



## **LIFT and the V&A invite proposals for an artist residency**

In an exciting new partnership LIFT and the Victoria and Albert Museum are offering an artist the opportunity to spend 5 weeks in residence at the V&A. Over the 5 weeks the artist will be supported by Museum staff to access all parts of the museum and its collections on both public display and in storage. As well as the Museum's rich collections, its building is full of opportunity for artists and visitors to explore – from grand sweeping staircases and lofty balconies to dark basements and undiscovered corridors.

We wish to use this residency opportunity to encourage an artist to develop an ambitious proposal for a performance/theatre project that would take place at the V&A or for a digitally based project that can be fully produced for the LIFT festival in either 2014 or 2016.

The successful artist will be offered:

- A fee of £2500
- Five weeks based in one of the artist studios in the Sackler Centre at the V&A
- Desk space within the Theatre Department
- A full induction on the V&A and its collections
- Access to the V&A's unique resources including the extensive collections; inspirational architecture and spaces; curatorial and conservation expertise; practical art, design and digital media workshops in the Sackler Centre and experienced educational staff.

At the end of the residency the artist will be required to present a detailed proposal for a project to LIFT and V&A staff

### **LIFT**

Established in 1981 with a mission to throw open a window to the world, LIFT brings global stories to London, transforming the city into a stage and celebrating the experiences of the many individuals, cultures and communities that call London their home. LIFT has presented pioneering new forms of theatre for over 30 years and has set the benchmark for internationalism in the arts. LIFT curates a year-round programme of work - building to a pan-London festival of shows, special events and talks every two years.

LIFT 2012 was the most ambitious festival in its significant history: a five-week festival of international theatre drawing together over 43,000 audience members across the breadth of London – from the West End, to a car park in Croydon, to the spokes of the London Eye.

LIFT has risen to become a key cultural player in the British arts scene, telling the stories of our times and going to places no-one else would consider – geographically and artistically – to present unforgettable experiences that change the way we think and what others are inspired to do.

*I love the old stories of a time when the Thames was an international port and the people of London would rush to see a great ship carrying an inestimable cargo of spice, textiles, or other exotic commodities. LIFT festivals have always been such an event for me and for my friends who work in the Theatre. LIFT has*



*always provided something original and liberating, a different form, a new beat, and we have spoken about the work for many months, if not years, as we devise our own new pieces. I feel LIFT has done more to influence the growth and adventure of English Theatre than any other organization we have. It would be a boring Thames without their beautiful ships.* **Mark Rylance, LIFT Patron**

### **The Victoria and Albert Museum**

As the world's leading museum of art and design, the V&A promotes the practice of design and aims to increase knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the designed world. The Museum's collections span two thousand years of art and design in virtually every medium, from many parts of the world, and visitors to the museum encounter a treasure house of amazing and beautiful objects.

The story of the V&A's foundation helps to explain its richness and diversity. The V&A was established in 1852, following the enormous success of the Great Exhibition the previous year. Its founding principle was to make works of art available to all, to educate working people and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. The Museum still strives to support and develop the UK creative economy by inspiring future artists, performers, designers and makers.

The Museum contains 5 collecting departments: Furniture, Textiles and Fashion; Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics and Glass; Asia; Word and Image; Theatre and Performance. The Museum of Childhood (Bethnal Green) is also part of the V&A.





### **V&A Theatre & Performance Collections**

The Victoria and Albert Museum holds the National Collection of Theatre & Performance material. These collections were founded in the 1920s when a private collector, Gabrielle Enthoven, donated her extensive collection of theatrical designs, memorabilia, books and photographs to the Museum. Since that period, the collection has continued to grow and has provided a home for many other significant objects and archives.

The permanent Theatre & Performance galleries at the museum display a wide range of objects. The collections as a whole are extremely rich and diverse, containing thousands of objects dating from the 16th through to the 21st century. The Museum collects a wide variety of objects relating to all forms of live performance – theatre, opera, dance, puppetry, music hall, circus and rock and pop related material. It also holds the National Video Archive of Performance which has, over the last 20 years, recorded some of the greatest stage productions for posterity.

### **How to Apply**

Please send a brief proposal (maximum 1 side of A4) outlining your approach to developing a proposal for the residency together with a CV detailing your previous work. Please also provide documentation or links to up to 3 examples of your previous work.

Please submit your proposal by 10am Monday 28th May to [jon@liftfestival.com](mailto:jon@liftfestival.com)

- Interviews will take place on the 31st May
- The 5 week residency will take place between 10th June – 16th August
- The induction at the V&A will take place on 10-11 June