

Press release

THE CRASH OF THE ELYSIUM

Ipswich - 15 June to 8 July

www.2012crash.co.uk / 01473 295900

Presented at Ipswich Arts Festival (Ip-art) by Manchester International Festival, The New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council and Arts Council England.

Commissioned by Manchester International Festival, BBC, London 2012 Festival and Salford City Council. Produced by Manchester International Festival, Punchdrunk and BBC Wales. Funded by the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor.

Creative team

Created by **Felix Barrett** and **Tom MacRae**

Written by **Tom MacRae**

Based on an original idea by **Steven Moffat**

Directed by **Felix Barrett**

Designed by **Livi Vaughan**

Lighting Design by **Paul Normandale**

Sound Design by **Stephen Dobbie**

*The New Wolsey Theatre and Ipswich Arts Festival are delighted to announce that tickets for **The Crash of The Elysium**, **Punchdrunk's** live **Doctor Who** adventure which plays in Ipswich from 15 June - 8 July as part of the London 2012 Festival, go on sale at 10am on Friday 20 January.*

Created by **Punchdrunk**, award winning internationally acclaimed pioneers in immersive theatre, **The Crash of The Elysium** is a live **Doctor Who** adventure in which the audience is the star of the show. Premiered to great critical acclaim as part of the 2011 Manchester International Festival, **The Crash of The Elysium** is revived in Ipswich this summer for 3 weeks only.

Tom MacRae writer and co-creator of **the Crash of the Elysium** said: “*The show is unlike anything else you have ever experienced in the world of **Doctor Who**. This is your story, your mission, you are the hero. Everything depends on you. If you don't turn up, the world does not get saved.*”

***Punchdrunk** are theatrical wizards. Their shows are a stunning blend of magic, excitement, adventure and impossibility. Once you enter a **Punchdrunk** show, the laws of physics are switched off until you leave again. There is no stage, there is no comfy seating, there is no division between the world of the audience and the world of the show. You are at the heart of the action, you drive the story forward. No two shows will ever be the same, no individual adventure will ever be repeated.*

*The madness and brilliance of **Doctor Who** could not find a better theatrical partnership than **Punchdrunk**, and slamming these two incendiary giants together has produced the most exciting hour of entertainment anyone could ever wish for.”*

Felix Barrett, Director of Punchdrunk said: "We started this process with 'What would be the dream show to see as a 10 year old? '. This is it. To embrace the cultural icon that is Doctor Who and to work with their extraordinary team has been an incredible adventure and I can't wait to bring the show back to life in Ipswich."

Liz Hughes, Creative Programmer for the East of England for London 2012, said: 'We are delighted that **The Crash of The Elysium** will be part of the London 2012 Festival this summer. The show offers a truly extraordinary experience which will help make this summer one to remember for a lifetime. As well as helping **Doctor Who** you can also get dancing with the world's finest choreographers, ring bells with Martin Creed, or go Walking with US artist Robert Wilson. In addition to paid-for events, there are over ten million free opportunities to take part this summer across the UK. It is going to be an exceptional year.'

To find out more visit www.london2012.com/festival

"We are thrilled that tickets are now on sale and so excited to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience," says New Wolsey Chief Executive Sarah Holmes. "Since the production was announced it has generated so much interest from fans of Doctor Who and many others who recognise that this is a truly unique experience not to be missed. My advice is to book early."

"Not everyone takes making work for children seriously, even though they can be awfully discerning and shrewd theatre-goers," said Alex Poots, Festival Director of MIF, "and to have one of our great theatre companies take up the challenge of making art for them seemed like a very exciting proposition. Ipswich audiences of all ages will be just as thrilled, terrified and transported as those in Manchester last year."

Helen Lax, Regional Director, Arts Council England, East, said: 'We are very excited that *The Crash of The Elysium* is coming to Ipswich in July. It will be an unforgettable experience for everyone lucky enough to see it and we're sure that it will be a tremendous success. The show is the perfect accompaniment to all the other incredible opportunities that are taking place as a part of the Cultural Olympiad in the East this summer. Its inclusion in the London 2012 Festival will bring unprecedented and well deserved national profile to Ipswich and the region.'

