

MEDIA RELEASE

TWO DEGREES | A BIENNIAL FESTIVAL OF ART & CLIMATE CHANGE 17-22 JUNE 2013

Toynbee Studios & other locations around East London

Platform | Lewis Bassett | Andrea Francke | Kate McIntosh | Amy Sharrocks | Davis Freeman | Coney | Tom Chivers | Michael Symmons Roberts | Justin Hopper | Amy Cutler | Kamala Katbamna | Sarah Woods | Harry Giles | The Institute for the Art and Practice of Dissent at Home | Inua Ellams | Gonçalo Tocha | Mels Zutphen | Andrew Simms | Sarah Woods

For the third edition of *Two Degrees* - the festival that sits somewhere between art and action - artists, activists, anarchists, filmmakers, storytellers, poets and writers come together to explore what is broken in the world and what can be done to mend it. Responding to today's global concerns and challenging audiences to get involved in changing things, *Two Degrees* brings immersive theatre, gaming, singing, making and un-making, preaching, talking, reading and debating to Toynbee Studios and beyond into the East End.

Platform, the art and activist group whose work questions the disturbing antics of the global oil industry, takes six at a time on a journey into the dark underbelly of London's oil economy. In a spy thriller for the post-Occupy era *Oil City*, the audience eavesdrops on business people and seeks out secret documents hidden in dead-drops, helping expose the government's hidden involvement with an industry that is – amongst other tragedies - taking northern Canada to the brink of ecological disaster.

Elsewhere in the City, activist, anarchist and amateur Marxist **Lewis Bassett** hosts *World Strike. A Daily Briefing*, a special breakfast on each day of the Festival with assistance from business workers, financial analysts and activists. Browsing the news and commodity data in the salmon pink pages of the FT, Barrett and his cohorts reveal the ghostly presence of the world's speedily diminishing resources in the face of seemingly infinite market growth.

Artist **Kamala Katbamna**'s concerns lie much closer to home. *Change the Record* / is a one night only performance by a makeshift choir of local residents who will lead the audience on a tour of a series of intimate and unexpected spaces in the East End. Recruiting residents who have an interest in the rapidly changing geography,

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culture and politics of the area, the choristers' repertoire comprises songs of personal and local significance.

In the Theatre at Toynbee Studios, two ecological preachers – performance artist **Davis Freeman** accompanied by **Jerry Killick** – ask the audience for *7 Promises* to take direct action against climate change. Spurred on by a sense of impending ecological disaster and the public's lack of responsiveness, Freeman and Killick reward each promise to change the world with a shot of vodka.

In a mix of adventure, thought-provoking talk and sparkling debate in Toynbee Studios and the surrounding streets, the immersive storytelling and gaming collaborators **Coney**, present a special *Show + Tell* salon exploring the economic, environmental, personal and political systems that everyone inhabits, yet often do not fully understand.

Fresh from its recent launch at the site of the Soho water pump where the source of the 1850's cholera epidemic was discovered, artist **Amy Sharrocks'** Museum of Water arrives at Toynbee Studios with its collection of publicly donated water and accompanying stories. The Museum currently holds water from a holy river in India, snowballs, 20 year old water from Maine, USA, melted snow from a Sussex field, water from a garden bird bath, water from a Devon well, two weeks worth of rain water, fish tank water, water from a cat's bowl, water from a burst London water main, Norwegian spit, Hackney rain water and condensation from a Falmouth window... Sharrocks invites further donations of water, and in a celebration of this precious liquid, she is also running Water Bar, a free pop-up outdoor bar serving only tap water.

In *Worktable* performance artist **Kate McIntosh** asks the public to use their ingenuity, creativity and skills to disassemble and reassemble everyday objects. Invited to choose from a multitude of objects including a teapot, umbrella, alarm clock, reading glasses, a globe, an ice skate, a rat trap and cassette tape, audience members are then obliged to take the object apart – by “dismantling, shattering or wearing” – using an array of tools, in a room which amplifies the destruction throughout Toynbee Studios. The broken object is taken to another larger room, and put amongst other broken things, one of which is then selected for reassembly, using basic materials such as string, glue and rubber bands. In a final room, the new object is put on display along with an accumulating collection of other ‘re-mades’.

Continuing the theme of consumerism, artist **Andrea Francke** brings together ideas of collective enterprise, self-sustainability, consumption and production, in *Read + Talk + Make*, at a community venue in Shadwell. The artist invites outside audiences into a “maker space” set up in collaboration with local residents, based around the

idea of creating and building objects from scratch. *Read + Talk + Make* is a long-term project that Francke hopes will become a permanent community-led initiative.

