim Dickinson. The set is a life-size cruise liner designed by Simon Dormon with stunning film projection from Logela Multimedia from the Basque region of Spain.

The first performance of [The Voyage](#) was a truly fantastic way of celebrating the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the City of Birmingham, and the amazing talent that the dance and theatre world has to offer. Remaining performances of The Voyage are only performed on Saturday and Sunday at 10pm - make sure you don't miss it!

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. It forms the finale of the Cultural Olympiad, the four year programme of arts and cultural events celebrating London 2012.

In total, over 70 arts and cultural events will take place over the summer in the West Midlands as part of the London 2012 Festival and Cultural Olympiad.

Principal funders of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival are Arts Council England, Legacy Trust UK and the Olympic Lottery Distributor. BP and BT are Premier Partners of the Cultural Olympiad and the London 2012 Festival.

The Voyage is FREE and will be performed nightly at 10pm until Sunday 24 June.

Please visit www.thevoyage.org.uk for further details, weather updates and alerts.

-Ends -

For all press enquiries regarding The Voyage please contact Chris Brown on 0121 200 0910 / 07889 071379 / c.brown@bcguk.com

For all questions regarding the London 2012 Festival in the West Midlands please contact Press Lead Helen Stallard on 07740 339604 / Helen@helenstallard.co.uk

Notes to editors

Produced by Birmingham Hippodrome

Created by Motionhouse in collaboration with Legs On The Wall

Part of London 2012 Festival

www.thevoyage.org.uk @thevoyage2012

About the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival

The London 2012 Cultural Olympiad is the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Spread over four years, it is designed to give everyone in the UK a chance to be part of London 2012 and inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially among young people.

The culmination of the Cultural Olympiad will be the London 2012 Festival, a spectacular 12-week nationwide celebration bringing together leading artists from across the world with the very best from the UK, from Midsummers Day on 21 June and running until the final day of the Paralympic Games on 9 September 2012. The London 2012 Festival will celebrate the huge range, quality and accessibility of the UK's world-class culture including dance, music, theatre, the visual arts, fashion, film and digital

innovation, giving the opportunity for people across the UK to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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All confirmed programming for the London 2012 Festival is available for the public to view on the festival website, www.london2012.com/festival, where people can download the full London 2012 Festival brochure and sign up to receive information on new events and performances that will be announced up to the start of the festival.

For more information about the London 2012 Festival, Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 in the West Midlands visit www.wmfor2012.com

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.

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.