"Ip-art is the biggest festival in Suffolk and offers both free and paid for events right across the cultural spectrum. It is a fabulous attraction for over 100,000 people. *The Crash of The Elysium* will add to the festival excitement. Doctor Who is close to my heart as I grew up hiding behind the sofa when it came on. I am sure the Crash will attract people from all over the region." Cllr Bryony Rudkin, Culture portfolio-holder, Ipswich Borough Council

There are three different types of performances of **The Crash of The Elysium** - School performances for years 4 to 7 (ages 8 - 12), Family performances for ages 7 - 12 and After Dark performances for ages 13+ (please see notes to editors).

Performances are 60 minutes long and will take place at Crown Street Car Park, Audiences will be required to register at least 15 minutes before their allotted entry time and due to the nature of the experience sensible footwear is compulsory.

Full details of the schedule and other essential booking information can be accessed online at www.wolseytheatre.co.uk/2012crash

Advance booking strongly recommended as capacity is strictly limited.

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For further information please contact either Sharon Jenkins at the New Wolsey Theatre on 01473 295915 or email sjenkins@wolseytheatre.co.uk

Or Ben Chamberlain at The Corner Shop PR on 020 7494 3665 or email ben@thecornershoppr.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

Press tickets are available for performances on Tuesday 19 June (between 10.10am and 1.50pm). Very limited numbers of tickets are available for these performances, so please respond as quickly as possible with your requests. Reviewers are encouraged to see the show alone.

Performances times can be found by checking: www.wolseytheatre.co.uk/2012crash

Production images

Production shots from The Crash of the Elysium are available by request.

NOTE: Please note that this show is specially made for ages 7+. Children outside this age range will not be admitted.

Family performances

These performances are designed for ages 7 - 12 but children must be accompanied by an adult. A maximum of 1 adult can accompany each child and adults are requested to hold back and allow children to lead the performance.

Preview family performances begin at 6.30pm on Friday 15 June, run from 2pm on Saturday 16 June and from 11am on Sunday 17 June. Subsequently there are 18 family performances between 11am and 5.50pm on the following dates: Sat 23, Sun 24 and Sat 30 June and Sun 1, Sat 7 and Sun 8 July.

School performances run from 10am to 1.50pm Tuesday to Friday from Tuesday 19 June to Friday 6 July. At school performances, children and accompanying teachers do the whole adventure together but we ask that teachers allow the children to lead.

After Dark performances

These performances are designed for ages 13+ and anyone under this age will not be admitted. Previews run from 7.30pm to 8.20pm on Sunday 17 June. Following the opening weekend After Dark performances run from 6.30pm to 8.50pm Tuesday to Friday from Tuesday 19 June to Friday 6 July and from 7.30pm to 8.20pm on the following dates: Sat 23, Sun 24 and Sat 30 June and Sun 1, Sat 7 and Sun 8 July.

Felix Barrett, Direction and Design, Punchdrunk

Artistic Director of Punchdrunk and a graduate and Honorary Fellow in Drama, University of Exeter, Felix has conceived, designed, and directed all of Punchdrunk's productions since founding the company in 2000. He is a Critics' Circle Drama Award winner (Best Design, Faust, 2006) and one of the first recipients of a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Breakthrough Fund Award (2008-2011), which supports exceptional arts practitioners in the development of their vision. In 2009, he directed (with Tom Morris) the Stoppard/Previn Every Good Boy Deserves Favour at the National Theatre, London, It Felt Like A Kiss, a collaboration between Punchdrunk, documentary film-maker Adam Curtis, and rock musician Damon Albarn for the Manchester International Festival (2009), Punchdrunk's award-winning US debut production, Sleep No More (2009) and The Duchess of Malfi (collaboration with English National Opera, 2010). Most recently, Felix was Creative Director for Shakira's current world tour The Sun Comes Out.

Tom MacRae is an award winning screenwriter and author. He has written for Channel 4's No Angels and As If, Lewis and Marple on ITV and several episodes of Doctor Who for the BBC, as well as on numerous other drama series. He was nominated for a BAFTA in 2002 for Off Limits: School's Out for Channel 4, and is the writer and creator of a new seven part comedy-drama series for Comedy Central, premiering in 2011. MacRae has also written three books for children; Baby Pie, When I Woke Up I Was A Hippopotamus and The Opposite, which won the prestigious Parents' Choice Award in the United States.

Formed in 2000, **Punchdrunk** is the internationally acclaimed pioneer of a new form of immersive theatre that places the audience at the centre of the action and the experience.

