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Media Release

If you only get the chance to see one thing this spring, make sure it's 'TIN.'

This exciting collaboration between Cornwall's Miracle Theatre and English Touring Opera featuring Ben Luxon and local community choirs is a heady mix of epic theatre, multimedia magic and top notch singing!

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. However, this March and April Miracle is ringing the changes with '**Tin**' a large scale collaboration with English Touring Opera (ETO), commissioned by the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site.

Tin is touring to four venues in Cornwall, opening on the 20th March at the new Heartlands site in Pool, - situated right in the heart of the Cornish Mining landscape. After 14 performances, it will take residence on one of Cornwall's most westerly cliff-tops, in a large geodesic dome in front of the historic Count House at Botallack Mine during Easter Week (2nd to 9th April). Devon is next stop at The Wharf, Tavistock on 11th and 12th and then '**Tin**' is back in Cornwall at Sterts, the uniquely covered outdoor venue in Upton Cross, Liskeard, between 17th and 21st April, before the tour ends at the Hall for Cornwall in Truro on 23rd & 24th April.

Miracle Director Bill Scott explains how the company's largest and most ambitious project to date has come to fruition:

"Tin has been brewing since 1994 when I was touring with Miracle in north Devon. We were performing at the Beaford Centre, which was showing an exhibition of old photos from the Beaford Archive. These included a small picture of a travelling opera company, who were in High Bickington to perform Fidelio, Beethoven's only opera. This old photo gripped my imagination: here were people doing the same thing as Miracle Theatre, in the same place, almost 100 years before. However, they were attempting grand opera! I immediately began to develop the script of the trials and tribulations encountered by a tiny theatre company touring epic opera to village halls around Devon and Cornwall in 1900.

At around the same time a friend suggested the nineteenth century Cornish novel, Tin, written by Edward Bosanketh. It tells the true story of a banking fraud that occurred in St Just. Bosanketh had been careful to change the names of the protagonists and set it in the fictional town of Camruth. However, the characters were perfectly recognisable to anyone living in the district, especially the directors of the local bank who were the perpetrators of the dodgy dealings at the centre of the story. On its publication in 1888, the bank attempted to buy and destroy all copies of the book. Fortunately a few escaped and a facsimile edition was published in 1988 by Justin Brooke, an expert in all aspects of mining, especially its finances.

I began a script based on 'Tin' but couldn't keep the itinerant opera company out of the story. Before long they had been booked by the local vicar to perform Fidelio in the town hall and, during their stay, would become embroiled as 'out adventurers' in the bank's fraudulent schemes. In my version the mine and the bank provide the background to a story about love and greed, focusing on the interactions between the two very different worlds of tin mining and travelling theatre, at its heart it's a love story.

When the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Cultural Events Programme put out a call for partners in 2008, Miracle successfully pitched the emerging script. The WHS programme which aims to increase awareness and appreciation of Cornish Mining culture and bring its stories to new audiences was a perfect fit.

Deborah Boden Cornish Mining World Heritage Site co-ordinator explained "The way to bring World Heritage Sites to life is to tell the stories of the people who created these globally important places, and 'Tin' is a creative exploration of a nineteenth century mining community's way of life. If you engage an audience's emotions through a story, they will remember that story forever. 'Tin' will enable people today to identify with our ancestors and brings their experience much closer."

Bill concluded 'after many years in development it's both exciting and rewarding to see 'Tin' taking shape.'

The operatic music in 'Tin' is sung by performers from English Touring Opera (ETO), the UK's leading touring opera company. This production contains sections of music from Beethoven's only opera, *Fidelio*, and also music written specifically for the play by Cornish composer Russell Pascoe.

Led by musical director, David Keefe, a team of professional ETO singers and players not only take on acting roles within the combined cast of Miracle professionals, but join forces with schools and community choirs from across Cornwall and Devon to become the 'village chorus'.

ETO's Artistic Associate Tim Yealland says: *For ETO this partnership with Miracle is perfect from every point of view, not least because it allows us to work alongside Cornwall's most vibrant theatre company it also lets us tap into the deep roots of Cornwall's powerful singing tradition.*

Completing the cast is famous Cornish baritone Benjamin Luxon. Ben gave up performing opera due to hearing loss and moved to America to focus on his acting career. His much anticipated return to the Cornish stage sees him play the pivotal character 'East.'

Miracle Theatre has deftly combined all the elements of a truly memorable theatre experience with their latest production. A gripping storyline, credible casting and high quality music, all performed against a backdrop of innovative film projection.

Be sure not to miss out -TIN tickets are now on sale.

For full venue, dates, booking links and further information go to: www.miracletheatre.co.uk

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 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 for more information
- For more information about Cornwall’s internationally important cultural heritage go to: www.cornishmining.org.uk

WHAT NOT TO MISS IN 2012!

**Cornwall’s Miracle Theatre in collaboration with English Touring Opera
present**

***TIN* Touring March & April 2012**

This exciting collaboration between Cornwall’s Miracle Theatre and English Touring Opera features Ben Luxon and local community choirs, is a heady mix of epic theatre, multimedia magic and top notch singing!

West Cornwall 1890. The shareholders are throwing good money after bad down their once glorious tin mine.

