

MEDIA RELEASE

STATION HOUSE OPERA – DISSOLVED

A brand new performance installation

6-22 March 2014

Installation opens Wednesday-Saturday 11am-5pm

Performances on Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm

Beaconsfield, 22 Newport St, Vauxhall, London, SE11 6AY

Walk into Station House Opera's new production and you find yourself in a unique space, hovering uncannily between two different countries, where things are both tangible and unreal.

Masters of reconstructed reality, Station House Opera have expanded their reach and created a piece that is truly international, giving us the chance to (almost) be in two places at once.

This is Station House Opera's first new work since the city scale site-specific project *Dominoes* in 2009 and follows earlier intercontinental performances developed as far back as 2004. Their distinctive engagement with audiences crosses new boundaries with an installation and performance that uses live video streaming to dissolve creative public spaces in London and Berlin, bringing people from both cities into dynamic connection.

Beaconsfield's stunning London gallery space in a converted Victorian Ragged School and *Sophiensæle*, former centre of the revolutionary left in Berlin, are merged and overlaid to create a new space that is half there, half not there, caught in a perpetual cross-fade. A door opens wide in one space and slams shut in another. A wall exists and doesn't, putting up an invisible barrier.

People and objects find they are both one thing and another, sometimes dissolving together to make a third, in a disconcerting, arresting and occasionally hilarious meditation on the instability of culture and identity.

Each evening the installation morphs into a performance as the visitors find their place - merging with the audience gathering in Berlin – and watch a parable for our globalised times emerge, in turns paranoid, buffoonish, beautiful, humorous and banal.

Dissolved is presented for three weeks during March, with nine evenings of performances, where the installation is brought to life by a group of three performers in both locations, who merge and occupy each other, in an ambiguous doubled space.

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**ARTS
ADMIN**

By day the installation is open to visitors in London and Berlin, Wednesday – Saturday, 11-5pm, who can explore the transformed spaces and find themselves merging with their international counterparts.

Dissolved is a collaboration between Station House Opera, Berlin-based artists Florian Feigl and Christopher Hewitt, with Beaconsfield and Sophiensæle, produced by Artsadmin.

Developed through an AHRC Fellowship at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and British Council and by Hauptstadtkulturfonds/HKF.

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PRESS ENQUIRIES

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LISTINGS INFORMATION

BOOKING DETAILS

Box office: 020 7650 2350 or online at www.artsadmin.co.uk (no booking fee)

VENUE DETAILS

22 Newport St, Vauxhall, London, SE11 6AY

How to get to Beaconsfield:

Nearest tube : Vauxhall, Lambeth North, Waterloo, Kennington

Many buses

NOTES TO EDITORS

Julian Maynard Smith is the founder and artistic director of Station House Opera. He studied architecture and visual art at Middlesex University and has practised since 1978, producing solo and group performance work as well as sculpture and installation. Julian has conceived and directed (and regularly performed in) all of Station House Opera's projects since the company's formation in 1980, including the city scale breezeblocks project *Dominoes*, and acclaimed international performances *Roadmetal*, *Sweetbread* and *Life in Paradise*.

Dissolved is the first of a series of works researching spaces in which performers and audiences in different parts of the world are drawn to an awareness of the other as being present in their absence. The next project, *Nowhere*, will be presented later in 2014. www.stationhouseopera.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 is supported using public funding by Arts Council England. artsadmin.co.uk

Beaconsfield provides a critical space for creative enquiry, offering a place for artists and audiences to make and experience high quality ('beacon'), challenging, new artworks in a wide range ('field') of contemporary visual art media through commissions, group exhibitions, performances, publications and events. Directed by the artists who founded Beaconsfield in 1994, the charity maintains a unique venue, from which base it commissions and is commissioned, regionally and internationally, with a long history of innovative collaboration with other organisations and individuals on and off-site. beaconsfield.ltd.uk