

News release

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Simon Tegala's 'Halo' Celebrates the Launch of London 2012's Cultural Olympiad in Luton

'Halo' by Simon Tegala

St George's Square, Luton

8.30pm to 9.30pm, Saturday 27 September & Sunday 28 September 2008

International artist Simon Tegala will bathe St George's Square in a sea of blue light, which, combined with music and performance, will create a dramatic event entitled 'Halo'. Each member of the audience will be given a glowing blue necklace – their individual 'halo'. Luton Youth Orchestra will play music composed by Simon Tegala, while performers from groups associated with Luton's UK Centre for Carnival Arts, including Rampage Carnival Club and St Kitts Nevis and Friends Carnival Groups will weave their way through the audience.

This free live art performance is part of the Open Weekend celebrations to mark the launch of London 2012's Cultural Olympiad in the East of England and has been granted the London 2012 Inspire mark. This event will be suitable for all ages and is being led by Commissions East in partnership with Luton Borough Council, Luton's UK Centre for Carnival Arts and Lutonarts, with funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England, East.

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

Commissions East

St Giles Hall, Pound Hill, Cambridge CB3 0AE

T 01223 356882 F 01223 356883 E info@commissionseast.org.uk W www.commissionseast.org.uk

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

"I am delighted to be commissioned to create and art work for Luton. It is a town with which I have had little contact, but look forward to working with the creative community. The opportunity to develop a project as part of the Cultural Olympiad is very exciting. I feel privileged to be part of it." **Simon Tegala**

"Commissions East is proud to be working with such a remarkable artist, and to be one of the organisations to bring the launch of the Cultural Olympiad to the East of England. We hope that the Cultural Olympiad will continue to provide these sorts of opportunities for artists to create new work and reach new audiences, whilst showcasing the UK's world-class talent and creativity." **Charity Green, Commissions East**

"The Cultural Olympiad offers everyone in the East of England a unique opportunity to celebrate the region's vibrant artistic talent and rich cultural heritage. We are delighted to be supporting this commission over the launch weekend, and we are also pleased that several of the projects receiving the new Inspire mark in this region are funded by the Arts Council." **Andrea Stark, Executive Director for Arts Council England, East**

"The UK Centre for Carnival Arts is excited by this inspirational artwork incorporating the stunning visual, participative and inclusive essence of carnival. This commission grants the community access to the highest quality arts that they deserve. We will work hard to make sure commissions like this continue to thrive through the opening of the new national UK Centre for Carnival Arts." **Paul Anderson, Executive Director, UKCCA.**

"For four years we'll be celebrating the UK's inclusive, creative and world leading culture. To kick-start this we have a powerful programme of public art and events that will surprise, engage and delight residents and visitors across the region. The Cultural Olympiad has the potential to challenge how we think about who we are and where we live, as well as offering opportunities to be part of large public events and to delight in spectacle." **Liz Hughes, Creative Programmer for the East of England for London 2012**

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. www.commissionseast.org.uk.
2. **Arts Council England, East**

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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 www.artscouncil.org.uk/regions.

3. Lutonarts

Lutonarts, part of Luton Cultural Services Trust, is responsible for the event management for 'Halo'. Lutonarts manages the Luton International Carnival, Luton Mela Summer Festival and advises on a wide range of community events and activities.

4. 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. www.carnivalarts.org.uk.

5. 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, www.london2012.com/get-involved/cultural-olympiad/inspire-mark-projects.php.

You can obtain a photograph of the London 2012 Inspire Mark to illustrate your article/coverage by emailing Rebecca.Miller@london2012.com

For more information, images or to arrange interviews contact:

Paul Dickson

isis@globalnet.co.uk

T. 01603 666011 M. 07801 103737

For more information about The Cultural Olympiad in the East of England contact:

Liz Hughes Creative Programmer - East of England London 2012

liz.hughes@goeast.gsi.gov.uk, www.livingeast.org.uk

T. 01223 372683 M. 07875 708018

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