

# LIFT



**LONDON'S PREMIERE FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE**

## **WELCOME TO LIFT 2018**

As a New Yorker I've always felt an affinity with London, but never more so than in the last two years. Both of these great cities have had their identities challenged by their own countries yet they remain, in all ways, open. In a city whose beating heart is diversity, it seemed irrefutable that LIFT 2018 would be more urgent and necessary than ever before in its 37-year history.

This year's festival offers an antidote to recent times – it will celebrate community in all its forms by exploring London's local, national and international identity and telling urgent, global stories that unite strangers, challenge preconceptions and embrace our differences. LIFT's previous Artistic Director Mark Ball often said that 'internationalism is in our DNA' and he was absolutely right - it runs through the organisation, allowing us to welcome artists from around the world to create work as a signifier to everyone; whether you were born here, have made it your home or are just passing through, you belong here.

We relish the opportunity to introduce you, our audience, to new artists and create exceptional, original work. I'm absolutely delighted that this year's festival features ten new commissions, five world and eight UK premieres in a programme that stretches from May to July – giving us all a summer of international, artistic adventures to look forward to.

Come as you are.

**David Binder**  
Guest Artistic Director  
LIFT 2018

DUKE RILEY

# FLY BY NIGHT

USA • LIFT COMMISSION

**THE BIRDS' PERFORMANCE WAS A REVELATION, A TOUCHING UNITY OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR, WITH SKY, WATER AND THE CITY**

NEW YORK TIMES

**SPELLBINDING**

TELEGRAPH

**SEAMLESSLY PIERCES VEILS BETWEEN THEATRE, ANTHROPOLOGY, HISTORY, LORE, NATURE, SPECTACLE AND DREAMY REVERIE**

HUFFINGTON POST

**#FLYBYNIGHT18**

**#LIFT2018**



Duke Riley's epic outdoor work will see over 1500 LED-lit pigeons soar into the skies above the River Thames in a glorious spectacle of unprecedented scale and beauty.

In the first international performance since its premiere at New York City's Brooklyn Navy Yard in 2016, Riley's world-class airborne installation has been reimagined for London's historic military location of Thamesmead, paying beautiful homage to some of the First World War's unsung heroes who played crucial roles delivering messages between distant personnel.

*Fly by Night* follows in a LIFT lineage of exceptional outdoor productions that bring London to life. From *Sky Orchestra* which saw hot air balloons broadcast a dawn symphony over the city's rooftops, to *One Extraordinary Day* for the 2012 Cultural Olympiad which saw acrobats scaling London landmarks such as City Hall, the Millennium Bridge and the London Eye.

Co-presented with Greenwich+Docklands International Festival 2018 and part of 14-18 NOW, the UK's arts programme for the First World War centenary. *Fly By Night* was originally commissioned by New York based public arts non-profit, Creative Time.

Co-commissioned by LIFT, Greenwich+Docklands International Festival, London Borough of Bexley and 14-18 NOW: WWI Centenary Art Commissions, with support from the National Lottery through Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, and from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Hosted by Peabody. Supported by David Phillip. Originally commissioned by Creative Time. LEDs designed, manufactured and supplied by 10xBeta and Blinkinlabs.

EAST THAMESMEAD

THU 21-SAT 23 JUNE, 9.15PM

TICKETS: £7.50-£12.50\*

*Fly By Night* at Brooklyn Navy Yard, New York (2016) © Tod Seelie, courtesy of Creative Time. \*Booking fees apply at [liftfestival.com](http://liftfestival.com), see page 36



DRIES VERHOEVEN

# PHOBIARAMA

THE NETHERLANDS

## HAUNTED HOUSE CONFRONTS COLLECTIVE FEARS

★★★★ THEATERKRANT

## OFFERS AN INCREASINGLY PIERCING COMMENT ON THE WAY WE PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE INTENT ON EXPLOITING OUR FEAR

LYN GARDNER

## PHOBIARAMA DEBUNKS THE MECHANICS OF FEAR AND POWER IN OUR SOCIETY IN A GRIPPING WAY

★★★★ TROUW

## THIS IS A PERFECT THEATRE OF FEAR...

DE VOLKSKRANT

#PHOBIARAMA  
#LIFT2018

Dutch theatre maker and visual artist Dries Verhoeven invites you to step on board his political ghost train in this immersive excursion into our contemporary culture of fear, bringing you face to face with the ever-increasing threats and paranoia engulfing a society obsessed with safety and perfection.

Audience members will be taken through a tour of today's angst-fuelling media landscape so flawlessly exploited by politicians, terrorists, marketers and fake news. This 21st century theatrical haunted house comes to London for the first time following sell-out performances at festivals across Europe.

Described by the Observer as a *'visionary athlete who has taken an extraordinary imaginative leap'*, Dries Verhoeven is a world-renowned artist who makes installations and performances highlighting the socio-political reality we live in. His work *Life Streaming* was presented at LIFT 2010.

Presented by LIFT, originally co-commissioned by Onassis Cultural Centre Athens and Holland Festival. Supported by King's Cross, Fonds Podiumkunsten and the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

An Imagine 2020 (2.0) project, supported by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.



