



COLLABORATORS:

UK DESIGN FOR PERFORMANCE 2003-2007

21 NOVEMBER 2007 – 18 NOVEMBER 2008

A selection of the best British theatre designs of the last four years will be on show at the V&A this autumn in a new display *Collaborators: UK Design for Performance 2003-2007*.

From pantomime and drama to opera and dance in the UK and abroad, this display will bring together the work of over 100 of Britain's most creative theatre designers recognised worldwide for their skills and innovative designs. On display will be designs by Paul Brown, Richard Hudson and Ralph Koltai, three of the most internationally acclaimed set designers of recent years, as well as work by recent Linbury Prize winner Becs Andrews.

The displays of costumes, puppets, drawings, photographs, models of stage sets and interactive digital presentations will highlight the collaborative nature of theatre design.

This display will include designs for inventive contemporary performances such as *Boxed* by the Seven Sisters company, which took place in a series of shop windows on Oxford Street (London 2006). There will be international opera and drama designs including Paul Brown's surreal set for *La Traviata* at the 25,000-seat Arena di Verona (2004) and Es Devlin's 2006 Laurence Olivier Award-winning costume designs for the RSC's production of *Dog in a Manger*. The display will also explore designs for musicals such as Christopher Oram's set for *Evita* at the Adelphi Theatre (London 2006) and Rick Fisher's lighting scheme for *Billy Elliot* at the Victoria Palace Theatre (London 2005) which won 'Best Musical' at the 2005 Evening Standard Theatre Awards.

Collaborators will feature designs for new and re-developed theatre spaces including Camden Roundhouse, the Gdansk Theatre in Poland and Wexford's New Opera House which will open to the public in 2008. There will also be designs for innovative outdoor and 'found-space' productions including *Mulgrave*, a promenade performance

on the Yorkshire coast in 2005 by Wilson + Wilson company and Corcadorca's production of *The Tempest* performed on the pond in Fitzgerald's Park, Cork (2006).

The selection of designs on display has been chosen by the Society of British Theatre Designers in collaboration with the V&A's performance curators.

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Notes to Editors:

Entry to the display is FREE, as is entry to the V&A. **Collaborators** will be displayed in first floor galleries at the V&A.

The display is part of the V&A's programme for its Theatre Collections which include opening a new permanent gallery at the V&A in 2009, touring exhibitions and development of Theatre Collections Online (www.vam.ac.uk/tco).

Future performance exhibitions at the V&A include ***The Story of the Supremes from the Mary Wilson Collection*** (13 May – 26 October 2008) and ***Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes*** (spring 2010). The public can continue to see and consult the collections at the V&A's archive at Olympia.

Collaborators has been organised in partnership with The Society of British Theatre Designers (SBTD) who have also published a full colour catalogue. For further information on SBTD please contact Kate Burnett, project director at sbtd@ntu.ac.uk

A series of related practical workshops will be available for students of all ages. The contents of the workshops are aimed at students of English, History and Drama and Theatre Studies, the Key Stage 4 workshops are particularly useful for GCSE students and the post-16 for students of Edexcel Drama and Theatre studies. For further information visit www.vam.ac.uk/tco/learning For bookings telephone 020 7942 2755

Short listed entries for ***The Linbury Biennial Prize for Stage Design*** (an award aimed at recent theatre design graduates) will go on display in The National Theatre from 9 November 2007. For further press information please contact Anna Cusden at Kallaway on 020 7221 7882 or anna.cusden@kallaway.co.uk

For further PRESS information on Collaborators: UK Design for Performance 2003-2007, please contact Alex Bratt in the V&A press office on 020 7942 2503 or email a.bratt@vam.ac.uk (not for publication)

Images are available to download from www.image.net