

MEDIA RELEASE

HANDBAG IN LONDON AND BRIGHTON

Corn Exchange, Brighton, Saturday 16 February

The People's Palace, East London, Sunday 24 February

Geraldine Pilgrim's acclaimed performance, *Handbag*, is re-imagined for two very different venues over two weekends this February. On Saturday 16 February it will appear at the Corn Exchange, Brighton in a co-production between Royal Pavilion & Museums and Brighton Dome. On Sunday 24 February it is coming to the People's Palace, London as part of Peopling the Palace, a festival to mark the refurbishment of a celebrated East End building.

Handbag is a celebratory gem of a performance with great music, dancing and handbags. It lasts only 15 minutes but is performed six times by over a hundred people recruited from the local community. To date over 600 women and 50 men have taken part in *Handbag* in 6 different cities. In 2010, it was re-imagined to celebrate the opening of the refurbished Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon. *Handbag* Director, Geraldine Pilgrim, says :

"I was originally commissioned by Battersea Arts Centre to come up with a performance for their Grand Hall, an atmospheric ballroom that still contains the joyful memories of all the people who have danced there over the years. I sat in the empty space trying to get inspiration and then a woman came in and put down her handbag.

It's always inspiring to re-imagine Handbag for each new space and we're really excited to be making it for these two very different buildings, each of which will bring something new to the piece. Handbag is about celebration and a sense of joy and we hope to bring a smile to the participants and audiences of Brighton and East London in February."

Do you want to take part in *Handbag*? We are looking for men and women of all ages (16+) to take part in Brighton and London. No performance experience necessary, just lots of enthusiasm. For details contact (Jessica Denning jessica@artsadmin.co.uk).

DATE OF ISSUE 23 January 2013

PRESS ENQUIRIES

For further information please contact Sam Scott Wood on sam@artsadmin.co.uk or Cheryl Pierce on cheryl@artsadmin.co.uk / 020 7247 5102.

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LISTINGS INFORMATION

16 February 2013 (4.30pm, 5pm, 5.30pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 7pm)

Corn Exchange

12A Pavilion Parade

Brighton BN1 1EE

Tickets £4

Tickets can be purchased from Brighton Dome online:

<http://brightondome.org/event/2476/handbag/>

24 February 2013 (4.30pm, 5pm, 5.30pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 7pm)

Peopling the Palace Festival

Queen Mary, University of London

Mile End Road, London

Tickets £4

Tickets can be purchased from AiR Project at Queen Mary University of London

www.airproject.qmul.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Handbag was originally commissioned by Battersea Arts Centre to celebrate the refurbishment of their glorious Grand Hall www.bac.org.uk

Handbag has since toured to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-Upon-Avon; Queen's Hall, Hexham; West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds; Arnolfini, Bristol; Northern Stage, Newcastle and Preston Guild.

<http://www.artsadmin.co.uk/projects/handbag>

Geraldine Pilgrim works across theatre and the visual arts and is known for her evocative installations and site-specific performances that create a contemporary dialogue with occupied and deserted historic houses and buildings. Working with the history and architecture of a space, she creates a narrative – imagined and real - to reveal the memories and atmospheres that have built up over the years.

Geraldine trained as a fine artist and theatre designer. She co-founded and became artistic director of [Hesitate and Demonstrate](#), the influential visual theatre company, and has since been making installations, theatre performances and large-scale site-specific events.

Geraldine is associate lecturer at Wimbledon College of Art and visiting lecturer at Central St. Martins, Goldsmiths and LAMDA. She works with professional and non-professional performers and a recent project, Tea, made with Complicite Creative Learning, was awarded the National Housing Federation's Community Impact Award 2012.

Geraldine is currently exhibiting The Lost Pagodas, four unique pagodas

commissioned especially for [Pavilion Contemporary](#), the Royal Pavilion's new annual contemporary art commission. The exhibition runs at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton until 2 April 2013.

www.geraldinepilgrim.com

Artsadmin is a unique producing and presenting organisation for contemporary artists working in theatre, dance, live art, visual arts and mixed media. At its Toynbee Studios home Artsadmin has established a centre for the creation, development and presentation of new work and a space for artists and audiences to experiment. The organisation offers a range of artist development services, including a free advisory service and mentoring schemes, as well as the bursary scheme. **artsadmin.co.uk**