KING'S CROSS, WEST HANDYSIDE CANOPY

FRI 8-MON 18 JUNE, TIMES VARY (2PM-9PM)

TICKETS: £20\*

© Willem Popelier. \*Booking fees apply at [liftfestival.com](http://liftfestival.com), see page 36



# TROJAN WOMEN

SOUTH KOREA

**THE WORK TOUCHES THE HEART OF THE AUDIENCE IN AN UNPRECEDENTED AND ORIGINAL WAY**

THE KOREA ECONOMIC DAILY

**RETAINS THE ESSENTIAL BEAUTY OF KOREAN PANSORI**

THE MUSICAL REVIEWER

**#TROJANWOMEN  
#LIFT2018**



Filling the Queen Elizabeth Hall stage with 25 singers, actors and musicians, visionary Singaporean director Ong Keng Sen fuses modern music and pansori, the ancient Korean genre of musical storytelling, in this world-class contemporary opera.

*Trojan Women* took Seoul by storm when it premiered in 2016 and has since enjoyed a sell-out run at the Singapore International Festival of Arts. Its London performance is the first time the National Changgeuk Company of Korea, a leading resident company of the National Theatre of Korea, has performed in the UK.

Composed by a producer at the forefront of the K-pop scene, Jung Jae-il, in collaboration with the renowned Pansori master Ahn Sook-sun, *Trojan Women* brings both the ancient and modern art forms together to breathe new life into Euripides' tragedy.

Troy may be defeated but never forgotten, its women endure as survivors amid the aftermath of a 10-year war with the Greeks. Drawing parallels between the trauma faced by the Trojan women and the pain of Korean women who have lived through war and division, the epic performance celebrates the importance of female solidarity in the face of adversity, through powerful music and movement.

Presented by LIFT, Southbank Centre and Korean Cultural Centre UK. A National Theater of Korea/National Changgeuk Company of Korea production, co-produced by National Theater of Korea and Singapore International Festival of Arts. Part of the Korea/UK 2017-18 Season hosted by Korean Cultural Centre UK. Supported by Arts Council England, Arts Council Korea and Grange Hotels.

**SOUTHBANK CENTRE, QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL**

**SAT 2 JUNE, 7.30PM + SUN 3 JUNE, 5PM**

**TICKETS: £22-£28\***

© National Theatre of Korea. \*Booking fees apply at liftfestival.com, see page 36



TAYLOR MAC

# A 24-DECADE HISTORY OF POPULAR MUSIC:

THE FIRST ACT

USA

**EXPLOSIVE, SPECTACULAR, HEARTBREAKING... THIS SHOW IS EVERYTHING**

★★★★★ GUARDIAN

**AN UNUTTERABLY BRILLIANT MASTERWORK**

★★★★★ SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

**AWAKE AND SING! THE CHURCH OF TAYLOR MAC HAS OPENED ITS DOORS. LET THE REJOICING BEGIN... GO. NOW**

★★★★★ MERCURY NEWS

**ONE OF THE GREAT EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE**

NEW YORK TIMES

#TAYLORMAC  
#LIFT2018



Fabulous and fearless, Taylor Mac reframes the social history of America through three decades of song in this no-holds-barred extravaganza of music, art, activism and hugely entertaining mass ritual.

Joined onstage by a 24-piece orchestra and a host of local special guests drawn from London's own performance community, New York's Taylor Mac has created a Pulitzer Prize-nominated, once-in-a-lifetime performance in a quest to chronicle how communities grow stronger as they are being torn apart.

Charting the years 1776–1806, Mac asks the audience to conspire together to reimagine rebellions, revolutions, triumphs and tragedies. Bawdy pub songs, sea shanties and subversive anthems are rearranged as musical mashups to take on a chapter of the defining early years of America's history.

Part of the Barbican's The Art of Change season, exploring how artists respond to, reflect and can potentially effect change in the social and political landscape.

Presented by LIFT and the Barbican, produced by Pomegranate Arts and Nature's Darlings with support from The Purple Plume Foundation and Sharon Karmazin.

BARBICAN

THU 28–SAT 30 JUNE, 7.30PM

TICKETS: £16–£60\*



© Little Fang. \*Booking fees apply at liftfestival.com, see page 36

CREATED, WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY

ANNA DEAVERE SMITH

DIRECTED BY LEONARD FOGLIA

# NOTES FROM THE FIELD

USA

## AUDACIOUS AND MIND-OPENING

★★★★ TIME OUT NEW YORK

## ABSORBING AND WONDERFULLY ENERGISING... INVALUABLE

BEST OF THE YEAR NEW YORK MAGAZINE

## SHE CREATES A DIALOGUE OUT OF MONOLOGUES AMONG SOULS WHO, IN REAL LIFE, MIGHT NEVER HAVE OCCASION TO SPEAK TO ONE ANOTHER

BEST OF THE YEAR NEW YORK TIMES

## ANNA DEAVERE SMITH GIVES A BRAVURA PERFORMANCE. ONE OF HER MOST AMBITIOUS AND POWERFUL WORKS

VARIETY

#NOTESFROMTHEFIELD  
#LIFT2018

One of the most hailed and provocative theatre artists of our time, the award-winning Anna Deavere Smith returns to the Royal Court Theatre's stage for her first London appearance in over 25 years, with her Obie-Award-winning *Notes From the Field*.

