

Staging Opera: Cities, Publics and Performance

Lecture Theatre

Friday 10 November 2017



This one day conference will explore different key aspects of opera as a multimedia art form, anchoring it in its contemporary and urban context. The central question will focus on: why do cities need opera today?

Programme

- 10.00 Registration
- 10.20 **Welcome, Kate Bailey**, Curator of *Opera: Passion, Power and Politics*
Creating the exhibition...
Introduction – Keynote speaker - Kasper Holten, Opera Director
....How and why is opera important to modern cities? Why is this exhibition important for London and UK? What will be its impact and legacy?
- 11.00 **Panel One: Architecture and Urbanism, Opera as a Social Space** (past, present and future)
Chair: Professor Nicholas Till, Director of the Centre for Research in Opera and Music Theatre (Sussex University)
Alex Beard CBE, Chief Executive, Royal Opera House
David Staples, Project Manager at Theatre Projects
- 12.00 Refreshments
- 12.30 **Panel Two: The Singer and the City – different voices, different perspectives...**
Chair: Katie Derham, BBC Radio 3
Professor Richard Wistreich, Director of Research and Programmes at the RCM
Natasha Freedman, Head of ENO Baylis Programme
Matt Peacock MBE, Artistic Director Streetwise Opera
- 13.30 Lunch

- 14.30 **Interlude: Engaging the cities within our hospitals**
Orlando Gough and Lucinda Jarrett talk about the process of developing libretto and score within hospitals and screen an excerpt from *Hospital Passion Play*
- 15:00 **Panel Three: Discussion: Imagining Opera Futures – new visions, music, design, technology, stories and audiences..**
Daisy Evans, Artistic Director, Silent Opera
Oliver Mears, Director of Opera, Royal Opera House
Es Devlin OBE, Stage Designer
Nico Muhly, Composer
Poppy Burton-Morgan, librettist and director (Metta Theatre resident artist)
- 16.30 **Q&A**
- 17.00 End