

# JERWOOD SPACE

“Here's a marvelous convenient place for our rehearsal” – Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream Act iii Sc.i

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – BEHIND THE SCENES**

It is ten years since the Jerwood Foundation's first capital project - Jerwood Space – was opened. A unique enterprise offering high-quality, affordable rehearsal space to young and emerging theatre and dance companies, it is also sought after as the premier rehearsal facility by the whole profession.

The beautifully converted Victorian school building will open its doors to all on SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008 exactly ten years after its launch by the then Secretary of State for Culture (Chris Smith MP) and the Chairman of the Jerwood Foundation (Alan Grieve).

The original refurbishment by Paxton Locher Architects turned 4 school halls into fine rehearsal studios and converted the school's bike sheds into a spectacular Gallery space. Since then, this has been supplemented by the glazed-in courtyard (The Glasshouse by Satellite Architects) and most recently, a suite of new studios and rooms restoring the top floor, once lost to wartime bombing. This latest addition by Munkenbeck and Partners is acknowledged throughout the profession as one of the best spaces in the country and will be available to view in a rare opportunity for the public on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Our birthday is a curtain-raiser to London's OPEN REHEARSAL weekend and coincides with OPEN HOUSE LONDON which celebrates the range of architecture in the capital. Visitors will be able to meet the architects and project team members; the Gallery will be exhibiting the Jerwood Drawing Prize 2008 and the Café will be serving complimentary tea/coffee and birthday cake throughout the day.

Guided tours of the building take place at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm.

ENDS

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## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

### **JERWOOD SPACE**

was the first capital project of the Jerwood Foundation. It is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.

It occupies the site of the Orange Street School built in 1872-92. Through the 20th century, it transformed into the John Harvard School, London Nautical School, Archbishop Amigo RC School and an ILEA Adult Evening Institute & Teachers' Training Centre.

In 1998 it was refurbished by the Jerwood Foundation with architects Paxton Locher to provide excellent and affordable rehearsal facilities for dance and theatre companies. The Gallery (once the school's bike sheds) is home to Jerwood Visual Arts which, together with the Café and Glasshouse (architects: Satellite Design Workshop) offers a public facility for enjoyment and relaxation. Space is also available to the thriving local business sector for meetings and events.

In 2007, the second floor (lost to bombing in 1940) was restored by architects Munkenbeck and Partners to provide a magnificent suite of rehearsal studios and meeting rooms. While Jerwood Space is financially independent of the Jerwood Foundation for its running costs, this capital development was once again entirely funded by the Jerwood Foundation.

### **JERWOOD FOUNDATION**

A private foundation established in 1977 by the late John Jerwood, to support excellence in all areas of human endeavour, principally in the arts, and education in its widest sense. Its funds are used to develop a variety of activities, principally capital projects.

### **JERWOOD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

is a United Kingdom charity registered in 1999. The JCF is now responsible for many revenue awards, donations and sponsorship in the United Kingdom which were previously undertaken by the Jerwood Foundation itself. It is dedicated to funding and sponsorship of the visual and performing arts and education in the widest sense. The charity shares with the Jerwood Foundation a dedication to imaginative and responsible funding and sponsorship in areas of human endeavour and excellence which foster and enrich the fabric of society.

More recently it has expanded its brief to take on significant research projects and innovative schemes to support the work of professional artists. In 2005 the Jerwood Foundation completed a capital endowment to the Jerwood Charitable Foundation making it totally financially independent of the parent body.

### **OPEN HOUSE LONDON**

is London's largest architecture event and the highest-profile public initiative of Open House, an architecture education organisation committed to raising the standard of our built environment. Each September over 600 buildings of all types, period and function all over London celebrate design excellence by opening their doors at no charge to the public, with 360,000 visits over a 48 hour period. Londoners are given direct access to the teams that design, construct, conserve and regenerate their environment. Alongside this are special programmes, activities and publications to broaden the reach of the event. Open House London 2008 takes place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

### **OPEN REHEARSAL**

Now in its 4th year, this Mayor of London initiative aims to open doors, engage audiences, encourage participation and learning and promote London's phenomenal cultural offer. This year, it takes place across London from 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2008.