Drawn from interviews with more than 250 students, parents, teachers and staff caught up in America's school-to-prison pipeline, this powerful solo performance shines a light on a lost generation of American youth and exposes a justice system that pushes underprivileged minority communities out of the classroom and into incarceration.

Best known for her role in *The West Wing*, playwright and actor Anna Deavere Smith uses her singular brand of theatre to explore issues of community, character, and diversity. In 2012 she was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama who praised her for her talent to 'open up minds and nourish souls, and help us understand what it means to be human'.

Presented by LIFT and the Royal Court Theatre with support from Jordan Roth/Jujamcyn Theaters.

Produced in partnership with ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann. Part of The Anna Deavere Smith Pipeline Project, produced by Anna Deavere Smith. Originally produced at the American Repertory Theater, MA. New York Premiere produced by Second Stage Theatre, New York, 2016.

The Actor and Stage Manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE

WED 13-SAT 23 JUNE, 7.30+2.30PM

TICKETS: £12-£49\*

UK  
PREMIERE

© Evgenia Eliseeva. \*Booking fees apply at liftfestival.com, see page 36



FAUSTIN LINYEKULA / STUDIOS KABAKO

# IN SEARCH OF DINOZORD

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**SUMMONS PAST  
FRIENDSHIPS AND POLITICAL  
STRUGGLES, RECKONING  
WITH WHAT IT MEANS  
TO SEEK BEAUTY, TO WRITE  
OR SING OR DANCE, WHEN  
SURROUNDED BY VIOLENCE  
AND LOSS**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

**BREATHTAKING POLITICAL  
ART**

LA TIMES

**#DINOZORD  
#LIFT2018**

**UK  
PREMIERE**

Scored with fragments of Mozart's requiem, guitar riffs from Jimi Hendrix, metronomic taps on a typewriter and live vocals by Africa's Hlengiwe Lushaba, *In Search of Dinozord* is a poetic, political fairy tale.

Dancers and actors move through a landscape of ruins as they search for forgotten dreams. With elegant, haunting and highly political energy, they delve into the wrenching history of the Congo, recounting legends from their childhoods and mourning the loss of a friend as they attempt to create a myth that truly reflects their lives.

Faustin Linyekula is an artist with a '*live-wire intensity*' (The New York Times). His riveting work often addresses themes of memory, forgetting and dreams. With his country's history as a catalyst, he considers the impact that decades of war, trauma and economic uncertainty have on people's lives.

Presented by LIFT and The Place.

A Studios Kabako co-production with KVS Brussels, supported by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and the Institut Français du Royaume Uni, as part of its En Scène! programme.

THE PLACE

FRI 15 - SAT 16 JUNE, 8PM

TICKETS: £13-£17\*





STILL HOUSE, EMPIRE SOUNDS AND STEPPAZ

# SESSION

UK · LIFT COMMISSION

**IT FEELS LESS LIKE A PERFORMANCE THAN A FREE, FIERCE, HAPPY CONVERSATION**

THE GUARDIAN

**DAN CANHAM'S FRESH AND DELICIOUSLY CONVINCING MASHUP OF LILTING TRADITIONAL DANCE AND PERCUSSIVE POPPING AND LOCKING SUCCEEDS IN CELEBRATORY STYLE**

EVENING STANDARD

**#SESSION  
#LIFT2018**

**WORLD  
PREMIERE**

*Tonight we come together, to look each other in the eye and dance.*

*We have time on our side and we're making a space to call our own.*

Made in collaboration with an extraordinary group of young performers SESSION is a battle cry and a love song, celebrating community, youth and belonging.

In this explosive outdoor gathering Still House join forces with Tottenham's Steppaz Performing Arts Academy and North London's Afrobeats powerhouse, Empire Sounds to create an exhilarating night of dance and live music where everyone is welcome.

Soaring up above the streets of Tottenham, this visceral performance will be part-gig, part-social and part-dance party as it moves across hip-hop, contemporary folk and afrobeats vocabularies to create a new movement culture completely owned by its makers.

Co-commissioned by LIFT, Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, Bristol Old Vic Ferment, Pavilion Dance South West and Théâtre National de Bretagne. Produced by MAYK and LIFT. Presented by LIFT and Bernie Grant Arts Centre. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

SESSION is a LIFT Tottenham Original, made in collaboration with artists and communities from Tottenham. LIFT Tottenham is supported by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch), The Sackler Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Jerwood Charitable Foundation, Foyle Foundation, Baskin Family Foundation, Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust, Noël Coward Foundation.

**BERNIE GRANT ARTS CENTRE COURTYARD**

**FRI 22–SAT 30 JUNE, 9PM**

**TICKETS: £10–£15\***

© Amaal Said. \*Booking fees apply at liftfestival.com, see page 36



ANU AND COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE

# THESE ROOMS

IRELAND • LIFT COMMISSION

## BOUNDARY-BUSTING THEATRE

GUARDIAN

## A HAUNTING EXPERIENCE

★★★★★ THE IRISH TIMES

## SPELLBINDING... TRULY TRANSFORMATIVE

★★★★★ SUNDAY BUSINESS POST

#THESEROOMS18  
#LIFT2018



On 28 April 1916, five days into the Easter Rising, 15 civilian men were killed in house-to-house raids by British soldiers on a single Dublin street.

