



**PRESS RELEASE – 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012**

## **TIN INSPIRES OLYMPIC BACKING**

A new play and film project, *Tin*, produced by Miracle Theatre, in collaboration with English Touring Opera, which has been commissioned by The Cornish Mining World Heritage Site is already garnering major recognition. Today (Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012) the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site announces that the production has been granted the Inspire mark by the London 2012 Inspire programme.

A first of its kind for a UK World Heritage Site, the collaboration around *Tin* will revive the story of a banking disgrace from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, set within the mining industry in the St Just area. Through a theatre tour (in March and April 2012), followed by the creation of a film, Miracle Theatre's Director, Bill Scott has reworked the story and used it as the basis for his production. Within the 'refreshed' version of *Tin*, a travelling troupe of opera singers arrive in the mining town to give a performance of Beethoven's opera 'Fidelio' and find themselves embroiled in a local banking fraud. Although the tale is partly about the collision between the two very different worlds of tin mining and travelling theatre, at its heart, *Tin* is a love story.

Operatic legend Benjamin Luxon, who has Cornish mining ancestry, will be joining the acting cast. Schoolchildren and community groups from across Cornwall and West Devon will make up the 'village chorus', following an extensive outreach and education programme led by English Touring Opera.

The London 2012 Inspire programme recognises innovative and exceptional projects that are directly inspired by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Today's announcement from the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) confirms that *Tin* is now part of the Cultural Olympiad – a huge national sporting and cultural celebration - as it was inspired by the shared Olympic and World Heritage values of respect, excellence and friendship.

Seb Coe, Chair of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games said: '*Tin* is encouraging Miracle Theatre, and all of the partners and community groups involved, to fulfil their potential. I am proud that with the help of partners such as the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site, we are delivering our vision to use the power of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to boost participation in the invaluable support and education programmes for *Tin* and in the productions themselves.'

Julian German, Chairman of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site, said: 'The way to bring World Heritage Sites to life is to tell the stories of the people who created these globally important places. *Tin* will enable people today to identify with our ancestors and gain insights into their role in creating the Cornwall we live in. We could see the powerful potential in the *Tin* project from the beginning. Receiving the Olympic Inspire mark will help ensure that the significance of this work is felt right across Cornwall and west Devon.'

Bill Scott of Miracle Theatre said: '*Tin* is the most ambitious Miracle show to date and has had the longest gestation, over 15 years! It's taken a huge amount of hard work and commitment to get a project of this scale off the ground. We are grateful for the continued core support from Arts Council England and Cornwall Council, and funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, which enables us to develop key partnerships like ours with the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site.'

Bill continues: 'Working in partnership with the World Heritage Site has not only enabled *Tin* to move from the page to stage and then onto the big screen, but also develop strands of work enhancing the experience for all involved.'

The *Tin* tour dates have been confirmed as:

20-31 <sup>st</sup> March	Heartlands, Pool
2-9 April	The Count House, Botallack, St Just in Penwith
11-12 April	Tavistock Music and Arts Festival
17-19 April	Sterts Theatre, Upton Cross, Nr Liskeard
23-24 April	Hall for Cornwall, Truro

Local school students and members of the community are involved in all areas of the production, behind the scenes as well as at most of the host venues including:

- Richard Lander (Heartlands/Hall for Cornwall)
- Pool Academy (Heartlands/Hall for Cornwall)
- Cape Cornwall & Humpry Davy (Botallack)
- Brannel/Roseland (Heartlands/Hall for Cornwall)
- Liskeard (Sterts)
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The partnership schools in Tavistock will be confirmed later this month. Each community choir will also involve adults and choirs from the local communities, and individuals and singers from groups such as Holman Climax Male Voice Choir, Blazing Hearts Chorus, The Perraners and Duchy Opera have already started taking part.

