

# THE EXTRAORDINARY MILE



News of The Cultural Olympiad in the South West Autumn 2009

because hosting the Olympics is something worth making a song and dance about...

## COUNT ME IN

AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CULTURE IN THE SOUTH WEST SEPTEMBER 25-27 2009

**COUNT ME IN** is a weekend of “mass participation”, when as many people as possible can take part in or watch some really great events in the run up to London 2012.

**FULL STORY INSIDE**

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**Count Me In 2009...**an annual celebration of culture in the South West

**Full story and line up INSIDE**

**Keep up to date with events and activity across the UK:**  
[www.london2012/culture](http://www.london2012/culture)



Image courtesy of The Foundation for Indian Performing Arts and Bristol City Council

Nature's Icons: The Foundation for Indian Performing Arts at the Bristol Do

# COUNT ME IN

AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CULTURE IN THE SOUTH WEST SEPTEMBER 25-27 2009



Images courtesy of Superact

**COUNT ME IN 2009** is the first year of our celebration and includes brass and silver band music, Morris dance, rock music, contemporary dance and the street arts. Most events included have already been successful in getting their prestigious Inspire Mark, associating them directly with the Cultural Olympiad, and it is hoped the whole programme will be awarded the mark this year.

While the weekend has a focus on promoting young peoples' creativity, it is open to all ages and all cultural organisations. So, while next year we want to be joined by bell ringers, mass choirs, orchestras, ballroom and ballet dancers, we would also welcome participation by ramblers, mummies, artists, gardeners, archaeologists, film makers, fashion designers, weavers, chefs and all those who would value being part of this annual celebration.

## THIS YEAR'S LINE UP

**THE BANDSTAND MARATHON** is promoting the skills of young musicians in bandstands across the South West (and now across the UK). From Barnstaple to Yeovil, Cheltenham to Penzance, from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th September you'll find a free concert given by young people close to you!



For a full list of participating bands and bandstands go to: [www.bandstandmarathon.org.uk](http://www.bandstandmarathon.org.uk)  
**Bandstand Marathon** is promoted by Superact!, Somerset based music development agency



**TEENAGE RAMPAGE** regional events to support young musicians culminating in a concert at the Colston Hall on 19th September and a tour of the South West for two top bands, *The Naturals* and *The Orkid*, taking in Bristol, Plymouth and Cornwall over the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September. The tour will be supported by professionals and apprentice tour managers and will be filmed by BBC Blast.

For a full list of participating bands and venues go to: [www.myspace.com/teenagerampageuk](http://www.myspace.com/teenagerampageuk)  
**Teenage Rampage** is promoted by the Bristol Music Foundation

Reading this over someone else's shoulder? Get your own copy—*get on the list!*

Contact Tracy Samy on [tracy.samy@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:tracy.samy@artscouncil.org.uk)

## COUNT ME IN

A REGIONAL CELEBRATION OF MUSIC, DANCE & PERFORMANCE SEPTEMBER 25-27 2009

### FULL STORY AND LINE UP

**DINOSAURS NOT ALLOWED** a showcase of Traditional English Dance in three venues across Weymouth, it features young dancers from across the South West from 9 separate teams (aged 8 to 25), coming together to offer a massed display and prove that Morris is far from becoming extinct!

For a full list of participating teams and locations go to: [www.openmorris.org](http://www.openmorris.org).

**Dinosaurs Not Allowed** is promoted by Open Morris



Little Shop of Horrors, courtesy of Bootworks & Bristol City Council

**THE BRISTOL DO** a mostly free festival of outdoor performance, music, circus, dance and games, bringing new experiences to audiences and artists alike, encouraging playfulness, oddity and spectacle...a wildly exciting and innovative festival!

**theBristolDo**

For a full programme of events go to: [www.thebristoldo.com](http://www.thebristoldo.com)

**The Bristol Do** is promoted by Bristol City Council and



**URBAN ARENA@THE BIG SCREEN** an Urban Dance event in front of the Live Site (big screen) in Swindon on Sunday Sept 27, will feature films, music and dance. The event will showcase local and regional community dance talent, including the Urban Youth Dance Academy, Swindon Youth Dance Company and a Bristol Youth Dance group.

For more information go to: [www.swindondance.org.uk](http://www.swindondance.org.uk)

**Urban Arena@the Big Screen** is promoted by Swindon Dance

**ARTSREACH SELECTION** music with an international flavour can be found across rural Dorset throughout the weekend, featuring Seckou Keita Quintet, the TG Collective with Ana Garcia and a magical mix of music and storytelling from *The Devil's Violin* and their new show, *'The Singing Bones'*.