Taking place across the entire basement of Shoreditch Town Hall, this thrillingly immersive blend of theatre, dance and visual art brings unresolved history back to life with intricate detail. Part of 14–18 NOW, the UK's arts programme for the First World War centenary, created by David Bolger, Owen Boss and Louise Lowe, *These Rooms* tells two stories: those of the civilians who were victims of and witnesses to the North King Street Massacre, and those of the men of the South Staffordshire Regiment who committed this act – their identities largely anonymous, their actions controversially exonerated at a military enquiry.

Created by two of Ireland's most original companies, *These Rooms* received unanimous critical acclaim when it was first presented in a dilapidated Dublin building in 2016 as part of the centenary commemorations of the Easter Rising. Wholly reimagined for its London run, this riveting work sheds new light on a pivotal moment in British-Irish relations.

These Rooms is accompanied by *Beyond These Rooms*, an installation touring the UK in 2018.

Co-commissioned by LIFT, Shoreditch Town Hall and 14–18 NOW: WW1 Centenary Art Commissions, with support from the National Lottery through Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, and from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Supported by Culture Ireland as part of GB18: Promoting Irish Arts in Britain.

SHOREDITCH TOWN HALL

MON 4–FRI 22 JUNE, 7PM + 9.15PM

TICKETS: £15–£20\*

ANU & Coiscéim Dance Theatre: Justine Cooper in *These Rooms* 2016. © Pat Redmond. \*Booking fees apply at [liftfestival.com](http://liftfestival.com), see page 36



# NIGHTWALKS WITH TEENAGERS

GERMANY / CANADA / UK • LIFT COMMISSION

## TORONTO'S MESSIAH OF EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE... A CATALYST FOR IMAGINATIVE ABSURDITY

TORONOTOSTAGE.COM

## MAMMALIAN DIVING REFLEX HAVE SHOWN THE POWER OF WHAT A NAÏVE SPIRIT AND HEALTHY AMOUNT OF AUDACITY CAN DO TO AN ART-FESTIVAL-FATIGUED AUDIENCE

THIS IS TOMORROW MAGAZINE

## PASSERSBY LOOK ON IN ASTONISHMENT, AS IF THE WORLD HAS BEEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

GUARDIAN

#NIGHTWALKSLIFT  
#LIFT2018

LONDON  
PREMIERE

See a different side to our city in this poignant, rebellious walk on the wild side created in collaboration with the UpLIFTERS, a group of teenagers from Tottenham who have been working with LIFT since 2015, alongside teenagers from Germany and Canada.

Taking the audience through the streets of East London, this walking performance will uncover undiscovered sights and untapped talents. Expect to dance, laugh, run, walk and parkour your way through our urban playground as we follow shared paths and connected futures with the city's youth.

Founded in 1993, Mammalian Diving Reflex are cherished in Canada and famous around the world for creating artistic interventions that often put children and young people in the driver's seat as a way to trigger generosity and equity across the universe. Their previous LIFT projects include *Haircuts By Children* (LIFT 2010) and *The Children's Choice Awards* (LIFT 2016).

A Mammalian Diving Reflex/Darren O'Donnell production commissioned and presented by LIFT in collaboration with the Tottenham UpLIFTERS and The Young Mammals with Guest Tottenham Artists Güneş Güven and Elisabet Yonas.

Supported by Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and the Goethe-Institut London. Nightwalks with Teenagers is a LIFT Tottenham Original, made in collaboration with artists and communities from Tottenham. LIFT Tottenham is supported by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch), The Sackler Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Jerwood Charitable Foundation, Foyle Foundation, Baskin Family Foundation, Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust, Noël Coward Foundation.

EAST LONDON (TO BE REVEALED TO TICKET HOLDERS)

FRI 1-SUN 3 JUNE, 7.30PM

TICKETS: £10-£15\*



BACK TO BACK THEATRE

# LADY EATS APPLE

AUSTRALIA

**IT'S RARE TO SPEND TIME WITH THE FRAGILITY OF OUR OWN EXISTENCE, AND EVEN RARER TO SPEND TIME IN THE SPACE IN BETWEEN LIVING AND DYING, DESCRIBED SO BEAUTIFULLY IN THE SHOW AS A PLACE OF 'PURE LOVE'**

★★★★ TIME OUT

**THEY DON'T JUST PRODUCE SUPERB DISABILITY-LED THEATRE, THEY PRODUCE SUPERB THEATRE IN EVERY WAY**

GUARDIAN

**ENGAGING AND DISARMING**

AUSTRALIAN STAGE

**#LADYEATSAPPLE  
#LIFT2018**



Enter an inflatable universe for a tale of creation and chaos in which the epic and everyday, mythic and mundane coexist.

One of the most exciting and urgent companies in contemporary theatre today, Australia's Back to Back Theatre is driven by an ensemble of actors with intellectual disabilities who devise and perform the work. With binaural sound design and visuals used to ingenious effect, *Lady Eats Apple* is an experiential production that exposes us to the 'fragility of existence' while challenging the assumptions we hold about others and ourselves.

