

MEDIA RELEASE

TOYNBEE: FRAGMENTS OF OTHER LIVES AND TIMES

Geraldine Pilgrim creates a haunting performance-installation in the historic spaces of Toynbee Hall and Toynbee Studios

10 to 15 December, part of Spitalfields Music Winter Festival

Toynbee Hall and Studios, Commercial Street, London E1

Press showings: Tuesday 10 December from 6.45pm

Acclaimed for her evocative transformations of buildings and landscapes over the past 20 years, director and designer Geraldine Pilgrim creates a new work in two of the East End's most iconic buildings, Toynbee Hall and Toynbee Studios. Animated by a cast of over 100 local participants and musicians, *Toynbee* is a gripping promenade performance-installation where audiences of ten journey through the times and spaces of this historic site.

Toynbee Hall and Toynbee Studios have been landmarks for political, educational, cultural and social reform since their foundation in 1884. Inspired by the site's unique past, Pilgrim unveils a multitude of stories from the Match Girls' strike in Bow in 1888 and Beveridge's first ideas about a Welfare State in 1903 to the Profumo affair in 1963 and today's developing and diverse East End.

Within *Toynbee's* landscape of striking visual imagery, performance and evocative music, traces of lives are glimpsed in corridors and through windows, echoing to the sound of the different voices of the East End – like a dream or a vision.

Arts producers Artsadmin have commissioned *Toynbee* to mark their 20 years in Toynbee Studios, working for the first time in partnership with their neighbours Toynbee Hall and Spitalfields Music. The project also coincides with plans to develop Toynbee Hall.

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PRESS ENQUIRIES

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VAT REGISTRATION NO. 657086117. REGISTERED NO. 2979487. REG. CHARITY NO. 1044645

**ARTS
ADMIN**

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Geraldine Pilgrim's *Toynbee*

Dates: Tuesday 10 to Sunday 15 December

Venue: Toynbee Studios, 28 Commercial Street, London E1

Times: Tuesday 10 to Friday 13 December – at 15 minute intervals (6.30pm, 6.45pm, 7pm, 7.15pm, 7.30pm, 7.45pm, 8pm, 8.15pm, 8.30pm, 8.45pm, 9pm, 9.15pm)

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December: at 15 minute intervals (3.15pm 3.30pm, 3.45pm, 4pm, 4.15pm, 4.30pm, 4.45pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, 7.45pm, 8pm, 8.15pm, 8.30pm, 8.45pm, 9pm, 9.15pm)

Box office: 020 7650 2350 / online at artsadmin.co.uk or
020 7377 1362 / spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk

Tickets: £12 (concessions available)

Length: 70 minutes

Capacity: 10 people per time slot. Pre-booking essential.

Nearest tube: Aldgate East

NOTES TO EDITORS

Toynbee is an Artsadmin commission produced in partnership with Spitalfields Music and Toynbee Hall. Supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Geraldine Pilgrim's large-scale performance productions include *Be Prepared* (2010) in the grounds of Harewood House, Yorkshire; *Handbag* (2009) for the Grand Hall at BAC and since recreated in many locations including the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon and Stratford, for the reopening of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park; *Enchanted Parks* (2007) in Saltwell Park, Gateshead; *Deep End* (2005) at the disused Marshall Street Baths; and *Dreamworks* (2000) in the previously-derelict Midland Grand Hotel at London's St Pancras Station.
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 wide range of artist-development services including a free advisory service and mentoring schemes as well as a bursary scheme. Artsadmin is supported using public funding by Arts Council England. www.artsadmin.co.uk

Spitalfields Music Winter Festival returns from 6-17 December 2013 to brighten the long winter nights with a series of concerts and events in the magnificent architecture and hidden corners of London's liveliest neighbourhood. Classical, jazz, folk, performance poetry, multi-media installations, free and family events are all on the bill, in a line-up that features fine early music and contemporary sounds, with – and without – a seasonal twist. www.spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk

Toynbee Hall, founded in 1884, is a community organisation that pioneers ways to reduce poverty and disadvantage. It gives some of the country's most deprived communities a voice, providing access to free advice and support services and working with them to tackle social injustice. The world's first university settlement, it has been a catalyst for social reform in the UK for more than 125 years, and continues to bring together communities, organisations and policy makers to create new ways to help those who find themselves in poverty today. www.toynbeehall.org.uk