Image courtesy of Devil's Violin

For a full list of performances and venues go to: [www.artsreach.co.uk/programme](http://www.artsreach.co.uk/programme)

Artsreach Selection is promoted by Artsreach, the arts development agency for rural Dorset

To help welcome the world to Weymouth and the South West in 2012 we hope that Count Me In 2011 will result in a significant commission or commissions to produce a new piece for brass/silver, church bells and mass choirs

# QUEST

...THE JOURNEY BEGINS

**relays** round-up

Artists taking the lead  
shortlisted artists announced

Image and image on front cover (header) - Lyndsey Kwabana takes his own personal quest across the River Severn, Lydney Festival—Photographs by Philippa Haynes

**QUEST**, a series of journeys and challenges being undertaken across the region over the next three years, got underway in Gloucestershire in June.

Two spectacular outdoor events, showcasing theatre, music, dance and spectacle took place at Tewkesbury (20th June) and Lydney Festival (27th June) as part of the Severn Project. Both events were led and coordinated by Desperate Men (co-creators of **QUEST** with Cirque Bijous), and had narratives based on themes from Alice Oswald's highly acclaimed poem, *A Sleepwalk on the Severn*, which was specially commissioned for the Severn project in 2008.

For more details on the Severn Project please go to <http://severnproject.com>

For more details on Quest, please follow either: [www.cirquebijou.co.uk](http://www.cirquebijou.co.uk) or [www.desperatemen.com](http://www.desperatemen.com)

**relays** the region's Legacy Trust UK project led by HERDA (the Higher Education Regional Development Agency) went from strength-to-strength over the Summer, contributing to festivals and events across the region.

Highlights include Let the Games Begin, a season of films with a sporting theme, at the Watershed, Bristol; The Devon Games to Inspire (previously the Devon Youth Games) in Barnstaple; The Moving Tides Carnival Procession, part of *Spirit of the Sea* in Weymouth and the Port Eliot Festival.

Too much to report back on here, but lots to see and read on the Relays website by going to: [www.herda-sw.ac.uk/relays](http://www.herda-sw.ac.uk/relays)

**Artists taking the lead** is one of the most ambitious and wide-ranging art events in the UK. Twelve extraordinary commissions will be created by artists across the nation, as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

Four projects have now been shortlisted for the commission in the South West: Kneehigh Theatre Company & Cultural Asylum; Alex Hartley's *Nymark-Travelling island*; Wildworks' *Babel, Labyrinth* and *Desert Crossings* by State of Emergency.

Before the final commission is chosen by an expert panel in October, you are encouraged to view the projects and have your say by going to: <http://artiststakingthelead.org/southwest>

## Open Weekend

THE VILLAGE SCREEN  
Glastonbury Festival

**“sometimes I think the Olympic Games are happening in the South West with peripheral activity in London”**

*Paul Deighton, London 2012 Chief Executive*



Image: the tribute to Michael Jackson on The Village Screen

**Open Weekend: Open Up!** 24–26 July. The three day celebration featured 800 events held by around 500 organisations across the UK. Thousands of people were inspired to do something different or try something new inspired by London 2012.

There were over 50 events in the South West, including an exhibition of Athletes and Olympians at Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum; Antony Gormley's *Field for the British Isles* at Torre Abbey; TRAIL, the recycled art in landscape project at Teignmouth; contributions to the national *Festival of Family Storytelling* and special activities on nature reserves throughout the region.

There was a focus of activity in Plymouth at the beginning of the weekend with the launch of both the Big Blueprint, a series of innovative commissions for the blank side of the Plymouth Live Site (big screen) and the Blue Mile, an invitation to all to cover a mile in the water under their own steam. Launching the programme in Plymouth, London 2012 Chief Executive, Paul Deighton, said “sometimes I think the Olympic Games are happening in the South West with peripheral activity in London”.

**THE VILLAGE SCREEN** is a unique partnership project led by the South West (with support from SWRDA, Relays, South West Screen and Arts Council England South West) and including the BBC, regional screen agencies and the UK network of 2012 Creative Programmers. It aims to promote the work of young film makers, explore the potential for playing interactive games and provide an opportunity to put together a mix programme (85 hours over five days) for the Live Sites.

This is how Mike Gibbons, Head of Live Sites at LOCOG, reviewed the screens (there were actually two, back-to-back) debut at Glastonbury Festival in June: *“a terrific programme of film material and games from the cutting edge of web developers mixed with live music, sad tributes on-screen to Michael Jackson, and a great knowledgeable crowd of rugby fans – perhaps the best & most enjoyable sports screening I’ve ever seen...a triumph for Richard Crowe, the South West’s Creative Programmer and his team. We all hope we’ll be back again next year!”*

More at: [www.london2012.com/blog/2009/06/25/our-screens-are-live-at-glastonbury](http://www.london2012.com/blog/2009/06/25/our-screens-are-live-at-glastonbury)