Back to Back Theatre return to LIFT following their previous productions *Ganesh Versus the Third Reich* (LIFT 2012) and *Food Court* (LIFT 2010).

Part of the Barbican's The Art of Change season, exploring how artists respond to, reflect and can potentially effect change in the social and political landscape.

Presented by LIFT and the Barbican.

Supported by the Australian High Commission in London, Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria and City of Greater Geelong. This project has been co-commissioned by Melbourne Festival, Adelaide Festival, Perth International Arts Festival, Carriageworks, Wiener Festwochen, Theater der Welt and with support from the Keir Foundation & Thyne Reid Foundation. This project has been co-produced by Holland Festival. This presentation has been supported in its development by the Geelong Performing Arts Centre, Arts Centre Melbourne and Coleby Consulting. (First developed in residence at the V&A as part of LIFT 2014).

BARBICAN

**THU 14 – SAT 16 JUNE, 7.45PM (2.30PM ON 15+16)**

**TICKETS: £12.50 – £25\***



© Jeff Busby. \*Booking fees apply at liftfestival.com, see page 36

PUNCHDRUNK

# SMALL WONDERS

UK • LIFT COMMISSION

## PUNCHDRUNK ARE ALL ABOUT SPARKING CONNECTIONS AND FUELLING THE IMAGINATION

THE TELEGRAPH

## IMMERSIVE THEATRE LEGENDS

TIME OUT

## THE ASTOUNDING FEATURE OF A PUNCHDRUNK SHOW IS THE AMOUNT OF STUFF YOU CATCH OUT OF THE CORNER OF YOUR EYE AND NEARLY MISS

THE GUARDIAN

#SMALL\_WONDERS  
#LIFT2018



Inside Nanny Lacey's flat are her collection of miniatures. These homemade creations capture the adventures she's shared with her daughter Bella over the years. Like 3D photographs, they're treasured moments of time and each one tells a different story.

But Nanny Lacey's getting older and soon she'll have to leave her flat and her beloved miniatures behind, surely there's time for one final adventure?

In this magical, interactive experience for children aged 5-11 years and their families, Bella invites you to join Nanny Lacey in her flat in Tottenham and explore the tiny worlds she has created.

Conceived by Punchdrunk, written by Nessah Muthy and inspired by the local stories and dreams of the Tottenham UpLIFTers, this new family show explores the power of our imagination and how the little things in life are sometimes the most important.

This production is for children and their families. Adults attending without children will be denied entry.

Commissioned by Punchdrunk, LIFT and Bernie Grant Arts Centre.

Punchdrunk gratefully acknowledges the support of the *Small Wonders* Giving Circle and the Ellis Campbell Charitable Foundation. *Small Wonders* is a LIFT Tottenham Original, made in collaboration with artists and communities from Tottenham. LIFT Tottenham is supported by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch), The Sackler Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Jerwood Charitable Foundation, Foyle Foundation, Baskin Family Foundation, Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust, Noël Coward Foundation.



BERNIE GRANT ARTS CENTRE

SAT 2 JUNE – FRI 13 JULY, TIMES VARY

TICKETS: £8 – £12\*

© Stephen Dobbie. \*School groups £250, Harringey school groups £200. Booking fees apply, see page 37

GOB SQUAD

# CREATION

## (PICTURES FOR DORIAN)

UK / GERMANY • LIFT COMMISSION

**GOB SQUAD VIRGINS,  
PLEASE STOP READING  
NOW, AND GO GET YOUR  
TICKETS!**

TIME OUT

**GOB SQUAD CONJURE  
THE EPIC THROUGH  
THE PARTICIPATION OF  
ORDINARY PEOPLE...**

GUARDIAN

**#GOBSQUADCREATION  
#LIFT2018**

**LONDON  
PREMIERE**

Creation is the realm of gods and artists, who create beauty through sheer will and their own bare hands. But who decides what is beautiful?

*Creation (Pictures for Dorian)* is inspired by Oscar Wilde's iconic character Dorian Gray, who remains eternally youthful at a terrible cost to his soul. There's probably a little bit of Dorian in all of us. Joined onstage by older and younger local performers, Gob Squad peeps behind the vanity mirror to question beauty, morality and power – and ask why we so crave the eye of the beholder.

British/German arts collective Gob Squad have performed all over the world for 25 years. Now middle-aged, they have no desire to exit the stage just yet.

Gob Squad return to LIFT following their previous productions *Before Your Very Eyes* (LIFT 2014) and *Revolution Now* (LIFT 2010).

A LIFT co-commission, presented by LIFT and Southbank Centre. A production by Gob Squad and HAU Hebbel am Ufer Berlin.

