

## MEDIA RELEASE

# HOME AND AWAY – LONDON (AILLEURS EN FOLIE – LONDRES)

19-22 February 2015, Mons, Belgium



Photo by Felicity Crawshaw.

### **A celebratory weekend of performance, film and interventions, brings the British Working Men's Club to Mons, European Capital of Culture 2015.**

Commissioned by the Maison Folie in Mons, Artsadmin has invited a host of artists to transform the venue into a space for debate, celebration and creativity, in partnership with the London East End's Bethnal Green Working Men's Club.

From 19-22 February, *Home and Away - London* brings together some of the city's most exciting contemporary artists. Between them, they will provoke audiences to talk, share, think and play around notions of community and social change within the set-up of a Working Men's Club.

The clubs sprung up in the early 19th Century, and in the late 1970s and early 80s (a period of working class upheaval in Thatcher's Britain), they became a hub for communities across the country. Their essence will soon be found on Belgian soil.

*The Home and Away - London weekend brings to Mons a glimpse of an alternative British culture, with wit and creativity at its core.*

**Marine Thévenet, Producer, Artsadmin**

Each day the Working 'Mons' Club will be hosted by Mavis Davis and the Tabards – a troop of artists who will staff the Club, running games of bingo to the backdrop of real ales, pork pies and karaoke classics.

Featuring over 20 artists including Rajni Shah, Rebecca Davies and Andrea Luka Zimmerman, the programme takes you on a journey tracking the origins, deterioration and rebirth of the Working Men's Club, conjuring up the intrinsic values the space created. A typical day could include a making workshop for children, lunching on British pub grub, watching a film exploring urban regeneration, and listening to DJs late into the night. The culmination of *Home and Away - London* sees the community of artists and audiences who have journeyed together, gather to consecrate the Club around a ceremonial bonfire.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS ENQUIRIES**

For further information, images and interviews please contact  
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**LISTINGS INFORMATION**

**VENUE AND CONTACT DETAILS**

Maison Folie  
Rue des Arbalestriers 8  
7000 Mons  
Belgium

Phone: 00 32 65 39 59 12

**Home and Away – London (Ailleurs en Folie – Londres)**

19-22 February 2015  
All events are free of charge (apart from one off-site event)  
For full listings details please visit  
[artsadmin.co.uk/projects/ailleurs-en-folie-londres-home-and-away-london](http://artsadmin.co.uk/projects/ailleurs-en-folie-londres-home-and-away-london)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Full programme details can be found at  
[artsadmin.co.uk/projects/ailleurs-en-folie-londres-home-and-away-london](http://artsadmin.co.uk/projects/ailleurs-en-folie-londres-home-and-away-london)  
and  
[mons2015.eu/fr/ailleurs-en-folie-londres-1902-2202](http://mons2015.eu/fr/ailleurs-en-folie-londres-1902-2202)

**Mons European Capital of Culture 2015** has an ambitious programme with 300 major events and thousands of cultural and artistic activities, spanning 17 partner cities from Lille to Ghent. [mons2015.eu](http://mons2015.eu)

**Maison Folie** was created in 2004 as part of part of Lille Capital of Culture. The Maison Folie is an art lab for new work and experimental and social practice. For Mons2015, Anne André has invited eight different cities to curate eight different programmes that transform and reinvent the venue. [lemanege.com](http://lemanege.com)

**Bethnal Green Working Men's Club** has been a real East-end Working Men's Club since 1953, holding regular social events each week. [workersplaytime.net](http://workersplaytime.net)

**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 an extensive education and artist development programme, including a free advisory service and bursary scheme. [artsadmin.co.uk](http://artsadmin.co.uk)

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