

# It's all about legacy...



2008 has been an exceptional year for the Phil and for the City. It will live long in the memory and has generated so much enthusiasm and enjoyment. The international spotlight has been on us and what has been delivered has been fantastic.

The Phil has played a central role in 2008, from our part in the opening event in the Arena, with the Orchestra and Vasily Petrenko, to performing with so many great artists from the City and from around the world, including our two Artists Laureate Sir Simon Rattle and Vladimir Ashkenazy, Sir Paul McCartney, Bryn Terfel, Elvis Costello, Ringo Starr and Toumani Diabaté. The Orchestra has also been proud to fly the 08 flag for Liverpool in our three concerts in London this year, at the BBC Proms and with our media partner, Classic FM; at venues across the UK and on our tours to Prague, Holland and Germany. Being able to commission new music for the year has been very important to us and the Phil gave over 30 world premieres, including works by local composers. It's a great achievement and a great contribution to the 2008 legacy.



It's been encouraging to see that our audiences are growing steadily and more and more young people have been coming to hear our concerts and events. It's going to be important to build on the momentum of 2008 and to provide new opportunities to enjoy and participate in the arts. The Phil's 08 year ended with the winning of one of the three national pilots for the Government's In Harmony scheme to deliver an intensive music programme for children in West Everton, which is also the location of our new rehearsal and recording facility, Liverpool Phil at the Friary. The award will enable the Phil to further cement our commitment to North Liverpool, and is an important milestone in our development as an organisation that delivers excellence across all our music activities and makes a major contribution to the social and economic regeneration of our City.

## Michael Eakin

Chief Executive,  
Royal Liverpool Philharmonic



Looking back on 08 I feel the most enormous sense of privilege to have been the Artistic Director of the Everyman and Playhouse theatres during this historic period for Liverpool.

The challenges of delivering a theatrical programme that would

honour this city sometimes felt daunting but the highs were so intoxicating and their potential legacy so profound that I have never questioned the value of the endeavour.

Our mantra throughout the theatres in the lead-up to 08 came from one of the shows we knew we were going to produce in this great year - *Once Upon a Time* at The Adelphi. Its huge heart-swelling anthem contained the line: "If we fail then we fail but at least we chose to fight. Once in a lifetime..." Like Liverpool itself, everyone in the theatres knew this was "our moment".

Did we succeed? We produced 10 new shows all of which received critical acclaim. They ranged from new musicals *Once Upon a Time* at the Adelphi and *Eric's* to new play *Ten Tiny Toes*. And then there was Pete Postlethwaite returning to the Everyman to perform *King Lear*... The truth is every show we produced met the very exacting standards we had set for it. We wanted our work to be world class but we wanted it to contain the heartbeat of Liverpool. We wanted Liverpool to be proud of us.

The real measure of 08's success will be in the years to come. Will our increased audience numbers continue through the present economic gloom? Will all the national critics that flocked to us and praised us in 08 return in 09? We can't have the answers to those questions yet but there are some factors that should make the theatres feel bullish. We are artistically confident as a consequence of 08, and our audiences, I like to think, share that confidence in us. We have proved ourselves nationally and internationally and our artistic currency is high and so consequently should be our ability to attract the very best artists to these theatres. There's no way we're going to lower that bar for the future. The ongoing partnerships with other artistic organisations, and our work with schools and communities will make these theatres and indeed Liverpool a stronger cultural city for many years to come.

Hold onto your hats in 2009!

## Gemma Bodinetz

Artistic Director,  
Liverpool Everyman  
and Playhouse



# It's all about legacy...



**Capital of Culture has been a fantastic success. It saw the city at its best and I felt privileged to be part of it.**

It's also been a momentous year for the Bluecoat. We were determined that this magnificent building, which is of such huge historical and cultural importance to Liverpool, would play a central role in the celebrations. So I'm very pleased that we managed to re-open it in time for 08 – it would have been a shame to turn up in 09!

It was a tremendous challenge to complete one of the most important

architectural developments in Liverpool this century - but we pulled out all the stops to make it a reality and it meant this wonderful asset for the city could be enjoyed by many thousands of people throughout the year.

And that is the thing that makes me most proud about 2008. To get the building up-and-running and see its success on a global scale was absolutely wonderful. Our efforts were rewarded by a number of accolades, including being highly commended in The World Building of the Year awards. I feel this gave something really important to Liverpool – to see its oldest city centre building being given world importance.

My favourite moment? There were many, many highlights, but one thing which stands out in my mind in particular was a weekend towards the end of the year when the place was just buzzing with activity. Our Biennial exhibition was looking fantastic, Roger McGough was reading poetry in our new performance space, three artists were giving a talk on print making, there was a live art performance,

a children's cultural event, our workshops were open and the restaurant and shops were packed. It was a moment when I knew everything had come together at the new Bluecoat, and I thought "This is exactly how I had imagined it would be."

The restoration of the Bluecoat has given Liverpool a great legacy for 08. And that's the important thing. There have been some fantastic events this year, too many to name, but they've got to lead to a legacy.

Capital of Culture has raised the profile of the city, it has made people prouder, happier and more confident. But it's vital that we continue post-08, not entering a slump, but continuing to grow.

This is a challenge the Bluecoat and everybody else has to meet. We have to make sure that 2008 is not the finishing point, but only the beginning.

## Alastair Upton

Chief Executive, the Bluecoat



# February/March highlights

**Continues until Sun 15 Feb**  
10.00am – 6.00pm daily  
**Galleries**  
**Next Up:**  
**Liverpool Art Now**  
Free

A snapshot of what's *Next Up* for 09. Featuring 39 local artists.

**Fri 6 Mar – Sun 10 May**  
10.00am – 6.00pm daily  
**Galleries**  
**4x4**  
**Four galleries, four exhibitions**  
Free

Four simultaneous exhibitions exploring the unique features of our new gallery spaces.

**Thu 19 Feb**  
7.30pm – 9.00pm  
**Paul Kingsnorth & Anthony Quinn**  
**Changing Liverpool**  
£5/£3  
**Discussion**

Two writers explore the dramatic changes in Liverpool's appearance.

**Tue 26 Feb and Thu 26 Mar**  
7.00pm – 9.00pm  
**Liverpool Poetry Café**  
Free, booking recommended

Free monthly celebration of excellent poetry by a range of poets.

## Families



**Explore Tins**  
**Everyday**  
10.00am – 6.00pm  
Free

Selection box of fun family activities to do while you explore the galleries.

**Every Sunday**  
12.00pm – 4.00pm  
**Explore in the Hub**  
Free

Explore the exhibition then make some art of your own with artists and volunteers.

## Children eat free upstairs at the Bluecoat.

Throughout February the children's menu is absolutely free when accompanying adult buys two courses. Menu is suitable for children aged between 2 and 12 years old.



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# at the Bluecoat.