Developed with support from Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles, CA. A co-production with Münchner Kammerspiele, Schauspiel Leipzig, Wiesbaden Biennale, Schlachthaus Theater Bern. A LIFT, Brighton Festival and Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts commission. An Imagine 2020 (2.0) project, supported by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. Funded by the state of Berlin, Chancellery of the Berlin Senate for Culture and Europe and TippingPoint. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

**SOUTHBANK CENTRE, PURCELL ROOMS**

**MON 4–THU 7 JUNE, 7.45PM**

**TICKETS: £20\***



© Jade Mainade. \*Booking fees apply at liftfestival.com, see page 36

AHILAN RATNAMOHAN

# MERCENARY

FLANDERS-BELGIUM / AUSTRALIA • LIFT COMMISSION

**A POWERFUL AND  
EXPLOSIVE FOOTBALL-  
DANCE-THEATRE  
PERFORMANCE EXPLORING  
THE LINE BETWEEN HOPE  
AND DESPERATION**

★★★★

THE REVIEWS HUB ON MICHAEL ESSIEU  
I WANT TO PLAY AS YOU..., LIFT 2014

**#MERCENARY  
#LIFT2018**

**WORLD  
PREMIERE**

In 2022, Qatar will stage one of the biggest spectacles the world has ever seen: the FIFA World Cup. It's a phenomenon shrouded with hype even in its construction and as the huge stadiums emerge from the sandy terrain, so do the stories of mass exploitation of a diverse migrant workforce.

Travelling across Qatar, Nepal and Sri Lanka, performance-maker and footballer Ahilan Ratnamohan expected to come face to face with the reality of what it takes to build our global World Cup dreams. Through interviews with the workers themselves, he glimpsed behind the Western media headlines and into the lives of those on the ground, discovering that much like the beautiful game itself, the truth is often a fallacy.

*Mercenary* is a collaboration between Ahilan Ratnamohan, a Sri Lankan-Australian footballer-artist now based in Antwerp, and Mutamassik, an Egyptian-Italian-American musician. The performance features Ratnamohan's distinctive football-dance movement seen in his LIFT 2014 production, *Michael Essien I want to play as you...*, fused with Mutamassik's trademark first-generation, punk jaw, electronic pan-African derivatives.

Please note. *Mercenary* is a standing-only performance

Commissioned by LIFT and presented by LIFT and Battersea Arts Centre.

Supported by the Government of Flanders, Fare Network, Australian Government through the Australia Council and the City of Antwerp. A BespectACTIVE project, supported by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.

**BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE**

**THU 21–SAT 23 JUNE, 7.30PM**

**TICKETS: £12.50 – £15\***



SCOTT GRAHAM (FOR FRANTIC ASSEMBLY), KARL HYDE AND SIMON STEPHENS

# FATHERLAND

UK • LIFT COMMISSION

## FINDS THRILLING BEAUTY IN THE LIVES OF ORDINARY MEN

★★★★

THE TELEGRAPH

## MOVING AND EUPHORIC

★★★★

THE STAGE

**THEY HAVE CRAFTED FLASHES WITH SEARINGLY HONEST FRAGMENTS OF THESE SPOKEN ACCOUNTS UNDERPINNED BY A SUPERB MUSICAL SCORE THAT CHANNELS EVERYTHING FROM THUMPING DANCEFLOOR EUPHORIA, TRIBAL FOOTBALL CHANTS TO HAUNTING TECHNO-INTROSPECTION**

★★★★★

THE INDEPENDENT

**#FATHERLAND  
#LIFT2018**

*Fatherland* is a vivid, urgent and deeply personal portrait of 21st-century England at the crossroads of past, present and future. Created by Frantic Assembly's Scott Graham, Karl Hyde from Underworld and playwright Simon Stephens (*Punk Rock*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*), this daring collage of words, music and movement is animated by a 13-strong cast and a multitude of voices.

Inspired by conversations with fathers and sons from the trio's home towns in the heart of the country, the show explores identity, nationality, masculinity – and what it means to belong in a world weighed down by the expectations of others. Tender and tough, honest and true, *Fatherland* is a vital and necessary show about what we were, who we are and what we'd like to become.

*Fatherland* premiered at Manchester International Festival in 2017 at the Royal Exchange Theatre.

Commissioned and produced by Lyric Hammersmith, Manchester International Festival, Frantic Assembly, the Royal Exchange Theatre and LIFT.

Supported by PRS for Music Foundation.



LYRIC HAMMERSMITH

**FRI 25 MAY–SAT 23 JUNE, TIMES VARY**

**TICKETS: £10–£42\***





KRISTA BURĀNE / ANDY FIELD

# NOCTURNE

LATVIA / UK • LIFT COMMISSION

**A NOCTURNE IS NORMALLY  
A NIGHT SONG, BUT THIS  
ONE MIGHT BE A HOWL,  
OR A SQUEAK, OR JUST THE  
GENTLE PATTERN OF SMALL  
PAWS ON PAVEMENTS,  
HIDDEN AMIDST THE MORE  
HUMAN SOUNDS OF THE  
CITY BY NIGHT.**

KRISTA BURĀNE & ANDY FIELD

**#NOCTURNE  
#LIFT2018**

**WORLD  
PREMIERE**

Starting at dusk and ending at dawn, *Nocturne* is a journey into the wild side of the city and the creatures that reside there.

As the sun sets and darkness forms audiences are invited to disappear into the underworld, slipping through the concrete and electricity, streetlights and supermarkets in search of something other. Within the shadows and undergrowth we are drawn to a stranger and less familiar place where perspectives shift on our urban landscape.

