



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

9 OCTOBER 2015

Ready Steady Draw

The Big Draw at High House Production Park

Saturday 24 October 12noon–4pm

Free event

The Backstage Centre, High House Production Park, Purfleet, RM19 1RJ

www.thebigdraw.org

The Backstage Centre will be a hive of activity on **Saturday 24 October** as the High House Production Park again hosts the Big Draw. **The Royal Opera House, artists from the High House Studios, Thurrock Music Services and The Backstage Centre** will all be taking part in this free event to offer everyone a great day of drawing and fun.

This year's Big Draw theme is 'Every Drawing Tells a Story' and to help offer inspiration for drawing, the High House Production Park is taking *The Nutcracker* as its focus. Everyone, young or old, beginner or expert, is invited to High House Production Park for the free Big Draw event, to draw and learn tips and techniques from skilled and experienced artists.

There will be lots of activities in The Backstage Centre to get involved in: Design costumes with the Royal Opera House or even try a few on, draw a still-life of instruments while listening to music with Thurrock Music Services and see your work projected digitally by Backstage Centre technicians.

In the final week of her year-long artist residency ([Stephen Cripps' Studio Awards 2014-15](#)), **Rita Evans**, will present two sound-based sculptural installations currently in development whose moments of failure and possible

collapse will be shared with the audience. *Brain Drains* explores exhaustion and loss of control and was developed in the award studio from original drawings. *Trance Party* uses the potential of turbulence, failure and open-endedness as a way for the audience to create and construct their own rhythm to dance or relax within and around the instrument.

Paper and pencils will be available in The Backstage Centre so everyone can just turn up and get drawing. No previous experience or specialist skill is needed: simply come and put pencil to paper and see where inspiration takes you.

Grand Events will be running a pop-up cafe in The Backstage Centre or bring a picnic and enjoy the Walled Garden or the Orchard. There is plenty of free parking on site too.

For more information about The Big Draw, please go to: www.thebigdraw.org

-ENDS-

CONTACTS

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Notes for Editors

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock has been offering innovative and creative projects and programmes in schools, colleges and across communities in the Thames Gateway since 2006.

Since then, more than 60,000 people have participated in activities ranging from schools projects to teacher training, from work-based learning to fully-staged community operas. People in Thurrock have both been able to watch special performances at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and gain a very special insight into the behind-the-scenes process.

The Learning and Participation team runs the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus, which currently has more than 140 members of all ages and regularly performs across Thurrock and at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. For further information, please go to: www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/community-chorus. Details of future performances and taster session for the Community Chorus can be obtained by emailing getinvolved@roh.org.uk or calling 01708 891200.

Regular public 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 available. Please go to www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours for further details. Inspiration Days offer a more in-depth look at the work of the Production Workshop. More information can be found at www.roh.org.uk/inspiration

In April 2012, the Royal Opera House agreed to become a [Bridge](#) organization, working to connect children and young people to great art and culture across Essex, North Kent, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

The Learning and Participation team is based at the High House Production Park in Purfleet which is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House and Thurrock Council: www.hhpp.org.uk