



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

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ROHThurrock10

The Royal Opera House celebrates ten years in Thurrock

Friday 14 & Saturday 15 July 2017

High House Production Park, Purfleet

Free

The Royal Opera House celebrates ten years of working in Thurrock and everyone is invited to the party.

It's ten years since the **Royal Opera House** first came to Thurrock to begin work on its world-class production facilities in Purfleet, and celebrations are set to take place in July to mark this dynamic decade.

The High House Production Park, where the Royal Opera House has been making world-class sets and scenery since 2010, will host a **free BP Big Screen and a free Community Day**.

Back for its 7th year, the **free BP Big Screen** on **Friday 14 July** will be Puccini's final, wonderful opera *Turandot*. Screened live from Covent Garden, the Royal Opera's fabulous production transports the audience to ancient Beijing and features the famous aria 'Nessun dorma'. The Big Screen will be shown in the High House orchard but will move indoors in the event of bad weather. The performance commences at 7.30pm with the Park open from 6pm. To find out more and get a free Digital Programme visit roh.org.uk/bpbigscreens

On **Saturday 15 July**, some familiar characters – in some not-so-familiar guises - from much-loved Royal Opera House productions will be popping up around the Backstage Centre for an exciting afternoon of performances and activities, including magical scenic artistry, singing and dancing! Where will Alice’s adventures take you? Will the Queen of the Night scare you or thrill you? Will Mimi and Rodolfo’s love story end happily? The grand finale features the **Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus** too.

Alex Beard, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House, said:

“Over the last ten years, Thurrock has become our second home. From day one, residents have made us feel truly welcome and it is wonderful to see how the community has embraced our work in local schools, set up the ROH Thurrock Community Chorus and even participated in fully-staged performances. We are delighted to invite the whole community to join us this summer to reflect on and celebrate a remarkable decade, as we look forward to the next ten years of collaboration”

Gabrielle Forster-Still, Head of Learning and Participation Thurrock said: ‘It has been an amazing 10 years for us in Thurrock. A great deal has happened and we have met many wonderful people from the local community who have made us feel so welcome. From our earliest projects to now, we have worked with schools, choirs, businesses, councils, artists and Thurrock residents and have had fantastic engagement and support from them all. It is such a great place to work and we look forward to celebrating with our Thurrock friends, new and old, in July. Everyone is welcome’

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Notes for Editors

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock has been offering innovative and creative projects and programmes in schools, colleges and across communities in the Thames Gateway since 2006.

Since then, more than 60,000 people have participated in activities ranging from schools' projects to teacher training, from work-based learning to fully-staged community operas. People in Thurrock have both been able to watch special performances at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and gain a very special insight into the behind-the-scenes process.

The Learning and Participation team runs the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus which currently has over 140 members of all ages and regularly performs across Thurrock and at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. For further information, please go to: www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/community-chorus. Details of future performances and taster session for the Community Chorus can be obtained by emailing getinvolved@roh.org.uk or calling 01708 891200.

Regular public tours of the state-of-the-art Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop where the sets and scenery for the Royal Opera House stage in Covent Garden are built, and the Bob and Tamar Manoukian Costume Centre, which opened in October 2015, are now available. Please go to www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours for further details.

In April 2012, the Royal Opera House agreed to become a [Bridge](#) organisation, working to connect children and young people to great art and culture across Essex, North Kent, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

The Learning and Participation team is based at the High House Production Park in Purfleet which is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House and Thurrock Council: www.hhpp.org.uk