Created by an international team of artists, including collaborators set designer Ieva Kauliņa (Latvia) and choreographer Erik Eriksson (Sweden) and developed in collaboration with local night workers in the city, *Nocturne* is a different kind of theatrical encounter. Part performance, part walk, part workshop, it is a song of the night and the creatures that inhabit it leading us across Deptford and New Cross in search of the edges of the city.

Presented and produced by LIFT and The Albany, Deptford.  
Co-commissioned by LIFT, Lokal and Homo Novus.

An Urban Heat project, supported by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.

**MEETING POINT: THE ALBANY, DEPTFORD**

**WED 27–FRI 29 JUNE, 9PM**

**TICKETS: £10–£14\***

© Ieva Kauliņa. \*Booking fees apply at [liftfestival.com](http://liftfestival.com), see page 36



POETRA ASANTEWA AND KWAME BOAFO

# NEW INTERNATIONAL VOICES

GHANA • LIFT COMMISSION

**I AM INTERESTED IN USING PERFORMANCE POETRY TO EXPLORE HOW WOMEN JUXTAPOSE THE NORMAL WITH THE BIZARRE, HOW IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE FLUIDITY OF THEIR IDENTITY, HOW THE FEMALE BODY CAN BE A POLITICAL STATEMENT**

POETRA ASANTEWA

**I SEE THE BODY AS AN ARCHIVE OF LIVED EXPERIENCE AND THE NARRATOR OF ITS OWN STORIES**

KWAME BOAFO

**#NEWINTERNATIONALVOICES  
#LIFT2018**

LIFT's long-standing partnership with Battersea Arts Centre offers in-festival research time and space to emerging artists. Working with the British Council, LIFT 2018 invites West African artists Poetra Asantewa and Kwame Boafo to develop new work in their chosen art form. Join both artists as they share their work in progress during two informal scratch performances.

Poetra Asantewa is a poet, writer, spoken word artist and vocalist from Ghana. Her work as a performer and youth mentor engages issues of feminism, inequality and mental health in her community. During her residency she will explore the contrasts and parallels between dynamic performance poetry and the power of static poetry on the page.

Kwame Boafo is a Ghanaian performance and movement artist who explores the idea of the body as a vessel of historical memory. During his residency he will continue his investigation into how people make (dis) connection with everyday material objects and how it reminds them of past experiences.

A LIFT and Battersea Arts Centre project in partnership with the British Council.

BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE

FRI 22–SAT 23 JUNE, 9PM

PAY WHAT YOU CAN

Ellipses, Kwame Boafo, Image © Kojo Brikorang. \*Booking fees apply at [liftfestival.com](http://liftfestival.com), see page 96



# EAST WALL

UK

**WE'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF INSPIRING PEOPLE. I WANT TO CHANGE LIVES, LIKE MY LIFE WAS CHANGED... THE VARIETY OF CHOREOGRAPHERS IS AMAZING, THEY HAVE A LOT TO SAY**

HOFESH SHECHTER

**#EASTWALL  
#LIFT2018**

**WORLD  
PREMIERE**

*East Wall* at the Tower of London will see a cast of over 150 dancers and musicians fill the moat of one of London's most iconic buildings for an extraordinary outdoor performance, inspired by the stories of the communities that have grown up around the Tower.

This dance and music spectacle is directed by the internationally-celebrated Hofesh Shechter in collaboration with four brilliant young London choreographers, Becky Namgauds, Duwane Taylor, James Finnemore and Joseph Toonga. From grime to gospel, krump to contemporary, this epic event will weave together a tapestry of music and dance that embraces east London's diversity and puts its rich cultural heritage centre stage.

*East Wall* is the culmination of a four-year talent development programme led by Hofesh Shechter Company and East London Dance, working with young choreographers, dancers and community groups. It will be the first major public art event in the Tower of London moat since the Poppies installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* in 2014.

*East Wall* is a spectacular performance developed from the 2016 scratch *East Wall Warm-Up*, which marked the closing night of LIFT 2016.

Commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces, produced by East London Dance and Hofesh Shechter Company, and presented by Historic Royal Palaces and LIFT. Costume Design Partner: London College of Fashion, UAL. Supporting Partner: Performing Arts Department, UEL. Funded by Arts Council England, Backstage Trust, Cockayne - Grants for the Arts, The London Community Foundation and Tower Hamlets Arts & Music Education Service (THAMES).

**TOWER OF LONDON**

**WED 18-SUN 22 JULY, 7.30PM**

**TICKETS: £12-£25\***

© Victor Frankowski. \*Booking fees apply at [liftfestival.com](http://liftfestival.com), see page 36



## ABOUT LIFT



### LIFT BRINGS THE BEST OF WORLD THEATRE TO LONDON... IT CONFIRMS THAT MORE UNITES US THAN DIVIDES US

SIR NICK HYTNER, LIFT PATRON

### BOOM!

SUDENAZ, TOTTENHAM UPLIFTER

LIFT has been at the forefront of ground-breaking international theatre for nearly 40 years, making and supporting radically open work that disrupts convention, celebrates our shared humanity and bursts open the political and social urgencies of our times. We work with world-class artists to create and present work that questions the nature of theatre, unites strangers, and reveals the stories and communities of our incredibly diverse city.

