

20 MAY 2013

**Young People from Thurrock and Southend to perform  
with French partners in dance and music productions**

Peau D'Ane (Donkey-Skin)

Ellis Theatre, The Gateway Academy, Marshfoot Road, Tilbury, RM16 4LU

Friday 5 July at 7.30pm

Tickets are £3, concessions £2

Chris Brubeck and L'Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne

Jazz Meets the Classics – From Beethoven to Brubeck

Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU

Friday 12 July at 7.30pm

Tickets are £10, concessions £8. Early Bird Offer: all tickets £5 until Friday 31 May

Box Office 0845 300 5264

Young people from across Thurrock and Southend will take part in two exciting performances by French companies in July. They join dance company **Eco** and **Emilio Calcagno** in an evening of contemporary dance on Friday 5 July and play with jazz master **Chris Brubeck** (son of the world famous Dave Brubeck) and **L'Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne** in a concert of classical and jazz music on Friday 12 July.

Eco presents a special adaptation of its recent stunning dance work *Peau d'Ane* (*Donkey Skin*) with commentary from the choreographer, Emilio Calcagno.

Students from the **Gateway Academy** and young people from **Southend YMCA** will work with dancers from Compagnie Eco, THEATRE IS... and the Royal Opera House to create their own devised pieces in response to *Donkey Skin* which will be shown during the performance.

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Young musicians from across Thurrock have the opportunity to take part in master-classes with composer and saxophonist **Guillaume Saint James** and perform at the concert with L'Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne and Chris Brubeck. In a fantastic evening of jazz and classical music, expect a scintillating programme ranging from Brubeck's own trombone concerto to Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> Symphony. **RM19**, the Royal Opera House Thurrock Youth Vocal Group will make one of their first appearances this evening too.

These performances take place as part of the Royal Opera House's involvement in a project called **A Common Territory**; a network of English and French partners which will foster creative and collaborative work over three years. This network has been selected under the European cross-border Co-operation Programme INTERREG IV. This is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund. Its objectives are to share cultural activities and build an attractive region in which to live.

The performance of *Peau D'Ane (Donkey-Skin)* takes place at the Ellis Theatre at the Gateway Academy in Chadwell St Mary on Friday 5 July at 7.30pm. Tickets are £3, concessions £2. Chris Brubeck and L'Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne: Jazz Meets the Classics is at the Civic Hall in Grays on Friday 12 July at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10, concessions £8. There is a £5 Early Bird Offer on all tickets for Jazz Meets the Classics until Friday 31 May.

Tickets for both performances are on sale at the Thameside Theatre Box Office. Please call 0845 300 5264 to book or go to [www.thurrock.gov.uk/theatre/](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/theatre/)

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## Notes for Editors

### Royal Opera House Education in Thurrock

Royal Opera House Education in Thurrock has been offering innovative and creative projects and programmes in schools, colleges and across communities in the Thames Gateway for the past six years. In 2010, more than 1000 people from Thurrock, young and old, took part in creating and performing the spectacular Purfleet Opera: *Ludd and Isis*, the third large scale ROH performance created with communities in Thurrock. As a result of this work a Thurrock Community Chorus has been created with over 140 members of all ages and a new Youth Chorus for 11-25 year olds.

Local schools and teachers are benefiting from Royal Opera House projects which enable collaboration with creative professionals, the learning of new skills and the nurturing of creativity

Public and educational tours of the state-of-the-art Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop where the sets and scenery for the Royal Opera House stage in Covent Garden are built are now widely available.

The High House Production Park is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House and Thurrock Council

### INTERREG IV

INTERREG IV provides funding for interregional cooperation across Europe. It is implemented under the European Community's territorial cooperation objective and financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) This press release highlights the European dimension of these performances and workshops. Their particular appeal lies in their cross-border nature, which is made possible by financial support from the European Union.



The performances and the France (Channel) – England programme share an important objective: to provide a better understanding of how the European Union actively encourages co-operation between the territories of different Member States separated by a border.

Your help is essential in communicating this message. Please, wherever appropriate, emphasise its European dimension when writing up the copy for your publication or broadcast.

**If space is limited, the following reference will be sufficient: “The project has been selected in the context of the INTERREG IV A France (Channel) – England European cross-border co-operation programme, which is co-financed by the ERDF”**