**For more information on TIN venues and booking links go to [www.miracletheatre.co.uk](http://www.miracletheatre.co.uk)**

**ENDS**

**Issued on behalf of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site by Excess Energy Communications. For further Cornish Mining WHS information, imagery or interviews please contact Rhona Gardiner on [rhona@excess-energy.co.uk](mailto:rhona@excess-energy.co.uk) or 01637 852 130 or Tom Cowle on the same number and [tom@excess-energy.co.uk](mailto:tom@excess-energy.co.uk).**

**For further information on TIN production, Miracle Theatre Company, company and cast interviews or images, please contact Miracle's Communications Manager Emma Gibson on [emma@miracletheatre.co.uk](mailto:emma@miracletheatre.co.uk) or 01209 216 762**

### **Notes to editors**

About the Inspire programme: The Inspire programme is run by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. It is an opportunity for everyone to be a part of the London 2012 Games – a broad participation programme spanning sport participation, education, sustainability, volunteering, and business opportunities & culture. New opportunities are being created to inspire young people and encourage the whole of the UK to join in. The Inspire programme has awarded over 1,400 different projects the Inspire mark.

About London 2012: The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are delivered by two key organisations – the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). LOCOG is responsible for staging a memorable Games in 2012. They will deliver the best possible Olympic and Paralympic Games experience for everyone involved, enabling a lasting legacy and inspiring people to join in.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is the public body responsible for developing and building the new venues and infrastructure for the Games and converting the Olympic Park for long-term use after the Games. In the summer of 2012, the UK will come alive with the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Find out the latest from the London 2012 blog –[london2012.com/blog](http://london2012.com/blog)

About *Tin*: *Tin: a novel* was published in 1888 by a writer Richard Edward Boyns writing under the pseudonym of Edward Bosanketh. The publishing of *Tin* caused a considerable stir locally as a number of allegations were made in it which cast the local banking industry in a poor light.

The Bolitho family, owners of Bolitho Sons & Co. [Mounts Bay Bank] (1807-1889), which was absorbed by Barclays Bank group in 1905, were incensed by the various allegations made within the work. So strongly was this felt that the Bolithos took the trouble to purchase and burn as many copies of the book as could be found. The Miracle Theatre production of *Tin* will bring this story to light once again, using one of the rare copies of the book, and will re-ignite the debate around the local bank, whilst educating audiences about the charged emotion behind the true stories of Cornish mining in the 1800s.

#### Some ***Tin*** facts

- 5 Cornish Miracle Theatre Actors
- 3 English Touring Opera singers
- Benjamin Luxon, (CBE) internationally renowned performer from Redruth, returns to Cornwall from America to perform in *Tin*
- 100+ local participants
- Participation from 8 schools in Cornwall: Humphry Davy, Cape Cornwall, Richard Lander, Liskeard School and Community College, The Roseland Community College, Pool school and Redruth school and Technology College working with ETO and local community choirs
- Approx. 100 singing and performance workshops will be delivered
- Two new Cornish songs composed by Russell Pascoe, lyrics by Bill Scott
- One historic novel brought to life – Edward Bosanketh's *Tin*
- First theatre production to be performed at new Heartlands site, Pool
- *Tin* will be performed outside the National Trust's Count House at Botallack, which is referenced in the 'original' *Tin* published in 1888
- Unique partnership between Miracle Theatre, English Touring Opera and the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site
- Miracle Theatre is Cornwall's foremost rural travelling company which has been touring innovative comic theatre across the UK for over 30 years
- English Touring Opera is the leading touring opera company in the UK. Visit [www.englishtouringopera.org.uk](http://www.englishtouringopera.org.uk) for more information
- For more information about Cornwall's internationally important cultural heritage go to: [www.cornishmining.org.uk](http://www.cornishmining.org.uk)

About Miracle:

Miracle Theatre Company is one of the South West's foremost touring theatre companies with a reputation for producing entertaining, intelligent and funny theatre. For 32 years, they have been touring to the far flung corners of Cornwall popping up and performing their shows, mainly for one night only, in unexpected places. During the summer you'll find them at ancient sites, gardens, castles and beaches and in the winter, tucked up in village halls and rural venues.

[www.miracletheatre.co.uk](http://www.miracletheatre.co.uk)

### **What people have said about Miracle**

“Miracle Theatre are a real joy – Go and see them” **Western Morning News**

“Lively, inventive and popular, Miracle gives lie to the idea that theatre is a metropolitan activity” **The Guardian**

“Cornwall's finest troupe” **British Theatre Guide**