

Station House Opera Dominoes



Photo by James Bass

Touring dossier

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Artsadmin

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1. Introduction

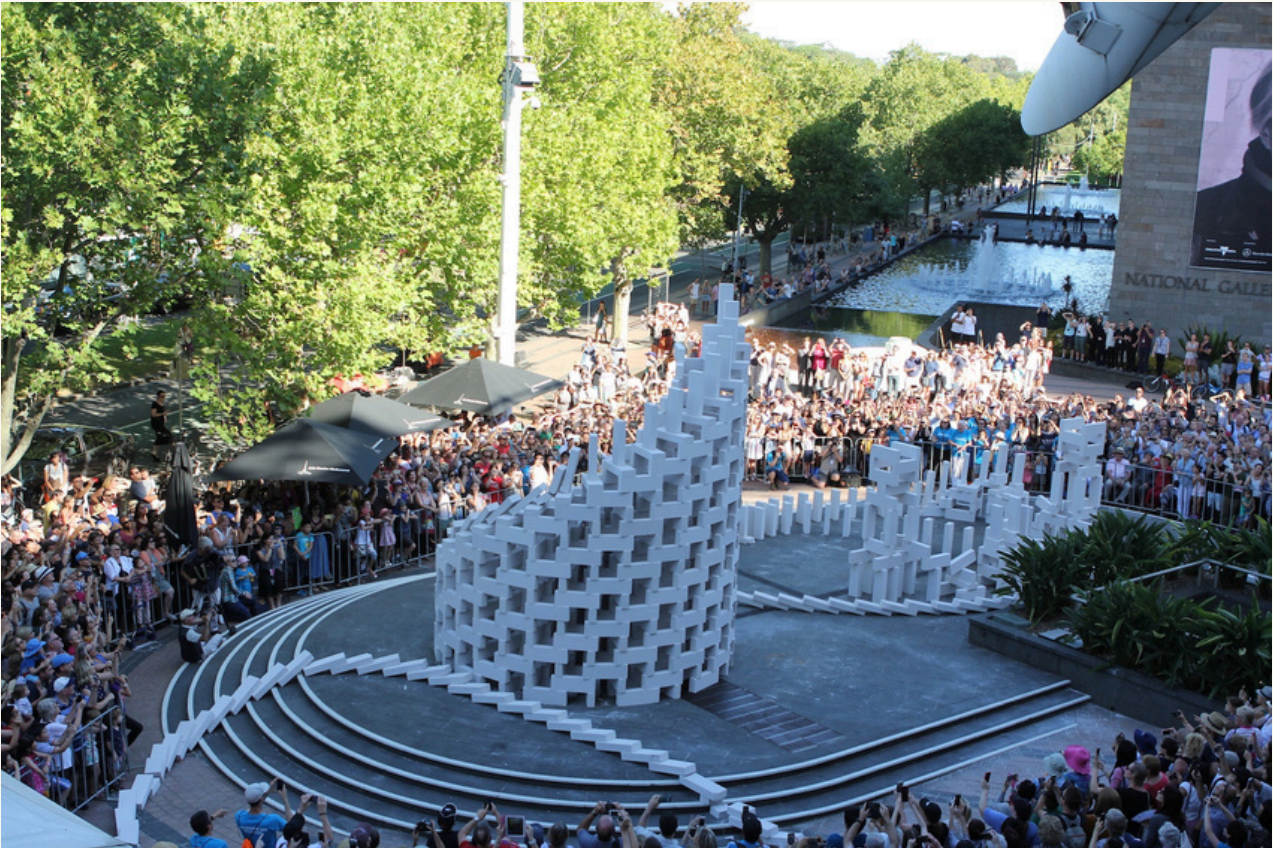


Photo by Kieran Stewart

Dominoes takes as its starting point the simplest of ideas, a line of dominoes. Thousands of breeze blocks are used to create a moving sculpture which unfolds across the entire city. On streets, in parks, through buildings and even on water, occasionally disappearing and then resurfacing, the domino line threads its way through historic and everyday parts of the city, linking its diverse communities in a chain of cause and effect. Hundreds of volunteers and audience members gather together to make this exceptional and unique event.

Dominoes creates an alternative vision of the city, counterpointing, complementing and subverting the architecture, and for a brief moment reclaiming the city streets for its inhabitants. Dominoes was created in London and has travelled to more than 20 cities in Europe, including Copenhagen, Marseille, Ljubljana, Ghent, Hull and Melbourne.

2. Previous touring

Winner of the Bank of America Merrill Lynch CREATE09 Art Award, Dominoes was originally created in London on 26 July 2009, linking the five 'host boroughs' for the 2012 Olympics. The 8000 blocks made an eleven kilometre journey, which included an opening event, a block 'picnic' and a performance finale: a structure of thousands of blocks brought to life by a group of performers.

June 2022, Corn Exchange, Newbury, UK

May 2022, Norwich & Norfolk Festival, UK

September 2019, Festival van de Architectuur, Ghent, Belgium

August 2018, Absolutely Cultured, Hull, UK

April 2018, Zone Artistique Temporaire, Festival Montpellier, France

October 2016, Festival International des Arts Bordeaux, France

September 2016, London's Burning, London, UK

July 2016, Milton Keynes International Festival, UK

March 2016, Festival de Keuze, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

February 2016, Arts Centre Melbourne, Australia

September 2015, Cluj, Romania

August 2015, Kulturfestival Stockholm, Sweden

July 2015, Les Tombées de la Nuit, Rennes, France

May 2015, La Ville en Jeu(x), Mons, Belgium

September 2014, Lieux Publics, Marseille, France

July 2014, Scenes de Rue Festival, Mulhouse, France

May 2014, Coventry Mysteries Festival, UK

March 2014, Cape Town, South Africa

August 2013, Festival Metropolis, Copenhagen, Denmark

May 2013, Nord Magnetic, Bailleul & Poperinge, France and Belgium

August 2012, Helsinki Festival, Finland

August 2011, Mladi Levi Festival, Ljubljana, Slovenia

July 2010, Dijon, France

3. Station House Opera



Photo by Simon Corder

With past projects ranging from spectacular site-specific works created with concrete blocks to simultaneous performances across continents using live internet streaming, Station House Opera is an internationally renowned performance company with a unique physical and visual style.

