



For immediate release

Lightbox Theatre secures Sharing Heritage grant for *Battersea Odyssey* show

It was announced this month that Lightbox Theatre has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Sharing Heritage grant, for their new show, *Battersea Odyssey*. This 'promenade' show is based on the accounts of life in Battersea that have emerged from an 18 month community outreach project. Lightbox Theatre, which is itself based in Battersea, and is led by Artistic Director, Emma Faulkner, has been given £8300 to mount the show as part of the Wandsworth Fringe Festival 2015.

Lightbox is a young theatre company that discovers and brings to life stories which are untold or overlooked. As a company based in Battersea, they recognised concern that 'old Battersea' might be lost in the face of massive redevelopment. So they gave residents the chance to share their stories, views and memories as a positive response to the developments. This intergenerational outreach project has seen more than 120 local residents participate in workshops and interviews, with community organisations and venues helping to ensure that they reach the widest possible range of participants.

Battersea Odyssey will lead audiences on a journey through the historic and idiosyncratic building of Katherine Low Settlement (KLS), in the heart of Battersea. As they move through the building they will see professional actors perform some of the interconnected stories of life in Battersea over the last century. The show will be a vibrant urban tale about notions of home, belonging and change, and Lightbox expect it to attract audience members who rarely engage with heritage or with theatre.

Battersea Odyssey will also act as a stimulus for the final phase of Lightbox Theatre's outreach project. Having completed the interactive journey, audience members will be encouraged to share their own stories and experiences on paper, on Twitter, on Facebook or on film.

Commenting on the award, Emma Faulkner said: *"We're really delighted to get the Sharing Heritage grant. Uncovering the untold stories of Battersea was a labour of love for us, but the funding means we can give these fascinating accounts the creative presentation and wide audience that they deserve."*

Notes to editors

About Lightbox Theatre

- Lightbox Theatre was founded in 2013 by Artistic Director Emma Faulkner, to bring to life overlooked and untold stories. In 2013 and 2014 the company produced very successful revivals of ‘overlooked’ classics at The Finborough Theatre: The British Theatre Guide said of *Over The Bridge*: “What the West End needs is a small theatre to which productions of this calibre can transfer.” Of *John Ferguson*, The Independent said: “Ervine’s powerful 1915 classic now receiving its first English production since 1920 in Emma Faulkner’s strongly cast, atmospheric production...is a powerful portrait of a family in crisis.”
- The Battersea Stories outreach project has engaged many sections of the local community, and is supported in part by funding from Big Local SW11. Local Councillor, Tessa Strickland, said of the project: “*Battersea is in the throes of change and regeneration and preserving access to its history through capturing memories and stories about what was important in residents’ lives is vital to properly valuing its special heritage.*”
- In addition to the Sharing Heritage grant, Lightbox have received financial support for Battersea Odyssey from Wandsworth Arts Grants and Wandsworth Big Society Fund, and in kind support from Katherine Low Settlement and Theatre 503.
- *Battersea Odyssey* will take place from 15th to 17th May 2015. Tickets are priced at £5 (£3 concs), and available from www.lightboxtheatre.co.uk or 020 7978 7040.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

- Sharing Heritage is for any not-for-profit group wanting to explore their community’s heritage. Sharing Heritage grants between £3,000 and £10,000 are available to groups who want to discover their local heritage. Projects can cover a wide spectrum of subject matter from exploring local archaeology and a community’s cultures and traditions to identifying and recording local wildlife and protecting the surrounding environment to managing and training volunteers, and holding festivals and events to commemorate the past.
- From the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife, we use National Lottery players’ money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about. www.hlf.org.uk.



Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Clare Annamalai at Lightbox Theatre on clare@lightboxtheatre.co.uk or 07887 563357 or @LightboxTheatre