



GARSINGTON OPERA
AT WORMSLEY

GARSINGTON OPERA, ROSETTA LIFE & the VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Garsington Opera together with Rosetta Life are collaborating to present a *Hospital Passion Play* on the stage at the Victoria and Albert Museum on Saturday 14 October 2.30pm.

Seventy performers, including a choir of twenty stroke survivors and the Garsington Adult Community Chorus will perform in conjunction with films of intimate performances from the **Stoke Mandeville National Spinal Injuries Centre** and hospitals from across London. This is a collaboration between artists, medical professionals and patients. Composed by Orlando Gough, directed by Karen Gillingham, Creative Director of Garsington Opera Learning and Participation and led by Lucinda Jarrett, *Hospital Passion Play* weaves stories of rehabilitation, from those who have had a brain or spinal injury, into an opera.

The choir is formed from the Lambeth Stroke Choir, Shout at Cancer choir (a vocal group that helps throat cancer patients who now have no voice box) and the Garsington Adult Community Chorus. A series of filmed scenes performed by patients from **Stoke Mandeville's National Spinal Injuries Centre** and people accessing spinal and neurological rehabilitation, supported by professional opera singers, musicians and dancers, will be integrated into the performance. These films are being prepared through workshops exploring identity after traumatic injury in hospitals.

As well as partnering with Garsington Opera who have been working with patients from Stoke Mandeville's National Spinal Injuries Centre, Rosetta Life has co-created Stroke Odysseys, working with South London's stroke community to create a music and movement performance arts intervention, that improves the quality of life and sense of well-being of those affected by traumatic brain injury such as stroke. Hospital patients who have had a traumatic brain injury experience the severe loss of confidence and self-esteem that comes with an altered capacity to move, speak and express themselves.

The event is part of a series of opera performances at the V & A, designed to bring opera to a wider audience and to coincide with the V&A's exhibition *Opera: Passion, Power and Politics* (30 September – 25 February). The open opera weekend on 11/12 November will feature screenings of two Garsington Opera for All productions – Handel's *Semele* and Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*.

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www.garsingtonopera.org

PRESS ENQUIRIES Clare Adams 0779 3556103 e: Clare@garsingtonopera.org

PRESS RELEASE

STROKE ODYSSEYS

The need for *Stroke Odysseys* has been identified by a wide network of clinicians, health care practitioners, patients and family members who are guiding the direction of the project through a series of practice research workshops. Following the project, a clinical evaluation report will be released to assess its effectiveness and make recommendations for future implementation.

For a window on the project to date visit www.strokeodysseys.org

OPERA:PASSION,POWER AND POLITICS

in collaboration with the Royal Opera House
Sponsored by Societe Generale

The Sainsbury Gallery | 30 September 2017 - 25 February 2018

vam.ac.uk/opera | #Operapassion This autumn the Victoria and Albert Museum, in collaboration with the Royal Opera House, will create a vivid and immersive journey through nearly 400 years of opera, exploring its passion, power and politics. The only exhibition ever to explore opera on a grand scale, it will immerse visitors in some key moments of the history of European opera from its roots in Renaissance Italy to its present-day form, by focusing on seven operatic premieres in seven cities. It will reveal how opera brings together multiple art forms to create a multi-sensory work of art, and show how social, political, artistic and economic factors interact with great moments in the history of opera to tell a story of Europe over hundreds of years.

Rosetta Life was founded in 1997 to use arts in health innovation to change the way we perceive the elderly, frail, disabled, and those who live with life limiting illnesses. It is led by Artistic Director Lucinda Jarrett. *Stroke Odysseys* started as a song cycle developed with Orlando Gough and patients from Altnagelvin Chest, Heart and Stroke Hospital, Derry as part of Derry, City of Culture 2013, and has since become a four year funded practice research project of which *Hospital Passion Play* is a part. Rosetta Life's past projects have included: *The Art of Touch*, a programme of movement workshops in dementia care and End of Life Care; *Our Hearts in the Balance*, a promenade performance at the British Museum performed by 11 people living with dementia; and *Performing Ourselves*, a touring exhibition of self portraiture developed in partnership with four hospices, two NHS Hospital Trusts and leading British photographers Tom Hunter and Clare Park.

Garsington Opera have developed a programme of Opera and Wellbeing initiatives with the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and linking in with an Adult Chorus drawn from all levels of the local community. The Garsington Opera Learning & Participation Programme aims to demonstrate the benefits for wellbeing of the arts, as well as encouraging participation from those unable to engage with the arts easily as a result of difficult circumstances. Garsington Adult Community Chorus offers performance opportunities and encourages the development of new skills and friendships.

V&A

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art, design and performance with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity. It was established to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, the V&A's collections, which span over 5000 years of human creativity in virtually every medium and from many parts of the world, continue to intrigue, inspire and inform.

Supported by Guys and St Thomas Charity, City Bridge Trust, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Victoria and Albert Museum