

PRESS RELEASE  
Wednesday 4 September 2019

## FIVE EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE ACROSS WALTHAM FOREST AS PART OF THE ROYAL COURT'S LISTEN LOCAL

Friday 20, Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 September 2019  
Friday 27, Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 September 2019



**People in the photos are local residents of Waltham Forest and all are contributors to Listen Local: The Performances. All photos are credited to photographer Niall McDiarmid.**

Today the Royal Court Theatre announced *Listen Local: The Performances*, a series of free events taking place across Waltham Forest as part of the Mayor's London Borough of Culture 2019. *Listen Local: The Performances* has been created by community groups, young people, Waltham Forest residents and local artists, in collaboration with the Royal Court Theatre.

Taking place across two weekends in September, the five performances, will incorporate sport, storytelling, dance, theatre, music and visual art. Each event will take place at a different location across the borough and will include; a film installation in the vibrant community hub of Chingford Mount; South Asian songs performed around the iconic fountain of Waltham Forest Town Hall; an interactive experience along the streets of the Bakers Arms area inspired

by the journey of a young person in Waltham Forest and a community theatre performance on a Routemaster bus.

The Performances are the final phase of *Listen Local*, a year-long collaboration between the Royal Court Theatre, The National Trust and communities in Waltham Forest. Previous phases of the project have included; film competition **See the Real**, the **Mini Forest Cinema**; and a series of workshops led by professional artists focusing on writing, performance and design.

*Listen Local* was commissioned as part of Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019 with support from the Airbnb Community Tourism Programme.

### **Listen Local: The Performances:**

#### **Monumental Citizens**

Chingford Mount, South Chingford, E4 6SH

Fridays from 1pm – 6pm

Saturdays & Sundays from 12noon – 6pm

The short films will run continuously on a loop for the duration

Free

Three of the borough's young filmmakers, Emmanuel Li, Naomi Soneye-Thomas and Lamar Harper will collaborate with selected 'Monumental Citizens' – local citizens identified by community leader Satvinder Cubb as being an integral part of the fabric of South Chingford – to create a series of short films. Using these films, designer Bahbak Hashemi-Nezhad will create an interactive film installation on Chingford Mount activating the civil architecture of the space. Chingford Mount is a vibrant hub used by many different people in the community. Two of the filmmakers previously took part in *See the Real*, the first phase of Listen Local earlier in the year. The Mini Forest Cinema's visit to Chingford Mount provided the inspiration for this piece.

#### **The Fountain Stage**

Waltham Forest Town Hall, Forest Rd, London E17 4JF

Fridays 5pm & 6pm

Saturdays & Sundays 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 4pm & 5pm

Running time: 30 mins

Free

The iconic fountain at Waltham Forest Town Hall will be transformed for a performance that retells the stories of popular South Asian songs through the medium of live music, performance and illustration. The idea came from a meeting with a community group of male South Asian Elders including music promoter Fazal Hussein.

The audience will be guided through a booklet produced in collaboration with illustrator Aleesha Nandhra, playwright Emteaz Hussain and women from the South Asian Community. The illustrations will take a contemporary slant on the classic films songs. Audiences will be invited to sit around the edge of the fountain and watch the performance.

Director Milli Bhatia, whose recent work includes *seven methods of killing kylie jenner* at the Royal Court Theatre; will work with the band, singer and performers.

### **Intercept – The Street Challenge**

**Written by Kamahl Sami Miller**

Meeting Point: The corner of Lea Bridge Road and Bromley Road, E10 7DN

Fridays: Meeting point at 5pm and 6pm

Saturdays & Sundays: Meeting point at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm

Shows will run throughout the afternoon, audiences gather at the meeting point on the hour.

Running time: 20 mins

Free

*Intercept – The Street Challenge* combines sport and dance in an interactive performance. A local choreographer will be collaborating with a young writer from youth engagement group Street Base, and sports groups in the borough to combine dance, sport and storytelling to create an interactive experience about the journey of a young person in Waltham Forest. The interactive experience, which will unfold along streets in the Bakers Arms area, will see audience members working in groups to take on a street challenge to complete the experience.

### **Breathing Space**

Langthorne Park, High Road Leytonstone entrance, near E11 4JT

Friday 20th, 6pm

Friday 27th, 5pm & 6pm

Saturdays & Sundays, at 12noon, 1pm, 3pm & 4pm

Running time: 30 mins

Free

*Breathing Space* is a trail around the park where audiences will discover bold celebrations of the daily triumphs we all share. The audience will discover pop up performances including a 5 minute play written by members of the Listen Local writing group, a performance of a piece composed especially for the project by WAVE Choir and an act based on escapology.

