

LIFT announces the launch of the LIFT Living Archive

LIFT
Living
Archive

LIFT, London International Festival of Theatre, is proud to announce the launch of the LIFT Living Archive, a collection of photographs, prints, objects, audio and video recordings tracing the first 20 years of LIFT as one of Europe's leading arts organisations.

On the launch of the LIFT Living Archive, Mark Ball, LIFT Artistic Director said: *"We are proud to develop the LIFT Living Archive in partnership with Goldsmiths. We hope the Archive will not only be a resource for artists but also for academics and the wider community."*

Caoimhe McAvinchy, Senior Lecturer and Convenor of the MA Applied Drama: Theatre in Educational, Community and Social Contexts at Goldsmiths, University of London said: *"We are delighted to be working in partnership with LIFT. The LIFT Living Archive is an exceptional collection of materials which documents the development of a festival which has challenged contemporary thinking about what theatre can be where it takes place and who it is made by. The archive is an invaluable resource for researchers and, through our collaborative participation project, a wider public audience."*

Heritage Lottery Fund Trustee Kim Evans OBE said: *"Saving our historic archives is important as they provide such a valuable resource for anyone who wants to explore their past. The LIFT Living Archive is bursting with stories and pictures that give us clues about life and art; about where we have come from and who we are today. We are delighted to have been involved in this project and are looking forward to following its journey."*

LIFT's rich and varied programming of international work in London has had a major influence on the development of British theatre – challenging its conventions, introducing new forms of theatrical expression and bringing fresh perspectives on audience, communities and spaces throughout the city.

The LIFT Living Archive allows newcomers to LIFT's work to find out about its pioneering work in site-specific theatre, better understand how the physical and socio-cultural landscape of London has change over the years as well as how LIFT's present work continues to contribute to the vibrancy of the city.

How the LIFT Living Archive was built

Stage 1 of the project (November 2005-May 2006) was a research and development phase funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. LIFT surveyed its archive materials, engaged potential archive users through market research and piloted innovative approaches to using the archive as a creative tool for learning and participation. This included working with University of East London, Birkbeck College, Queen's Park Community School and London Metropolitan University.

In Stage 2 (June 2007 – March 2009), also funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, LIFT fully appraised and catalogued the physical archive and selected 1000 items to be digitised and made available online. In August 2008 the archive was deposited with Special Collections at Goldsmiths, University of London Library.

Learning and Participation

From October 2008, the MA Applied Drama: Theatre in Educational, Community and Social Contexts programme at Goldsmiths has been collaborating with LIFT on an innovative archive

research project. By working jointly with a local primary and secondary school, as well as two community groups, MA Applied Drama students have been exploring how the LIFT Living Archive can enable creative learning and participation processes. The outcomes of this project will be published as a case study on the LIFT website from July 2009. This work has been made possible by a multi-year grant by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to fund the LIFT Participation Producer position

LIFTING LONDON: Launch of the LIFT LIVING ARCHIVE

Tues 30 June 6pm – 8pm

Great Hall, Goldsmiths, University of London

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On **Tues 30 June**, to celebrate the launch of the LIFT Living Archive, LIFT and Goldsmiths, University of London are hosting **LIFTING LONDON**, an evening of conversation and performance exploring the stories behind the LIFT Festivals featured in the Archive. **LIFTING LONDON** is part of the Mayor of London's **Story of London Festival**, a month long celebration of London's past, present and future.

During the course of the evening attendees will be able to explore Archive materials and hear stories from people who made the events happen including LIFT co-founders **Lucy Neal** and **Rose Fenton**, **Helen Lannaghan**, Director of London International Mime festival and former LIFT producer, **Jane Edwards**, Author and Theatre Critic and **Mark Ball**, current LIFT Artistic Director and Chief Executive.

For the launch **Tim Etchells**, Artistic Director of Forced Entertainment has created a performative lecture in response to materials from the LIFT Living Archive which will be performed by artist **Rajini Shah** at the event. Students from **Forest Hill School**, a specialist school in performing arts and **Pen Friends**, an adult creative writing group, are some of the groups who have been exploring the archive to create new creative responses and they will be on hand throughout the evening to discuss this process.

For more information contact

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Editors Notes:

A selection of 1000 items from the LIFT Living Archive can be viewed online in a searchable catalogue available at www.liftfestival.com/lift-living-archive from 30 June, 2009. This digitised selection represents 50 productions from the first 12 festivals.

The LIFT Living Archive can be viewed by appointment at Special Collections, Goldsmiths, University of London and a catalogue detailing the full contents is available on their site. Special Collections, Library, Goldsmiths, University of London, Lewisham Way, New Cross, London SE14 6NW.

Tel 020 7717 2295

special.collections@gold.ac.uk

www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/library

LIFT

LIFT, the London international Festival of Theatre, is one of Europe's most adventurous and influential producers of international contemporary theatre, creating extraordinary festivals and programmes of work that transform London into a stage and inspire everyone to participate in the stories of the world.

LIFT started in 1981 and has over the past 28 years presented ground-breaking events and festivals to audiences of over 800,000 with 300 international premieres from 60 countries.

LIFT, Trinity Buoy Wharf, 64 Orchard Place, London, E14 0JW

020 7093 6340 archive@liftfest.org.uk

<http://liftfestival.com/LIFT-living-archive.aspx>

LIFT events have been staged at over 30 London venues as well as numerous sites including streets, disused buildings, parks, open spaces and on the river Thames

Mark Ball joined LIFT as Artistic Director and Chief Executive in April 2009 having worked as Head of Events and Exhibitions at the Royal Shakespeare Company. Since 1997, he has directed Fierce!, an annual international festival of theatre, live art and contemporary dance taking place across the West Midlands. In November 2005, Mark was named the Institute of Director's (IoD) Young Director of the Year for his work with the company. Mark was made a Clore Fellow in 2006/2007, where he undertook research on the potential impact of Web 2.0 for arts organisations and a placement at The Getty Centre, Los Angeles.

www.liftfestival.com

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Goldsmiths, University of London

Goldsmiths offers a broad range of undergraduate, postgraduate, professional and adult education courses. These range from the arts and humanities including design, drama, history, literature, media and communications, music, visual arts, visual cultures; the social sciences – anthropology, psychology, sociology; computing; and education, with interdisciplinary work across all areas. Visit www.goldsmiths.ac.uk to find out more about the specific programmes on offer.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Heritage Lottery Fund is the primary supporter of the LIFT Living Archive awarding £159,500. Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported more than 28,800 projects, allocating over £4.3 billion across the UK, with over £850 million has granted in London alone. Website: www.hlf.org.uk.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation is one of the larger independent grant-making foundations in the UK. We make grants to organisations which aim to maximise opportunities for individuals to experience a full quality of life, both now and in the future. Website: www.phf.org.uk

Story of London

The Story of London is a month-long celebration of the city's past, present and future, which takes place throughout the whole of June 2009. Organised by the Greater London Authority in partnership with a host of organisations across the capital, it is aimed at tourists and Londoners alike, with events and activities in every borough. More information can be found at www.london.gov.uk/storyoflondon.

Additional press information about the Story of London is available by contacting Ben McKnight at the GLA on 020 7983 4071, or email communitydesk@london.gov.uk.



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