

Press Release April



The Floating Cinema by Somewhere and Studio Weave

an **up projects** production for the waterways of East London

1 July – 18 September 2011

UP Projects' **Portavilion** project continues in 2011, this time on the waterways of East London in partnership with the Olympic Delivery Authority and CREATE11.

The Floating Cinema will be programmed by internationally renowned artists Nina Pope and Karen Guthrie (known collectively as *Somewhere*), and designed by Hackney based architects Studio Weave. The extraordinary floating structure will navigate the waterways of the Olympic boroughs during the summer 2011, and accommodate intimate on-board screenings inside a bespoke twelve seat cinema auditorium as well as function as a "projection house" for both mobile and static outdoor film screenings.

The Floating Cinema will offer a vibrant and varied events programme including screen-acting and film-making workshops. Expert tours and talks will also be on offer including a 'botanical busk' hosted by renowned nature writer Richard Mabey, and a collaboration with Barbican will delve into urban architecture, animation and graffiti. The whole programme will launch with an outdoor screening party at Springfield in Hackney, and subsequent large-scale outdoor film events will include evenings at Three Mills Studios and Canary Wharf, and screenings of *Somewhere's* new films projected from the Floating Cinema onto architecture around the waterways. Drop in open days will be on offer every Thursday during July and August featuring a range of on board film screenings and a chance to explore Studio Weave's unique design.

This commission is part of UP Projects' **Portavilion 2011**, and builds on the success of Portavilion 2008 and 2010; a series of temporary pavilions for London's parks and public spaces that have brought high quality sculptures and cultural events to a broad public audience. For 2011, the project will focus on waterways that connect the boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Waltham Forest, Hackney and Greenwich with the new Olympic Park.

Portavilion Curator, Emma Underhill said:

"Portavilion is a mobile, expanding public art project and we are delighted to have the opportunity to develop the sixth commission in the series, this time for East London's waterways, with Somewhere and Studio Weave. The canals and rivers provide a very tangible connection running through the five Olympic boroughs and into the Olympic Park itself, and offer a rich environment for The Floating Cinema to navigate."

Portavilion 2011 will form an important strand of the cultural participation programme in the lead up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will form part of the CREATE11 summer festival, is commissioned by The Olympic Delivery Authority as part of their Arts and Cultural Strategy and funded by Arts Council England.

For information please contact UP Projects on t: 020 7377 9677 e: laura@upprojects.com

www.portavilion.com

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Notes to Editors

Somewhere is a multi-disciplinary, collaboration run by artists Nina Pope and Karen Guthrie. They produce ambitious, innovative and challenging projects spanning film, the web, installation, live events and public art. Recent work includes “What Will the Harvest Be?” a project at Abbey Gardens in Newham which transformed a former waste ground into a unique open access Harvest Garden. www.somewhere.org.uk

Studio Weave is a young energetic design practice working on art and architecture commissions across the country. They are currently working on a diverse set of projects from creating the world’s longest bench along the south coast, to enhancing a number of high profile and heritage public spaces in the City of London, and they recently completed two allegorical pavilions at Kielder Water and Forest in Northumberland. They aim to create places through playing into and exploring the quirky and eccentric characteristics that make somewhere distinctive. www.studioweave.com

Portavilion is one of the most ambitious contemporary art projects to take place in London’s public realm. Curated by **Emma Underhill** of **up projects**, it launched in 2008 with four temporary pavilions by internationally renowned artists in some of London’s most popular parks. In 2010, raumlaborberlin developed a mobile, inflatable pavilion that toured thirteen London parks and public spaces presenting a diverse programme of cultural events and activities produced in partnership with leading cultural organisations. This ongoing project explores the possibilities for temporary, large scale public art, and is as much a celebration of the city’s most treasured open spaces as it is a cultural event.

For 2011, the Floating Cinema with Somewhere and Studioweave takes the project into a new, water based territory.

www.portavilion.com

up projects believes in challenging perceptions of what public art can be. Operating as if a gallery without walls, they are inspired by the complexities of the public realm to create a programme of artists’ commissions, projects, strategies and multi-disciplinary events for a broad public audience. Since their first project in 2002, their work has consistently attracted considerable public attention. www.upprojects.com

The Olympic Delivery Authority has commissioned The Floating Cinema for Portavilion 2011 as part of their Inside Out series of art-led community engagement projects. As part of their strategy to integrate art into the Olympic Park, the Arts and Cultural Strategy team at the ODA has devised ‘Inside Out’ to complement the permanent commissions in the Park and focus on artists working with communities in the host boroughs. The first Inside Out commission *Memory Marathon* was conceived and produced by Film and Video Umbrella with artist Simon Pope, commissioned by the ODA and funded by the London Development Agency and Arts Council England. www.london2012.com

CREATE is the annual summer festival that celebrates Europe’s largest cultural quarter: the Olympic Host Boroughs where over 12,000 artists live and work. Now in its fourth year, CREATE takes place between 24 June and 25 July in East and South East London. The festival will stage major commissions including the Bank of America Merrill Lynch CREATE Art Award worth £40,000, which this year has been awarded to Assemble ‘Folly for a Flyover’; the CREATE11 Music series including Re: Definition, and Blaze, presented with the Barbican; CREATE11 Talks & Walks including The Midnight Run, a nocturnal walk across east London, and Alina Ibragimova / The Quay Brothers a co-commission with the Manchester International Festival and the Barbican. In addition CREATE11 will include over 200 art, design, film, music, and theatre events in galleries, outdoor spaces, music venues and pop-up spaces including Gillett Square, Hackney Empire, Rich Mix, Theatre Royal Stratford East, the Vortex, Wilton’s Music Hall and the Whitechapel Gallery. Global investment bank Deutsche Bank continues as main sponsor for the 2nd year. www.createlondon.org