*Breathing Space* is inspired by conversations with Waltham Forest Hearing Voices Group and Waltham Forest Bipolar Group from Harmony Hall. Harmony Hall is a vital community resource which is currently under threat of closure.

### **I'm An Earthling**

Meeting point: Look out for a green National Trust Routemaster bus near Leyton Fire Station, Oliver Road, E10 5HG

Fridays: Gather at the meeting point at 6.30pm

Saturdays & Sundays: Gather at the meeting point at 12 noon, 1.30pm & 3.30pm

Running time: 30 mins

Free - due to the nature of the space, tickets for each performance will be limited. Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis 20 minutes before the start time. Maximum of 2 per person.

As part of the second phase of *Listen Local*, the Royal Court led workshops over three months in writing, performance and design. From these groups, a community company

evolved of 11-70-year olds. This company will create and perform a new play around a vintage Routemaster bus directed by Royal Court Associate Director Hamish Pirie.

Airbnb is supporting the London Borough of Culture with funding to promote healthy tourism.

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**-ENDS-**

**For more information please contact Rosie Evans-Hill on 0207 565 5063 / [RosieEvansHill@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:RosieEvansHill@royalcourttheatre.com)**

**Notes to Editors:**

For images, [click here](#).

**Airbnb**

Airbnb is supporting the London Borough of Culture with funding to promote healthy tourism. Airbnb's Community Tourism Programme, will support the Mayor's winning borough by funding the Listen Local project. The Airbnb Community Tourism Programme, launched in 2017, is a year fund to support innovative projects across Europe that encourage and empower locals to shape and benefit from more sustainable tourism.

**MAYOR OF LONDON**



**The Mayor's London Borough of Culture Award**

The London Borough of Culture award is a major new initiative launched by the Mayor of London in June 2017 and inspired by the UK City and European Capital of Culture programmes. The Mayor's London Borough of Culture award brings Londoners together. Putting culture at the heart of local communities, where it belongs. Shining a light on the character and diversity of London's boroughs and showing culture is for everyone. Now more than ever, the Mayor wants Londoners to get to know each other and feel part of our great city. Thanks to this new award, all Londoners will now have the chance to be part of something extraordinary.

In total, 22 boroughs bid for £1million funding to stage a year-long programme of cultural events and initiatives, and to develop a plan to make culture an integral part of the borough's future. Waltham Forest will be London Borough of Culture in 2019 and Brent will be London Borough of Culture in 2020. A panel of experts and City Hall officers read and moderated the bids. Experts were from institutions including City Bridge Trust, Historic England, Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Heritage Lottery Fund and the City of London. Recommendations were made to the Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE and the Mayor, Sadiq Khan, who made the final decision.



The winning boroughs of Waltham Forest and Brent were chosen based on their artistic vision and ambition to deliver outstanding cultural initiatives in their local area, putting communities at the centre of the programme design and delivery. The successful boroughs have demonstrated how winning the title will enable them to deliver their long-term ambitions, put local people at the heart of the programme, and showcase a diverse, vibrant and inclusive programme of work.



**National Trust**

The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people who saw the importance of our nation's heritage and open spaces, and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. Over 120 years later, these values are still at the heart of everything the charity does. Entirely independent of the government, The National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 778 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. More than 24 million people visit every year, and together with over 5 million members and over 65,000 volunteers, they help to support the charity in its work to care for special places forever, for everyone. For more information and ideas for great seasonal days out go to: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk).



### Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019

Waltham Forest is the Mayor's first London Borough of Culture. The award, the flagship programme in his culture strategy, was a major new initiative launched by Sadiq to put culture at the heart of London's communities. More than 15,000 people backed Waltham Forest's bid, which aims to inspire 85% of households to participate in the cultural year, engage every school in the area in arts and culture, and to attract over half a million new visitors to the borough.

The year will explore the themes 'Radicals', 'Makers' and 'Fellowship' in a collaboration between local residents, artists and creatives creating a once in a life time celebration of the place we call 'home'. Waltham Forest, London Borough of Culture 2019 will shine a light on the character, diversity and cultures of the borough, the things we have in common and the things that make us different, a year-long celebration of the real cultures of London by the people who live here.

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Winning Borough

