



## Cook Up – Tuck In – Take Out

From May 2011 we are going about our mission, to invent the future of theatre, in a different way. This information sheet explains some of the main changes.

### Three ways that Battersea Arts Centre (BAC) develops and presents new theatre

#### *Cook Up...*

*A new level of support for artists and new ways for audiences to get creative*

Every week there is an average of five companies of artists in residence developing co-productions with BAC. We provide rehearsal space, support from producers, design technicians, marketers and fundraisers, overnight accommodation, food and funding to develop new productions. And crucially, every Thursday to Saturday audiences are invited to BAC Scratch Nights to get stuck in to a creative dialogue with the artists. Our new Café Bar, our dedicated play space for under 5's and our courtyard garden are all open six days a week for audiences to eat, drink and meet whilst experiencing fresh ideas popping up all over the building. There are new creative development programmes for audiences to get stuck in to and help us invent the future of theatre.

#### *Tuck In...*

*Regular playground projects when artists and audiences create theatre across our building*

Up to three times every year we will use BAC's building as a playground for our collective imagination and explore its creative possibilities. We have secured £2.5million from Arts Council England to develop Battersea's former Town Hall through a series of playground projects. Cooked up with audiences through BAC Scratch Nights, these projects will be an opportunity for tens of thousands of people to tuck in to the very best of BAC. Our last playground project combined the *ONE-ON-ONE Festival* with *The Red Shoes* that celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, whilst the next one will be *The Good Neighbour* for a family audience of up to 10,000 people, later this year.

#### *Take Out...*

*BAC co-productions presented across London, nationally and internationally*

Many of the co-productions that develop through BAC Scratch Nights will now become part of a broad-reaching touring programme. We want audiences far beyond our home in Battersea to share in our discovery of tomorrow's theatre. The BAC touring programme will launch this August at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival where we will be presenting exciting new theatre in partnership with Summerhall, a terrific new venue based in the former Edinburgh veterinary school. (And don't miss Little Bulb's *Operation Greenfield* currently running at Soho Theatre, originally commissioned and developed at BAC.)

### 3 other new beginnings

#### *New creative events across the building*

We are introducing a new creative events programme. We are seeking to more closely align our vast schedule of events to our artistic programme so that artists who are working at BAC can also engage with local people, businesses and companies to host imaginative events including weddings, parties, conferences, fairs, gigs and screenings, throughout Battersea's former Town Hall.

#### *New development programmes*

We continue to originate inter-generational and young people's development programmes. These are for over 5,000 people every year. Explore our website for *Homegrown*, *Schools*, *Artist-Teacher Exchange*, *The Independents* and we are evolving a *Supported Venue* programme that explores mutual learning across arts organisations. We are also creating a Process Library at BAC which will be a public space housing an archive of many of the creative processes that BAC has employed or devised during its 30 year history.

#### *New way of delivering our work*

We now work differently too. All of our activities (whether creating a show or running the café) are now delivered by project teams. We think working in project teams promotes greater collaboration and shared ownership and better connects our work to our audience. We have also launched a new apprenticeship programme with 9 fully paid apprentices throughout the organisation. It might sound rather grand but we are trying to imagine what a 21st century organisation looks like and we are open to new ideas.

### Why are we launching Cook Up – Tuck In – Take Out ?

BAC's mission is to invent the future of theatre. We think our lives are better when shared. We think ideas, conversations, celebrations, education, sport, politics and buildings are all better when they are infused with theatre. For this reason we do not only see the future of theatre as traditional plays performed by actors in purpose-built theatre spaces. If this *were* the future, we would miss out on some of the best things about theatre: that it is everywhere and available to all of us.

We think of theatre as the playfulness, performance and ritual that peppers different parts of all our lives. It might be a moment of high drama at a friend's wedding, or the shared understanding at a street party or a clash of ideologies in a public meeting. We imagine a future for creative buildings, called theatres, which are at the heart of civic life. We imagine that the people who live around these buildings have a strong sense of ownership of them, and that they become an umbrella for creative dialogue and ideas. We imagine that visionary artists and their ideas are the driving force behind these theatres. And that some of the most exciting times in these theatres are created by artists who produce surprising and brilliant theatre for all. We see BAC's role, in achieving its mission, to help research and create new models for theatres in the UK.

*New public hours:* Mon – Wed 10am to 6pm; Thu – Fri 10am to late; Sat 12pm to late

*New Scratch Nights:* Thu – Sat from 7pm

And of course many things continue at BAC as before, for example:

- Our commitment to nurturing emerging and established artists over a long period of time, our artist brainstorming network and our development of a new generation of producers;
- Our commitment to young people with a huge range of opportunities from school through to employment, alongside a growing commitment to intergenerational experiences;
- Our commitment to growing audiences for our work, year on year, both at BAC on Lavender Hill and across London and beyond.