

## PRESS RELEASE

# BAC'S 30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH – SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2011

This spring, BAC celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with two events that reflect the wide role the venue has played in 'inventing the future' of British theatre during the last three decades. Kneehigh's award winning production *The Red Shoes* returns to BAC for its last ever London staging, and the *ONE-ON-ONE* festival of theatre for one audience member at a time is remounted following its phenomenal success in 2010. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary will also see the launch of **Artist Bedrooms**, created by artists for artists, enabling them to live at the venue for residencies of up to four months at a time.

BAC has played a significant role at the forefront of contemporary theatre since Jude Kelly, now Artistic Director of Southbank Centre, was appointed as its first Artistic Director in 1980. Tony Fegan became Director in 1985, then Paul Blackman in 1990, followed by Tom Morris in 1995, now Artistic Director of Bristol Old Vic and director of shows including *War Horse* and *Swallows and Amazons*. After working with Tom Morris from 1999-2001 as BAC's Development Producer, David Jubb became Artistic Director in 2004 and was joined in 2008 by David Micklem, as Joint Artistic Directors.

Through its history BAC has supported the work of some of Britain's most influential theatre companies, including Cheek By Jowl, DV8 and The Right Size in the 1980s, Improbable, Frantic Assembly and Told By An Idiot in the 1990s and Punchdrunk, Kneehigh and 1927 in the 2000s. Pivotal productions including BAC and Punchdrunk's *The Masque of the Red Death*, the Perrier Award winning *Jackson's Way* and *Jerry Springer: The Opera*: all developed through Scratch at BAC. Scratch has now been adopted and adapted all over the world from the Sydney Opera House to the UCLA, whilst other BAC innovations such as its 'Pay What You Can' Nights and artist development programmes have had a large influence across the theatre sector.

BAC is using its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday to raise money for its new **Artist Bedrooms**. BAC will work with artists to create six new one-on-one performances for the *ONE-ON-ONE* Festival each set inside a new bedroom space specifically designed and created for the festival. After the festival is finished the bedrooms will provide a legacy for BAC and enable artists to live and work in the building. The project is part of BAC's 'Playgrounding' process, where BAC develops its Town Hall space through the creation of theatre. A special **30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party** will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm, hosted by BAC patron Dame Vivienne Westwood, to raise funds for the Artist Bedrooms.

**Kneehigh** has had a long standing relationship with BAC, dating back to 2000 when *The Red Shoes* was first staged in the Council Chamber. BAC co-produced *The Wooden Frock* (2004) and *Rapunzel* (2006), and collaborated again when Kneehigh staged *Don John* (2009) in BAC's spectacular Grand Hall. *The Red Shoes* is regarded as a seminal Kneehigh show, for which Emma Rice received a TMA Award for Best Director. The production opens shortly before the company's *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* at the Gielgud Theatre in the West End.

2010's *ONE-ON-ONE Festival* was the UK (and possibly the world)'s first major international festival of one-on-one theatre. This year will see the return of many of the highlight artists from the festival, including Ontroerend Goed, Adrian Howells and Lundahl&Seitl, as well as newly commissioned works (to be announced), in a programme that is designed in a menu format where audience members can choose work to suit their tastes.

'At thirty years old, we are proud to reflect on the history of BAC and the pivotal role it has played in inventing the future of theatre in the UK. From *Jerry Springer: The Opera* and BAC and Punchdrunk's *The Masque of the Red Death* to last year's *ONE-ON-ONE* Festival, some of the most talked about theatre has taken place in the walls of Battersea's former Town Hall, it is an engine room for British theatre. To mark the anniversary, we are looking to the future and commissioning six artists to create bedrooms in which we will provide a home for tomorrow's theatre makers.'

- David Jubb and David Micklem, BAC's Joint Artistic Directors

'BAC is inseparable from its community. The artists need the community and the community needs the art. It's not just about the economic impact or the access to entertainment and recreation...It's about having a building where it is possible to go in a spirit of uncertainty and leave feeling more optimistic about the human race.'

- Jude Kelly, Artistic Director, Southbank Centre

Please note further details of both *The Red Shoes* and *ONE-ON-ONE Festival* will follow this press release shortly.

#### Listings Information

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Sat 9<sup>th</sup> April

*The Red Shoes*

PRESS NIGHT: THU 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 7.30PM

Mon- Sat 7.30pm; Sat Mat 2pm

Mon - Thu £22.50 (£17.50 concs); Fri & Sat £25 (£20 concs); Sat Mat £17.50; Tue Pay What You Can

Thu 29<sup>th</sup> March - Sat 9<sup>th</sup> April

*ONE-ON-ONE*

Tues- Sat 7pm & 8.30pm; Sat Mat 2pm & 3pm

£19.50

Venue:	Battersea Arts Centre
Address:	Lavender Hill, London SW11 5TN
Box Office:	020 7223 2223 / <a href="http://www.bac.org.uk">www.bac.org.uk</a>
Transport:	Clapham Junction overground station