Back at Toynbee Studios poet **Tom Chivers** hosts *LANDSHIFT*, an evening exploring shifting landscapes, alternative geographies and new approaches to writing about place, as part of *ADRIFT*, a year-long collaboration with Cape Farewell. Chivers is accompanied by award-winning poet, novelist and librettist **Michael Symmons Roberts** reading from *Edgelands*, writer and artist **Justin Hopper** discussing his ongoing explorations of the South Downs, and poet and cultural geographer **Amy Cutler** talking about forests, coasts and tree-ring reading.

Two Degrees draws to close with *Imagine the Great Transition*, a day-long event presented by Artsadmin and LIFT in association with nef (new economics foundation), a “think-and-do-tank” whose goal it is to inspire a new economy based on social justice, environmental sustainability and collective well-being. Performances by **Harry Giles, The Institute for the Art and Practice of Dissent at Home, Curious Directive**; and new short films by **Iniua Ellams, Goncalo Tocha** and **Mels van Zutphen**, and a lecture by writer and nef fellow, Andrew Simms are followed by a roundtable discussion. The day ends with a performance of **Sarah Woods** and **Richard Gott**’s *The Roadless Trip*, a moving and funny work, part performance part film part gameshow, inviting audiences to imagine and create a positive future.

All dates, times and booking details for all *Two Degrees* events are given below.

DATE OF ISSUE 6 May 2013

PRESS ENQUIRIES

For more information, interviews and images please contact Janette Scott, Arts PR on janettescottartspr@gmail.com, or call +44(0)7966 486156.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Programme Details

To book for any of the events listed below please go to www.artsadmin.co.uk or call the Box Office on 020 7650 2350. For all events happening at Toynbee Studios and Theatre, the address is 28 Commercial St City of London, E1 6AB (nearest tube: Aldgate East).

OIL CITY | PLATFORM | 10-21 June, Monday to Friday, 9am, 1pm, 5pm Meet at Toynbee Studios (takes place off site) | £5.00 For more information:

www.oilcity.org

WORLDSTRIKE! A DAILY BRIEFING | LEWIS BASSETT

Monday 17 – Friday 22 June, 8am | £5 (including breakfast) The Sterling Café, 30 St Mary Axe (The Gherkin), EC3A 8BF For more information:

www.worldstrike2012.tumblr.com

READ + TALK + MAKE – A COMMUNITY MAKER MODEL | ANDREA

FRANCKE Tuesday 18 June, 6pm | Friday 21 June, 10am-6pm | Free Community Rooms, Stockholm House, Swedenborg Gardens, London E1 8HP For more information: **www.andreafrancke.me.uk**

WORKTABLE | KATE MCINTOSH

Tuesday 18- Saturday 22 June, Tuesday-Friday 4pm-8pm Saturday 10am-8pm Toynbee Studios | Free

MUSEUM OF WATER | AMY SHARROCKS

Tuesday 18 June, Midday – 8pm | Toynbee Studios | Free For more information see **www.museumofwater.co.uk**

7 PROMISES | DAVIS FREEMAN

Tuesday 18 June, 8pm | Toynbee Studios | £5.00 For more information:

www.randomscream.be

A SHOW + TELL SALON ON SYSTEMS | CONEY Wednesday 19 June, 7.30pm | Toynbee Studios | £5.00 For more information: **www.youhavefoundconey.net**

LAND SHIFT | Thursday 20 June, 7.30pm | Toynbee Studios | £5.00

CHANGE THE RECORD! KAMALA KATBAMNA | Friday 21st June, 7.30pm Meet at Toynbee Studios (takes place off site) | Free

IMAGINE THE GREAT TRANSITION WITH LIFT IN ASSOCIATION WITH NEF

Saturday 22 June, 10am-8pm | Toynbee Studios | £10.00

THE ROADLESS TRIP | SARAH WOODS

Saturday 22 June, as part of *Imagine the Great Transition* | Toynbee Studios

Two Degrees is Artsadmin's biennial festival of art and climate change. Through performances, interventions, installations and actions, *Two Degrees* believes that artists can play a role in changing minds and behaviour, and that creative minds can help find a multitude of new and inspiring ways to avoid the impending climate crisis. The Festival asks audiences to participate, not just to sit in a theatre and watch events played out, but to make decisions and choices and take part in artist led actions that take place outside traditional artforms and spaces. *Two Degrees* creatively engages with the diverse spaces and communities around Toynbee Studios, where the East End collides with the City of London.

Two Degrees believes that climate change is part of a wider global crisis that engages with political and social issues alongside the environmental. The Festival makes links between climate change, protest and activism, connecting with existing activist and social movements.

The Festival is supported by the European Commission Culture Programme as part of Imagine 2020, a wider network of eleven European Theatres and production organisations. Imagine 2020 is producing programmes making explicit connection between artists' works and climate change.

Resonance104.4fm is broadcast media partner for *Two Degrees* 2013.

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.

www.artsadmin.co.uk