

DARK HERITAGE



Experience the horrors of the slave trade in the dark.

DARK HERITAGE explores the horrors of 18th century slavery in a touring installation to mark the 2007 Bicentenary Of The Abolition Of The Slave Trade.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded a grant of £136,000 to Bee Arts CIC for their Dark Heritage project, comprising The DARK, a sonic art installation, and specially created educational activities. HLF's contribution will fund the creation, distribution and delivery of these participatory educational activities. Arts Council England's contribution of £33,597 will fund the tour and distribution of these activities. Dark Heritage will travel to six locations in the UK starting in Greenwich in May and finishing in Bolton in December 2007 (see tour schedule below).

Carole Souter, Director of the Heritage Lottery Fund, said:

"Dark Heritage is a truly innovative and imaginative project which will help people of all ages to learn about the slave trade and its abolition in a sensitive and practical way. Bee Art's installation is the 100th bicentenary project that the Heritage Lottery Fund has supported and we were particularly impressed with its strong educational strand and desire to bring out many of the hidden histories of those who were involved in the abolition movement."

The DARK Installation

When you enter The DARK you enter a pitch black space where a powerful and dramatic three dimensional soundscape immerses you in a story set in the dark days of the 18th century when British ships and British finance controlled the global slave trade. In The DARK your eyes are no use to you - instead, you will need to rely on your ears, your imagination and your courage to find your way through the narrative. The resulting experience is a stimulating mixture of the exciting, the challenging and the scary, and an encounter with our heritage that dramatically illuminates a particularly harrowing aspect of the slave trade.

Terry Braun, from Bee Arts said:

"Although Dark Heritage is underpinned by rigorous historical research, it is not just about historical facts or the unsung participants in the movement to abolish slavery. Dark Heritage is above all an exploration of courage – particularly the courage to stand up for your beliefs, whether in 1807 or 2007."

2007 Dark Heritage schedule:

10 April to 4 May: Kingswood School, Lambeth, London
Creating the participatory activities in collaboration with staff and pupils

Dark Heritage Tour

8 May to 15 June: Greenwich, Old Royal Naval College
16 July to 10 August: Ipswich, St. Nicholas Centre
1 to 30 September: Gloucester Cathedral
1 to 31 October: Hereford, venue tbc
1 to 31 November: Nottingham, venue tbc
1 to 31 December : Bolton , Claremont Hall

Dark Heritage will be open to the general public, to school groups and community groups, offering a range of activities that have been specially created to enable visitors to immerse themselves in the dark days of the 18th century slave trade and learn more about lives of the real people who worked to abolish slavery.

Booking and full tour details will be available online at the Dark Heritage website from the 1st of May 2007: <http://www.beearts.org.uk/> Dark Heritage activities will be available to the public free of charge.

Further Information:

There will be press events, including photo opportunities, scheduled for the last week in April at Kingswood School and on the 14th of May at Greenwich

For further information please contact Katie Owen,
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Interviews are available with Terry Braun and Gabi Braun, Producers of Dark Heritage; Maria Oshodi, Writer of The Dark; Craig Tunstall, Head Teacher at Kingswood Primary School

Notes to Editors:

1. Bee Arts CIC <http://www.beearts.org.uk/> is a new not-for-profit Community Interest Company established in early 2007 by Gabi Braun and Terry Braun to devise and produce community arts and educational projects, with an emphasis on digital arts and new media. Gabi Braun and Terry Braun, are also directors of Braunarts Ltd., <http://www.braunarts.com/>
2. The educational materials and activities for Dark heritage are being produced in association with the children and staff of Kingswood Primary School in Lambeth, in London. Kingswood was awarded a Gold Arts Mark by Arts Council England in 2006 and is in the top 10% of primary schools in the UK for Added Value according to an OFSTED report in 2006.

3. The DARK was conceived and produced by Terry Braun & Gabi Braun in collaboration with the writer Maria Oshodi and composer Rob Godman. The DARK was created by Braunarts for Culture Online / The Department for Culture, Media and Sport © 2004.

The DARK is one of Braunarts' most successful cultural projects, mixing interactive dramatic narrative with digital media. During 2004/2005 the installation toured museums, galleries and public spaces in London, Sheffield, Birmingham and Liverpool.

The Dark Heritage tour will be the first time that The DARK has been offered to the public supported by specially produced creative educational activities.
<http://www.thedark.net/>

4. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. It has supported more than 22,500 projects, allocating over £3.6billion across the UK. Website: <http://www.hlf.org.uk/>
5. Arts Council England works to get more art to more people in more places. We develop and promote the arts across England, acting as an independent body at arm's length from government.

Between 2006 and 2008, we will invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and the National Lottery in supporting the arts. This is the bedrock of support for the arts in England.

We believe that the arts have the power to change lives and communities, and to create opportunities for people throughout the country.

For 2006 to 2008, we have six priorities:

- taking part in the arts
- children and young people
- the creative economy
- vibrant communities
- internationalism
- celebrating diversity

Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk