

MAY 2015

Thurrock Community make props and costumes for Royal Opera House Thurrock FUSED Festival

The Royal Opera House Thurrock FUSED Festival is just over six weeks away and preparations are in full swing. Over the last four weeks, 60 community members from across Thurrock have been working with FUSED costume designer **Lesley Ford** and set and props designer **Ruth Paton** to create the magical world of ***All Change***, the new production to be performed by the **Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus** and **RM19**, its youth vocal group, at the **Civic Hall, Grays** in July.

Whether the participants were experienced designers or completely new to painting and sewing, whether young or old, everyone worked together to create a host of costumes, accessories and props – from umbrellas dripping with blossom to up-cycled shirt dresses, from floral garlands to £50 notes (pretend, of course).

To see the handiwork of the talented Thurrock community, do not miss ***All Change*** on Thursday 9 and Friday 10 July. Tickets for ***All Change*** are on sale now priced £15, Concessions £10. They can be booked at through the Royal Opera House Box Office on 020 7304 4000 or online at www.roh.org.uk/productions/all-change

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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