

News release

To be released: Immediately
Date: 11.00am, 4 September 2008

International Artists to Illuminate Norwich and Luton as part of the Launch of London 2012's Cultural Olympiad

The Body Electric by DAWOOD / DEORA
Norwich Castle Gardens
8.00pm – 9.00pm, Sat 27 September & Sun 28 September 2008

Halo by Simon Tegala
St George's Square, Luton
8.30pm – 9.30pm, Sat 27 September & Sun 28 September 2008

International artists DAWOOD / DEORA and Simon Tegala have been selected to stage free large-scale live art performances using light, music and the moving image in Norwich and Luton as part of celebrations to mark the launch of London 2012's Cultural Olympiad in the East of England.

DAWOOD / DEORA will be projecting onto Norwich Castle alongside a live DJ mix, and Tegala will be creating a performance using light and music for St George's Square in Luton. As the projects are still taking shape, further details will be announced in due course.

The artists were selected by Commissions East in conjunction with Luton Borough Council and Norwich City Council, and their projects will be supported by a programme of workshops and other activities for young people delivered in partnership with The Garage in Norwich and Luton's UK Centre for Carnival Arts.

'The Body Electric' and 'Halo' have been granted the London 2012 Inspire mark as part of the Cultural Olympiad. Funding is from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

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Commissions East

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Registered charity number 1045657. Company registration number 2802661. VAT registration number 636778589.

Notes for editors

1. **Commissions East**

Commissions East is one of the UK's leading public art agencies. It works in partnership with the public and private sectors to develop and deliver outstanding visual arts projects that define places, unite people and challenge perceptions.

2. **DAWOOD / DEORA**

Shezad Dawood's projects reflect a keen cultural awareness by transplanting genres, styles and locations. With a father born in India, a mother born in Pakistan and the artist himself born in London (not to mention an Irish Catholic stepmother), his projects are all about integration. From remaking classic 1960s films such as 'Blow Up' in Pakistan, to his recent film 'Feature', a zombie western relocated to the Fens in Cambridgeshire, his films and performances challenge traditional notions of cultural identity. Mukul Deora is a multi-disciplinary artist living in Mumbai, India. From pioneering electronic dance music in India in the mid 90s, Mukul moved to experimental sound installations and released his debut album 'Stray' in 2006, which reached number 12 in the Indian charts. In 2008, Mukul presented a solo show of sculptures made from silver and his own blood at the Ashish Balram Gallery in Mumbai. He has performed at the Tate Modern and the National Centre for Performing Arts, Mumbai. For more info visit <http://www.mukulonline.com/>

3. **Simon Tegala**

Simon Tegala works across a range of media from drawing, photography, sculpture, film and video and digital based artworks. Since graduating from Goldsmiths College in 1995, Tegala has exhibited internationally, including the Whitechapel Art Gallery and Hayward Gallery in London, the Kunshallen in Gothenberg and the National Gallery of Denmark. He was awarded the NESTA fellowship in 2000 and represented the UK in the 2003 Havana Biennial. He is currently producing a major public artwork for the City of Sunderland.

4. **The Garage, Norwich**

The Garage is an exciting creative industries training and performance venue situated in the heart of Norwich. Its broad programme of delivery encompasses a wide range of courses, workshops, holiday activities, festivals, performances, accreditation opportunities and careers related events. Young people are a priority for the organisation, particularly those experiencing barriers to engagement, at risk of exclusion or those with the fewest opportunities.

5. **UK Centre for Carnival Arts (UKCCA), Luton**

Formerly Luton Carnival Arts Development Trust, UKCCA is a national organisation and leading agency for carnival in all its guises. UKCCA works from a strategic to grass roots level complementing and supporting agendas for neighbourhood renewal and regeneration, tourism development, arts in education, business development and community cohesion.

6. **Inspire mark**

London 2012's Cultural Olympiad is a four year UK-wide programme of culture which will welcome the world and inspire young people. The London 2012 Inspire mark recognises outstanding projects and events helping deliver the Games' lasting legacy. Part of the London 2012 brand family, it is the badge of the wider Inspire programme which has sport at its heart and London at its centre, but it is more than London and more than sport. It is for London and the UK, for sport and culture, for education, volunteering and business opportunities.

7. **Arts Council England**

Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. Between 2008 and 2011, we will invest £1.3 billion of public money from government and a further £0.3 billion from the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. Arts Council England, East is one of nine regional offices and covers Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

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