Founded in 1980 it has produced over 30 productions of widely varying scale and focus, all rooted in an interest to make work that brings together theatre and the visual arts in a single unified vision.

Led by artistic director and co-founder Julian Maynard Smith, Station House Opera has created projects in a variety of locations all over the world working with over 100 performers in various projects.

4. Technical requirements

Route

The route, installation and performances will be decided by artistic director Julian Maynard Smith alongside the commissioning partner's programmers and production manager. The length of the route depends on the available budget, the choice of the route itself upon the visual impact, space for audiences and permissions to cross streets, stop traffic etc.

Blocks and equipment

The commissioning partner needs to provide the blocks, in agreement with artistic director Julian Maynard Smith during a pre-production visit. Our Standard sized Block is 600mm x 200mm x 125mm with a density of 500kg/ m³. The blocks need to be flat and smooth on all sides no ridges or groves. The suppliers have been H+H, Ytong, Cellumat. 2500-3000 blocks per kilometres. Rest of the equipment: see Technical Rider.

Volunteers

Volunteers are managed and recruited by the commissioning partner and are organised into teams, each of which is led by a team leader (usually one team leader for ten volunteers). The volunteers are required for one training meeting before the event, and then on the day. They are usually responsible for laying out and stewarding around 30-40 blocks each. We ask for 100 volunteers per kilometre.

Authorisations and logistics

The commissioning partner needs to obtain the relevant permissions from local authorities and the authorisation to stage the project in public spaces. The commissioning partner deals with the management of the blocks, transport and cleaning.

Staffing

The commissioner will have to supply dedicated staff to produce the project: Local Producer, Local Production/Technical Manager, Volunteer Coordinator and Volunteer Assistant, Assistant Builders, Section Managers and Drivers.

Film

The event can be filmed, and an additional pre-film in other areas of the city than the route of Dominoes on the event day can be added to the project.

Technical Rider

Contact ania@artsadmin.co.uk for the full Technical Rider which provides all the information needed to understand the scale of the project.

5. Documentation



Photo by Tom Arran

Video

Watch Dominoes in Hull in 2019 [here](#).

Watch Dominoes in Bordeaux in 2016 [here](#).

Watch Dominoes 350: The Film - London's Burning [here](#).

Photography

You can download images [here](#). Credits in file names.

Logos

You can download Station House Opera and Artsadmin logos [here](#).

6. Press coverage

ITVX

[Norfolk and Norwich Festival: Watch line of 7,000 giant domino blocks topple through Norwich](#), 16 May 2022

BBC News

[Norfolk and Norwich Festival to start with giant domino toppling](#), 13 May 2022

Norfolk Live

[200 volunteers welcomed to topple giant dominoes in Norwich for Norfolk and Norwich Festival](#), 23 April 2022

ITVX

[Line of 7,000 giant dominoes around Norwich to be toppled for launch of Norfolk and Norwich Festival](#), 22 April 2022

De Standaard

[Vallende dominostenen slopen muren tussen Gentenaars](#), 23 September 2019

Hull Live

[44 of the very best pictures from the incredible dominoes in Hull](#), 12 August 2018

Hull Live

[Relive Hull's spectacular dominoes fall as thousands enjoy a brilliant day in our great city](#), 11 August 2018

Londonist

[See The Great Fire Recreated...In Dominoes](#), 28 July 2016

Apollo

[Artists mark 350 years since the Great Fire of London](#), 31 August 2016

BBC Arts

[Blaze of glory: Commemorating Great Fire on the Thames](#), 5 September 2016

NPR

[PHOTOS: Model London Set Afloat, Then Aflame, To Remember Great Fire](#), 5 September 2016

The Standard

[1666 and all that: Great Fire of London explored across the capital](#), 3 September 2016

The Age

[Domino effect: Melbourne does its block](#), 4 February 2016

7. Quotes

“Once again thank you so much for the perfect opening of Metropolis Festival. People are still talking about it, and the project really made an impact on a lot of people. I think we’ve never reached such a diverse group of people with a project.”

**Louise Kaare Jacobsen, Communications coordinator,
Københavns Internationale Teater**

“A magical moment that we will not experience again soon”.

Hervé, volunteer in Rennes

“This will stay in the memory of the city for years. We have never seen such an excitement in the streets of Rennes, people from all ages were building, playing and looking at the destruction of the sculpture they have just built together. It was magical.”

Célie Augé, Project Manager, Les Tombées de la Nuit, Rennes

“It was exciting and madness at the same time, making it a very memorable event, also it was incredible the amount of people who were involved and as one of the volunteers I want to thank everyone for a rather unique Sunday.”

Volunteer in London

“A two-kilometer-long domino ribbon of white building blocks has done more to bring together the neighbourhood, all ages and all cultures, than a decade of integration programs all together.”

De Standaard, Gent

8. Credits



Photo by Pierre Planchenault

Conceived and directed by Station House Opera

Artistic director: Julian Maynard Smith

Production manager: Dan Adams

Producer: Ania Obolewicz for Artsadmin

An Artsadmin project

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