

9 JULY 2015

Royal Opera House Apprentices build Beach Hut for Village Beach

Royal Opera House apprentices Felix Bucklow and Lucy Kevill have built and painted a special beach hut for the new Village Beach event taking place at Grays Beach on Saturday 18 July.

Felix and Lucy are both apprentices at the Royal Opera House Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop in Purfleet. Felix is in his first year of a Scenic Art Apprenticeship and Lucy is a Scenic Carpentry Apprentice, also in her first year.

Lucy built the beach hut which will be the setting for costumes from the Royal Opera House at Village Beach. She said: *'Being in charge of this build has been extremely educational and a real challenge of my abilities. I'm pleased that I was able to take on this knowledge so promptly and ecstatic I met every challenge. I also relished the opportunity to push myself as a designer. Having a loose brief to follow, I felt I was able to design a high standard piece that is directly related to the industry I am in. Working within a team has been highly rewarding and I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to do so again.'*

Felix designed and painted the artwork for the exterior and interior of the hut. He said: *'I knew I needed to create a design that remained within the graphic genre that is explored by the other artists; however I still wanted to make it a design that nodded towards the magic and mystery of theatre and the Opera House.'*

I'm glad that I've had the opportunity to work on this project, I have enjoyed being able to take on the design of the hut and not just the application of the paint.'

The beach hut will sit alongside others made especially for the new event which is being organised by Metal, the Southend-based arts organisation. Other beach huts have been designed by notable people from Thurrock such as Russell Brand and Scroobius Pip

Colette Bailey, Metal's CEO said "We are delighted that Lucy and Felix accepted the challenge of creating one of our seven Beach Hut venues for Village Beach – the full collection of artist designed huts will look stunning on site at Grays Beach Riverside Park. Inside each one, there will be different cultural content from across Thurrock, including films, collections from the museum and of course the fabulous ROH costumes."

Village Beach will take place on **Saturday 18 July** from 11am until 8pm at **Grays Beach Riverside Park** on the banks of the River Thames.

With seven stages of music, spoken word, dance, performance and international circus cabaret; seven beach hut venues showcasing the best of Thurrock arts and heritage; a big bake competition; mad-cap games; a busking stage (anyone can turn up and have a go!) and much more to see and take part in, it promises to be a fun-packed day for all the family.

Entry to Village Beach is FREE with a programme of activities that will appeal to the whole family – from the age of two to eighty-two.

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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 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. For further information, please go to: www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/community-chorus. RM19, a new Youth Chorus for 11-25 year olds was started in 2012: www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/rm19-youth-singing-group.

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 available. Please go to www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours for further details.

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: www.highhouseproductionpark.co.uk