Alongside our acclaimed biennial London-wide festival sits a programme of interventions that includes artist residencies, national touring, large scale projects, and our ground-breaking participatory work, LIFT Tottenham.

Registered Charity Number: 286169  
Registered Company Number: 1672991  
VAT Number: 340590179



LIFTFESTIVAL.COM

## HOW TO BOOK

### BOOK YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT LIFTFESTIVAL.COM

A booking fee of £2.50 per transaction applies, booking fees at other venues vary. For assistance with booking online please call the LIFT booking helpline on 020 7968 6808 Monday–Friday between 12–6pm. Visit [liftfestival.com](http://liftfestival.com) for full Terms and Conditions.

### ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

#### Fatherland

Captioned:

Sat 16 June, 2.30pm

Audio described:

Sat 16 June, 7.30pm

#### Small Wonders

Relaxed performances:

Wed 27 June, 4.15pm

Sun 8 July, 1pm

Integrated BSL interpreted performance:

Sat 30 June, 11.30am

#### Taylor Mac: A 24-Decade History of Popular Music – The First Act

BSL interpreted performance:

Sat 30 June, 7.30pm

If you have any specific access requirements or questions, please contact the venue directly or call us on 020 7968 6808.

#LIFT2018



LIFTFESTIVAL.COM/NEWSLETTER

## SUPPORT LIFT



**IT FEELS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO ENSURE THAT LONDON'S THEATRE IS AS INTERNATIONAL AS OUR CITY AND PEOPLE**  
JONATHAN, COMMISSIONING CIRCLE MEMBER

**LIFT HAS DONE MORE TO INFLUENCE THE GROWTH AND ADVENTURE OF ENGLISH THEATRE THAN ANY OTHER ORGANISATION WE HAVE**  
SIR MARK RYLANCE, LIFT PATRON

LIFT is young at heart and curious of mind: we exist to challenge, provoke and invigorate and most importantly to be bold, to experiment and to learn. We are ambitious and we want to do more.

As a registered charity, your support is vital in making our work happen. As an individual or business there are many ways you can show your support to LIFT.



### JOIN OUR COMMISSIONING CIRCLE

Original work is the beating heart of LIFT, enabling international and local artists to explore new ideas and realise their ambitions, making LIFT open, unique, authentic and resonant. Our Commissioning Circle is key to this ambition and is made up of people who share our desire to look at things differently. LIFT supporters help bring ground-breaking international work to life, stepping into the centre of everything we do with behind-the-scenes updates and insider news, invitations to rehearsals and private events and priority booking.

Find out how to join our burgeoning Commissioning Circle from just £10 a month at [liftfestival.com/support-us](http://liftfestival.com/support-us)

### MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION

Every penny makes a difference. If you'd like to make a one-off gift of any amount, you can donate easily online at [liftfestival.com/donate](http://liftfestival.com/donate)

### BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER

Partnering with LIFT is a unique opportunity to make a mark on London and to attract the attention of thousands of people, right across the capital. LIFT gives your brand the chance to light up the city and associate with our fantastic values and communities.

To talk about a partnership that breaks the mould, please get in touch with us: 020 7968 6800 or [francis@liftfestival.com](mailto:francis@liftfestival.com)

Tottenham Uplifters, image © Jalaikon

Left: STREB, LIFT 2012, image © Julian Andrews. Right: Miss Revolutionary /doi Berserker, LIFT 2016, image © Cyclone\_A

## WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

### COMMISSIONING PARTNERS

14-18 NOW  
 Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts  
 Bernie Grant Arts Centre  
 Brighton Festival  
 Bristol Old Vic Ferment  
 East London Dance  
 Frantic Assembly  
 Greenwich+Docklands International Festival  
 Historic Royal Palaces  
 Hofesh Shechter Company  
 Homo Novus  
 Lokal  
 London Borough of Bexley  
 Lyric Hammersmith  
 Manchester International Festival  
 Pavilion Dance South West  
 Punchdrunk  
 Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester  
 Shoreditch Town Hall  
 Théâtre National de Bretagne

### PRESENTING AND PRODUCING PARTNERS

Anna Deavere Smith  
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 Barbican  
 Battersea Arts Centre  
 British Council  
 KVS Brussels  
 Korean Cultural Centre UK  
 London College of Fashion, UAL  
 MAYK  
 National Theater of Korea  
 Nature's Darlings

Peabody  
 Performing Arts Department, UEL  
 Pomegranate Arts  
 Royal Court Theatre  
 Shoreditch Town Hall  
 Singapore International Festival of Arts  
 Southbank Centre  
 Studios Kabako  
 The Albany, Deptford  
 The Place

### CORPORATE PARTNERS



## PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS



Supported using public funding by  
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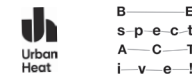


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 Creative Europe Programme  
 of the European Union

### PROJECT SUPPORTERS + PARTNERS



Kingdom of the Netherlands



### LIFT TOTTENHAM IS SUPPORTED BY



### SPECIAL THANKS TO

The LIFT Commissioning Circle, Mark Ball, Creative Time, Crossness Pumping Station, Thames Water, The Atlantic Theatre Company, the LIFT Trustees and Patrons and all others who have given their support to LIFT 2018.



**COME**

**AS**

**YOU**

**ARE**