*Just when they manage to hoodwink an outsider into investing in the failing enterprise, a troupe of windswept actors arrives in town to perform Beethoven’s *Fidelio*.*

As these two very different worlds collide, love stories unfold and melodrama spills over into everyday life as the villagers and actors seize an opportunity to transform their lives ...

Tour Dates:

MARCH 2012

‘*Tin*’ is the first production to be performed in the Chi an Bobel, the large community hall, with views over the awe-inspiring Robinsons Engine House, Heartlands, situated right in the heart of the Cornish Mining Landscape.

Tuesday 20th 8pm Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466

- Wednesday 21st 2pm - Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466

- Wednesday 21st 8pm- Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Thursday 22nd 8pm - Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Friday 23rd 2pm - Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Friday 23rd 8pm - Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Saturday 24th 8pm - Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Tuesday 27th 8pm - Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Wednesday 28th 2pm - Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Wednesday 28th 8pm - Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Thursday 29th 8pm - Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Friday 30th 2pm- Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Friday 30th 8pm - Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Saturday 31st 8pm - Heartlands, Pool, Redruth TR15 3QY
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466

Tickets Prices £14 full £12 Concessions £8 under 16's

APRIL 2012

'Tin' is being performed in a large geodesic dome tent in front of The Count House. ALL Seating will be provided

- Monday 2nd 8pm The Count House, Botallack, St Just in Penwith TR19 7QQ
Tickets: www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Tuesday 3rd 8pm The Count House, Botallack, St Just in Penwith TR19 7QQ
Tickets: www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Wednesday 4th 8pm The Count House, Botallack, St Just in Penwith TR19 7QQ
Tickets: www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Thursday 5th 8pm The Count House, Botallack, St Just in Penwith TR19 7QQ
Tickets: www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466

- Saturday 7th 8pm The Count House, Botallack, St Just in Penwith TR19 7QQ
Tickets: www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Monday 9th 8pm The Count House, Botallack, St Just in Penwith TR19 7QQ
Tickets: www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466

Ticket Prices £14 full £12 Concessions £8 under 16's

- Wednesday 11th 8pm The Wharf, Tavistock PL19 8AT
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01822 611166
- Thursday 12th 2:30pm The Wharf, Tavistock PL19 8AT
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01822 611166
- Thursday 12th 8pm The Wharf, Tavistock PL19 8AT
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01822 611166

Ticket Prices £14 full £12 Concessions £8 under 16's

- Tuesday 17th 8pm Sterts Theatre, Upton Cross Liskeard, PL14 5AZ Tickets
www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01579 362382
- Wednesday 18th 8pm Sterts Theatre, Upton Cross Liskeard, PL14 5AZ Tickets
www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01579 362382
- Thursday 19th 8pm Sterts Theatre, Upton Cross Liskeard, PL14 5AZ Tickets
www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01579 362382
- Friday 20th 8pm Sterts Theatre, Upton Cross Liskeard, PL14 5AZ Tickets
www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01579 362382
- Saturday 21st 8pm Sterts Theatre, Upton Cross Liskeard, PL14 5AZ Tickets
www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01579 362382

Ticket Prices £14 full £12 Concessions £8 under 16's

- Monday 23rd 2:30pm Hall for Cornwall, Truro, TR1 2LL
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Monday 23rd 8pm Hall for Cornwall, Truro, TR1 2LL
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466
- Tuesday 24th 8pm Hall for Cornwall, Truro, TR1 2LL
Tickets www.miracletheatre.co.uk Tel: 01872 262466

Ticket Prices from £10

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Now available for interview:

- *Bill Scott, Miracle Theatre Director*
- *Tim Yelland, English Touring Opera TIN Music Associate*
- *Benjamin Luxon CBE,*
- *Deborah Boden Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Co-Ordinator*
- *Russell Pascoe, Composer*

- **Full cast from February 27th 2012**

For more information, images and interview opportunities please contact Miracle Theatre's Communications Manager:

Emma Gibson T: 01209 216 762

E: emma@miracletheatre.co.uk

www.miracletheatre.co.uk

What people have said about Miracle Theatre

"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

English Touring Opera is the leading touring opera company in the UK. Their aim is to offer opera to everyone. TIN is part of ETO's ambitious outreach & education programme. www.englishtouringopera.org.uk

Tin' has been commissioned by the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Cultural programme. The WHS programme aims to increase awareness and appreciation of Cornish Mining culture and bring its stories to new audiences, and has reached thousands of people across the UK. See www.cornish-mining.org.uk for more information about Cornwall's internationally important cultural heritage.

For further Cornwall Mining WHS information, imagery or interviews please contact Rhona Gardiner on rhona@excess-energy.co.uk or 01637 852 130 or Tom Cowle on the same number and tom@excess-energy.co.uk

Miracle Theatre gratefully acknowledges it's **'Tin'** funders and partners:

- Cornish Mining World Heritage Site - www.cornish-mining.org.uk
- Esmee Fairbairn www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk
- Youth Music www.youthmusic.org.uk

'Tin' has been granted the Inspire mark by the London 2012 Inspire program. The London 2012 Inspire programme recognises innovative and exceptional projects that are directly inspired by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. *Tin* is part of sporting and cultural celebration of the shared Olympic and World Heritage values of respect, excellence and friendship.

Miracle Theatre is funded by Arts Council England & Cornwall Council.