Award-winning productions include **Faust** (in collaboration with the National Theatre, 2006), **The Masque of the Red Death** (2008), **Tunnel 228** (in collaboration with The Old Vic, 2009), **It Felt Like A Kiss** (with Adam Curtis and Damon Albarn, Manchester International Festival, 2009), **Sleep No More** (with the American Repertory Theatre, Boston, Mass., 2009), **The Duchess of Malfi** (with ENO, 2010). In 2008, the company formed its education and outreach department, **Punchdrunk Enrichment**, which now works with schools and community groups across London to deliver innovative participatory projects. As well as producing epic theatrical productions, Punchdrunk occasionally works with corporate partners in the execution of unusual experiential projects and events. The company is currently presenting its New York debut, a new version of the critically acclaimed *Sleep No More* at the legendary McKittrick Hotel in the Chelsea district. **Punchdrunk's Sleep No More** has won a 2011 Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatrical Experience and a Special Citation For Design And Choreography at the 2010-11 Obie Awards.
www.punchdrunk.org.uk

Manchester International Festival is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events and takes place biennially, in Manchester, UK. The Festival launched in 2007 as an artist-led, commissioning festival presenting new works from across the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture. www.mif.co.uk

The Ipswich Arts Festival (Ip-art) has been the Town's annual summer arts festival since 2003 and seen a developing and varied programme of events from visual arts, performing arts, literature, film and music. Encompassing venues across the town and complementing Ipswich's economic expansion by invigorating its cultural growth, the Ipswich Arts Festival has provided an exciting programme of arts for the people of Ipswich and beyond to enjoy that is both appealing and accessible to all sections of the community. Ipswich Arts Festival aims to promote and encourage arts of the highest possible standard by bringing together a programme of events that offer equal opportunity for all sections of the public to experience and enjoy.

The New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich is a regional theatre with a national reputation for the quality, range and reach of its work and for embracing cultural diversity in the widest sense. The theatre is central to the creative life of Suffolk and seeks to expand the horizons of audiences and artists by presenting a programme designed to entertain, enrich and challenge. The New Wolsey's programme reflects the diversity of British culture and its Creative Learning activity links the theatre and the local community by developing projects of the highest quality, maximum diversity and greatest possible accessibility. Encouraging and enabling the development of new talent is a priority for the New Wolsey and the annual PULSE Fringe Festival is a spring-board for fresh new artistic voices, as well as a platform for risk-taking and cutting edge performance from more established artists. PULSE focuses on new and innovative approaches to the arts and new/emerging companies from a range of art forms including theatre, dance, comedy, music, event led visual arts, participatory theatre, physical theatre and circus led work.

About the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival

The London 2012 Cultural Olympiad is the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Spread over four years, it is designed to give everyone in the UK a chance to be part of London 2012 and inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially among young people.

The culmination of the Cultural Olympiad will be the London 2012 Festival, a spectacular 12-week nationwide celebration bringing together leading artists from across the world with the very best from the UK, from Midsummers Day on 21 June and running until the final day of the Paralympic Games on 9 September 2012. The London 2012 Festival will celebrate the huge range, quality and accessibility of the UK's world-class culture including dance, music, theatre, the visual arts, fashion, film and digital innovation, giving the opportunity for people across the UK to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Principal funders of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival are Arts Council England, Legacy Trust UK and the Olympic Lottery Distributor. BP and BT are Premier Partners of the Cultural Olympiad and the London 2012 Festival.

For more details on the programme and to sign up for information visit www.london2012.com/festival

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries - from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2011 and 2015, we will invest £1.4 billion of public money from government and an estimated £0.85 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Grants for the arts is Arts Council England's open application funding programme. It invests National Lottery money to support activities that engage people in the arts and help artists and arts organisations with their work.

London 2012 Games partners:

The Worldwide Olympic Partners who support the London 2012 Olympic Games and the National Olympic Committees around the world are Coca-Cola, Acer, Atos, Dow Chemical Company, GE, McDonald's, Omega, Panasonic, Procter and Gamble, Samsung and Visa.

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There is one domestic Tier One Paralympic Games-only Partner, Sainsbury's and one domestic Tier Three Paralympic Games-only Supplier, Otto Bock. The London 2012 Paralympic Games also acknowledges the support of the National Lottery.