



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

19 JULY

PRESS RELEASE

**RECORD NUMBERS ATTEND FREE TOSCA SCREENING
ACROSS THE UK ON THE BP BIG SCREENS**

Thursday 18 July saw over 27,000 people of all ages turn out to watch the BP Big Screen live relay of Puccini's *Tosca* broadcast from the Royal Opera House to city centre Big Screens for free.

Kasper Holten, Director of Opera said, "An incredible thing happened last night. We saw people in their thousands come out and enjoy all the passion and beauty of opera. What is so fantastic is that so many people were using the BP Big Screens to try opera for the very first time and we could tell from their faces and the reaction in the final moments that opera did not disappoint. None of this is possible without the generous support of BP and the huge collaborative efforts of all the city councils across the UK who support these free screenings and understand the importance of free cultural events like these."

The Royal Opera House has been screening free live performances on big screens since 1987 and through the years the popularity of these events has grown and grown from a thousand in Covent Garden Piazza to well over 27,000 across the UK. Trafalgar Square in London reached its maximum capacity with still thousands more lining the edges of the square, and up in Duthie Park, Aberdeen a further 6,000 made the most of the hot summer evening to enjoy one of the most loved of all operas. From Belfast to Bristol and over 21 different screens in between the BP Big Screens was the event to attend.

Des Violaris, BP's UK Director for Arts and Culture, said: 'The success of this year's BP Big Screens underlines the importance of enabling arts organisations to take their incredible work and share it with people and communities all over the UK. BP is delighted to continue its support for the BP Big Screens and every year we see more and more people connect with opera



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and ballet from the Royal Opera House. This year, to know that we have record attendance is to know that thousands of people have had an opportunity to experience these art forms for the first time.”

Notes for Editors

BP AND ROH

BP has been the longest running supporter of the Royal Opera House, starting the relationship in 1989 with initiatives including the Schools’ Matinee programme and the Chance to Dance scheme. BP have supported the Big Screen live relays of opera and ballet performances direct from Covent Garden since 2000 and last year announced their commitment to a further five years of sponsorship. The generous ongoing support of BP has enabled the Royal Opera House to reach as many people as possible around the country with live performances, allowing them to experience the very best of opera and ballet in their home town, for free. As always, BP has combined support for the screenings with studies and analysis of the benefits of the screenings and associated education work.

BP SUPPORT FOR UK ARTS & CULTURE

In the UK, BP is a major supporter of the arts, with a programme that spans over 35 years. In 2011 BP announced its investment of almost £10 million in extending its long term partnerships with the British Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the Royal Opera House and Tate Britain over the next five years. Taken together, these agreements represent one of the most significant long-term corporate investments in UK arts and culture www.bp.com

THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Over the last Season 7.5 million people have engaged with the work of the Royal Opera House. The commitment to enabling as many people as possible to experience and enjoy world-class opera and ballet will continue as we present our work over new platforms from cinema to online streaming and broadcasts with the BBC and free BP Big Screens. Other access initiatives include the Student Standby Scheme, Welcome Performances for families and the Schools’ Matinees.

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THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE BP BIG SCREENS PROGRAMME 2013
Dates and Locations

The Royal Ballet
MacMillan's Mayerling
THURSDAY 13 JUNE, 7.30pm

Mayerling was broadcast live and free at the following BP Big Screen venues:

Trafalgar Square, London | Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets | Centenary Square, Bradford | The Hayes, Cardiff | Transport Museum, Hales St, Coventry | Millennium Square, Leeds | Exchange Square, Manchester | Centre Square, Middlesbrough | Guildhall Square, Portsmouth | MediaCityUK, Salford | Castle Square, Swansea | Wharf Green, Swindon | General Gordon Square, Woolwich | Walthamstow Town Square, Waltham Forest

The Royal Opera
Puccini's La rondine
THURSDAY 11 JULY, 7.30pm

La rondine was broadcast live and free at the following BP Big Screen venues:

Trafalgar Square, London | Canary Wharf, London | Centenary Square, Bradford | Millennium Square, Bristol | The Hayes, Cardiff | Transport Museum, Hales St, Coventry | Lyric Square, Hammersmith | Millennium Square, Leeds | Exchange Square, Manchester | Centre Square, Middlesbrough | The Piazza, Plymouth | Guildhall Square, Portsmouth | MediaCityUK, Salford | Castle Square, Swansea | General Gordon Square, Woolwich | Walthamstow Town Square, Waltham Forest

The Royal Opera
Puccini's Tosca
THURSDAY 18 JULY, 7.30pm

Tosca was broadcast live and free at the following BP Big Screen venues:

Trafalgar Square, London | High House Production Park, Purfleet | Canary Wharf, London | Duthie Park, Aberdeen | City Hall, Donegall Square, Belfast | Centenary Square, Bradford | Millennium Square, Bristol | The Hayes, Cardiff | Transport Museum, Hales St, Coventry | Talaton House, East Devon | Lyric Square, Hammersmith | Millennium Square, Leeds | Exchange Square, Manchester | Centre Square, Middlesbrough | The Piazza, Plymouth | Guildhall Square, Portsmouth | MediaCityUK, Salford | Castle Square, Swansea | Wharf Green, Swindon | General Gordon Square, Woolwich | Walthamstow Town Square, Waltham Forest

